

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CLUSTER  
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 21, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.  
FAYETTE, IOWA

Attendees: Andy Johnson (SP); Lois McElvania (HN); Elaine Reicks (SFA); Ann Egan (IC); Maureen Johnson (SP – Cluster Business Manager)

Lois opened the meeting with prayer.  
Meeting was lead by Lois McElvania as Chair.

**II. Review & Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Ann, Andy seconded – motion carried.

**III. Review & Approval of Minutes of July Meeting:** Motion by Andy, Ann seconded – motion carried.

**IV. Old Business:**

**10 Step Process:** Some discussion on the first 3 steps with focus on Mission and Vision statements and attending Cluster/Parish Council meetings. Maureen volunteered to work on composing a Mission and a Vision statement before the next meeting.

**Tom Chapman Mailing List:** Lois presented information on how to sign up for Tom Chapman’s e-mail giving action alerts on current social justice issues.

**School Supply Collections:** Reporting on how the collection was going in the various parishes. Currently the parishes are collecting Kleenex, antiseptic wipes, Zip-loc bags, and hand sanitizer. Elaine mentioned that she had contacted West Central Schools and they are also requesting pencil tip erasers. Collecting is to continue through August with items collected to be delivered in September. However, the need for these items continues throughout the school year. It was agreed to do a “Kleenex Challenge” in January for the schools. More on this at a future date.

**V. New Business:**

Elaine had contacted Karen Martin of the Fayette County Food Shelf and she was more than willing to meet with us. Elaine will invite Karen to our next meeting to discuss both the needs in our area and the network of assistance that already exists.

Discussion continued on how this committee should function; whether it should be an oversight body or a fundraising group. Discussion continued on money that has been raised in the various parishes and how that money should be allocated and if this group has authority to spend those funds.

It was requested that bulletin announcements giving the food/giving theme of the month should also advise people that giving money is acceptable also.

Discussion on what type of social work professionals, if any, are members of the Cluster and could they be of assistance in giving this committee a focus. This will be explored in each parish.

Giving Tree practices in each parish were reviewed which exposed the wide variety of traditions currently being followed. Shortcomings of these practices were also discussed i.e. recipients receiving a great number of gifts, not enough people taking names or not enough names for those interested, etc.

**VI. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:**

A Hail Mary was recited and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Next Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, September 2, 2018 7:00 p.m. @ St. Francis of Assisi, Fayette

Ann will be prepared to lead prayer.

Action Items: Invitation to Karen Martin to speak; ideas about Giving Trees for this year.

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Johnson

Acting Secretary/Cluster Business Manager