

KOG Social Justice Committee Minutes
Sunday Feb 2,, 2025

Members of committee Gabrielle Applequist and Gretchen Bingea met after worship joined by Nancy Seid and Carlene Rocke who attended our information session about committee.

1. **RIC anti-bias training.** Now that the new Congregational Council has been elected, Gretchen will contact Pastor about when the Council will meet this month so we can request they schedule a day for “Bias & Its Impact on Welcome” training from Reconciling Works (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/bias/>) We will offer this one hour training to Council, committees, and anyone in congregation who’s interested. After the \$75 training resource has been purchased, we will have 30 days to use it.
2. **Cafe Justo.** Our committee has signed up to host coffee hour on Sunday, February 23, serving coffee from Cafe Justo and printing out materials again for people to learn more about it and considering ordering for themselves. There are still some brochures in the narthex. We will be in touch with each other beforehand about bringing goodies to go along with coffee.
3. **Budget.** The congregation has budgeted \$750 for our committee this year. That includes the \$250 we pay for our annual contribution to Reconciling Works.
4. **Legislative action.** Gretchen will write up an announcement for those interested in taking action on issues at the State House from Interfaith Equality Coalition.
5. **Bread for the World.** Those who can will attend the online campaign launch by Bread for the World on Tuesday, Feb 4th at 4:55pm. This year it focuses on childhood hunger and malnutrition and could be a good partnership of Social Justice and Social Ministry committees.
6. **Next meeting:** TBD. We have been meeting the past year once a month on Tuesdays at 2:00pm over Zoom. We’ll see if that still works for committee members.

KOG Social Justice Committee Minutes
February 19, 2025

Present: Gabrielle Applequist, Gretchen Bingea, Kurt Borm, Tami McLaughlin, Nancy Seid

1. Gretchen opened with a reading from Habakkuk 3:17-19 encouraging us to have hope and trust in God in the face of things happening in the world that could lead us to despair. Our challenge is not to tie our hope to outcomes and to stay motivated for social justice work out of love of God and neighbor.
2. With new committee members joining us, we each introduced ourselves.
3. **Cafe Justo.** Our committee has signed up to host coffee hour on Sunday, February 23, serving coffee from Cafe Justo and printing out materials again for people to learn more about it and considering ordering for themselves. Carolyn Jean Smith will order a cake honoring our new members. We will supplement by bringing cheese (Gabrielle), crackers and meat (Nancy), fruit (Kurt), juice (Gretchen), and veggie tray (Tami). Gabrielle is also providing the coffee. Those who are able will come before worship and stay afterwards to clean up.
4. **RIC anti-bias training.** The new Council met yesterday and agreed to find a date to go through the training “Bias & Its Impact on Welcome” from Reconciling Works (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/trainings/bias/>) This training can be done by Zoom and once a date is identified we will also invite other leaders and members of the congregation. After the \$75 training resource has been purchased, we will have 30 days to use it.
5. **Reconciling in Christ Ministry Partner commitments.** KOG has updated our commitments which include:
 - a. Clearly stating a welcome to people of “all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” or “LGBTQIA+” and naming its commitment to “racial equity” or “anti-racism” in its welcome statement. This is found on our website home page.
 - b. Being open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.
 - c. Allowing sanctuary/community space to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
 - d. Making a meaningful contribution annually to support the national RIC program. We contribute \$250 out of our Social Justice budget.Gretchen will mail the updated partner letter to Reconciling Works.
6. **Bread for the World** (www.bread.org) Each year this faith-based advocacy organization that lobbies on hunger issues focuses on one or two issues. For 2025 those issues are Global Nutrition and the supplemental food program Women, Infant and Children (WIC). Gretchen will contact our regional BFW rep to talk about when during the year it might be most beneficial to conduct an Offering of Letters on these issues.

7. **Interfaith Equality Coalition** We continue to be involved in activities sponsored by this local group which include the weekly silent prayer vigil at the Capitol every Wednesday from noon-12:30 during the legislative session, as well as monthly interfaith sack lunches. The coordinator Debbie Mallis also sends out a weekly update on bills coming before the legislature.

8. **Know Your Rights Training** Pastor Connie wanted our committee to know about these trainings happening over Zoom on Feb 24th from 1-2:30pm and Feb 27th from 6-7:30pm. They are for immigrants and those who support them.

9. **Braver Angels** Gabrielle shared with us the newsletter from this organization that hosts conversations for people with opposing views on various issues.

10. **Boise Pride** The dates for this year are Sept 6-7 and the location has been changed to Ann Morrison Park. We will continue to discuss how to increase our congregation's involvement.

11. **Next meeting.** Tentatively scheduled for March 19th at 3:00pm over Zoom, if this date/time works for our new Council liaison Lisa Kenyon.