

TSTJA Notes: June 12, 2020

Present: Lallie Lloyd, Dora Mbuwayesango, Sarah Lawton, Prince Singh, Brant Lee, Ruth Frey, Anne Hodges-Copple, Susanne Watson Epting

Anne opened us with prayer, and Sarah followed by inviting personal check-ins. From protests to legislative advocacy, from facilitating studies to offering special prayers, to making statements, and planning ongoing actions, everyone is involved in working for racial justice and of one mind in realizing how important it is to seize the moment.

Our debriefing led to observations that: repenting from the effects of white power and fragility is necessary to overall healing; that this work is lifelong; that legislation only goes so far and we have a role to play in changing hearts; that public policy and public theology are important, both to our task force discussion, as well as what we may offer to the larger church.

We heard various reports about interviews regarding the questionnaire, ranging from: the important of recognizing various audiences and being clear about who we wish the audience to be (for example, people of color may recognize social justice as a way of life, rather than a separate ministry or mission); the idea that there isn't so much a place in the questionnaire for those who believe the work of justice is lifelong and whose formation and spirituality already point to that; the need for clarity about terms and intentions (social justice or social justice advocacy and what we mean by that); the possibility that words trap people so asking for three experiences that come to mind when hearing the term social justice rather than three words might be helpful.

We also discussed the relevance of theology itself in our current situation, how that relates to our report to General Convention and whether our report might take a different form than usual. For example, might the report be a critique of where we are as church in how we are responding to the world around us? Is it important to take a look at the discipline of public theology and consider whether there are ways of articulating theology that move us forward?

Actions to take before our next meeting:

- Clarify terms: social justice and social justice advocacy
- What are questions on the questionnaire that make sense to white liberals that we want to keep
- What are alternative questions that reach others more effectively

Commitments:

- Anne and Lallie will read the current issue of the Anglican Theological Review dealing with public theology and Susanne will do more work and thinking about the same
- Those who have completed interviews about the questionnaire will post their summaries

- Others will do additional interviews (Check the google spread sheet)

When we next meet we'll try to finalize the questionnaire.

Prince prayed us out.

Susanne