

Minutes of the Task Force on Theology of Social Justice Advocacy
April 20-22 via Zoom rather than meeting in St. Louis

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

Check in – How are we doing in the age of COVID-19?? Personally, our families, our communities, congregations, dioceses??

Report-back from team(s) that meet to organize the work: Lallie and Susanne, working with Prince and Sarah:

- Susanne created a shorter document with themes from all of reflections
- “pretend” Blue Book report showing what this product might look like
- Framework for organizing our work:
 - Theology
 - Inward examination – TEC
 - Leadership formation and practical application

After discussion, the task force broke into two main groups, for now (checking back in with the main group at beginning and end of zoom sessions):

- Theology: Lallie, Susanne, Anne, Dora, Brant, Ruth
- Leadership formation and practical application: Prince, Sarah, Guy
(leaving resolutions on implications for TEC for later)

The theology group divided itself into three sub-groups:

- Biblical theology – Dora and Susanne
- Past into Present – Ruth and Anne
- Enmeshed Systems – Brant and Lallie

On day three the task force met together for Bible Study led by Dora – on the creation and justification of unjust systems; studying Genesis 16 and 21

Small group work + conclusions:

- Leadership group is working on:
 - a questionnaire (link to draft is posted on Extranet) to survey the church on formation for social justice work
 - key informants / wisdom circle to interview on formation programs (link on Extranet)
 - ideas for church to undertake? (resolutions):

- “college” for formation for social justice work
 - “Ted” talks and other multimedia
 - Resource bank of who is doing this formation work
- Theology group is working on:
 - Definitions of terms
 - Background on what the church has said
 - Statement on theology to offer the church
 - Methodologies to offer the church
 - See link in Extranet to Google doc that is collecting some of these (like a white board)

We will meet again on May 8 for a 2-hour meeting by zoom at 2pm ET / 11am PT.

Notes by Sarah Lawton