

**Saint Thomas Aquinas Social Justice Committee
Minutes, March 2, 2021 (via Zoom)**

Present: Chris Rehmann, Tom Budnik, Fr. John Herzog, Mary Ellen Wishart, Chuck Glatz, Francis Todey, Felicity Douglas, Kathy Trahanovsky, Dave Dirks, Paula Friederich

Prayer: Chris

Oh how beautiful are your ways, O God; the works of your creation. Raise our consciousness to know and feel deeply in our hearts our connectedness to all that is.

Instill in us the gift of being co-creators and sustainers of life. Teach us new and unsuspected ways of living so that current and future generations can walk humbly in beauty, love all compassionately, and live justly in solidarity with all creation.

Loving and gracious God, give us the courage to seek this transformation of self and society and the strength to see it through.

Amen

Minutes of February 2: Approved

Business

COVID-19 Fund:

Approximately 12-13 thousand dollars are currently in balance. The fund has been distributing approximately \$20,000 per month. Tom reports that he has received several notes of gratitude from recipients of this fund.

Love Your Neighbor (LYN) fund:

This fund has approximately \$46,000 in balance. Kathy and Dave discussed that the pandemic has made allocation somewhat more difficult because clients are needing to mail-in documents supporting their applications.

The policies regarding the distribution remain fluid and dynamic during this time.

Bridge Home (formerly Emergency Residence Project):

The Bridge Home serves six counties, near and including Story County.

The need for monetary donations and physical help for tasks of moving and repairs is constant. Help is welcome.

AMOS:

Chris reports that Fr. Kyle is supportive of STA coordinating with AMOS on community and parish needs.

The local cluster of AMOS has begun a dialogue with the mayor, city manager and acting police chief in order to provide more community involvement and reciprocal input regarding the conduct of policing in Ames as it acts with and upon the community.

Care of Creation Celebration:

Chuck reports that St. Cecilia and St. Thomas may join again this year for a fall celebration. Inviting other congregations is under consideration. Someone will need to volunteer to coordinate and discuss this with John Wilson at STC.

Social Justice Grants:

Applications are due April 1.

Next meeting: April 6, 2021 @ 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Friederich