

KOG Social Justice Committee minutes October 27, 2025

Present: Gabrielle Applequist, Gretchen Bingea, Lisa Kenyon, Tami McLaughlin and guest Nick Tinker

1. CROP Hunger Walk. KOG participated again this year after an absence of several years. We had two walkers on October 12th and raised \$605.
2. Healing our Future Interfaith Sack Lunch. KOG hosted on Oct. 15th with two reps from our committee and 11 others from Christian, Buddhist and Bahai communities. There will be an evening program on Nov. 11th.
3. No Kings Rally. Signs were made on Oct. 4th and left in narthex for anyone who wanted them. The rally drew 15,000 people at the Capitol.
4. Education on Indian tribes. As a continuing follow up to our weekly Land Acknowledgment Gabrielle has offered to start including articles in the monthly newsletter about the first people who lived in Idaho.
5. Gretchen reported that Pastor Mark will use the First Nations interpretation of Scripture for the Lord's Prayer in November.
6. RIC banner. It was discovered that our sign was vandalized on Oct. 4th. In order to help prevent a replacement sign from being vandalized, the committee decided to order a metal sign using the \$108.95 left in our budget. Because the metal sign will cost about \$200, Gretchen will write a newsletter article to request donations from the congregation to make up the difference. Nick Tinker has agreed to order the sign for us and look into having it be coated with something that will repel graffiti. We also discussed having cameras for our property and Lisa will bring this up at the next Council meeting.
7. ELCA World Hunger Program. Nick is the synod rep to the hunger team and made a report to us after attending a recent gathering in Ohio. ELCA World Hunger began as a 3 year emphasis in 1974 which has continued for over 50 years. It looks at the root causes of hunger and poverty and provides educational resources and grants to help fight hunger in the U.S. and globally. One of the best things we can do as a congregation is partner with other organizations in anti-hunger work.
8. RIC Sunday. The theme for this year's observance is "Celebrating Diversity as God's Children." Gretchen will talk with Pastor Mark about using the resources for our RIC Sunday on January 25, 2026 or another Sunday of his choosing.
9. Pause in SNAP benefits. Due to the government shut down the committee is pursuing two ways to address those who will lose their benefits in November. We will contact the Social Ministry committee to discuss Food on the Fourth being designated as Food for our Friends and encourage people to bring groceries for those in need every Sunday and not just once a month. In addition, we will invite people to stay after worship on Nov. 9th and write letters to Congress to end the shutdown and release contingency funds for recipients of SNAP.
10. Boise Art Museum field trip. Gabrielle will write an article inviting people to attend an exhibit called The Last Supper as part of an Art as Activism theme on Sunday Nov 16th after worship. The museum opens at noon.
11. Merger of Interfaith Equality Coalition and Interfaith Alliance. There will be a meeting on Dec 4th at noon and KOG has been requested to send a rep. Since none of our committee members is available, Gretchen will see if Nancy Seid might be able to attend.
12. Next meeting: Monday Nov 17th 4:00pm over Zoom