

St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Meeting Minutes March 5, 2026

Mary Weyandt called the zoom meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Present were: Bill Dorgan, Margaret Malec, Kim Roering, Fr. John Mitchell, Carol DePouw, Mary Huettl, Mary Tacheny, Julie Moore, Mary Weyandt, Bruce and Sue Labno, Chris Igielski, Laurie Dimond, Martha Arko, Julie Ludden

Mary Weyandt led the group in the Opening Prayer

DISCUSSION

Reflection and Sharing - After reading [Pope Leo's Statement on War in Iran](#) please share a word or phrase that comes to mind this evening...

AGENDA

- **Immigration Coalition: Prayer Vigil/Action/Formation**

Stations of the Cross in Solidarity with Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees on Sunday March 15 at 4:00 pm, open to the whole community – Catholics and others. Good group of people for readings, have people from this committee for hospitality.

- **Accola Annual Impact Breakfast**

Event at St. Catherine University on Tuesday, April 21st at 8:00 (coffee & connecting) and 8:30 - 9:30 am (program). Mary to send the info and links to interested individuals.

REPORTS

Progressive (Julie Ludden): Progressive has been getting extra produce - more than they can use. Mary will check with Reverend Paul, to see if it's possible to supplement from their inventory. Julie stated they did not have anyone who was picking up food for someone who was afraid to leave their house. They are getting more workers to help out.

Merrick: 60 orders were dispersed by 4:30 pm. Merrick reported a lack of produce from Second Harvest due to current extreme need in Twin Cities.

Donation closet:

March – Merrick MN Food Share Drive

April - Progressive Fishes and Loaves

Thanks to Mary Huettl who took the items to Listening House from February's collection.

Beacon (Julie Moore):

Monday, February 23rd, our St. Pascal Beacon team attended the **Start with Home Rally**, at the Minnesota Capitol Rotunda. Other host organizations included Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity, MN Consortium for Community Developers, MN Housing Partnership and Our Future Starts at Home Campaign. Together we will be working on building and sustaining deeply affordable housing. After the rally everyone was invited to a meeting with Senate Maj. Leader Sen. Erin Murphy and MN Housing and Homelessness Prevention Chair Sen. Lindsey Port to lay out what they will be working on this session.

1. Emergency Rental Assistance

2. Rework the building permit process to make it more transparent and easier to attain permits needed to build affordable housing.
3. There is currently \$63M in state funds available and they hope to start a funding stream for supportive housing.

Some of our team will be attending Homeless Day on the Hill, March 11th 9:00-3:00. We will be meeting with our state legislators to have a conversation about what Beacon and state partners will be working on this session.

Immigration Coalition (Mary Weyandt):

The team met via Zoom on Tuesday, March 3rd and decided on a name: Twin Cities Catholics for Immigrant Justice.

Upcoming events -

- *Stations of the Cross in Solidarity with Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees* at St. Pascal Baylon on Sunday, March 15 at 4 pm. Widely publicized through the Coalition
- *Palm Sunday Procession* on Sunday, March 29 with 2:00 pm Procession launching from several churches at University and Dale and 2:30 pm Worship and Program at Minnesota Capitol Mall – registration link provided in the Agenda
- *Stations of the Cross at Washburn Fair Oaks Park* (near St. Stephens) in Minneapolis on Tuesday of Holy Week (March 31), 6:30 pm – Registration link provided in the agenda
- *Unitos Catholics* will meet 6:30-8:00 pm, Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at the Basilica

Care for Creation Team (Bruce & Sue Labno):

The Care for Creation Team Zoom meeting, Monday March 9.

Earth Day/Week in April: Discussion of Liturgy options and presentations. Might not be possible because it happens during the Easter Season.

What is the best way to approach this – discussion around finding a time when it would be more beneficial to have a larger audience to reach the more people. Suggestion about having a ministry fair to showcase all of what SJCC ministry does on a fellowship weekend. Each group could have a table with info for their specific ministry available.

Everyone agreed, tentatively scheduled for June 21st – Father's Day weekend. Will be added to next month's agenda for further discussion.

Eco-Friendly Product List: Sue indicated list was started and has been sent to the rest of committee members for review and any additions. List can be provided at SJCC Ministry Fair.

Bloodmobile (Margaret Malec): Scheduled for Date: Monday April 13, 2026 (noon to 5pm)

OTHER:

We Care is this weekend for March 7th, all money collected will go to Sacred Heart to help individuals/families with rent payments.

Info sheets with the Resources available for the bathrooms are nearly completed.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday April 9th, 2026 in person at St. Pascal's

PRAYER FOR APRIL: Mary Tacheny

MINUTES FOR APRIL: Mary Tacheny

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL: June 21st for SJCC ministry fair.