

**IUCC ADVOCATES  
for Peace and Justice  
Minutes for the 2/20 meeting:**

The meeting was convened at approximately 12:20 in the library in Plumer Hall. Attending: Daniel Blakburn, Judy Curry, David Deshler (who I HOPE has now been added to the e-list!), Felicity Figueroa, Marleen Gillespie, Marilyn Kesterwest, Dean Inada, Lauren Louie, Joan Mortenson, Melissa Petrofsky, Pat Sauter and David Smith. Both Rev. Tellstrom and Griswold "dropped in" for part of the meeting.

After a welcome and brief introduction (it was one of our largest meetings in a while!), we went into our agenda:

1) The chair mentioned the upcoming event, screening of WORCE THAN WAR (film about author Daniel Goldhagen's visits to 9 countries after genocide)(cosponsored by OC for Darfur) 7 pm, Plumer Hall

--- This event happened this past Saturday and about 40 people were in the audience including about half a dozen IUCC members; special thanks to Shirley Lorenz who opened up Plumer Hall early and helped with food and drinks for the event! @) California Council of Church's IMPACT southern California training event on the state budget crisis. We voted unanimously to sponsor this. It is designed for pastors, layleaders and activists (so all of us are "eligible"). People from three or four other churches (including St Mark Prysbyterian in Newport Beach and now Fairview Community UCC may attend).

--- This event is now scheduled for MARCH 20th (next Sunday) at 4 pm in the afternoon in Plumer Hall. We expect 12-15 people to come (but can, of course, accomodate more!). EVERYONE IS INVITED to come and learn about the California State budget crisis and how to educate and organize our congregations around this issue. Simon Lee from the California Council of Churches (and the Bay Area) will be leading the discussion. -- Since this activity arose in responseto comments from church d members, including the Moderator, who felt that the Advocates should "do something" about the coming impacts of the state cuts on the poor and vulnerable, we also decided that we would try take some immediate action on it, including letter writing, etc.

--- We NEED VOLUNTEERS to help with letter writing and "tabling" on the patio in between services and after second service!

3) Peace vigil is scheduled for early evening (6 pm) on March 20th at the corner of Alton and Culver. It is definitely ON and we are now advertising this widely via all our elists, UCI Peace lists -- if anyone need a electronic copy of the flier, please let the chair know!

4) We briefly discussed national political issues including the push for draconian federal budget cuts by the House and the crisis in Wisconsin where the governor is attacking public employee unions.

--- Again, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to write letters for patio! 5) We discussed the Middle East upheaval (this was about the time that the Egyptians forced their dictator to leave and there was unrest in many other countries, too.

--- The group expressed enthusiasm for inviting to people who are affiliated with UCI to our church: 1) Dana Moss, the Co-Director of the Yemen Peace Project, and 2) UCI History Professor Mark Levine was in Tahrir Square in Cairo for the Mubarak resignation. (The chair will pursue this after the winter quarter ends.)

6) We talked about the troubling prosecution of the Irvine 11 and the fallout from that, noting the Pastor Paul was among the public figures decrying the Orange County DA's decision. While the chair noted that we had heard that some folks at University Synagogue were supporting the DA in this matter, it was noted that groups like the Jewish Voice for Peace (and their representatives who recently visited UCI were very critical of the prosecution and supporting the right of the Irvine 11 to peacefully protest).

--- In early March the video of a very troubling incident in Villa Park was widely available via the Worldwide Web (local white "Americans" -- with the apparently support of two Republican congressmen from Orange County and other elected officials -- surrounded a building where an Islamic group was meeting and shouted hateful anti-Islamic slogans at Muslims (including small children) as they entered. Some folks affiliated with the IUCC Advocates have now set up a e-list and Facebook page called, Equality in OC: A March for Human Rights. This group is planning a demonstration in support of local Muslims on TUESDAY, MARCH 15th in the afternoon in Villa Park (we will post information via the e-list as it becomes available).

7) The chair reiterated and emphasized a need for LETTER WRITING in the next few weeks by Advocate participants.

8) The Great American Write-In will be held in Irvine on Saturday morning, from 9 am until 1 pm in the Lakeview Senior Center. We are signed up for a booth and we need volunteers to help with that for all or part of the time.

9) There will be an Orange County Progressive Summit in September -- both Felicity Figueroa and Dave Smith will be on the e-list that is working to put that together.

We adjourned after all this business at about 1:15 pm!

respectfully submitted,

Dave Smith  
Chair, IUCC Advocates for Peace and Justice