

Outreach Ministry Team
3-14-17 Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Varblow, Linda Kinsinger, Linda Laubscher, Neal Mochel, Pastor Will Rose, Sarah Zink

- 1) Devotions: Neal was scheduled but will do next time.
- 2) February Minutes: Approved as written.
- 3) Council Report from Linda Kinsinger
 - b. Linda reviewed three Strategic Plan goals related to Outreach:
 - *Collaborate with Faith Formation for a retreat or event with half of the worshipping community participating.* God's Work Our Hands Sunday project draws the biggest participation of the year. Perhaps we also could organize/offer a service project at the Earnhardt Farm during Outdoor Worship weekend.
 - *Host three all-congregation events with 25% of the worshipping community participating.* God Work and Crop Walk qualify under this rubric. We do other projects that definitely involve a significant percentage of congregation (Project 5000, clothing/school supply drives, Giving Tree, etc.).
 - *Promote LCM involvement in service projects and grow their participation by 10% each year for three years.* We have identified MLK Day as a good opportunity for students to lead/help plan. LCM leadership team for 2017-18 will be forming soon, and we should try to get a student rep to serve on our committee, not just act as a liaison to it.
 - c. Linda also reviewed the congregational survey questions that were pertinent to Outreach. More than 70% of respondents said outreach opportunities are important to their faith development. The list of prioritized activities was heavily oriented toward service and community betterment. Capital Campaign to renovate Ministry Center: Council is deciding what charitable giving to attach to the capital campaign. Ideas include a tithe above the \$2 million we need and/or donations anchored to specific fundraising benchmarks (e.g., raise half a million, give \$3,000 to the ELCA or Food First). Pastor Will would like to see both global and local recipients.
- 4) Old Business / Program Updates
 - a. Project 5000: All 100 boxes were returned, and almost all have been delivered to the IFC. Sarah Zink has two more to deliver.
 - b. Crop Walk: April 23. Congregational drive will begin March 19; Sarah will speak at both services and have online/paper registration available in the narthex. Two families have committed to match donations (one up to \$500, the other up to \$250). Neal expressed continuing concerns that foot traffic on the route is not sufficiently safe.

- c. Lenten Offering, Lutheran Services Carolinas: Linda V advised the committee that depending on the final total, we may want to round up the amount we sent as we did for the Advent offering (additional \$57 came out of Outreach budget).

5) New Business

- a. Refugee Project Ideas: Linda V. spoke with reps at Lutheran Services Carolinas about refugee assistance. The protocol has changed, with congregations offering more moral/emotional support than financial assistance. (Federal programs help with bills, etc.) “Partners in Welcome” teams spend one hour per week with a refugee family, helping acclimate them to the area. Most (95%) of refugees in our area settle in Raleigh. Two to three families per year end up in Chapel Hill—most recently, two new residents from the Democratic Republic of Congo (ages 20 and 25) who just moved in with an uncle. Linda V. suggested that we may be able to partner with the Community Church of Chapel Hill (Unitarian Universalist) to form a team. We have some funds that could be used for emergency support (see C below). We could also solicit in-kind donations (cooking equipment, furnishings, etc.). This is a good opportunity for confirmation students at HTLC to help.
- b. Border Immersion Project: Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey serves the El Paso area and offers a one-week immersion program that teaches participants about immigration issues. They hear stories from immigrants, talk with immigration lawyers and court officials, and work and pray in the community. Sounds similar to a LWR study visit. Visit dates are flexible. If we took a team there, then what? How would we employ the knowledge gained to make a difference in our own community? Need to investigate this opportunity further.
- c. March Budget Allocations: We will give \$1,000 to IFC and \$100 to Sharon Barrett (if she still needs it for Project Connect—Linda V will ask) as planned. We have some extra money in the bank:
- \$3,199.60 earmarked for refugee support
 - \$275 in grocery cards for May distribution
 - \$150 earmarked for Habitat (can be counted as part of our yearly \$3,000 contribution or added on top)
 - \$1,847.79 earmarked for Support Circles
 - \$5,366.59 undesignated

Last year’s allocations were \$28,259 and our budget this year is \$32,000. With extra funds and the surpluses as listed above, we can and may wish to increase our monthly allocations. Linda V. asked every committee member to suggest specific causes that deserve more funding and bring ideas to the April meeting. Some early suggestions: Greater commitment to school grocery cards and Table; support for Food for the Summer.

- d. Call for New Projects: Linda L. mentioned a post in her neighborhood soliciting donations for the Carrboro Day Laborers Association. She is going to try to get more information on what ongoing needs the association may have and how we can help.

6) Next meeting April 11. Neal will do devotions.