

Outreach and Justice Ministry Team Report for Board Meeting, December 4, 2022

Our first new Outreach and Justice Ministry Group meeting took place on October 27 and we also met in November. *We are a flurry of work and communication outside meetings.* Our next meeting will be January 9, 2023.

The Team includes: **Jacque Foster (Chair), Dianne Benjamin, Kathy Davis, Rose Fischer, Daniel Leach, Matthew Mahaffey, Sandra Miller, and Rochelle Raskowitz.** Rev. Michael Riggs is attending our meetings giving wonderful support.

We began by sharing our values and priorities for the Outreach and Justice Ministries of the church. These team member values include:

Connecting with neighborhood community.

Looking for ways to add justice back into our society.

Connecting faith in hearts and minds with our hands, feet and lips; an embodied faith.

Volunteerism, person growth, and serving community.

Include children and youth in outreach; growing in them the value of outreach.

Food outreach and housing outreach.

Helping kids at Soldan School

Eco-Justice

Getting people engaged in the community

Connect justice issues that are related to areas of need.

Connect with organizations already working on issues; we don't need to always create something new

Communication through every mode we have in the congregation. Communicate, communicate, communicate; only with strong communication with people get involved.

After spending some time sharing UACC's recent and current outreach, as well as some outreach history, we decided to start with strengthening and building relationship with organizations in the general church neighborhood.

We have identified 3 organizations in the neighborhood, plus one food justice ministry with which we want to build ongoing and deeper relationship immediately.

- Soldan High School
- The Forensic Treatment Center (formerly Metropolitan Psychiatric Center)
- Hylton Point II Affordable Housing
- Memorial Blvd. Christian Church Food Panty and Clothing Room

We are starting work on these in this season. Our team members divided up the tasks:

Rochelle and Rose reached out to Soldan and in collaboration with their social worker and guidance counselors arrived at our project to provide winter coats, etc. for the 10 families in greatest need.

Matthew and Sandra reached out to the Forensic Treatment Center and working with their Chaplain, arrived at our Caroling with gifts for the 75 residents.

Dianne Benjamin is on the Board of Hylton Point II, and reported to us about them and UACC's current support. We voted to slightly increase our financial outreach to them to strengthen their Christmas gifts to residents. (We will explore further relationship here.)

Daniel Leach has taken on the role of UACC's contact person with Memorial Blvd. Food Pantry and Clothing Room. Many of you have already re-started your food giving! Daniel and Randy spent a wonderful time with the MBCC folks and are encouraging us to have at least one UACC person to help with the Food Distribution each Thursday. They are taking one Thursday per month and others of us will hopefully commit!

Kathy Davis reported to our group on the Outreach Budget and is supporting in all areas.

Jacque Foster has been supporting all areas and is focusing on the communication piece, having started a weekly **Outreach and Justice Newsletter**. With Ron Lindsey's help this is getting out to everyone. There is also a hard copy each week at the parking lot door. Jacque is also working on all of the DMF Offerings, recruiting for Mission Moments, etc.

We do not see these projects as one time, isolated events. We see them as steps in long-term relationship deepening. We see them as means for the whole congregation to become engaged as a community of Jesus' hands and feet in the world. We see them as lenses into the justice needs around us.

We have created a set of Discernment Questions to help us choose areas of focus and special projects. These will be shared in an upcoming Newsletter.

Many thanks for the Board's support.

Submitted by Jacque Foster, Chair
Outreach and Justice Ministry Team

