

OUTREACH MEETING AUGUST 14, 2017

Present: Leigh Cromeey, Mary Anne Stroup, Elise Hanley, Luk de Volder, Barb Hedberg, Warner Marshall, Chuck Kaywood, Geri Mauhs, Gloria Hoda, George Gillin Lillian, Andrew Smyth, Samantha Butler, Bob Windom, Chris Janis, Nimi Sharma, Liz Dickinson, Chuck ___

Luk thanked everyone for their hard work on behalf of the community and their dedication to their ministries, which make Trinity a successful church as noted in internal and external communications. This meeting is intended to facilitate face-to-face communication among these important ministries, to hear the work and understand the needs of each group. Elise is the clergyperson who will support and guide the Outreach group.

To highlight and enhance further communication, the leaders of each Ministry will be invited to meet with the Vestry and to share the core of their mission and a summary of their work.

Mary Anne has created a questionnaire completed by all teams that lists the various initiatives and the volunteers involved.

Luk noted that volunteering at churches has been in a decline for years because of the profound changes in society so that adults under the age of 40 often do not join organizations but volunteer for specific causes; however, they also seek to belong to a community and to feel needed. When recruiting volunteers, Trinity needs to emphasize the sense of community and belonging as well as the sense of purpose provided by the various volunteer opportunities.

Suggestions:

An Outreach Fair for teams to “sell” and describe their work and to offer that sense of belonging. A survey asking people’s interests, talents, and time availability.

Presentations at a Sunday Forum for each Team.

Supper clubs organized around the various teams so people can know other with the same interests and commitments.

Luk emphasized that we have new people attending the various Sunday services, people who often return but whom we do not know, so we need to find a way to connect with them.

Questions were asked about a proposal to direct \$15,000 from the Grants Committee to Music for Mission, an initiative to support young singers or musicians whose parents cannot afford the lessons and instrument rentals, as part of Outreach.

Samantha reported on the work of Chapel on the Green and shared the needs of the community: more volunteers who know the program, a new procedure for Laundry Love, and a focus on being a community rather than “a handout.”

The new and fast-growing Spiritual Fellowship, described by Samantha, includes about thirty minutes of people sharing thoughts and stories, then prayer, then encouragement, followed by lunch. The Fellowship has social workers from Columbus House available to direct people to appropriate services. An important addition would be a social worker or resource coordinator on salary to provide more time and more information and counseling.

The Teams will meet several times a year to share information and updates.

