

Strategic Ministry Committee Minutes from October 20, 2020 Meeting (7:30-9:50pm, Zoom)

In attendance: Rev. Mike Dangelo, Aaron Dunn, Alex Ewing, Anne Grandin, Anila Jacobs, Debby Mills, Katie McEachern, Judy Oulund, Carolyn Ross, Peter Schilling, and Leslie Williams. Also in attendance were Steve Mead and Deborah Tamulis. Amy Weed was absent.

Meeting opening:

Given continued restrictions due to coronavirus (COVID-19), SMC met again via Zoom video conference. Leslie Williams opened the meeting with Proverbs 11:25-35 and a reflection on the role SMC has to promote equity. *“We’re refreshing others and they offer spiritual refreshment for us. ... We are shifting from a charity model (of outreach) to a partnership, that is equity. What can we learn, how can we enhance and build a mutual relationship?”* Leslie closed our opening time with a prayer. **Minutes** from the July 22, 2020 and the September 15, 2020 SMC Meetings were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Partner Updates from Advisory Heads / SMC Liaisons:

Leslie Williams provided an update on **St Stephen’s Youth Program (SSYP)**, noting that every day presents a new challenge. Leslie shared the idea of finding additional space near St Stephen’s for a SSYP “learning lab,” which Deborah Tamulis has been working on. Unfortunately, the space that Deborah found which was affordable (a recently renovated nightclub) was not of interest to SSYP’s students because it was not nearby (required at least a 15 minute walk). SMC discussed other potential type of properties. It was agreed that a group, including Mike and Deborah, would circle back and meet with SSYP within 48 hours to see if there were any alternatives that might work.

Rev. Mike Dangelo, who is Treasurer for Common Cathedral’s (CC) board, reported that CC was one of 92 organizations out of 800 to receive a \$223,000 Eli Lilly grant. This was a huge support. Mike noted that CC’s board would be onsite the following day to prepare its annual campaign mailing.

Steve Mead gave an update on **Pilgrim Africa / Beacon of Hope School (BOH)**, noting that Uganda had locked down early in the pandemic and therefore the school had been shutdown. Thankfully, this has enabled Uganda to weather the pandemic relatively well; with a population of 45 million Uganda has only had 10,000 cases and 97 deaths. A grant enabled BOH’s 80 A-level students to receive tablets and internet access so that they can study remotely. Pilgrim has been strengthening its team, and has hired a new Development officer (Tanya) and new Executive Director who was previously with World Vision, etc. Invitations have been sent out for Pilgrim’s annual gala, *Jasiri*, being held virtually on October 22 and October 24. Steve was asked to provide an update on the status of the COVID grant that SMC provided to retain BOH staff.

Demand from Newton schools has been rising. In early October Velura Perry sent out an email noting that **FUEL** needs to fill 147 bags EACH week with at least seven items. Although FUEL continues to receive donations from parishioners and other parishes, FUEL needs shoppers to regularly help provide the items needed each week.

CSL Christmas Market Update

Debby Mills noted that the Redeemer’s annual Christmas Market will largely be online this year. Vendors will be completely online, which will enable us to enlist a larger number of vendors for a longer period of time. The Christmas Market Auction will also be online this year. Details, including information about trees and wreaths, will be forthcoming in the mailing in early November. Debby informed SMC that CSL had discussed SMC’s recommendation for Angels for Outreach but voted to allow parishioners to support any or all of SMC’s mission partners, as they feel called to do. SMC will provide materials to

market our mission partners both in the November mailings (drafts provided) and during the online Auction.

SMC discussed several options to recommend for the Redeemer's Christmas offering (including SMC, SSYP or helping Epiphany families with heat / rent), but decided to table the decision. This will enable the diocesan budget to be finalized and approved, and give Mike time to reach out to John Finley re: needs. Aaron noted that Stewardship is underway and although it is "weird" this year as many parishioners are not home, in his conversations parishioners have been enthusiastic about a portion of stewardship pledges being tithed to SMC.

Strategic Plan Goals & New Initiatives

Aaron Dunn shared a draft of SMC's strategic goals to be included with the Redeemer's overall strategic plan. Aaron noted that SMC was formed with the intention of fostering greater outreach ministries and encourage more strategic conversations with our mission partners. Having these goals identified will assist us in "looking down the road." Aaron defined the following goals:

- Near term — goals already in process
- Medium term — new initiatives to be implemented / communicated
- Long term — intended to make SMC the "partner of choice" for parishioners' Christian charitable giving

SMC discussed the challenges presented by COVID19, including communication and telling stories which is super hard. Mike shared his interest in creating a podcast, but noted that the time required for editing, etc. made it prohibited. Katie McEachern said her son, John, has experience and suggested Mike reach out to him for assistance.

The discussion also included options for partnering with other churches, especially for youth and mission programs. Mike agreed to reach out to our Deanery (12 parishes) to invite them into a conversation. It was noted, however, that this is a very challenging time for the diocese. Mike noted that in order to be effective, these type of ventures need to be relational and it takes time to build relationships and trust. The focus moves from: personal (friend) in the short-term, to projects in the medium term (joint efforts), and finally to programmatic efforts in the longterm.

Finally, SMC discussed potential synergies between mission and youth group, and the importance of delegating responsibility / agency to our youth for determining areas of focus. It was also noted that Barrie Rose is looking for service opportunities, including CC's City Reach.

Committee members thought the New Initiatives guidelines looked good.

Financial Update & Discussion of Stewardship Campaign

Aaron Dunn reviewed SMC's financial as of September 2020, which were essentially the same as the previous month:

General Fund \$46,905 (including \$24K for new ministries & FUEL buffer, \$15K for fall)

FUEL \$39,311

FUEL's budget has declined modestly as the previously discussed need for shoppers has increased.

Aaron noted that Vestry approved the recommendation to tithe 10% of Stewardship in 2021, though there are concerns about continuing the trend in 2022 depending on the required draw on the endowment. It was suggested that Mike consider making a Stewardship video to share SMC's good news.

Closing

Alex Ewing adjourned the committee in prayer at 9:50pm.