

## **Strategic Ministry Committee Minutes from April 21, 2020 Meeting (7:30-9:30pm, Zoom)**

In attendance: Rev. Mike Dangelo, Aaron Dunn, Alex Ewing, Anne Grandin, Anila Jacobs, Debby Mills, Katie McEachern, Judy Oulund, Carolyn Ross, Peter Schilling, Amy Weed, Leslie Williams; and SMC Advisory Heads: Steve Mead, Maisie Pollard, and Deborah Tamulis.

### ***Meeting opening***

Given recent developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19), SMC met via Zoom video conference. Alex Ewing opened the meeting with a reflection on Daniel 3, an incredible testament to faith in the midst of tough circumstances:

*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." — Daniel 3:16-18*

Alex shared that it inspires him to be a "But if not" Christian, and urged all of us to be people of faith not fear — despite our current coronavirus environment. He then opened us in prayer.

Minutes from the March 2020 SMC Meetings held on 3/17 and 3/21 were reviewed and approved unanimously, as presented.

### ***Financial update***

Aaron reported that as of 3/31/2020 the SMC has \$148,741.56 in the general fund with \$303.36 in FUEL. This includes \$28,200 from the CSL that was raised in the Redeemer's Christmas Auction, and a \$2,000 unsolicited, donation from a parishioner for COVID19 relief. Mike noted that despite that we were unable to hold Easter services in-person, an additional \$14,000+ was raised for FUEL in the Christmas offering. This exceeds the \$11,027 that was raised for FUEL in the 2019 Easter offering, bringing the SMC's total capital to approximately \$163,000.

### ***Discussion of Partnership Requests:***

Partnership Grant Requests from each of our mission partners were received on April 17, as requested, and distributed to committee members prior to the meeting.

Aaron launched the discussion of the requests by remarking that all were very good, and committee members were in agreement. Everyone was pleased that all partners expressed a desire to increase the level of our interpersonal partnership. He then invited SMC Advisory Heads present to share any additional insights, thoughts they could in relation to the written material. Conversations reflected updates on current efforts underway related to COVID-19 response, as well as long-term needs outlined in the written materials.

### ***St Stephen's Youth Programs (SSYP)***

Maisie Pollard updated SMC on a fruitful meeting held on April 15 with Tim Crellin, Liz Steinhauer, and Sandy Quispe from SSYP and Mike Dangelo, Emily Garcia, Barrie Rose, Lucia Dolan, Leslie Williams and Maisie from the Redeemer, to discuss how to improve what we are already doing. SSYP expressed their profound appreciation for our \$10,000 donation we made for their COVID19 response. Maisie confirmed SSYP's appreciation for our \$10,000 donation for their COVID19 response, and that going forward Amy Luster will be the Redeemer's point person with SSYP. The groups will connect again at the end of May / June re: the B-SAFE summer program and on Sept. 20th re: Christmas activities.

In the meantime, the immediate focus is how to respond to the immediate and ongoing needs of SSYP's community where 70% of the community has lost at least one job. The magnitude of the need is such that we will need to involve the entire church. Last week the Redeemer collected 20 grocery bags of food with only a couple days notice. This afternoon Liz sent an email explaining that SSYP will be distributing groceries and gift cards to 50 families in need every Thursday for the foreseeable future, and requesting our assistance in meeting that need. Mike Dangelo and Velura Perry are meeting tomorrow to discuss pulling together a list of items that parishioners can purchase and drop off at the Redeemer for transport to SSYP.

Other topics discussed during the meeting included: relationship building activities between the Redeemer's middle school and SSYP students, volunteer opportunities for parishioners in tutoring SSYP students or helping with the college application process.

Liz Steinhauser also confirmed (via email) that SSYP hopes to run in-person B-SAFE programs from July 6 - August 6, as originally planned, and are working on planning different scenarios to ensure everyone's safety. Updates will be provided after May 15.

### ***FUEL***

The SSYP conversation led directly into a conversation about the biggest need to be addressed coming out of COVID19 is food insecurity. It was agreed to use FUEL as much as possible as the vehicle to address food needs. FUEL will lead the efforts to secure and allocate food for SSYP's 50 bags of food weekly, plus at least 30 bags for Epiphany families. In addition, FUEL is continuing to meet the needs of Newton's food insecure students. Velura Perry is doing a terrific job leading the effort and managing all the logistics during this challenging period.

### ***Epiphany School***

Maisie Pollard indicated that Lucia Dolan is the Redeemer's primary contact with Epiphany. Last Friday Epiphany held its annual spring gala virtually, and the Redeemer raised over \$11,500 at its table (including matches) towards the \$300,000 goal. Committee members noted that Epiphany's budget is increasing markedly over the next several years as it expands its Early Learning Center (ELC) classes. ELC is essentially a start-up. As a result, the impact of our donation — already modest given the size of Epiphany's budget — is being reduced. Mike indicated that FUEL gives us the opportunity to make an impactful contribution for Epiphany's community. We briefly discussed the limited involvement of Redeemer parishioners, and the opportunity to increase awareness via tours and match Redeemer volunteers to needs.

We spoke about the need to raise awareness of all of the needs / volunteer opportunities for our mission partners, and agreed to include a SMC section in the Redeemer's weekly Tuesday email.

### ***common cathedral***

Deborah Tamulis shared that she had spoken to Amanda Grant Rose (Executive Director) the day before, and reiterated how grateful she was for our unsolicited donation for COVID19 needs. They also really appreciate the sandwiches, etc. that parishioners have provided for distribution on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. *Common cathedral* is providing critical services in providing access to bathroom facilities, interior spaces for resting, and food, given that the majority of other public spaces are currently closed. Approximately 2/3 of Boston's homeless population have tested positive for COVID19. The grant proposal was for a multi-year commitment that will enable Amanda to hire a staff person to leverage her time and meet with more donors. Mike shared that given his board role he is also speaking with potential donors for *common cathedral*. Deborah mentioned that Amanda would like help with their website (Anne Grandin suggested a parishioner who may be interested), in addition to the sandwiches, etc. for Wednes-

day - Friday. Deborah will ensure these requests are included in the Redeemer's Tuesday email. Longer term, it was confirmed that we would like the Redeemer's youth to participate in City-Reach (once those type of programs resume next year).

### ***Pilgrim Africa / Beacon of Hope School***

Steve Mead provided an update on how Pilgrim Africa is responding to the COVID19 crisis in Uganda, including working with the government on its planning and getting information out to rural communities through its malaria workers. He reiterated that the Redeemer's focus is on supporting Pilgrim's Beacon of Hope School (BOH), which was shut down in March along with all schools in Uganda. The immediate need is to continue to pay the teachers in order to retain them and be prepared to quickly reopen when the okay is given. Steve estimated that need would be approximately \$15,000 per month. Current enrollment is 650 students with 28 teachers and approximately half the budget is covered by paying students. The operating budget is \$450,000 - \$550,000. BOH expects this school year will run from May - November. The long-term, multi-year request outlined in the grant partnership document would enable BOH to add teachers to add subject matters and further raise the quality of education (the goal is to be in the top 5% of school's across Uganda). Steve mentioned opportunities to improve engagement with the Redeemer community including arranging regular updates via Zoom, and a potential mission trip in 2021 (depending upon COVID19 developments). Clarification was sought re: immediate needs related to COVID19 and several budget items, including a projected increase in students to over 900.

### ***New Business:***

Aaron Dunn mentioned that it had been suggested SMC consider supporting MANNA (Many Angels Needed Now and Always), a ministry of and with the homeless community in downtown Boston operating out of Massachusetts' Episcopal cathedral at St Paul's. After discussion it was agreed that at this time SMC will continue to support the homeless population through our existing partnership with *common cathedral*.

Anne Grandin raised the opportunity for the Redeemer to create art for Boston Hope Medical Center, the 1000-bed hospital established at the Boston Convention Center for post-acute COVID-19 patients and homeless patients with COVID-19 who do not require acute care. Anne's daughter & parishioner, Louisa Sylvia, has been assigned to work with the hospital. SMC was in agreement and suggested Anne reach out to Emily Garcia re: asking our youth to get involved and keep the committee posted about any further needs.

Rev. Mike adjourned the committee in prayer at [9:00pm](#).