Outreach Committee Report for 2016

This year we received funding requests from seven agencies. We performed our due diligence to make sure all the agencies requesting funding meet the criteria of being in the St. Louis Association. We have been asked to reduce the amount to be distributed to the Outreach partners to $100,000 total.

The Outreach Committee in dialogue with the St Louis Association Council has continued to use the criteria to approve agencies and congregational outreach programs for funding support. This year not only do we fund existing mission agencies through our ongoing supportive grants but support a new project for funding through a one-time grant for initiation of new multi-congregational mission projects.

The criteria for approval of funding from the St. Louis Association include the following:

1. The requesting agency or program must have structural affiliation with a UCC church or be a UCC agency which is listed in the most recent year book of the United Church of Christ. This structural affiliation is defined as having a seated UCC Board representative, which represents the UCC and the St. Louis Association on the Board.

**OR**

1. The requesting agency or program must have two or more representatives for two or more UCC congregations, one of which is a member of the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ.
2. The main office of the requesting agency or program must be located within the community served by the member churches of the St. Louis Association.
3. The agency or program must have an affirmative action emphasis in their policies, practices, procedures and programs that encourage participation in their mission by persons of all ages, colors, abilities and sexual orientation.
4. The agency or program must certify that it will use the grant for the purposes specified in the application.
5. The agency of program will provide a brief written report to the St. Louis Association at the end of the program calendar year. The report contain a brief summary of the program that was supported by the funds received from the St. Louis Association.
6. The program will be aligned with the mission and purpose of the St. Louis Association.

One time grants for initiation must have two or more churches involved in the project and meet the guidelines above. The goal with the support of these projects is to encourage churches to work together in mission in the community. Additional Outreach dollars support projects in Memphis, Tennessee and Arkansas which meet the criteria.

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| Ministry | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | Proposed 2016 |
| Neighborhood Houses | $92,300 | $92,300 | $88,300 | $89,300 | $84,000 | $77,500 |
| Joint Neighborhood Ministries | $11,000 | $11,000 | $10,000 | $10,000 | $10,000 | $8,000 |
| Isaiah 58 | $11,000 | $11,000 | $5,000 | $2,000 | $5,500 | $4500 |
| St John’s Community | $8,500 | $8,500 | $7,500 | $7,500 | $5,000 | $3500 |
| Lydia’s House | $4,000 | $4,000 | $4,000 | $6,000 | $5,000 | $4500 |
| Union Communion | $2,500 | $2,500 | $2,000 | $3,000 | $2,000 | $`1000 |
| Pilgrim/Parkway partnership food pantry – one time grant |  |  |  |  |  | $1000 |

Total $100,000

Doorways and Interfaith Partnership are budgeted in another part of the budget.

**Agency Summaries**

All of these agencies are recommended for funding.

**Neighborhood Houses**

Program highlights include the continuing programs of the Early Childhood Education and teen moms at Caroline Mission location, the school age children in after school programming and the expansion of after school programming to University City schools, and the summer camp program at Christ the King UCC, Immanuel UCC – Ferguson, St. Peters UCC- Ferguson and St. Johns UCC – St Louis.

New in the fall of 2015 there will be a program for teen boys in social enterprise where they will learn how to run a small business by screen printing T-Shirts. The program will be on the job learning, along with life skills.

Neighborhood Houses mission is to inspire children and families to reach their magnificent potential through transformative, education and empowering experiences anchored in faith, hope and love. Executive Director, Darlene Sowell, and her staff are grateful to the St. Louis Association for their support of their quality programs. The agency faces challenges ahead with hope as they deal with an aging facility at Caroline Mission, funding challenges with state agencies, and ongoing education and training of staff. The Directors of the programs are energetic, enthusiastic and committed to the success of all the children and families.

**Joint Neighborhood Ministries**

Joint Neighborhood Ministries has been a recipient of the second largest funding from the St Louis Association for the past five years. Their strong presence in 63118 and 63104 zip codes includes widespread services covering food, health, family advocacy and Social Security budgeting assistance. Their Back to School Fair and Adopt a family programs, as well as most of their other services are funded through individual donations and a group of 30 churches that provide ongoing support. Though the St. Louis Association provides a significant source of income, this agency actively solicits funding from many other sources and is successful in that process. The St. Louis Association funding equates to about 5% of their total budget. They are extremely thankful for the ongoing support of the St. Louis Association.

**Isaiah 58**

Isaiah 58 serves the Shaw Neighborhood with needed services such as clothing, food and women’s programming. Rev. Brenda Booth and her board have worked diligently to create a ministry that not only feeds but works to address essential needed services. They have active food pantry and clothing closet, along with computer lab and health services. They have developed a women’s group which brings women together to address their concerns as they live in the neighborhood.

**St. John’s Community Service Ministry**

St. John’s Community Service Ministry is open twice a week, two half days as a food pantry. They have partnered with the church they are renting from to provide needed repairs to the area of the building that the food pantry is located. The ministry provides food and other essential personal care items, along with fresh vegetables and fruits to the clients they serve. They have an annual back to school program, family summer picnic and Adopt a Family for Christmas.

**Lydia’s House**

Lydia’s House has continued to provide safe housing and intensive services for 51 women and approximately 65 children who have suffered from abusive relationships. Weekly meals are provided by local churches, which help to build a sense of community among the residents. They continue to provide assistance so the women can achieve their educational, employment, health, housing and legal goals. A new 20 unit apartment house in the county has been purchases which will make Lydia’s House the largest provider of transitional housing in the country.

**Union Communion**

Union Communion is a joint community outreach ministry that works to be a stabilizing force supported by Pilgrim UCC, Union Avenue Christian Church (DOC) and Westminster Presbyterian Church, all churches at the corner of Delmar and Union. This ministry provides thousands of back to school supplies at their back to school fair. They provide a free summer concert to promote peace and family friendly affair to the socially and economically diverse neighborhood audience.

**Pilgrim/Parkway Partnership Food Pantry**

The Pilgrim Food Pantry is open twice a month, just before the soup kitchen, and has served as of June 2015 536 ow income or unemployed families, totaling 1690 people thus far this year. The food is purchased with donated and budgeted funds. Volunteers from both Pilgrim and Parkway staff the pantry.

The Pilgrim/Parkway soup kitchen serves a hot lunch to 50 to 100 people once a week. In 2014, they served 3270 meals. Every second week, the Parkway Sweet Bakers provide sweet pastries for the meals. The food is purchased with donated an budgeted funds. This effort is staffed by volunteers from both Parkway and Pilgrim UCC.

Recently, Deaconess Faith Community Nurse Ministries has received a grant to place a faith community nurse in the ministry there.

**Conclusion**

We are excited about funding new joint venture projects between churches. We hope other UCC congregations can work together to do mission.

Respectfully submitted,

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2015 Co-Chairs Outreach Committee