# Outreach Committee Report for 2015

This year we received funding requests from 8 agencies. We performed our due diligence to make sure that all agencies requesting funding meet the criteria of being in the St. Louis Association.

 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 we 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 with 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 or program will provide a brief written report to the St. Louis Association at the end of the program calendar year. The report will 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, TN and Arkansas which meet the criteria.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ministry | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 proposed |
| Neighborhood Houses | $92,300 | $92,300 | $92,300 | $88,300 | $89,300 | $84,000 |
| Joint Neighborhood Ministries | $11,000 | $11,000 | $11,000 | $10,000 | $10,000 | $10,000 |
| Isaiah 58 | $12,000 | $11,000 | $11,000 | $5,000 | $2,000 | $5,500 |
| St John’s CM | $10,000 | $8,500 | $8,500 | $7,500 | $7,500 | $5,000 |
| Lydia’s House | $4,000 | $4,000 | $4,000 | $4,000 | $6,000 | $5,000 |
| Union Comm. | $2,000 | $2,500 | $2,500 | $2,000 | $3,000 | $2,000 |
| Peace Tree Spirituality – one time grant |  |  |  |  |  | $2,500 |

 Total $114,000 Doorways is budgeted for $1000, and is contained in the Program portion of the budget.

## Agency Summary

All of these agencies are recommended to receive funding.

### NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES

 Neighborhood Houses provides faith based services to strengthen individuals, families, and communities. See the attached report.

### JOINT NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES

 JNM has strong affiliation with Epiphany UCC located in their basement facilities and working in conjunction with outreaches that Epiphany has and strong presence on their board. Their service boundaries are in the south St. Louis area, heavy in food pantry and health services in 63104 and 63118. JNM is located in the facilities of Epiphany UCC; Joint Neighborhood Ministries pay their utilities but do not have rent expense. The grant funding from St. Louis Association is used to maintain their operation for necessities of utilities, equipment, payroll and other expenses. She believes the key word in her ministry is “Joint”.

The food pantry is open 3 days a week. The clothing store is open one to two days a week. The community health nurse is available three days a week. The community health nurse’s salary is grant funded for two years. The nurse within the clinic is present in the agency on a day to day basis. There is a client advocate on staff who registers the persons coming for assistance and will refer them to places when appropriate for other assistance including further needs that Joint Neighborhood cannot meet. All operations have an oversight of a Board made up of various congregations.

### ISAIAH 58

 Isaiah 58 is primarily a food pantry serving 51,000 people in the Shaw Neighborhood and other near South side neighborhoods. Rev. Brenda Booth and her board have done a good job creating a ministry that not only serves food, but works to provide health care and other essential services. She has two UCC board members. The ministry has a clothing bank, computer lab, and health services provided by a volunteer physician who serves on the board.

### ST. JOHN’S COMMUNITY SERVICE MINISTRY

 St. John’s Community Service Ministry settled into its location in the area of St. Louis Ave. near Jefferson Ave. and open twice two half days twice a week. The Board has representation from more than one UCC church. The ministry provides food and other essential personal items to the clients. They have an annual Back pack program and Christmas program, with UCC churches providing the support.

### LYDIA’S HOUSE

Lydia’s House continues to provide safe housing and intensive services for 34 women and approximately 52 children who have suffered in abusive relationships. Weekly meals are provided by local churches, these meals help build a sense of community among the residents. They are continuing to work to provide essential job readiness skills through their work.

### PEACE TREE SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Peace Tree Spirituality Center is a ministry of Zion UCC – Florissant in partnership with Christ the King UCC. Peace Tree Spirituality Center offers retreat space, areas of spiritual direction and personal reflection, activities and speakers, in order to welcome the greater St. Louis community and beyond. Peace Tree endeavors to meet the spiritual needs of our community in an ecumenical and interfaith manner. The Board has members from both churches.

### UNION COMMUNION MINISTRY

 UCM works to be a stabilizing force in the surrounding neighborhood of Pilgrim UCC (near Union and Delmar) by providing community activities, town hall meetings with city and neighborhood leaders, and by connecting their clients with other existing services. UCM also helps young people find positive, enriching, productive activities for the summer to help keep them off the streets and out of trouble. Finally, they also help with back to school supplies and a picnic to help the students return to school with the items they need and a positive attitude to help them succeed.

### CONCLUSION

 We are excited about funding a new project like Peace Tree Spirituality Center. We hope other UCC congregations can work together to do mission.

Respectfully submitted,

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2014 Co- Chairs Outreach Committee