# Outreach Committee Report for 2013

With

Recommended Funding Amounts for 2014

This year we received funding requests from 11 agencies. One of the agencies, Doorways, who previously received funding, did not apply this year. One agency that applied, Emmaus Homes, does not meet the established criteria for funding by the St. Louis Association. 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 new criteria which were used this year 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 new projects for funding through a one-time grants 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.



## 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; they 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. Joan Hensley is very committed to serving the poor. She believes the key word in her ministry is “Joint”– meaning that they need to partner with many persons, groups, churches for help and assistance in order to carry out their work.

The food pantry is open 3 days a week. The clothing store is open one to two days a week. The parish nurse is available three days a week. The parish nurse’s salary is grant funded for two years. Beginning on June 1st this year, there is a clinic with doctor available grant funded for two years. 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 on a budget of $292,000. In this past year, Isaiah 58 has had to cut back services with the elimination of the parish nurse and client advocate. The Board only has one UCC church representative. St. Louis Association Outreach committee has encouraged Isaiah 58 to get another UCC church representative on the Board for 2014, otherwise the funding will cease in 2015 as the agency will not meet criteria for funding.

### 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. The Board has representation from more than one UCC church. The Outreach committee received three letters of support from UCC churches (Zion – Florissant, St. Peters UCC – Ferguson, and Church of the Master – Florissant) for this ministry. 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 women and 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. In September, they will launch of a new project. They will be making and selling chicken pot pies at Dierberg’s, Straub’s and other local retailers. They have partnered with universities and restaurants to bring this all together. This project will help the women to develop a skill set for future employment possibilities in the restaurant business. As well, it will help to build their self – images as they rebuild their lives. The new Executive Director has been in place for over a year and doing an exceptional job.

### HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH UCC MEMPHIS FOOD SHELF

 Holy Trinity, a congregation of around 100 members, has established a Food Shelf as their first outreach ministry. The Food Shelf has existed in the past year and has been totally supported by donations from the congregation and local fundraising. The church council handles the finances for the Food Shelf. They have been approved to receive food from the Mid-South Food Bank that will allow them to expand the number of people they serve. Holy Trinity coordinates the services with the neighboring churches, which include UCC, Methodist and Catholic. Staffing for the Food Shelf is provided by church volunteers and the Holy Trinity staff. The funds received from the St. Louis Association Outreach will be used to purchase food.

### LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

 Little Free Library is cooperative ministry effort of Grace UCC, Mount Tabor UCC, Carondelet UCC and Epiphany UCC to place a library box filled with easy access books to the neighborhood. The Little Free Library is a worldwide movement that began with the idea to make great literature available to a neighborhood and encourage neighborhood interaction and relationships through sharing books. Grace UCC has built one little library out of recycled materials in a south side neighborhood. The funds from this one year grant will be used to establish another box and providing needed library replenishments.

**STONE HOUSE PROJECT**

 Stone House Project is cooperative ministry effort of Grace UCC, Mount Tabor UCC, Carondelet UCC and Epiphany UCC to work to develop affordable housing. The cooperative congregations are naming the vision of involving persons who currently are growing community through the Breakfast at Epiphany program around their needs and how they want to be a part of the solution of those who struggle to find affordable housing. This one year grant will be used to launch this vision into a reality.

### 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 new projects like Stone House and Little Libraries. We hope other UCC congregations can work together to do mission.

Respectfully submitted,

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2013 Co- Chairs Outreach Committee