



## **MISSIONS WIN TEAM MEETING MINUTES**

**Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019**

**12:15 pm, MUMC Rm 221**

**Attendees:** Moe Parisien, Autumn Dennis, John Himpel and Liz Shuburte,  
**Absent Members:** Cindy Steiner & Cindy Wolk

The following is a summary of key points of discussion from our 9/22/19 meeting along with actions coming out of the meeting.

### **PROJECT UPDATES:**

**Helping Neighborhood Homeowners** - Information has been gathered regarding the insurance coverage that Habitat for Humanity has in place to cover the matter of Accidental Death & Dismemberment, Accident Medical Expense and Emergency medical benefits coverage (see attached fact sheets from Habitat for Humanity and Chubb plans. John Himpel mentioned that another serious liability that MUMC would want to be sure to cover is that of matters related to failures of work performed. For example, if members of MUMC were to go to a person's home and install a ramp system to allow a wheelchair bound person to access entry and exit to a home, what happens if the system fails and the homeowner turns to MUMC to remedy the problem, or potentially files suit against the Church.

**Action:** With a number of issues to be addressed by this mission program from volunteer staffing to insurance liability, it is proposed that a meeting be held in mid to late October with the various parties that can contribute to uncovering a solution to this community need and moving the opportunity forward.

**VIMstl - Islamic Foundation of St. Louis** - Moe reported on the progress that is being made to assist the Islamic Foundation of St. Louis and their Volunteers in Medicine mission to secure funding for the Free Clinic. We are in the middle of drafting the grant request to Merck to address the pharmaceutical needs of patients being treated for hypertension. Hopefully, we will have this grant proposal completed by the end of October. For those keeping track of the number of lives impacted by this mission ministry, on an annualized basis there are 343 patients being treated at the VIMstl clinic for hypertension.

**Action:** Moe to continue to work with VIMstl staff to complete the grant proposal to Merck and do so by the end of October.

**Parkway School District - Sneakers with Soul** - This was a big week for the Missions WIN team. Moe met with members of the staff of the Asst. Superintendent of Parkway Schools. This team oversees all of the programming that serves the at-risk children and youth of the District. Beginning in October, Sneakers with Soul® will be initiating a program to provide new adidas sneakers to approximately 125 kids from across the District. We will be coordinating this program with the social workers and counselors within each of the schools through the Parkway School District's headquarters offices. These kids will just be the beginning of the "sneakers for kids in need" program for the District with still many more kids to be served. Manchester UMC's roll in this program is financial support. Sneakers with Soul will be making use of the funding provided by MUMC during the Jul-Aug campaign this year which amounted to approximately \$10K.

**Action:** Moe to coordinate with District staff to coordinate the timing for the kick-off of the program within the coming 30 – 60 days.

### **Personal Essentials**

The Personal Essential ministry is continuing its work with Circle of Concern. The essentials provided by this MUMC ministry is presently impacting 625 families representing approximately 2,100 individuals that are seeking assistance from Circle of Concern.

### **Literacy Project**

Autumn Dennis reported on the work of the Literacy Project sub-committee. Nicki Reinhardt-Swierk was hired as the part-time Literacy Program coordinator and began work in that role in mid-August. This is in addition to her positions as Social Justice Coordinator and working with Shared Streets; the three positions combined equate to a full-time work week for Nicki.

- Training for literacy volunteers has been developed and two training sessions took place on Thursday, Aug 29 and a daytime session on Saturday, August 31.
- Program will start with twelve 4<sup>th</sup>-grade students at Peabody Elementary, with the goal of increasing to 24 students in the month of October.
- Teachers have identified students to receive the tutoring and include those who are struggling to meet grade-level reading expectations but are not on an IEP and, thus, already receiving extra support.
- It appears that opportunity exists for Manchester UMC to help in organizing other smaller churches in the Gateway Central District to come together and serve the greater need.

**Action:** Liz Shuburte is to meet with District Superintendent, Robin Bell to discuss the prospects of Manchester UMC taking the lead in this mission initiative.



### **Fighting Hunger**

John Himpel brought forward a project that would allow friends and members of Manchester UMC to participate in a mission project that would be fashioned after the [illinifightinghunger.org](http://illinifightinghunger.org) organization. Details regarding this program can be found on the website of [illinifightinghunger.org](http://illinifightinghunger.org). This program would not directly impact the communities that make up the Parkway, Rockwood and Valley Park school districts, but non-the-less, the program could represent an excellent opportunity to engage a number of families with school-age children to participate in a day (or portion of a day) of volunteering that would serve the needs of fighting hunger around the world.

**Action:** Perform some additional research on this program to see what volunteer interest we might have at Manchester UMC.

Meeting was called to a close at 1:05 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Sun., Oct. 20, 2019 at 12:15 pm, Rm 221

Respectfully submitted:

Maurice "Moe" Parisien