

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2009

One of the Committee's functions is to recommend to the Session each year the annual allocation of funds from First Church's benevolence endowment. This year the Committee recommended to the Session, and the Session approved, those benevolence grants shown on the table attached to this Report as Annex A.

In addition, the Committee flourished in 2009 in overseeing the work of five sub-committees:

1. Immigration and New Sanctuary Task Force. Operating under the leadership of Grania Marcus and Rita Rochford, this Task Force sponsored several forums relating to the New Sanctuary Movement and concentrated on supporting the family of Roxroy Salmon, who was, despite the efforts of the Task Force and the New York City Sanctuary Coalition, ordered by a court to be deported back to his native Jamaica. The Task Force plans to hold additional forums on Immigration (and in particular Deportation Centers) in 2010.

2. Homeless Shelter Committee. This Committee coordinates the Homeless Shelter, located in the Parlor of First Church, and operates under the leadership of, among others, Diana Pardue, Logan Kennedy, Scott Ramsdell, and Scott Caudill (who keeps a record of assignments of volunteers). Each evening of each day (except Saturdays), starting in November and ending at the end of April, First Church becomes a home to up to 10 homeless men, who are fed a light supper, provided beds and linen, and served a morning breakfast. A volunteer "coordinator" helps to set up the Homeless Shelter and two "overnight volunteers" spend the night with the men.

3. 60+ Circle Committee. Under the leadership of Kara Van Norden, this Committee sponsored "The Marie Sibilla Aging Well Lecture Series", presenting topics of interest to older people within our church congregation as well as the community at large. The Committee also functions as the Church's liaison to The Caring Community and periodically co-sponsors programs with them.

4. Mission Service Committee. This Committee, under the leadership of Richard Korchak, sponsored a number of mission service trips in 2009, including trips to The Presbyterian Border Ministries (Arizona and Mexico), Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, and Cap Haitian, Haiti. The Committee will continue to plan and organize mission service trips in 2010.

5. The Church of Gethsemane Food Program Committee. Under the leadership of Anne Gray and Anne Gaines, and with the help of the Youth Service and Fellowship Group, this Committee was successful in rejuvenating the vitally important food program for the members of The Church of Gethsemane - that is, families of those who are in prison or have been in prison.

The Church and Society Committee gives special thanks to Rev. Sarah Segal McCaslin, whose support and advice has been helpful all during 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Reade Ryan, Chair

Committee members:

Virginia Baron
Erin Blanton
Neville Carmichal
Donald Dillport
Anne Gray

Logan Kennedy
Richard Korchak
Grania Marcus
Diana Pardue
Rita Rochford

Reade Ryan
Kara VanNorden
Bonnie Woit
Denise Jackson (Deacon
representative)
Jason Reade (Deacon
representative)

Attachments

ANNEX A

<u>AREA OF CONCERN</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	BENEVOLENCE GRANTS <u>January-December 2009</u> \$133,588
Various	Shared Mission Giving PCUSA	\$57,000
Aging	Church space for Caring Community FRIA 60+ Circle	\$18,000 3,000 2,415
Homelessness	Church space for Homeless Shelter Homeless Shelter Bailey House	\$20,984 2,500 210.93
GLBT Concerns	Covenant Network Presbyterian Welcome	\$3,000 2,000
Interfaith Programs	Face-to-Face/Faith-to-Faith	\$2,500
Mission Work	Mission Trip Program Bricks and Mortar	\$1,800 3,000
Theological Education	Auburn Theological Seminary Union Theological Seminary	\$2,500 2,500
Prison Ministry	The Church of Gethsemane	\$5,000
Pro Bono Legal Concerns	Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals	\$1,118.07
Immigration	New York City Sanctuary Coalition	\$4,060
International Education	Widows Might (Veuvaction)	\$2,000
Total		\$133,588