

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2010

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 requests and grants as shown on the table attached to this Report as Annex A.

In addition, the Committee flourished in 2010, with three core initiatives being introduced and operationalized that involved the full Committee.

The first was to oversee a re-vamping of our Benevolence Process to resemble a 'grant review', with a prioritization vote by committee members based on 5 Categories of Review: Need, Population Served, Mission Alignment, Relationship-Fostering and Budget Availability. This process allowed us to align around common goals for the Committee and to disburse more funds earlier in the year to needy organizations.

Second, in order to better understand how the Committee might serve the congregation and local/global communities, we crafted, published and collected online a Church-wide survey, yielding invaluable information. Both the survey and its results were presented in full to Session.

Lastly, in response to the more than 125 survey responses, we presented summary results to Session and to congregation members and introduced a committee task force to help surface local and short-term service opportunities for the congregation. We call this initiative "Advocacy in Action". Our first gathering was Sunday, January 23th with interested parties.

1. Immigration and New Sanctuary Task Force. Operating under the leadership of Grania Marcus and Rita Rochford, this Task Force sponsored forums relating to social justice, awareness and the New Sanctuary Movement. The Task Force continues to host engaging speakers; remain involved and informed about issues; and provide valuable opportunities for the congregation to learn and be involved in this important issue area.

2. Homeless Shelter Committee. This Committee coordinates the Homeless Shelter, which opened the season a month earlier than in previous years. The Shelter is 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 October (this year) 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 and support of Dick and Georgia Pease and Michael Clay, this Committee sponsored a new set of activities in 2010, centering around lunches and lectures served at the Church. Topics of interest were presented to older people within our church congregation as well as the community at large. The Committee is continuing to work with the leaders of this group to help plan for and consider programming of this nature in the future.

4. Mission Service Committee. This Committee, under the leadership of Richard Korchak, sponsored a number of mission service trips in 2010, and continues to be a vital and vibrant opportunity for service, leadership and learning for the Committee.

The Church and Society Committee gives special thanks to Rev. Sarah Segal McCaslin, whose support and advice has been invaluable during 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Maddox, Chair

Committee members:

Marjorie Henning
Erin Blanton
Neville Carmical
Logan Kennedy
Rich Korchak
Grania Marcus

Diana Pardue
Rita Rochford
Bonnie Woit
Eileen Choi
Ben Jones
Lauren McGill

Heidi Dietrich
Michael Clay
Sarah McCaslin,
Pastoral Representative
Ben Maddox, Chair

Attachments

ANNEX A

Organization	2009 Request	2009 Granted	2010 Request	2010 Granted
Aging				
FRIA	\$5,000	\$3,000		
60+ Circle	\$2,415.00	\$2,415.00	\$5,175	\$5,175
New Caring Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,900	
Presbyterian Senior Services	\$10,000	\$0.00		
Environmental				
Presbyterians for Restoring Creation	\$1,000	\$0.00		
Christians for the Mountains	\$1,500	\$0.00		
Center for Biodiversity	\$1,813	\$0.00		
Homelessness				
Homeless Shelter	\$2,500	\$2,500.00	\$4,700	\$4,700
Picture the Homeless	\$5,000	\$0.00		
Fessenda House	\$2,500	\$0.00		
Bailey House	\$1,500	\$210.93		
Mission Subcommittee				
Bricks and Mortar	\$3,000	\$3,000.00		
Mission trip program	\$1,800	\$1,800.00	\$1,500	\$1,500
Haiti School Fund Program			\$5,000	\$5,000
Mission Fair			\$500	\$271
Peacemaking				
International Peacemakers	\$0	\$0.00	\$400	\$400
Peacemaker Lunch			\$90	\$90
Immigration Subcommittee				
Cabrini Immigrant Services	\$7,000	\$0.00		
NYC Sanctuary Coalition	\$4,060	\$4,060.00	\$500	\$500
Families for Freedom			\$5,000	\$2,500
GLBT Concerns				
Presbyterian Welcome	\$4,000	\$2,000.00	\$6,000	\$3,000
Covenant Network	\$6,000	\$3,000.00	\$6,000	\$1,500
Interfaith Programs				
Face-to-Face/Faith-to-Faith	\$5,000	\$2,500.00	\$5,000	\$3,045
Prison Ministry				
Church of Gethsemane	\$10,000	\$5,000.00	\$10,700	\$2,500
Theological Education				
Auburn Theological Seminary	\$5,000	\$2,500.00	\$5,000	\$2,500
Union Theological Seminary	\$5,000	\$2,500.00	\$5,000	\$3,000
Pro-Bono Legal Concerns				
CCLP	\$1,718.00	\$1,118.07		
International Education				
Widows Might (Veuvaction)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000	\$1,000
Global Outreach International				500
TOTAL	\$87,806.00	\$37,604.00	\$65,465.00	\$37,600.88
Allocated Grants and Transactions				
Organization	2009 Budget	2010 Budget		
Benevolence fund	\$133,588	\$124,165		
Shared mission giving	-\$57,000	-\$57,000		
Caring community	-\$18,000	-\$9,000		
Church space for Homeless Shelter	-\$20,984	-\$20,984		
Unallocated Grants	2009	2010E		
Unallocated Budget	\$37,604	\$37,181		
Allocated grants to date	\$37,604	\$37,600		
Balance for Disbursement	\$0	\$4		

