

## ACTION POINTS:

- Establish an "Outreach Focus Group" Budget and include it in the annual budget for approval.
- Establish a group of Gracers that oversee and manage the outreach volunteer time and budget to assure we do not go over the annual budget allowance.
- Host coffee hours with event tabling to inform & engage Gracers by inviting the groups above to Grace to share their mission, providing opportunity for Gracers to volunteer and matching them to a specific group's needs.
- Host events at Grace to support the above groups or others.
- Update our website, newsletter and or social media to include who how and why we help these organizations.

## DETAILS:

- I would like to see us continue support of IES and IJM. I would like to add Wear Gloves, their scripturally based mission can be best understood by visiting their website and by reading the testimonials of their clients. And the Literacy Council. Learning to read is a fundamental step in changing the dynamics of one's life. A read a thon is a perfect way to engage our congregation while raising funds for MLC.
- I think, once we identify the organizations we are going to support, that 3 strategies will help gain understanding and support. A panel presentation-maybe during a coffee hour or during service and a tabling event on Grace's lawn manned by the organizations. And add a section to our website with info and links to who we support and why we support along with a sign up.
- This is a challenge. We have had a general approach to providing for our community, but this is the first time since I have been at Grace that we are looking at this systematically. The only organizations and programs on this list that we currently support are Interfaith Emergency Services and International Justice Mission. Although not on this list, we also support, by periodic supply drives and fundraisers: Women's Pregnancy Center, Arnette House Teen Group Homes, Domestic Violence Center, and Open Arms Village. (I would argue that all these also address future financial instability.) We know that the church community supports these organizations as they give generously to them.
- Although the organizations in the reports appear to address several different issues, to me there seems one theme that crosses many of them. The need for economic stability is recurrent: how to end it and how to prevent it. It affects physical and mental health.
  - Homelessness is economic instability at its worst and may have its antecedents in:

- Lack of job skills
- Inability to read at a functional level
- Past trauma
- Opioid addiction
- Family instability
- The theme is addressed, at least in part, in the following organizations/services:
  - Interfaith - Crisis services to homeless and other economically disadvantaged people: As one of the founders of IES Grace should continue financial and in-kind support; we might also encourage volunteers for their programs.
    - NEW: Have Grace "adopt" one of the residents in the new housing. This is a long-term commitment that we may not be able to sustain.
  - Wear Gloves - Transitional services to assist people in learning skill and gaining experience to be employed in the community: If we increased financial support we could refer more people to the program and provide better services to the people who come to Grace for assistance. We could also encourage volunteers.
- Preventing future problems:
  - Marion County Children's Alliance - With the age and stage of our congregation, soliciting foster parents would probably not be successful, but I may be wrong. I remember one representative from Kimberly's Center telling me that if only one family in each church in Marion County became a foster home, they could double the number of children served. Maybe there is someone in the congregation.
  - Trauma Informed Care: Trauma REBOOT, Pearl Project. We could host classes and provide tuition if required
  - Financial Education: Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. We could host classes and provide tuition if required
  - United Way of Marion County children's literacy program: Provide volunteer Reading Pals
  - Marion county Literacy Council: Provide volunteer tutors, hold supply drive, fundraising including a read-a-thon
- In short, our community has many services addressing these issues. We could choose to support any or all of them. Budget is a concern but so is interest. Supply drives and short term fundraising has been greatly successful at Grace, longer term involvement not so much. The idea for a read-a-thon is in keeping with our most successful efforts at supporting community orgs. I'd love to see us do it. It really is something we would be very good at. (Literacy Council fundraising events attract a cross section of Ocala.)
- I'm not sure we've ever made a strong effort to enlist volunteers in partner organizations. Perhaps we could have a volunteer Coffee Hour where we have reps from some of the organizations talk about their programs and how to be involved.

- We need a way to decide a budget. Suggest that prior to the formation of next year's budget the Vestry and Rector appoint a small team to decide what the budget will be. Knowing a budget, that team can then decide which orgs to support financially.
- Our community extends to the world and I would like to see us support the Kingdom in the greater world.
- It can be difficult to set priorities because I feel like there is actually some overlap with the other committees that might put something higher on the list just because it serves two purposes at the same time, wise stewardship. The read-a-thon, for instance, touches on reaching out to the de-churched which is part of our evangelism efforts. Inviting people into our space in a seemingly neutral way is a big step into welcoming them to join us regularly.
- I like the coffee hour idea, but I really also appreciated the Sunday when Fr. Jonathon talked with Karla (from Interfaith) and a couple other area groups that we support. It gave me a much better idea of what we were supporting. If each group then had a table at a coffee hour that followed then people could ask some additional questions and hopefully some would volunteer based on their personal interests and gifts. To a certain degree I feel like the interests of individuals is going to dictate this.