

## **MINDSET:**

Grace must develop an outreach mentality. What we do at Grace is not only to worship but also to grow the kingdom of God with targeted and defined initiatives. Just as an Evangelical church has, without looking past its name, a passion for evangelism, so Grace must develop this in the clergy and congregation. In other words, outreach is not something that we just dabble with if and when someone has a great idea, develops a passion, or a non-profit asks us to help them raise money for a particular project.

- Idea of “partnering” rather than just “helping”. Charity gives us updates on progress; we invite them to talk to parishioners. “Outreach Sunday” where we honor those who help the needy/underserved in our community and listen to their concerns and needs, updates and inserts in Sunday bulletin, First Friday, concerted efforts to get those with interests, connections (e.g., Frank M. works at World Equestrian Center where they must throw out tons of food, while C. Baggs is on the board of the Interfaith).
- Guard against limiting scope of what outreach can be. We are here not just to do good works but to grow the faith and grow each of us individually in the faith.

## **PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED:**

Seems much of what we do is primarily one shot” (shoeboxes, baby bottle fundraiser). What do we want to do for individuals outside of or in addition to the very structured activities supplied to us by organizations?

Help our community vs. helping nationally or internationally. What is our priority? Immediate return vs. long-term delayed results. How to develop and track long, mid-, or short-term outcomes to know if we are making a difference? How do we make sure we are visible as Grace church while engaged in outreach (armbands, visors, tee shirts)? We don’t want to become hawkers for the church, but to show our uniqueness, faith, joy, and devotion to service. We want people to say, “That Grace Church always seems to be present at these kinds of events”.

## **PROBLEMS WITH DOING WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO:**

- People are afraid that if they broach the idea and are excited about it, they will have to lead it. Should not be this way. Also, we feel that it is particularly important for people to have a full explanation of what’s involved when taking on a specific outreach. Knowing what is expected prevents resentment.
- Must get new people energized, as “older” (in age and length of time at Grace) congregants can’t carry the load indefinitely. Must not fatigue those who are already doing considerable outreach plus other services/projects.
- Our size is big concern when we talk about putting “feet on the street”. Sunday bulletin ... “we really need people who can...” or “if you can contribute just a little bit...” On line streaming is great for viewing services, but afraid that on-liners are going to add little (except perhaps money) to outreach efforts. Be honest and realistic about what we can handle and concentrate on outreach growth--long term.

- How do we avoid duplication? Need someone to investigate who is currently serving population we are interested in serving. Be careful of people's "pet projects" which may not be in alignment with Grace's long term outreach plans, financial resources, or congregational interests. When the leader of the pet project goes, the project will die.

### NEXT STEPS:

The committee suggests that the leaders or representatives from the 6 current Vision 2022 committees meet to:

- Avoid overlap in what each of the six individual committees discussed and further define the roles in each area addressed. For example, identifying needs in the community goes hand-in-hand with the outreach discussion above, and we also discussed above the need to be visible and approachable while doing outreach. There are two other committees looking at these issues, and we think overlap and duplication are possible if not guarded against. An idea was suggested that a professional be hired to lead a discussion among committee representatives to synthesize and distill ideas and data. Also involved would be revealing and eliminating duplication and defining committee parameters. Where do these committees intersect and how can each committee help other committees? Could a flow chart be developed? Do we need a vision statement that encompasses what all committees are trying to do?
- A second recommendation is that a standing committee be formed to focus on outreach, tackling some of the issues we raised above as well as others overlooked or that develop as things move forward.
  1. Appoint a Deacon to oversee the committee. With one foot in the community and one in the church, this seems like an ideal role for a Deacon. Or...
  2. Appoint a resident to oversee the committee. In hiring the next resident, look for someone with an outreach passion that could ignite and move forward the initiatives developed.
  3. Committee members could have a 2-year term with overlapping terms.
  4. Committee has, as one of its members, a vestry person who serves as a liaison between the committee and the vestry.
- Committee solicits and evaluates outreach ideas from community, clergy, and congregation. It coordinates with vestry budgeting process to assure that worthy ideas can be considered for funding.
- It coordinates with Grace's advertising/marketing efforts to see if (and "if" then "how") considered outreaches can increase the church's visibility.
- Committee evaluates suggested outreach efforts with regard to their meeting church's values, outreach focus(es), money required, leadership, and staffing. Who else in the community has taken on a similar or identical outreach? Can we work together/ form an alliance? What unique resources could Grace provide?

## **HAVE A DEFINED AND CONSISTENT OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**VISION  
2021**

- Committee evaluates ways in which church members can be recruited to lead and follow in outreach effort(s). Who in our church has valuable contacts, skills, or other resources which might prove helpful?
- Committee meets with appropriate clergy, solicits church staff input as necessary, and troubleshoots potential problems if outreach effort is initiated.