

Outreach Committee Report for 2018

This year we received funding requests from eleven agencies/organizations, each of which we saw as incredibly important and needed ministry. We performed our due diligence to make sure that all the agencies requesting funding meet the criteria presented below and that our total proposed grants meets the funding cap given. The Association Council proposed for 2019 that \$100,000 in total be distributed to grant recipients.

The Outreach Committee in dialogue with the St Louis Association Council has continued to use the criteria below to approve agencies and congregational outreach programs for funding support. The criteria for approval of funding from the St. Louis Association include the following:

1. The requesting agency or program must have structural affiliation with a UCC church or be a UCC agency which is listed in the most recent year book of the United Church of Christ. This structural affiliation is defined as having a seated UCC Board representative, which represents the UCC and the St. Louis Association on the Board.

OR

2. The requesting agency or program must have two or more representatives from two or more UCC congregations, one of which is a member of the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ.
3. The main office of the requesting agency or program must be located within the community served by the member churches of the St. Louis Association.
4. The agency or program must have an affirmative action emphasis in their policies, practices, procedures and programs that encourage participation in their mission by persons of all ages, colors, abilities, genders, socio-economic status, housing status, veteran status, and sexual orientation.
5. The agency or program must certify that it will use the grant for the purposes specified in the application.
6. The agency of program will provide a brief written report to the St. Louis Association at the end of the program calendar year. The report contain a brief summary of the program that was supported by the funds received from the St. Louis Association.
7. The program will be aligned with the mission and purpose of the St. Louis Association.

One-time grants for initiation must have two or more churches involved in the project and meet the guidelines above. The goal with the support of these projects is to encourage churches to work together in mission in the community. Additional Outreach dollars support projects in Memphis, TN and Arkansas that meet the criteria.

Ministry	2015	2016	2017	2018	Requested 2019	Proposed Grants 2019
Unleashing Potential	\$84,000	\$77,500	\$76,000	\$67,300	\$77,000	\$66,500
Isaiah 58	\$5,500	\$4,500	\$4,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$6,500
St. John's Community Services Ministry	\$5,000	\$3,500	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$4,000
Lydia's House	\$5,000	\$4,500	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$4,000
Union Communion	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,000
Holy Trinity Food Pantry				\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
Deaconess Foundation - Freedom Schools					\$8,000	\$5,000
Four Church Circle of the St. Louis Sanctuary Coalition					\$5,000	\$0
Immanuel UCC - Festival of Sharing Sharefest					\$1,000	\$0
Peace UCC - Freedom School			\$4,000			
Lemoyne Owen - Weekend Concert Series			\$1,000			
Joint Neighborhood Ministries	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$700		
Total	\$111,500	\$99,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$124,000	\$90,000

Doorway and Interfaith Partnerships receive funding in another part of the Association budget.

Agency Summaries

All of these agencies are recommended for funding.

Unleashing Potential

The mission of Unleashing Potential (also known as UP) is to close the opportunity gap for children and youth by building on their strengths. They create educational and empowering experiences through early childhood education, after school programs, youth development, and enrichment camps. Their 4 core programs, Caroline Mission, After School, Enrichment Camps, and Magnificent Creations, served 7600 children and family members in 2017. Their programs

all hit at the heart of enriching, improving, and facilitating development of children and families to help them become successful in society.

The rebranding of Neighborhood Houses to Unleashing Potential was completed in January 2018 and the offices have been moved to the Deaconess Center for Child Well Being in July 2018. A consultant has also been engaged to assist with resource development. Senior staff is focusing on completing national accreditation, and Magnificent Creations is partnering with the St. Louis Park District and young ladies admitted into the program.

Lydia's House

This past year, Lydia's House provided safe housing and intensive services for 61 women and 72 children who have suffered from abusive relationships. Lydia's House assists women to achieve their educational, employment, health, housing and legal goals. Women and children are provided with essential support services including advocacy/case-management, support groups, therapy sessions, children's programs, job training, community meals, immigrant services, and outings. Recently they reconfigured some apartments so that they now have five additional units and can serve more families.

Union Communion Ministries

Union Communion Ministries is committed to "improving the quality of life in the community surrounding Union and Delmar." They work to achieve this goal through education, gathering community together, and bringing cultural and wellness events to the area. The main way they achieve this goal is through three programs. The first is Sacred Conversations on Race held in three churches close by but with intentional invitation of community members. The group continued its study of the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving. The second program is called the Union Avenue Association Breakfasts. This is an annual (but hopefully becoming biannual) event where various leaders in the community come together to share pertinent information, identify possible collaboration to improve the community, and learn from speakers. Lastly is the Ivory Perry Park Concert Series. This Concert Series is three free summer concerts in Ivory Perry Park. The day also features many other wellness activities (yoga, origami, free gun locks, etc.) all with the focus to bring the Union and Delmar community together through the arts. This is the 50th anniversary year of UCM and it has always involved the efforts of three key churches of different denominations: Pilgrim UCC, Union Avenue Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Isaiah 58

Isaiah 58 Ministries is a well-established ecumenical organization with almost half a century of service to south St Louis City. Beginning in 1970 as a direct service provider in the Shaw Neighborhood, the organization continues to meet the immediate needs of low-income individuals through its food pantry, supplying of hygiene and other basic physical necessities, as well as providing referral to critical resources like rent and utility assistance, health care, employment training, and more. Since its inception, Isaiah 58 has had a forward looking approach to meeting needs, and continues to grow and expand in scope and practice including their recent decision to move to a "choice pantry". Clients will soon be able to pick out the food

they would like for their bags as opposed to getting a pre-packed bag of food. This will cut down on food waste and allow Isaiah 58 to be more specific in asking for food from those who donate.

With the hire of Rev. Meredith Jackson in the fall of 2017, their general organization and structure has been strengthened, along with their volunteer base and engagement. Their program Soul Sisters has also been transformed into Soul Friends, now welcoming anyone interested in participating. Through this program, the true sense of community has been strengthened through fun and educational trips. Clients regularly check in on each other and have said how those who come to Isaiah 58 truly feel like a loving and caring community.

St. John's Community Service Ministry

St. John's Community Service Ministry provides Food Pantry, twice a week, and their distribution touches 10,000 families through all components of their giving. Other projects throughout the year include picnic plates, backpacks with clothing and school supplies, a Cookies with Santa event (postponed due to illness this year), an Adopt a Family promotion, and a cooperative Flu Shot program to the neighborhood. Their cargo van made pickups of items from St. Louis area Food Bank (5000 lbs), meat from the USDA (35,000 lbs), Operation Food Search (15,000 lbs) and donations from stores, churches and individuals totaling over \$68,000. The meat program is being discontinued due to the high cost of compliance issues.

The theft of their computer and the illness that struck this ministry's leaders could have seriously jeopardized this fine organization, but they struggled through the obstacles and persevered with a very successful year. Their budget has remained steady over the years and their request for money through the Missions Committee has also remained constant. Long term needs include a new van, heating and air conditioning for the can good storage room and some product moving devices to make unloading and storage an easier process.

Holy Trinity Food Pantry

Holy Trinity Church, in Memphis, Tennessee, was begun in 2004 by a group of LGBT individuals. The church sits on the edge of the highest crime rate area of the city, as well as the poorest area of the city. Eighty percent of the membership is LGBT. The Food Pantry grew from a food giveaway begun by a prior pastor. The demand was so high, however, that it overwhelmed the ability of the church to keep it up. The current pastor helped with upgrades and last year the volunteer staff was able to serve 587 families. The pantry is connected to the Mid South Food Bank where they purchase food items. They collaborate with other Memphis churches including 1st Congregational. This is a very hard working and unique congregation making a huge difference in the neediest area of Memphis.

Deaconess Foundation—CDF Freedom Schools

The Deaconess Foundation has been in relationship with the St Louis Association of the United Church of Christ since its inception and seeks to expand this relationship in the years to come. Since 1998 this faith-based organization has devoted itself to making child well-being a civic priority in the St. Louis region through philanthropy, community engagement, and advocacy. In the last fiscal year the organization opened a 20,000 square foot Center for Child Well-being to serve as a collaborative hub for child advocates and in the same year launched, along with the

Children's Defense Fund, the first of its CDF Freedom Schools at Peace UCC (Webster Groves) and St John's UCC (St Louis).

In the upcoming year, they seek to expand this strategic plan to engage UCC congregations in the ministry of education and wellbeing. This includes expanding the Freedom Schools to another location at their aforementioned Center for Child Well-Being, for which they seek funding to streamline administrative oversight, increase the number of children reached, and to greater expand partnerships with local school districts and the communities served.

These schools are seven-week programs for Kindergarten through Grade Five that provide summer enrichment around five essential components: high-quality academic enrichment, parent and family involvement, civic engagement and social action, intergenerational leadership development, and nutritional, physical, and mental health. Enrichment is driven by the Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) which primarily focuses on literacy to curb summer learning loss and close achievement gaps.

The St Louis Association has historically supported this work and collaborative efforts through partner organizations like Unleashing Potential. This ministry is also in keeping with the calls to action outlined by the Ferguson Commission and For the Sake of All Report to realize greater equity in the St Louis Region and which furthermore has demonstrated and substantiated outcomes locally and nationwide.