

Special Church Conference
Chelsea First United Methodist Church

7pm, September 27, 2020

Zoom Meeting (with provision for in-person voting, 7-7:30pm, for people unable to connect via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER -- Rev. Sondra Willobee called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. She was authorized to preside at this meeting by District Superintendent Rev. LuAnn Rourke (letter of Sept 16, 2020).

- Rev. Willobee read Matthew 5:3-10 and offered an opening prayer

MOTION:

On behalf of Church Council, Edie Wiarda made the following motion:

Chelsea First United Methodist Church will disperse all remaining funds in the "Mission Tithe" account (\$75,866 as of August 31, 2020) as follows:

- 2/3 to Faith in Action of Chelsea and Dexter, Inc., to be applied to investigating and implementing ways to provide emergency and temporary housing; and
- 1/3 to St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, to be applied to the SRSLY program to support its work on youth mental health, in conjunction with the Youth Mental Health Community Collaborative.

RATIONALE:

The Mission Tithe account consists of donations that were made as part of the CFUMC Sanctuary Renovation Capital Campaign in 2014-15. Individuals making pledges to that campaign were allowed to specify that a share of their donations be set aside for future use on local mission projects.

In order to accelerate use of these funds, the Outreach and Missions Team issued a Request for Proposals in March 2020, and invited a small number of trusted, local organizations to respond. The team has been in close communication with the responding organizations, and enthusiastically recommends disbursement as outlined in the motion above. Details are provided in the Project Summaries on the following pages.

The funds will be disbursed immediately, in full. The organizations are required to spend all funds no later than December 31, 2023. They will report to the congregation at least yearly on project activities and outcomes.

QUESTIONS: A few questions were asked and answered.

VOTING: Conducted by a Zoom poll, plus a few oral votes, plus a few in-person votes.

Rev. Willobee declared the motion was approved – 32 votes in support, 0 votes against

Rev. Joy Barrett offered her thanks and praise that this money, while collected for several years, will be disbursed during a very challenging time for many members of our community and will make a huge impact to the two organizations and those whom they serve.

CLOSING: Rev. Barrett offered a closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: Rev. Willobee adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Brown, acting secretary

Project Summary

Emergency Shelter and Temporary Housing Submitted by Faith In Action (FIA)

The Need: Faith in Action has seen continuing needs for short-term/emergency housing for individuals and families. Currently FIA's only local options are to provide 1-2 nights in a local hotel, or to allow people to sleep in their cars in the FIA parking lot. FIA can refer people to shelters in Ann Arbor or Jackson, however space is not always available, and is sometimes a poor match for some individuals and multi-member families or those who have had bad experiences with shelters in the past. Often the need is for a few weeks of housing, allowing enough time for the person or family to work out a longer-term solution.

Project Goal: Develop and implement / test options for providing local, short-term (perhaps as long as 2 months) emergency housing. While they do provide supportive services locally, FIA has no history of being a direct housing provider. This project would provide the means to investigate and work out the legal and regulatory issues involved in being such a provider, or to find alternative approaches, and then to begin providing such housing.

Expected Activities (Full Discretion and Responsibility of FIA):

- Planning Phase:
 - Convene a group to research and evaluate options. Group will ideally include a realtor, a real estate investor/builder, legal expertise, partners with temporary housing experience from around the county, and FIA staff.
 - Evaluate options – e.g., rental, “tiny houses”, property donation/acquisition.
 - Develop implementation plan:
 - Permitting / regulatory / legal
 - Procedures for handling requests, and transitioning people in and out of housing
 - Acquisition / rental and preparation of a particular location.
- Implementation Phase– Can't be known until options are evaluated, but likely to include:
 - On-going rental, mortgage or similar expenses, and utilities
 - Cleaning and maintenance, especially as families transition in and out
 - Social services support.

Strengths of the Proposed Project:

- Directly addresses one of CFUMC's high priority mission areas: Basic Needs.
- Is visionary and experimental; the funds allow exploration of a needed service that FIA has been wanting to address, but lacked implementation resources to make the planning effort worthwhile.
- Many opportunities for congregational involvement: furnishings and supplies, maintenance and upkeep, advocacy, and others.

Recommended Disbursal Amount: Two-thirds of Mission Tithe Balance (approximately \$50,600).

The funds will be spent in total not later than December 31, 2023. FIA will report to the congregation at least yearly on project activities and outcomes.

This summary conveys CFUMC's understanding of the FIA activities for which the Mission Tithe gift is intended. It will be included as an attachment to a letter from Pastor Joy Barrett to Sheri Montoye, Executive Director of FIA, that accompanies the Mission Tithe payment.

Project Summary

Support for Youth Mental Health Community Collaborative (YMHCC)
Submitted by SRSLY (“Seriously”) Program at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea (SJMC)

The Need: Youth in Chelsea face a number of challenges when it comes to mental health. Multiple data sources confirm the need for action to promote resiliency, connections, and healthy coping skills, and to prevent the negative impacts and outcomes of mental illness. Key points from the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) and Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) surveys include:

- The percentage of CHS students who reported experiencing these feelings several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day in the past month: (Source: CSD ATOD Survey 2019)
 - 72% feel nervous, anxious or on edge
 - 60% have trouble relaxing
 - 50% feel bad about themselves, failure, or have let their family down.
 - 48% couldn't cope with all they had to do.
- 21% of 7th – 12th grade students reported having used alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other drugs in order to de-stress and relax, and 12% reported having used these substances in order to cope or escape their problems. (Source: CSD ATOD Survey 2019)
- 14% of CHS students seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months; this is up from 10% in 2010. (Source: CSD MiPHY 2018)

Project Goal: Prevent youth substance use and the negative impacts of mental illness among youth in Chelsea.

Expected Activities (Full Discretion and Responsibility of YMHCC/SJMC):

- Partial salary support for critical position of full-time Program Coordinator for youth mental health.
- Acquire training resources: materials, expert trainers, promotional materials, etc.
- Educate the community on the levels of care for mental health, and how and when to access these resources.
- Provide training for community members on effective prevention of youth substance use, and how to identify and support students with mental illness, and connect them with treatment resources.
- Recruit and train new coalition members to build sustainability and efficacy.
- Develop peer-led programs with and for local youth.

Strengths of the Proposed Project:

- Directly addresses one of CFUMC's high priority mission areas: Youth Mental Health.
- YMHCC has done extensive planning, with close involvement of the Chelsea Schools and many individuals in the community.
- Follows the effective SRSLY program for drug abuse prevention, with strong youth involvement.
- Key project leadership and oversight will be under Reiley Curran, Director of Community Health and SRSLY Coalition at SJMC; Reiley is herself a member of CFUMC.
- Provides necessary “matching funds” needed to bring in and pull down money from other grants, including an existing federal grant. That is, the CFUMC contribution brings more money with it.
- Many opportunities for congregational involvement: participation in community training efforts, advocacy, provision of building space for in-person trainings (once allowed).

Recommended Disbursal Amount: One-third of Mission Tithe Balance (approximately \$25,300).

The funds will be spent in total not later than December 31, 2023. St Joe's Chelsea will report to the congregation at least yearly on project activities and outcomes.

This summary conveys CFUMC's understanding of the YMHCC/SJMC activities for which the Mission Tithe gift is intended. It will be included as an attachment to a letter from Pastor Joy Barrett to Reiley Curran, Director of Community Health at SJMC, that accompanies the Mission Tithe payment.