

Board of Outreach: 2018–2019

Description and Contact Information for Working Groups and Committees

Active Core Groups and Committees:

1. **Gun Violence Prevention Group** - Work with others in the congregation to educate and address issues of gun violence in Minnesota and nationally. Contact: Kathy Quick, kathyquickster@gmail.com, 612/760-3234.
2. **Caring for Creation** - Transforming people and the land that sustains them. This working group focuses on caring for the environment as integral to spiritual life and social justice. Contact: Jan Neville, janneville@comcast.net, 952/903-9682
3. **Cuba Connect** - Promote relationship with Emmanuel Baptiste Church in Ciego de Avila, Cuba. Plymouth members periodically travel to Cuba or host Cubans here in Minnesota. The Community Fund provides annual financial support. Contact: Nancy Albrecht, n.m.albrecht@comcast.net, 612/377-8030
4. **Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness** - *Plymouth belongs to this interfaith collaboration of 13 downtown Minneapolis churches, synagogues and mosques working together to end homelessness and poverty.* Education, advocacy and action are the tools we use. Contact: Joe Kreisman (at DCEH), 612/767-9219 info@dceh.org
5. **Drop-In Center** - *Fellowship for neighbors with disabilities, mental illness or struggles with independent living.* The Drop-In Center relies on volunteers to spend time with participants at the church, to go together on field trips and to nurture relationships. Contact: Larry Johnson, Drop-In coordinator, 612/977-1282, larryj@plymouth.org
6. **Families Moving Forward** - *Provide hospitality for families experiencing homelessness.* Families Moving Forward connects families who are currently homeless with congregations who provide on-site housing one week at a time while the organization works with the families to find permanent housing. Jerry and Fran Davis, davis.gerald@att.net
7. **Groveland Emergency Food Shelf** - *Help distribute more than 40,000 pounds of food to 2,000 clients each month.* Groveland Food Shelf, located in Plymouth's basement, is a non-profit providing emergency groceries for those in need. We operate two programs: Groveland Emergency Food Shelf and Groveland Food for Youth. Contact: E.J. Kelley, dlhejk@yahoo.com.
8. **Habitat for Humanity** - Contact: Bonnie Herr, bherr3@msn.com, 612/345-4782 and John Davenport, jdav0743@gmail.com, 952/237-4076
9. **Immigrant Welcoming Work Group** – Responsibility to provide a respectful, inclusive community within the Plymouth Congregation which seeks to develop a deeper understating of immigration issues and identify and pursue actions that strengthen our collective commitment to welcoming the stranger in our midst. Contact: Tom Haigh, tjhaigh45@gmail.com
10. **Lydia Apartment Connections** - *Help neighbors help themselves.* This working group helps plan and carry out activities and volunteer opportunities for residents and Plymouth members in order to benefit Lydia and the broader community. Contact: Renee Macomber, 952/933-2146, rgmacomber@msn.com.
11. **Meals on Wheels** - *A hot meal for the homebound every Thursday.* Deliver hot meals once or more each month on Thursdays to homebound people in the Loring-Nicollet area. Volunteers provide their

own transportation and pick up meals from a central Meals on Wheels kitchen. Contact: Fran Neir, 612/722-1662, feneir@msn.com.

12. **Partnership with Beacon Housing (fka Housing 150)** - Plymouth and Westminster Churches are teaming with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and Better Futures to create Great River Landing, a new affordable housing development that will become home to single adults who are battling challenges of homelessness, unemployment and incarceration. Great River Landing will provide safe and stable homes, predominately for black men, who are committed to doing well for themselves, their families and the broader community. The Housing 150 Task Force is gearing up to secure city and neighborhood approvals for the project as well as funding from state, city and other resources. Learn how you can be involved in the success of Great River Landing. Contact: Carol Truesdell, cbtrues@aol.com, 952/927-6874
13. **Plymouth American Indian Initiative (PAII)** - Plymouth stands in the midst of an unusually rich ethnic neighborhood that includes one of the larger urban American Indian populations in the country. Several Plymouth members met in 2007 to explore pursuing a broader relationship with that community and met with representatives of All Nations Indian Church on 23rd Street, leading to establishment of the Plymouth American Indian Initiative (PAII). In recent past, PAII has screened films with the Film Club, both documentaries and feature films, on various Indian topics, has worked with Adult Forum to bring in several Indian presenters, including a panel of representatives from three Minnesota tribes discussing tribal environmental and green initiatives, and has assisted in incorporating Indian music, drumming, spiritual practices, storytelling and artifacts into both worship services. In 2010-11, in addition to exploring other possibilities, PAII collaborated with the Fine Arts Board to bring to Plymouth an exhibit of the works of several American Indian artists and with Adult Forum to present well-known Indian leaders as part of the educational program of the church. Contact: Mariana Shulstad, mrshulstad@centurylink.net, 612/377-1288 or other members of PAII: David Good, Joan Smiley and David Astin
14. **Plymouth Church Community Fund** - Promoting economic and social justice, alleviating poverty and advancing progressive faith in our community and around the world. Contact: Cathy Crane, mdc@aol.com, 952-929-3411. Categories for giving are:
 - a. Economic and Social Justice in Our Community
 - Eliminating homelessness and expanding affordable housing
 - Eliminating hunger
 - Supporting families and children living in poverty
 - Empowering the disenfranchised
 - b. Global Outreach
 - Alleviating poverty and supporting sustainable communities
 - Supporting progressive faith efforts
 - c. Progressive Faith
 - Developing progressive faith leaders
 - Encouraging interfaith efforts
 - Supporting new churches
 - d. Emergency Relief
 - Responding to disaster near and far
 - e. New Initiatives
 - Special grants, possibly multi-year, to previously unfunded organizations or projects that support our mission
15. **Sew Good Goods** – A nonprofit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to donating high quality, hand-crafted items of beauty and function. They provide volunteer opportunities to create handcrafted

goods for individuals and families in transition. Contact Birdie Cunningham: the birdwomen@gmail.com.

16. **Simpson Partners** - *Hospitality for the homeless, on a first-name basis.* The Simpson Partners Core Group organizing a clothing drive each year for Simpson Housing to collect shirts, underwear and socks for the men and women staying at the shelter. Contact: Boni Miller, clarkboni@comcast.net
17. **Third Sunday Meal** - *Help serve meals to neighbors in need each month.* Volunteers are needed every third Sunday evening from 4:30-6:30 p.m. to set-up, serve dinner, wash dishes, repair bikes and be in fellowship with our neighbors. The on-going need is for 25 volunteer servers per month. Contact: Jean Tracy, jdtracy1@comcast.net
18. **Whittier School Volunteers** - *Help kids improve reading and math or share artistic talent.* Whittier International School is a unique arts-integrated elementary school in the Whittier neighborhood. Many Plymouth volunteers assist children to speak and read English, with math lessons or music during the day. Last year the group introduced a reading tutoring program and is working with Generation Next to help close the achievement gap. Contact: Bryce Hamilton, bryceham@aol.com, 612/920-6268 and Bill Davini, bdavini@yahoo.com, 612/ 718-4293

Inactive Working Groups and Committees:

1. **GLBT-Straight Alliance** - *Promote inclusiveness at Plymouth and in our neighborhood.* A working group that promotes acceptance toward all people of all sexual orientations.
2. **Stevens Square Connections** (inactive) - *Partner with neighbors to build a better neighborhood.* Plymouth is located within the neighborhood known as Stevens Square - Loring Heights and on the border of Whittier Neighborhood. Plymouth partners with these two neighborhood associations on various activities to celebrate and enhance our life together in this place. We support activities, including community gardens, the summer/fall Farmers Market in our parking lot, community celebrations, fairs, clean sweep and block patrol.
3. **Global Connections** - The Global Connections Committee acts as a catalyst for increasing awareness and engagement of the Plymouth congregation with peoples, cultures and issues around the world. The committee offers or connects the congregation with educational programs heightening peace issues, and humanitarian and social justice awareness. The Committee creates or promotes opportunities to engage with peoples of other cultures, both from around the world and in our immediate neighborhoods. We offer support through partnerships with others in the community with global justice agendas. Strategies include support and/or input for the work of Plymouth affiliated organizations such as Sunday Forum, Film Club, Cuba Connect, Plymouth American Indian Initiative (PAII), OneVillage Partnership, and the Campbell Scholar. We are a member of the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, and occasionally have requests for home hosting delegations visiting from other countries that are in the Twin Cities for various programs. On occasion, we promote action in the Minnesota Legislature and/or U.S. Congress for issues of justice for peoples in different parts of the world. Members of Plymouth with ideas for other such interactions are welcomed. Contact: Kathleen Laurila, klaurila@mac.com, 612/868-2003