

The Community Ministries Commission

Purpose: To enable every congregation to be the Body of Christ in their surrounding community, addressing issues locally, through social justice and community ministries by understanding the needs of our neighbors and by tapping into the assets, passions, and people of our congregations and community allies to address them.

Responsibilities:

The Mission of the Community Ministries Commission is to support and collaborate with the Community Ministry Organizer to engage member congregations to:

1. envision new, creative ways to utilize church buildings for community ministry and bring those ideas to life as an example of God's grace in the world, (for example, the new ministry and mission at the Wolff Memorial Presbyterian Church facility), and test and evaluate these new initiatives and lift them up as examples within the presbytery
2. engage in a robust assessment of community needs, utilizing an asset-based approach to develop community ministries.
3. develop and evolve a strategic plan that encompasses resources, communication, infrastructure, finance, and fund-raising, and identify tactical short-term projects aligned with longer-term goals
4. cultivate partners/allies and envision and test different cooperative models for the presbytery &/or individual churches to work alongside one another to further mutual goals, and lift up these cooperative models as examples within the presbytery
5. empower, equip, train, and inspire leaders in all the churches in the presbytery to develop community ministries, engage in shared ministries and involve the members of their congregations in community ministries
6. Provide for regular opportunities within the presbytery for implicit bias training, anti-racism training, and education around these systemic issues.
7. Provide opportunities to be trained and to engage in social justice advocacy work, (social, political, economic, environmental,) and facilitate sharing of information and resources.
8. To serve as a commission of the presbytery in times of local natural disaster for the purposes of applying for and distributing disaster relief fund.

Membership:

The Community Ministries Commission ordinarily consists of no fewer than 5 and no more than 11 members, identified by Nominating Team. The commission shall include both teaching and ruling elders, and may include non-ordained members of congregations of the presbytery, both male and female, a range of age groups, reflecting the diversity of the presbytery.

Members of the Commission are elected by the presbytery to serve a three year term, with the option to renew a successive term. For purposes of decision-making, a quorum shall be two-thirds of the members of the commission.

Spiritual Gifts, Passion and Qualifications:

Commission members should be passionate about diversity, culturally alert and competent and be fluent in expression of cultural humility. Members should be passionate about sharing the love of Christ with all those in need. Members will think creatively about how to resource and equip our congregations to be engaged in mission.