

Outreach SLG Report

Submitted by: Billi Charron

List of the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team:

- ❖ Clark Dingman, Beth Walker, Greta Stewart, Deanna Salpietra, Ashley Parker, Billi Charron, Mike Wass

As you look at your goals for 2019, what were you able to accomplish? Please be as specific as possible.

- ❖ The goals were to increase Old First participation in the ministries and to connect with more grassroots service agencies in Philadelphia. As I came on only 4 months ago, I am not sure what Old First's participation looked like prior to my being hired. Currently there are about 10-15 congregants who volunteer in at least one ministry.
- ❖ There were no written logs of service sites utilized by the previous Outreach Coordinator, therefore it is unclear if she expanded to grassroots agencies. I have utilized the agencies I am familiar with and who we have been partnering with for years.

Where is your group or ministry area stuck? What 2019 goals were not accomplished? What is your group or ministry area pondering?

- ❖ For years we have struggled to get Old First members to volunteer in our ministries. Though we receive financial support, it would be wonderful to see an increase in congregants who are volunteering. Due to staff turn-over, I do not consider either of our 2019 goals to be completed satisfactorily. Since I assumed this position, I have been building relationships within the church and helping people to connect with our ministries.
- ❖ We are stuck shuffling for breakfast teams each month as we only have two steady teams (the first and third Saturday of the month). This leaves a huge hole in the services we can provide.
- ❖ We have added volunteer shifts of "hosts" for congregants to greet and meet volunteers who serve dinners during the shelter season. This is a great opportunity for people to connect with the shelter and offer their knowledge of Old First to those who are from the wider community. There is a rotation of 4 people who fill this role and it would be helpful to have more people volunteer for this.
- ❖ Outreach is pondering the long-term position of Outreach Coordinator and how best to fill that going forward. Associate Pastor? Another year-to-year service employee?

What do you hope to accomplish in 2020?

- ❖ The goals for Outreach remain the same. We would like to engage the congregation more in direct service with our ministries. It would be wonderful to see members sharing their talents and skills with our service camps, cupboard, and shelter guests. We would like to identify the best way to integrate Outreach work with Youth programming when seeking the next long-term staff person for this role.

- ❖ Outreach members plan to visit our partner churches and talk to them about our ministries and engage them in conversation about how to continue their support once we begin construction. We are trying to prepare our partners for the changing face of our ministries at 4th and Race Street.

What are the ways that the church can support your team in achieving your goals?

- ❖ The best ways the church can help support our goals is:
 - to sign up for a volunteer shift. Friends, SLGs, and neighborhood groups can create breakfast teams and cook together and share a meal at the Cupboard or make dinner for the shelter.
 - to attend an SLG meeting and learn more about what we are doing and have a voice in the process of community engagement and volunteerism.
 - accompany an SLG member to a sister congregation to speak about the work we are doing and how important it is to have wider support.

The church will be 300 years old in 2027. How do you see your ministry evolving in the next seven years? What will it take to achieve those goals?

- ❖ By 2027, the face of Outreach will be very different. We will no longer have temporary shelter in our Social Hall. We will have apartments onsite where individuals can stay permanently. This will change how our volunteers are utilized and the relationships they have with the people we serve. Our volunteer base may change due to decreased need for shelter meals (Cupboard will remain the same) and the increased need for specialized volunteers to assist with social service type needs and job skills.
- ❖ In the next seven years, it would be wonderful to solidify our breakfast teams so that we have at least four steady teams each month rather than two teams.