

Witness Commission: August 1, 2022 7:30 PM (via Zoom)

Present: Jim Hollinger, Sandra Flanagan, Naomi Kraenbring, and Karen Ungemach.

1. Monday's Meetings

a) Meeting with Mark Clapper, E-town College: "Civil Discourse"

Jim and Naomi met to inquire about developing a relationship with the college to discuss ways that we can learn to talk with people with whom we have significant differences. This came out of our concern about gun safety and how to address it in the church community and larger community. This is just in beginning stages. More information will be shared as ideas are developed.

b) Meeting with ECHOS and UCEA: "Immigrant Housing"

Jim, Sandy and Karen attended this meeting, along with George Snively, Pat Williams and Nancy Scheaf from the Immigrant Committee. We were exploring ways ECOB could work with ECHOS in addressing the housing needs of undocumented immigrants.

The Community Place building (formally the Washington Street COB parsonage) houses two families upstairs and potentially could house two families downstairs. The downstairs level needs substantial renovation to make it inhabitable. UCEA, which owns the building and leases it to ECHOS, has applied for American Rescue Act of 2021(ARPA) funds to be used for renovation of the old parsonage. Our church has been asked to consider providing matching funds in the amount of \$25,000. In return, a Memorandum of Understanding between ECOB and ECHOS/UCEA would reserve one of the apartments for use as emergency housing for immigrants. These matching funds from ECOB would only be needed if the ARPA grant is funded. While one apartment would not completely address the housing need, it would be a significant step for a relatively modest amount of funds.

Therefore, the Witness Commission is requesting board approval of the expenditure of \$25,000 from the Outreach and Ministry fund, pending approval of the ARPA grant.

2. Upcoming events/projects:

a) Colebrook Road Concert to benefit On Earth Peace: Sunday, October 9, 2022. We were asked if we want to sponsor the concert. We decided to sponsor the concert for \$750.

b) Ted & Company performance on Sunday, September 25, at our church: We need a rep from Witness to help Nurture Commission. Sandy will contact Olivia Knight to see what is needed.

c) The Racial Justice Committee has requested to put an Exhibit at 2023 Farm Show. We talked about putting together an exhibit to better define who we are as a church. We may need to spend about \$100 to cover the cost.

- d) Representative from Witness at August 8 Board Meeting: Both Sandy and Karen agreed to attend the meeting along with Jim.
3. Karen is willing to keep heading up the SERRV sales, but has requested help for sales at church and also sales at the Disaster Relief Auction.
 4. Beth has requested to be relieved of her duties with the Equal Exchange items.
 5. Jim received a request from the Elizabethtown Ministerium which originated from Doug Lamb about the Elizabethtown Block Party. The request was for prayer, volunteers and funding. We discussed sending a response that we could pray, would ask the church for volunteers and would offer \$100.00
 6. Next Meeting: Monday, September 5, 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ungemach