

OUTREACH FUNDS TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT, 2020

McFarland UCC received a generous donation in November 2019 from one of our charter members to support mission and service activities of the church. This donation was divided between the Outreach and Scholarship Endowment (at the January 2020 Annual Meeting amended as the Reed-Smeaton Outreach Fund) and a non-restricted outreach fund. The Reed-Smeaton Outreach Funds are held in an Edward Jones account while the non-restricted outreach funds are held in a money market account at McFarland Community Bank (now One Community Bank). Our Outreach Funds Team was expanded to determine how these funds could best be distributed.

The Outreach Funds Team was scheduled to meet in mid-March, but the initial team meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. While the team never had the opportunity to meet face-to-face to begin their work together as a group, SaLT encouraged the team to meet via Zoom before the end of the year. During Zoom meetings in November and December the team met to identify opportunities to support those in need with some of the funds available. The Outreach Funds Team agreed that basic needs such as food and housing for individuals impacted by COVID-19 were of utmost importance.

McFarland UCC has a long history of supporting the McFarland Food Pantry. Additionally, years ago, McFarland UCC partnered with other McFarland churches to support the Inter-hospitality Network (IHN), now called The Road Home, in which we provided housing and meals in our church for several families for a week at least 3 times/year. The Outreach Funds Team agreed that each of these community agencies would benefit from a \$5,000 contribution (i.e., \$5,000 to the McFarland Food Pantry and \$5,000 to The Road Home). Checks were mailed to these agencies on 12/18/20.

The Outreach Funds Team also learned about challenges the WI UCC Conference Camp Programs are facing due to the camps being closed and no programs offered since March. Pastor Bryan and Farrel Smith provided information about the “Keep the Fires Burning” dollar for dollar match campaign with a goal of raising at least \$400,000 by December 31, 2020. The Outreach Funds Team was unanimous in our support to protect the future of WI UCC Conference camps: Cedar Valley, Moon Beach, and Pilgrim Center; a \$30,000 contribution that will be doubled with the matching campaign was mailed to the conference on 12/18/20.

With continued uncertainty regarding outreach needs, especially in the next few months, the Outreach Funds Team agreed to meet in the first quarter 2021 to determine next steps with Outreach Funds management (e.g., identifying any additional distributions this year, evaluating current fund management with Edward Jones accounts and money market account, developing a multi-year plan for distributions).

Fund balances after December distributions: ~\$65,000 in Edward Jones account and \$30,000 in money market account.

Team members: Geoff Brink, Daryl & Jean Kleckner, Harold Stafford, Joan Jacobsen, Jean & Denny Blackmore, Becky Cohen, Bonnie Thomas, Martha Olsen, Judy St. Clair, Steve Davidson, Farrel Smith, Helene Benink (ex officio), Bryan Sirchio (ex officio)