

Mission Ministry

Report to Presbytery

November 2017

The Mission Ministry of the Transylvania Presbytery is undergoing some changes. Many members of our presbytery are interested in social action but are also the ones who are serving their churches and communities in many other ways and can't make meetings.

The Mission Ministry is currently focusing on immigration issues. We will be posting information through Across the Woods and the information, or links, will be posted on the website. We encourage you to check there periodically so that you can be aware of issues in our communities and actions you might take to help "welcome the stranger". Gun violence and payday lender information is already on the website. Our next issue to consider will be voter suppression.

Mission Outreach...

...grant requests for 2018 were reviewed Oct. 23, 2017, and will be announced at the November meeting. Our requests were fewer than last year and money for funding was also less than last year. This year, the funds we had were given to hunger and peacemaking programs. We are happy to say that we were able to fund many of the grants at the amount that was requested.

...a majority of grantees replied, as requested, with information regarding their programs and how the grant monies were being used. These were published in Across the Woods, one at a time. Members of the presbytery reported on how much they enjoyed reading these reports. Most of us had no idea of what was being done through our churches.

Issue Advocacy

...due to the poor attendance at meetings, advocacy work could not be addressed by actual hands-on efforts.

...a small group visited Grace Café, a grant recipient, and had a wonderful experience learning more about this unique and very beneficial program addressing food needs.

...resources related to immigration issues will be posted weekly in Across the Woods. We believe that awareness will arise of areas where we could work to help ease the problems.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Shutt, Mission Ministry Chair