

## Minutes of the 2022 St. Dysmas Annual Meeting January 14, 2023

### Values of The Community of St. Dysmas

VALUE ONE: We are a Christ centered ministry that honors the teachings of the Bible = FOCUSED ON WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY IN EACH CORRECTIONAL SITE

VALUE TWO: We believe that no life is beyond reach since all are created in the image of God = FOCUSED ON MEMBER EVANGELISM & SHARING MISSION/VALUES TO ALL

VALUE THREE: We rely on congregations and volunteers to accomplish and enhance the ministry= FOCUSED ON MARKETING; FUNDRAISING; VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

VALUE FOUR: We use faith stories to connect and enrich the lives of congregations, volunteers and persons incarcerated = FOCUSED ON SHARING FAITH STORIES

VALUE FIVE: We hold ourselves accountable to excellent management for the ministry including time, talent, and treasures = FOCUSED ON MANAGING MINISTRY

VALUE SIX: We are committed to a continuum of ministry and support in and outside the Institution = FOCUSED ON AFTER-CARE

Present: Lois Carrigan, Susan Beck, Linda Fleischer, Bob Harvey, Myra Keel, Terry Lockridge, Cheryl Hollar, Gary Tartanian, Linda Smith, David Kaplan, Rufus Berry

### Welcome and Introductions by Lois Carrigan

- Acknowledged CSD Council members, their work, and Pr. Susan's extraordinary efforts to maintain visibility and connections during COVID restrictions.
- Reminded attendees that all related documents were e-mailed prior to meeting.

### Opening Prayer – Pr. Susan Beck

### Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting minutes

- Terry Lockridge moved to approve the 2022 minutes; approved by acclamation.

### Pastor's Report by Pr. Susan

- We are holding worship at MCI-W, MCTC and CMCF after new forms and training were completed. Pr. Susan thanked Terry and Dave for their support and reminders that prison ministry requires intense flexibility and patience. The task of rebuilding congregations in the facilities has been arduous and rewarding.
- Issues related to communication and access have blocked worship at other facilities. Pr. Susan continues efforts to return to MCIJ and add congregations at JCI and RCI, including coordination with the Archdiocese and outreach to the Secretary of Public Safety and Corrections. She will continue her focus and contact the new Secretary when they are identified.
- Pr. Susan described a new initiative where members complete prayer request slips that she then takes to other facilities and shares. It is rewarding to see how the concerns are quite similar among congregations and the feeling of community is being nurtured.
- Bible Study at the CMCF has resumed with volunteers leading the group. Due to staffing issues, other facilities still deny this activity but the goal is to have Bible Study for all CSD congregations.
- We continue coordination with the Baltimore Area Aftercare Program (BAAP) and Deacon Les. He is working 6-7 of our returning citizens and would like to link each with a specific congregation for re-entry support.
- Volunteers continue to be the backbone of our ministry. We lost a few during COVID lockdown but have gained some new ones. Pr. Susan is mentoring a seminarian, Melody Hession, who is helping CSD as part of her internship. Melody is passionate about prison ministry and plans to continue her activities after seminary.
- The mail ministry continues to thrive with the assistance of the office administrators (Linda Smith and Linda Fleischer = Team Linda). Pr. Susan receives frequent notes from recipients documenting ways in which the prayer, devotions and worship material sustain them.
- Pr. Susan is on the Board of Lifting Labels and reported that the company is gaining financial stability with grants and contracts.

In summary, she thanked us for the opportunity to serve this incredible ministry as Pastor.

#### Nomination of Rufus Berry as CSD Council member:

- Lois nominated Rufus Berry to CSD Council. Pr. Susan introduced Rufus and described their relationship which began when he was a member of the CMCF congregation. He was thoughtful and engaged in worship. She feels that his experience, commitment and spirituality make him the ideal council member.
- Rufus described the physical and emotional journey that led him to CSD, including the relationship with Pr. Susan that allowed him to discern his role in this community.
- Lois moved to accept Rufus as a member of council and it was approved by acclamation.

#### Financial Report and 2022 Budget review by Bob Harvey - available on request

- Our budget is in excellent shape. Contributions in 2022 decreased but other assets remained stable. Our small deficit is insignificant.
- The 2023 budget includes a 3% increase in Pr. Susan's salary.
- Terry Lockridge moved to approve the 2023 Budget and it was approved by acclamation.
- Pr. Susan expressed her appreciation for the ways in which Salem Church supports CSD. Other congregations also donate worship and devotional material. We are blessed with generosity from churches that reduces our expenses.
- Bob reported that during 2022 we received approximately \$5,000 in honorariums from churches where Pr. Susan preached.
- Recognition was extended to Bob Harvey for his diligent oversight of our finances and budget.

#### Questions and comments

- Lois explained to members that CSD is flourishing since we have 2 administrative assistants (Team Linda) managing office and technical assignments. This leaves Pr. Sue available to focus on worship and outreach.
- Pr. Susan's installation will be January 29 at 3:00 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church. The Service of Installation will be followed by a reception. Linda Smith is sending formal invitations today and requesting an RSVP by January 22. The color will be green for all rostered leaders who will process.
- We will be giving Salem a gift to show appreciation for their support and partnership. It is a framed document that outlines CSD history and mission so that the congregation understands our ministry. It will be unveiled on January 29 and formally given to the congregation during worship at a later date.

Lois thanked everybody for attending and supporting our mission.

Final thoughts and closing prayer by Reverend Susan Beck, CSD Pastor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Fleischer

01/15/23