

OUTREACH AND SERVICE COMMISSION
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA ROSA, CA
October 15, 2019

Members of the Commission:

Jennifer Dornbush (Co-Chair), Bill Dornbush (Co-Chair) John Creager, Andrea Davis, Jenny Hartman, Diane Jackson, Ruth Norman, Carmen Rapp, Mere Ponijiasi, Lynn Brown, Lindsey Bell-Kerr, staff

Meetings are held: Fourth Wednesday of each month at 4pm in the Carriage House.

Purpose of the Commission:

The goal of the Outreach and Service Commission is to provide a wide range of opportunities such that all members of FUMC can find a way to participate in serving the community here and abroad.

How does the purpose help fulfill the mission of FUMC?

We inform our expression through social responsibility, and we provide opportunities for reaching out directly to all people in God's love.

What are your activities/ programs/ ministries/ accomplishments for the last year?

- We produced a tri-fold flyer to inform people on the church Outreach and Service activities, and make it available on the welcome table and other places around the church.
- We collect food monthly for the F.I.S.H. food pantry with a big push in February to restock the shelves after the holidays - regular monthly donations between 25 and 30 bags, and in February we collect around 150 bags.
- Disaster Recovery including Volunteers in Missions trips to rebuild houses - 25 to 30 people participate by spending one or two weeks rebuilding homes destroyed by natural disasters.
- Community Garden at Stony Point - there are 30 beds available for individual rental plus donation beds that raise and donate about 2500 pounds of fresh produce to F.I.S.H. each year.
- Back-to-School Supplies donation - We collected over 100 backpacks along with many boxes of school supplies. This annual collection goes to the Living Room and are given to the children who are experiencing homelessness.
- Fair Trade - We sell Fair Trade products every Sunday at the coffee hour at Montgomery and once a month at Stony Point. This is a justice issue because fairly traded products insure that the farmers who grow the products are paid a fair price for their goods. Eleven members help sell the products and there are about 25 people who purchase products on a regular basis.
- We collect socks, underwear and toiletries at Christmas for homeless - the donations are given to the Homeless Services Center and socks are given out at the Tuesday night Spirit Cafe.
- Safe Parking allows homeless people who are living in their cars to park overnight at Stony Point. There are up to ten cars and 20 people who use safe parking every night. A team of 14 members of Homeless Ministries Task Force take turns checking on the safe parkers each morning and evening. On Sunday morning several members provide breakfast.
- We provide support for United Methodist Missionaries Paul Jeffery and Katherine Parker through a special offering at Easter. This involves informing the congregation of the missionary's activities and hosting their visits.

- We collect greeting cards for Friends Outside - all members are encouraged to donate greeting cards which provides them to prisoners. Hundreds of greeting cards are donated each month. We also collect books for use by inmates.
- We sponsor a room at the Family Support Center funded through the special offering at Christmas. The Family Support Center provides temporary housing for homeless families with children and assists them in finding permanent housing.
- We worked with the Children's Commission to provide service ideas for Vacation Bible School.
- We co-sponsored a movie with Congregation Shomrei Torah on White Supremacy.
- We provide UMC special offerings six times a year for local and international benefit.

We welcome other groups' outreach and service programs which provide additional opportunities, such as United Methodist Women mission giving, the Community Garden, our Tuesday Night Spirit Café, and Nomadic Shelter. We are ready to support and/or coordinate these other programs.

What are your goals and plans for the next year?

We plan to continue our current programs as shown above and to add new ones as the opportunity is presented.

What goals or benchmarks have you set to measure success/effectiveness?

Fifty percent of our people are engaged in at least one act of service per year.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill and Jennifer Dornbush