

**Minutes of the 2021 St. Dysmas Annual Meeting
January 8, 2022**

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, Susie Jordan, Terry Lockridge, Cheryl Hollar, Gary Tartanian, Alan Ramsey, Linda Smith, David Kaplan, Charles Frederick, Timothy Grayson, Dave Simpson, Paul Collinson-Streng (guest)

Welcome and Introductions by Lois Carrigan

- Reminded attendees that CSD Council meets every month via Zoom
- Expressed appreciation for Pr. Susan's extraordinary efforts to maintain our presence in the facilities

Opening Prayer – Pr. Susan Beck

Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting minutes

- Moved by Alan Ramsey and approved by acclamation after one correction (add Linda Smith to attendees).

Pastor's Report by Pr. Susan

- Pr. Susan read a letter from a member at MCIW who thanked us for the written communication and reminded us how important our outreach is. She looks forward to the return of worship to the facility.
- CSD ministry continues through the mailing of sermons, devotionals and letters from the community to member congregations and inmates in other institutions who request our support. Linda Fleischer tracks the location of each inmate and addresses the envelopes for Pr. Susan each week. Upon our return to worship, there will be inmates in facilities not affiliated with CSD and we will continue mailing to them.
- Pr. Susan expressed her appreciation to Salem Church in Catonsville for its ongoing support and facility use.
- There are continued difficulties in communication with DPSCS administrators and cooperation with facility staff. A memo was issued by DPSCS on July 3 that announced the return of religious services in the prisons. She outlined the steps taken to schedule worship which did result in services held at MCIJ and CMCF in December. Access was again limited in January when the variant of COVID, Omicron, emerged and suspended all visitation.

- Limitations have been set by DPSCS that include one visit per month to each facility. That includes worship and bible study. Each facility has different procedures so navigating access is complicated.
- Pr. Susan is attempting to establish a congregation at RCI. There is a requirement for eight men to express interest and we now have seven. She is hoping to gain traction there.
- Intern Melody Hession has been working with Pr. Susan and is very interested in prison ministry. It appears as if the importance of this ministry is recognized by younger pastors.
- We have lost many volunteers and will need to recruit new ones. All volunteers will have to complete orientation upon their return.
- In summary, there are no plans to resume worship in the prisons at this time so we will continue our outreach through mailing material. There will be a challenge to rebuild our membership since many have been released.

Pr. Susan is confident that our faithful members who remain will lift us up and move us forward.

Pr. Susan introduced Pastor Paul Collinson-Streng (retired). He is working with Br. Les Roberts and the Baltimore Area Aftercare Program (BAAP).

- He described current efforts to provide resources, housing and support for returning citizens.
- Many men and women are connected to CSD and need reentry services that are absent in the community.
- Employment is a huge challenge for this population and the ability to assist in transition is a goal of BAAP.
- He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to complement CSD mission with aftercare support.

Financial Report and 2021 Budget review by Bob Harvey - available on request

- Our budget is in excellent shape. Contributions in 2021 decreased but other assets remained stable.
- We contribute \$500 each quarter to the BAAP for their support of CSD returning citizens.
- The 2022 budget includes an increase in Pr. Susan's salary and other small changes.
- Susie Jordan moved to approve the 2022 Budget and it was approved by acclamation.

Questions and comments

- Charles Frederick is leading the Adult Forum on May 22 at Christ Lutheran, Inner Harbor, and asked if Pr. Susan would participate in a presentation on CSD. She agreed and will see if Pr. Les could attend as well as a member who has been released.
- Terry Lockridge commented that the Delaware-Maryland Synod website lists 22 programs with links to send financial contributions. CSD is not on the list. He asked Bob if CSD could be added. While we do get money from Synod every month, we are not on the website list for public contributions. Bob will follow-up.

Lois thanked everybody for attending and supporting our mission.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Fleischer
01/10/22