

Community Ministry Collaborative Report to Annual Council 2014

Community Ministry Collaborative (previously called Collaborative Fundraising Working Group) was brought together in 2013 by Bishop Wright, with the expressed purpose of conversation between the various diocesan ministries regarding how ministry groups might seek ways through partnership that could reduce our dependence upon the diocesan budget.

A year and one-half later, the collaborative has indeed found conversation, about much more than budgets and finances. Rather, we have identified opportunities for our group to both share and develop resources. We changed our name to Community Ministry Collaborative (CMC) feeling this name was a better fit for our unique collaboration.

The accomplishments of CMC in 2014:

1) Collaborations:

- an appeal writing workshop was presented by Emmaus House staff to members of the CMC;
- a CMC sub-committee began and continues work on developing a curriculum for reflection following outreach experiences;
- participation in morning and afternoon "Conversations" at the Faith in Transition Diocesan Ministry Summit;
- our largest undertaking was the "Hearts to Serve" diocesan ministry summit which was thought up, designed and delivered by the CMC, with Vicky Partin of CVEM providing the leadership necessary to ensure the success of this event. One-hundred individuals across the diocese, who were interested in sharing outreach conversations and opportunities for partnerships, participated. Significant in this endeavor was the participation by Bishop Robert Wright and The Rev. Mark Stephenson, Domestic Poverty Missioner for The Episcopal Church.

2) The addition of two diocesan ministry groups this year (Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson Chaplaincy and Lokey Center at Emmaus House).

CMC ministries and representatives are:

Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Chaplaincy (Donna Mote); Camp Mikell (Ken Struble); Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry (Vicky Partin); Church of the Common Ground (Beth King, Mary Wetzel); Diocesan Budget Committee (Chuck Dale); Diocesan Treasurer (Bennie King); Emmaus House (Joseph Mole); Emmaus House Lokey Center (Ann Fowler); Episcopal Charities Foundation (Ginny Heckel, Chris Lemley); Holy Comforter (Alexis Smith, Matthew Collins); Macon Ministries (Arthur Villareal, Janet Tidwell); Peter and Paul's Place (Lois Shingler); The Road, Episcopal Service Corps (Laura Bryant); Path to Shine (Lesley-Ann Drake). We invite others to join.

Deacon Christopher Lemley has been appointed by Bishop Robert Wright to serve as CMC Convener.

We anticipate 2015 will bring new ministry members as well as opportunities for CMC to engage in further conversation as a group to identify new and unique ways to collaborate both within CMC as well as the larger Diocesan family. We expect to lead "Conversations" at the 2015 Faith in Transition summit. It is our intent to offer a second ministry summit, the topic to be determined.

To reiterate the eloquent words of The Reverend Mike Tanner, CMC's First Convener;

1. We have affirmed our shared faith that we live in God's economy of abundance, and we reject the spirit of competition and the mentality of scarcity in our life together as ministries of the Diocese. We recognize too that God has blessed the people of the Diocese of Atlanta with extraordinary grace and abundant wealth (not for our own sakes but for the sake of God's beloved world) and calls us, individually and communally, to faithful stewardship.
2. We believe that the work that God does through these various ministries, while it serves the needs of our constituencies, is not merely social service as might be done by any agency. Rather it is transformative work; it is ministry, by which the Spirit labors to form Christ in us, to remake us in the image of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many. Our work is the work of the church. It is the work of making disciples. It is work of mutual ministry, in which the servers are served and the served serve, each exercising the manifold gifts of the Spirit
3. While we are far from seeing our way to a single fundraising enterprise that we all share, we have begun to identify ways to help each other

Start as you mean to go on.

Ginny Heckel, CMC Scribe