

Ministry Group Report to Presbytery September 2023

The Presbytery of Baltimore is divided into six ministry groups to further the Presbytery's mission of encouraging, challenging and equipping its congregations to thrive spiritually and serve effectively as apostles of reconciliation.

The Ministry Group Outcomes below are being lived-out in the following ways.

Encouraging Christian Formation and Leader Development

Congregational Development

Missional Engagement with Communities

Prophet Witness and Action for Reconciliation

Creation of New Faith communities

Bay Area Disciples Convener-Tim Stern (Ark and Dove)

BAD Ministry Group helps the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network and the farm ministry of La Finca as well as the Afghan refugees sponsored by First Presbyterian. They also provide training for pastors in community organizing through the Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT). Several churches participate in STAIR (Start the Adventure in Reading) a tutoring program for 2nd graders. The pastors recently met for breakfast and are playing a joint youth activity.

In the Loop Convener-Ken Walker (Knox)

ITL Ministry Group has several pastor luncheons throughout the year to share ministry ideas and provide support for each other. They held their annual Martin Luther King Performing Arts Contest which included a panel of speakers focused on racial justice. Several leaders have attended the Dismantling Racism Training. They also held a community picnic and are planning a youth event to engage the community.

Mountain Maryland Co-convener-Alison Peters (Cumberland)-Mark Sandell (St. Andrews-Williamsport)

MM Ministry Group helped Emmitsburg update their technology for worship and supported Hagerstown in their meal ministry. The pastors are planning a pulpit exchange on September 17. They heard a presentation on the drug problem in our society and received training in Narcan (nasal spray to use for opioid overdose). This summer they gathered at Green Brier State Park for a picnic to grow connections with each other.

North Baltimore Co-convener Mark Hanna (Roland Park)-Cat Goodrich (Faith)

Pastors meet at monthly luncheons to network together. NB held a ZOOM meeting with all of the church Habitat liaisons and worked on four builds in May/June. They hold a bi-annual leadership event. Several churches attended the Dialogue for Peaceful Change.

Susquehanna Parish Co-convener Melissa Lopez (Bel Air)-Ray Meute (Highland)

SP Ministry Group held Lenten Services meeting at each of their SP churches. The format was centered around the book, "Love God, Neighbor, Enemy" by Maryanne McKibben Dana. They held a Mission Fair where each church sponsored a booth to share their Mission projects. The church leaders read the book "Love Your Enemies" by Arthur Brooke and followed up with an event where trained facilitators discussed the topic of violence using guns. They also have been involved in the resettlement

of an Afghan refugee family. They sponsor Teen Night for teens age 12-18 for several nights of relationship activities held at Highland. Several churches attended the Dialogue for Peaceful Change.

West Side Story Co-conveners Karen Brown (Hope)-Mark Chaplik (PCUSA)

WSS Ministry Group holds two pastor lunches and elder breakfasts during the year to promote communication and the sharing of ideas. Several churches have updated their technology for worship and their educational programs.

Each Ministry Group works to make the mission of the Presbytery of Baltimore a concrete reality within their respective communities. Therefore, they all look different in their approach to ministry and the use of their funds. They each oversee a budget with money received from the Shared Mission Funds. It is overseen by the Convener Chair, the Presbytery Bookkeeper and Financial Administrator. The conveners also make decisions on how the Ministry Group Reserve Fund will be spent among the churches.

They hold five meetings a year (January, March, May, September and November) via ZOOM. Monthly reports are given to cabinet by the convener chair to keep them apprised of their adherence to the Ministry Group Outcomes and mission of Presbytery. This past year each Ministry Group convener or conveners facilitated a listening session with each of their respective churches, after training from Presbytery staff, to give input into the Strategic Plan being formulated by the cabinet.

Renee Mackey-MG Convener Chair

Edwin Lacy-Associate Staff for Small Churches and Ministry Groups