

MISSION COMMITTEE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Purpose: To develop a process/system, within the Mission Committee, that is faithful, transparent, intentional, informed, flexible, and empowering as Trinity engages in missional service opportunities in the world.

Trinity Mission and Vision Statements:

Vision: You Matter to God! You Matter to Us!

Mission: We will be the hands and feet of Christ in the Community

Mission Committee's Mission Statement: Showing the love of Christ through service to the church, the world, and those in need.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE SHALL:

1. Assess and determine means and opportunities for Trinity to engage in missional service.
2. Provide information and opportunities to empower and inspire Trinity members to missional service.
3. Provide the following types of missional support, as determined by the Mission Committee:
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Informational
 - c. Material
 - d. Personal or Relational
 - e. Financial
 - f. Mission trips or Immersion Experiences
4. Conduct meetings that are open to congregational members.
5. Assess congregational interest and participation in missional service opportunities.
6. Provide a means for congregational members to suggest missional service opportunities to the Mission Committee for consideration. (Forms available from the Mission Committee)
7. Work in cooperation with existing agencies and organizations whenever and wherever possible.
8. Develop a yearly Mission Committee budget
9. Distribute Mission Funds in the following manner:
 - a. First, the congregational approved amount designated for the Central States Synod shall be distributed.
 - b. Remainder to be distributed for missional support as determined by the Mission Committee through consultation with Council.
10. Identify missional opportunities as "**Core**" or "**Other**" in order to determine focus of missional work and support

- a. Definition of **Core Missions**:
Mission work that is strongly aligned with Trinity’s Mission and Vision and the Congregation as a whole for Trinity to be the hands and feet of Christ in the community and meets the criteria for Core Missions.
- b. Criteria for **Core Missions**:
 - i. Strongly aligned with:
Trinity’s Vision: You Matter to God! You Matter to Us!
and Mission: We will be the hands and feet of Christ in the Community.
 - ii. Engages the Congregation as a whole
 - iii. Opportunities for “hands on” service
 - iv. Meaningful impact
 - v. Two-way relational and transformational ministry
 - vi. Ongoing participation and commitment from Congregation members (or program may be discontinued)
 - vii. Multiple opportunities for involvement by diverse groups
 - viii. Must have a Trinity leader identified
- c. Definition of **Other Missions**:
Mission work that is important to Trinity, is strongly aligned with Trinity’s Mission and Vision, has a meaningful impact and is approved by the Mission Committee but does not meet the criteria for Core Mission.

MISSIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT:

Guidelines for Assessment:

1. Christ-centered
2. In keeping with Trinity’s Mission/Vision statement
3. In keeping with the Mission of the Mission Committee
4. Mission upholds the dignity, needs, rights, values, and cultures of those we serve

Considerations for Assessment:

1. Broader church connection – Synodical or ELCA
2. Historical relationship
3. Short and long-term effects of service offered on those served
4. Short and long-term effects of engagement on Trinity’s congregation
5. Type and level of support needed
6. Need of people served
7. Number of people served
8. On-going or short-term event
9. Disaster Response
10. Opportunity for “hands-on” ministry
11. Mission Trip or Immersion Experience
12. Agency’s understanding of the needs of the community they serve
13. Agency’s organization & administrative costs
14. Charity and/or Justice

MISSION COMMITTEE PLANNING PROCESS:

- Fall: The Mission Committee will evaluate the current Mission work and prepare the upcoming year's Mission plan, including identification of Core Missions (no more than 5) and Other Mission work
- Fall: The Mission Committee and Chairperson will communicate with Trinity's Treasurer to plan the next year's Mission budget
- Prior to the end of the year, the Mission Committee and Chairperson will communicate with Council the proposed annual Mission evaluation and new plan
- January: At the Annual Congregational meeting, the Mission Committee Chairperson will present a review of the prior year's Mission work and the proposed plan and budget for the upcoming year to the Congregation
- February: The Mission Committee Chairperson participates in planning, review and discussion at the annual Trinity Leadership Retreat
- Summer: The Mission Committee communicates and obtains feedback from the Congregation related to Trinity's Mission work (i.e. Adult Forum, surveys, other methods)
- Mission Committee Chairperson provides quarterly updates to Council

CORE MISSION LEADER EXPECTATIONS:

- Lead and coordinate their Core Mission project work
- Ensure the Core Mission criteria are being met
- Provide updates to the Mission Committee, quarterly or as needed
- Provide updates to Council, as requested