

COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND POLICIES

I. Our Mission

The Social Ministry committee is called to equip disciples at Trinity to minister to the needy within Central Pennsylvania.

II. Organization

- A. The chairperson of Social Ministry shall be appointed by the President of Congregation Council.
- B. Members of this committee shall be appointed by the chairperson.
- C. The chairperson may appoint committee members to serve as liaisons to each agency/institution receiving volunteer and/or financial support from Trinity Church.
- D. Task Groups may be created by the chairperson from time to time as needed.
- E. The chairperson shall appoint a committee member as task group leader.

III. Responsibilities

- A. To stimulate the congregation to a broadening perspective of personal Christian responsibility in discipleship based upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. To educate and motivate disciples to respond to the human service needs of people within the Central Pennsylvania region.
- C. To act as the enabling body of Trinity Church for the carrying out of responsible Christian social ministry. To focus upon the special needs of persons within Central Pennsylvania. To coordinate Trinity's Task Group outreach and financial assistance in meeting these needs.
- D. To obtain and evaluate requisite financial and program information prior to distribution of benevolence funds to non-ELCA agencies/organizations.
 - 1. All requests to be submitted on the Benevolence Request Form. See Appendix A-6 and A-7.
 - 2. All potential recipients for support to be evaluated with a visit if geographically feasible.
 - 3. All completed request forms to be answered with a letter.
- E. To be a channel for publicizing training sessions and volunteer service opportunities of local human service agencies to the congregation.
- F. To educate and motivate the congregation toward more informed benevolence giving in regards to social ministry.

III. Responsibilities (continued)

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- G. To plan and recommend to Congregation Council and subsequently to implement proposals for program tasks and budget in the area of social ministry.
1. To provide opportunities for study and learning in the area of social ministry.
 2. To support local ecumenical ministries-
 3. To assist with the needs of persons within Central Pennsylvania in accordance with the mission of the church, especially the poor, the oppressed and the suffering.
 4. To provide funds from undesignated Social Ministry Benevolence as required for special and/or unexpected needs arising during the year.
 5. To maintain the Social Ministry bulletin board.
 6. To promote congregational interest and enthusiasm for Social Ministry through:
 - a. Scheduled events
 - b. Articles in the Trinity Parish and other Trinity publications relating to social ministry of Trinity Church.
 - c. Temple Talks
 7. To entertain requests and suggestions relating to social ministry tasks and/or budget from any source. Some or all of the following criteria shall be used to evaluate such requests.:
 - a. Does the issue fall under Trinity's mission?
 - b. Does the issue afford Trinity's disciples an opportunity for face-to-face ministry to the needy?
 - c. Can the issue be adequately dealt with by the requested date?
 8. To recommend to Congregation Council distribution of year-end benevolence funds in cooperation with all council committees.
- H. The Social Ministry Committee shall participate in the coordination of the overall benevolence program of Trinity Church especially in cooperation with the Missions and Stewardship Committees.