

Community Ministry Commission Report

The CMC has been meeting about every three weeks often in conjunction with the Grants Commission. We are pleased to begin the mission grant making process for congregational mission programs and for partner agencies. Application forms and the schedule will be presented at the Presbytery meeting.

Under the leadership of Rev. Bruce Ballatine, CMC hosted a meeting with Susan Krehbiel, the Refugee Resettlement Coordinator for PDA. About fifteen people attended and were challenged and inspired. We hope to find at least 4 congregations who would sponsor refugee families from Ukraine or other countries and have a plan to provide financial support. Housing is usually the most challenging issue—working with other church or community partners is recommended.

Jerome Lane has established an initial list of the food banks/feeding programs based in churches of the Presbytery or partner organizations. We are working to make that a complete list and to provide networking/support for those programs. A food truck project has been launched in cooperation with the UCC regional body.

The CMC made an emergency allocation of \$5000 to PDA for work in Ukraine. Current estimates are that there are 3.7 million refugees. Temporary Protected Status(TPS) has been offered to Ukrainians currently in the US. Initially, an additional 100,000 will be legally admitted.

We were blessed with the leadership of Alex Counts in a workshop titled How to Save the World, Without Losing Your Soul. His second book is titled—When in Doubt, Ask for More. Upper Montclair Church hosted us. We had twenty participants. Many of us had the opportunity to meet folks who we have worked with through many zoom meetings but had never greeted face to face.

Out of that one day conference, we are looking at creating three initial teams. Teams would meet perhaps monthly for mutual support, sharing best practices, networking, problem solving. The initial teams would focus on:

- Immigration/Refugees,
- Food Ministries
- Money for Mission.

Money for Mission would continue the dialogue of the Alex Count's conference and provide training, education and inspiration for those raising money for church mission and for community agencies.

CMC is pleased that we have new members joining our commission. We plan to have a face to face meeting in June to get to know each other better and to plan for the future.