

OUTREACH STRATEGIC VISIONING COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

Co-Chairs Jennifer Schafer and Chris Knight

December, 2024

Background:

During the spring of 2023, the St. Peter's congregation underwent a strategic visioning exercise led by Rev. Bill Wilson and the vestry. A series of 3 congregational meetings were held in which the focus was discussing the "Past, Present and Future" of St. Peter's Episcopal Church (SPEC) in the eyes of the congregation. The results of those meetings were summarized and reported back to the congregation providing a broad picture of our reasons for being members, a candid look at our successes and failures and what we wanted to do more of in the future.

As a result of these visioning sessions the vestry identified the need for 3 separate committees and recruited 2 co-chairs for each, to develop strategies and actionable plans in the areas of Worship, Community and Outreach. Each committee was provided with vision statements to guide their thinking as they developed strategies to move forward. Each committee was asked to consider "God-sized dreams"; things that while difficult to accomplish, fit with our strong desire to participate in transformational change for our church, city, region and beyond.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Outreach Committee work, our near-term actions and proposals for current outreach ministries at St. Peter's and next steps for the near- and longer-term future.

Executive Summary

The newly formed Outreach Committee, co-chaired by Jen Schafer and Chris Knight was convened with 4 staff, 1 vestry member and 11 self-identified parishioner volunteers. We agreed that the goals of the committee would be two-fold; first, to improve and expand existing outreach ministries supported by SPEC and second, to explore opportunities for championing projects with the potential for transformational results, i.e. God-sized dreams.

For the phase one goal, we recommend standing up a structure to support outreach ministry initiation, development and execution. We named this structure the Outreach Ministry Group (OMG!) that would consist of lay and staff participants with the primary functions of 1) Marketing and Communications, 2) Opportunity Assessment and Partnerships and 3) Funding

and Celebration. We propose that the makeup include clergy, staff and vestry representatives with an equal number of parishioner volunteers to total 5-6 members. The parishioner volunteers would serve in 2 or 3-year cycles much like the vestry and would work together to manage and grow outreach ministries at St. Peters.

Our vision for OMG! is as a support function to assist parishioners to successfully champion a new or expanded ministry, with such assistance in place, making it easier for these champions to step forward on their own or to be successfully recruited. This appears to be a new approach to outreach ministries at SPEC and once it is in place the needs and functions may change. Therefore, we suggest that OMG! operate on a contingency basis for the first couple years to see that it is supported by the congregation and ultimately is effectively functioning to improve outreach ministry results.

The second phase goal of exploring possibilities for God-sized, transformational projects was discussed; however, the priorities expressed by the committee were on growing our existing outreach ministries first, offering the potential that existing ministries could evolve with proper stewardship into larger scale transformational projects. As OMG! comes into existence and the Outreach Committee sunsets, we would recommend that a smaller committee of 5-6 people with the expressed *interest* and *capacity* to seriously explore projects and partnerships that would be deemed transformational, God-sized dreams, be formed. The makeup of this smaller focused group would be subject to the recommendation of the rector and vestry.

Outreach Committee Formation & Functions

Vision Statement:

St Peter's is a wellspring of hope.

We inspire one another to transform St. Louis and beyond in the name of Christ

In the fall of 2023, David Hodges and the vestry asked Jen Shaefer and Chris Knight to co-chair the Outreach ministries effort with Laura Frank as our vestry liaison. Val Patton and Zack Rugenstone agreed to share their experience and capabilities in this area and provide spiritual support for our committee. Connor Bryant and Janet Rouse provided staff support around communications, parish life and budget. The process was presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January, 2024 and parishioners were asked to volunteer their participation in the areas of their choice. The Outreach Committee members listed below were all self-selected volunteers.

Outreach Ministry Strategic Planning Committee						
Co-Chairs	Chris Knight	Jen Schafer				
Vestry	Laura Frank					
Clergy	Valerie Patton	Zack Rugenstone				
Staff	Connor Bryant	Janet Rouse				
Outreach Committee	Kathy Baker	Kit Baker	Clark Davis	Frances Gay	Bill Gilbert	Jimmy Grimmet
	Janet Hyde	Sabine McDowell	John Scheonecker	Jerry Wille	Bud Wilson	

Our kickoff meeting was held March 14, 2024. The key areas we discussed included; our past and present outreach ministries, some of what we learned about our congregation during the most recent discernment and rector search process; and the data we received as a result of the 3 listening sessions preceding the formation of this committee.

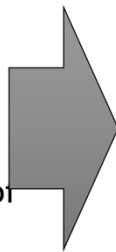
Despite a strong history in outreach ministries at St Peter's, the congregation has made clear during the past 2 rector searches (2011-12 & 2020-2022) and a prior visioning exercise in the same timeframe (2017), that they desired more outreach ministry opportunities. Analysis of the feedback we received from our congregation as analyzed by HolyCow! during the last rector search indicated that our parish had a strong propensity for developing meaningful ministries advocating for those in need of care and healing, serving on the front lines in activities involving counseling, serving the underhoused and homeless, food ministries and support groups.

Feedback from the current listening exercises indicated a specific desire for developing and participating in transformational partnerships with other churches and not-for-profit service organizations. There was also a desire for better internal communications with the congregation regarding what outreach is being done in the name of St Peter's in our

communities and the opportunities for individuals to serve. As we began this process, some committee members expressed a strong desire for quick action, getting some “wins” on the board in terms of outreach volunteer opportunities and to start re-engaging the congregation. We developed a 2-phase approach that was designed to address the needs for near term action as well as embracing the vestry request to lean into God-sized dreams.

Phase I:

- Identify current Outreach initiatives
- Propose a plan to support and expand current Outreach
- Focus new activities that provide engagement through volunteerism
- Target Sept. 2024 for full catalogue of current activities



Phase II:

- Develop long-term strategic vision
- Identify larger scale initiatives
- Design processes for project proposals, committee review, fund-raising, oversight, metrics and ongoing support
- Implement a sustainable program to elevate Outreach in our community

Outreach Ministries: Past and Present

We compiled a summary of all St Peter’s outreach ministries, past and present, seeking to get a comprehensive list of examples on the table, including information on timing, participatory activities, and parishioners that served as champions for these ministries, if there were any. We added to that list all the organizations that the individuals on the outreach committee supported individually, either monetarily, through volunteerism or both (Appendix I). The list contained a total of 19 different not-for-profit organizations and churches. We considered that polling the congregation at large would possibly yield even larger range of potential partners, however with our initial attempt we received little or no congregational response. The concept was that partnerships or new initiatives would be easier to engage in if we had members of the committee or the congregation that was already actively involved with them.

With this information in hand, we had a platform from which we could begin summarizing current outreach ministries for St. Peter’s providing some ideas of how to systematize their smooth and continued operation and some possibilities for expansion. In addition, the other organizations supported by individuals offered the potential for future partnerships.

One of the key take-aways from this exercise was the clear importance of having an individual that was personally invested in the success of the ministry. Someone who insured activities were coordinated with the church calendar, sought volunteer participation when needed and who essentially became the de facto face of the ministry within the congregation. We referred to this role as a *Ministry Champion*.

The existing St. Peter's outreach ministries fell into three general categories; Food Ministries, Partnerships and Special Projects, (Figure 1). The brochure listed below was produced as an example of a way we could clearly represent St. Peter's outreach activities to parishioners and visitors. At this point we needed to define some organizing principles to provide the support structures needed for effective management of these outreach ministries and provide the means for sustaining and growing outreach ministries at St. Peter's to meet the hopes and expectations of the congregation.

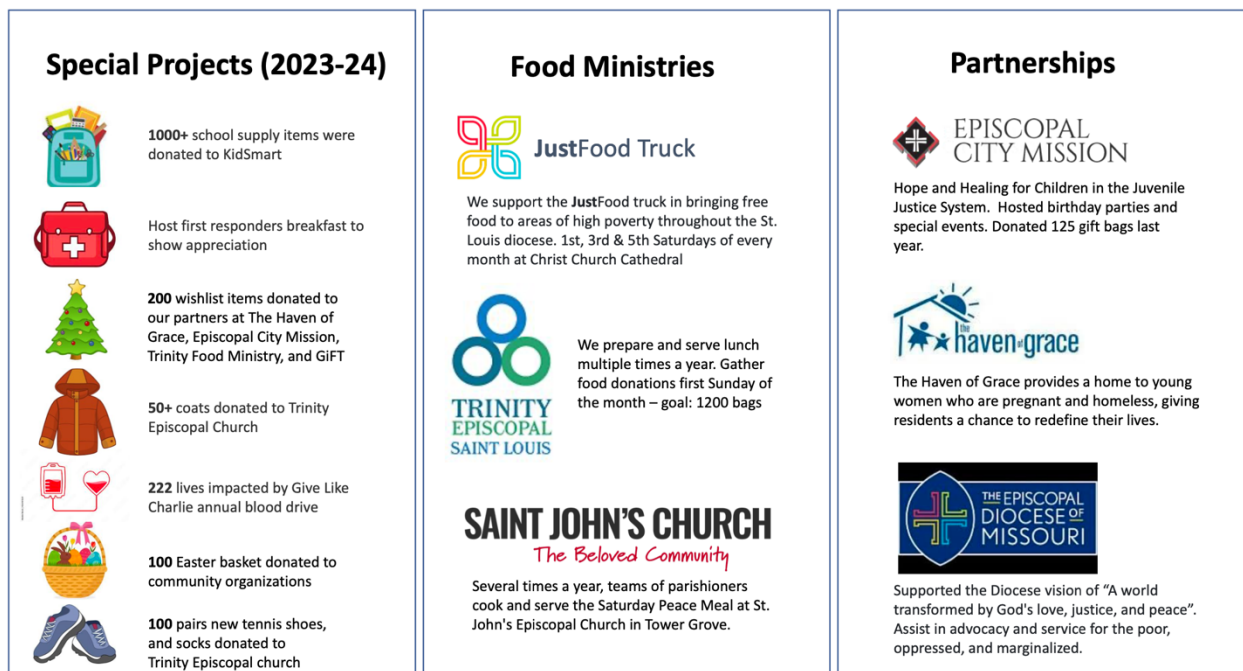


Figure 1 Current Supported Ministries at St. Peter's

Permanent and Sustainable Outreach Ministry Function

As we reported earlier, when we explored our history of outreach ministries it became clear that our greatest successes occurred when someone in the congregation chose to become the champion of a particular ministry (e.g., Haven of Grace – Sally Lemkemeier; Trinity Food Pantry – Bill and Jim Gilbert). While many volunteers were ultimately needed to support the outreach effort, having an individual that was fully invested in the success of the ministry was identified as a critical success factor. Typically, these champions step forward on their own; however, having a support structure in place would hopefully make it possible to recruit this type of leadership. We believe this needs to be a key focus to successfully grow outreach ministries at St. Peter's.

As we examined our history of outreach ministries another factor became evident; while much of our outreach results were quite strong and engaging, participation was not always consistent

year to year or decade to decade. It is our observation that at least in the last several decades, we have not had a permanent outreach committee of clergy, staff and lay persons that served to coordinate these activities in a consistent and sustainable manner, that served as a clearinghouse for new ideas for ministry partnerships and the potential to achieve “God-sized dreams”.

Our overarching goal is to maintain continuity in how we conduct outreach activities while providing a clear pathway for engaging the congregation, communicating activities and providing for volunteer participation. It would also provide a forum for discussing new ideas for ministries, evaluating interest and providing support to ministry champions for successfully executing them. It is also critical to provide for routine transitions of leadership so that leading a particular ministry is not a ‘life sentence’. With this kind of support system in place, the belief is that becoming a ministry champion would be less daunting.

Outreach Ministry Group (OMG!)

We propose the vestry and rector commission a group of 5-6 members, that would have a structure somewhat akin to the following descriptions:

- Lay participation: 3 Lay members that would serve 3-year staggered terms, with one rolling off and one new member being recruited every year. We propose to start this up with the 3 lay persons agreeing to a 1-, 2- or 3-year terms to get the cadence rolling. We propose that at least one of these members serve as committee chair and convener, a responsibility that would be transferred yearly.
- Staff participation: 1-2 staff members would be ideal, with responsibilities for supporting parish life activities and marketing and communications. Scheduling of activities requires close coordination with staff and would be critical to successful event planning and budgeting.
- Clergy and vestry: Participation of one member of the clergy would be ideal, not only in helping to support the spiritual aspect of this group but also as a key contact with other churches and the diocese for development of potential partnerships. Additionally, a vestry representative would aid in keeping the vestry informed of the activities.
- Name: We propose that this not be referred to as a committee but be named, Outreach Ministry Group, OMG!, for short.

The 3 key functional responsibilities of OMG! Include Marketing & Communications, Opportunity Assessment & Partnership Development and Funding and Celebration.

OMG! Major Functions

Marketing and Communications

(Jen Schafer, Francis Gay, Kathy Baker, Janet Hyde, Connor Bryant)

Marketing and communications serve to address one of the key concerns expressed in the listening sessions in 2023, that parishioners wanted more clarity and timely information regarding outreach ministries at St. Peter's. This function would seek to increase exposure of opportunities and results (ongoing and cumulative) of all the outreach ministries we are collectively supporting in the name of St. Peter's.



Figure 2 Structure and Functions of the Outreach Ministry Group

There is a clear need for an improvement in the St. Peter's website as it relates to outreach ministries. With the SPEC website redesign in progress, there is an opportunity to develop a public facing summary of our various ministries, champion contact information and giving opportunities. This would not just serve to inform current parishioners of ways to get involved but engage future parishioners. It would be ideal to be able to update information in a timely manner, provide contact information of lay members involved in the ministry to field questions from interested parties as well as and providing a link for donating to support any of the ministries that they may be particularly interested in. As a first step, we have set up an Outreach Coordinator email address that will provide a single point of contact that can direct interested parties and those bringing new outreach ideas forward to the appropriate outreach ministry leaders.

In addition to the website there are a wide variety of communication avenues that can be used to communicate results of various campaigns as well as inform opportunities for parishioner participation which are listed in Figure 3.

NEAR TERM:

1. Website (SPEC is undertaking website redesign)

- Establish easy to navigate Outreach page
- Ability to highlight and sign up for opportunities
- Increase exposure by celebrating “Wins”
- Provide a Wishlist from ministries with e-commerce capability

2. News From the Rock

- Promote weekly volunteer and Wishlist opportunities

3. Interactive screen in the undercroft

Rector’s Forum: Highlight opportunities (representative from organization and parish champion)

Brochures: Detailing current Outreach ministries (Draft for SPEC open house 9/15 is being reviewed)

Call for Outreach opportunities: Large and small ideas for engagement with potential partners

Identify future volunteers: Physical and electronic sign-up

Outreach coordinator active by 9/13

- This individual will triage inquiries to appropriate ministry lead

Connect with a SPEC
Outreach Coordinator
outreach@specstl.org



Figure 3 Marketing & Communications Near Term Activities

Opportunity Assessment and Partnerships

(John Scheoneker, Dudley Grove, Jimmy Grimmet, Jerry Wille)

The opportunity assessment and partnership development function will provide support for parishioners interested in pursuing a particular ministry, either solely within St. Peter’s or in partnership with other organizations. Key functions would include categorizing the size and scope of the ministry or partnership, the fit with other ministries we are already involved in and the type of resourcing (funding and volunteers) it would require to successfully provide the needed support. This function would also provide evidence-based reporting on our activities over time, their relative success and ideas and recommendations for how and when they could be modified to expand their impact. Examples of how this process may function are listed in Figure 4.

Opportunity Type	SPEC example	Timing	Funding	Proposal	SPEC Involvement
Limited scope	Backpacks	Once a year	None	None	1-3 volunteers
Intermediate scope	Trinity CWE Groceries	Monthly	Minimal SPEC	Abstract	3-9 volunteers
Complex scope	TBD	Ongoing	SPEC Fundraising	Formal proposal	10+ volunteers
“God-sized Dream”	Haven of Grace	Multi-year campaign	Fundraising SPEC and others (grants)	Multiple, iterative	Multiple Organizations

Proposed Metrics of Success

- Number of current parishioners engaged and their feedback
- New parishioners recruited
- Dollars raised
- Completion of discrete projects

Figure 4. Opportunity Assessment & Partnership Development Function

Funding and Celebration

(Chris Knight, Clark Davis, Kit Baker, Sabine McDowell, Zack Rugenstone, Janet Rouse, Val Patton, Bill Gilbert, Laura Frank)

St. Peter’s in a very generous community and has routinely embraced various types of fund-raising activities in support of particular outreach ministries. Events like “Cabaret Night” 10 years ago, “Angels in the Garden” and “Garden Parties” and others more recently have been well organized and enthusiastically supported. We believe that for us to grow our community impact, St. Peter’s needs to grow our funding activities, expanding into additional activity-based fund-raising events that may attract others in the community outside of SPEC congregation.

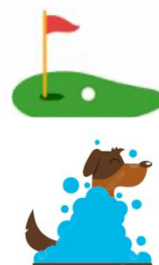
As we consider God-sized dreams we would envision multi-year capital funding events as well as seeking funding through community and ministry development grants from the diocese,(<https://diocesemo.org/connect/news/new-ventures-in-community-ministries-2025-grant-application>), as well as state and local funding agencies. This is a capability we would need to recruit leadership for to be successful.

Communicating and quantifying our successes in these funding activities is also critical for greater engagement and growth of our impact. In addition to traditional marketing and communications activities, we propose a modest change in budget

reporting regarding any and all funds that leave St. Peter's in support of outside causes and agencies. This could include mentioning our diocesan apportionment, which some committee members felt represented a form of outreach, but also any dollars that go out from a funded event or ministry such as the purchase food for the hot lunch program at Trinity CWE and even plate offerings from Good Friday and Easter that are donated to different causes each year.

Create a robust funding mechanism for Outreach Ministry programs:

- Provide consistent financial support for ongoing ministries and partnerships
 - Meet critical, short-term needs
- Conceive, plan and execute multi-year campaigns with the potential to fund a large-scale, life-changing initiative ("God-sized Dream")
- Generate funds through FUNdraisers or granting organizations (Diocese of MO and other private or government agencies)
- Provide ongoing recognition of outreach funding done in the name of SPEC



2024 ST. PETER'S OUTREACH EFFORTS			
Payee	Description	Comment	Amount
Episcopal Diocese of Missouri	Woman's Guild Fund Raiser*	Mother's Day Flower Sale	\$3,000
Episcopal Diocese of Missouri	St. Peter's Church Country Garden Party	Designated to JustFood Truck	\$15,000
Faith Christian Church Of India	Easter Plate Offering	Outreach from SPEC and Woman's Guild donation	\$3,000
DFMS**-Protestant Episcopal Church US	Good Friday Plate Offering		\$729
Trinity Hot Lunch	SPEC sponsors 6 lunches/yr at Trinity CWE		\$1,660
TOTAL			\$23,389

*Woman's Guild donations come from the WG account, not the church operating account

** Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Figure 5. Funding and Celebration Function

We put an example together of what this could look like if we did this for 2024 (Figure 5) and the total expenditures was over \$23k, and that didn't include the St Peter's Guild estate sale that raised over \$9k this fall. For many parishioners these expenditures in the name of SPEC are invisible, resulting in concerns when looking at the annual budget that typically has relatively small amounts listed for outreach ministries.

We would propose that the 2024 total be included in the 2025 budget as our goal to beat for that year. The line item could be listed as "Designated Payments – Outreach Ministries". The Designated Payments budget line item is currently used for identifying gifts of money that go through the budget and then out to a recipient in the name of SPEC.

Furthermore, that we are proposing be ~\$5k be added in the Outreach Ministries line item for 2025 to cover expected expenses as we gear up marketing, branding and communication activities.

The vehicle for reporting these moneys leaving St. Peter's as donations is less critical than that they be routinely and repeatedly reported for the reasons stated above. Quantifying (annually and cumulatively) other in-kind gifts of shoes, coats, groceries and Giving Tree gifts (in terms of numbers not \$\$) is another link in the communications chain that we propose be considered in the marketing and communications plan. We want to reinforce the generosity of congregation in order that we can successfully grow it along with our outreach ministries efforts.

Outreach Committee: Next Steps

- Stand up OMG! on an 2-3 year interim basis

We believe that a function like OMG! supporting outreach ministries has not been considered at SPEC, at least in the past several decades. While we believe it could be helpful in sustainably managing and growing outreach ministries, it should only be considered as a permanent function if after a period of 2-3 years it is shown to be a useful organizational addition to our church that is supported by the congregation. Keeping it small and focused with lay and staff working together in communication and support by clergy and vestry should help it remain a nimble group that can develop processes that add efficiency and increases participation by members of the congregation. The volunteer lay participation will be critical to the success of OMG! and will play a role in whether or not it becomes a permanent function.

The expectation is that with OMG! in place the processes described above will be applied to existing outreach ministries in which we already participate (See Appendix I). With OMG! in place, we propose to sunset the current Outreach Committee and formally seek volunteers for lay participation and have staff, clergy and vestry participants named as well.

- Explore possible ministry partnerships with other churches

As we seek to expand outreach opportunities for our congregation, we searched other MODIO church websites to document the types of ministries they are focused on (Appendix II). To the extent we can find common interests and common desires to collaborate, we think this approach may serve as an effective platform to have discussions around potential partnerships in outreach ministry. In particular, we included all the churches in the Emory Washington Convocation as a potential starting point along with other parishes in the St Louis region.

In preparation for considering this type of partnership, we drafted a proforma outline of steps in a process for exploring, initiating and managing collaborative partnerships in

outreach ministries (Appendix 3). An exploratory meeting with a few interested parties has yielded significant interest from various churches in our community including All Saints and Ascension who the MO Diocese has been designated our Companion Community for 2025. Four churches participated (St. Michael and St. George, Ascension and All Saints and Trinity CWE, and Christ Church Cathedral) in addition to St. Peters. A second meeting will be scheduled for the first half of January and we will continue to explore opportunities for future collaborations.

- **God-Sized Dreams Exploration**

While we acknowledged a two-pronged mission for this committee, in the end we were primarily focused on near term goals of identifying the current outreach ministries supported by our church and improving the support structure and engagement of parishioners in opportunities to serve. While we had some discussions of what God-sized dreams might be possible, there were many opinions expressed that essentially prioritized improving our current ministries and increasing participation in them over the longer-term God-sized dream initiatives. Some felt that by improving existing ministries and support for them could promote their evolution into the transformational God-sized dreams we were asked to consider. In any event, that aspect of our two-pronged approach has not yielded measurable results at this point.

As OMG! comes into existence and the Outreach Committee sunsets, we would recommend that a smaller committee be formed of 5-6 people with the expressed interest and capacity to seriously explore projects that would be transformational, God-sized dreams. Some members of the existing committee may be interested in participating in this newly focused effort; however, the vestry and rector may also want to consider recruiting some or all additional members with experience initiating and executing larger scale projects as well as close connections with the business and non-profit communities in St. Louis.

Appendix 1. Organizations supported by St. Peter's Church and/or members of the congregation

Organization	Projects/Partnerships	Board Members	SPEC Champion(s)	Website
Trinity CWE	Food Pantry, Hot Lunch, Foot Clinic and Shoe Giveaway		Bill & Jim Gilbert	https://www.trinitycwe.org/
Diocese of MO-Jubilee Ministry	JustFood Truck		Jimmy Grimmit, Bill Gilbert, Chris Knight	https://www.diocesemo.org/justfood-truck/
St John's Tower Grove Park	Peace Meal		Bill & Jim Gilbert	https://www.towergrovechurch.org/peace-meal.html
The Haven of Grace	Home for Unwed Mothers	Jerry Willie; Sally L;	Jimmie Grimmet, Jerry Willie	https://havenofgracestl.org/
St Louis Urban League	Community Development & Svcs	Allan Ivey; +20others	Bill Gilbert	https://www.ulstl.com/#/
Beyond Housing	Community Development & Svcs	Clark Davis; Jimmy Johnson	Bill Gilbert	https://beyondhousing.org/
Episcopal City Mission	Juveniles in Detention	Josh Schafer	Jen Schafer	https://ecitymission.org/
Do Good STL	non profit just created to partner with other non-profits to rehabilitate and build housing within the St. Louis and Metro area. We will also consult with other non-profits to raise capital, marketing, advertising and promotion	Jimmie Grimmit	Jimmie Grimmit, John Schoenecker	
Oasis International	Refugee Support		Sabine McDowell & Giving Tree Recipient	https://www.oasis4refugees.org/
Diocese of MO: Grace Hill Task Force	Repurposing Grace Hill Buildings/Space		Val Patton; Clark Davis	https://www.diocesemo.org/blog/community-collaboration-is-key-for-the-future-of-grace-hill/
Mind the Gap	Direct supplies and food to homeless delivered every Thursday night		Volunteer- Sabine McDowell	https://mindthegapstl.org/
All Among Us	Wrap around service for homeless women		Volunteer- Sabine McDowell	https://allamong.us/about/
Giving is a Family Tradition (GIFT)	Families with newborns in prolonged hospitalization	David Hodges	Volunteer-Sandy Knight & SPEC Giving Tree recipient	https://www.givingisafamilytradition.org/
Habitat for Humanity	Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis provides an opportunity for families living in substandard rental housing with the opportunity to help build and then purchase a home they can afford to maintain.		Volunteer- Sabine McDowell	https://www.habitatstl.org/
International Institute	Afghan Refugee Assistance		Giving Tree Recipient	https://www.iistl.org/
Roosevelt High School Community Council	The council works to connect the school to the broader resources of the community with the purpose of building close relationships among students, staff and the community through supportive activities, mutual engagement and education.		Bill Gilbert	https://rooseveltcommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/

Organization	Projects/Partnerships	Board Members	SPEC Champion(s)	Website
Operation Food Search	The mission of Operation Food Search is to heal hunger with innovative and collaborative solutions that provide food today. . . and help create a hunger-free tomorrow.		Chris & Sandy Knight	https://www.operationfoodsearch.org/
St Louis Foodbank	St. Louis Area Foodbank is building a stronger bi-state region by nourishing people, empowering communities, and transforming systems.		Chris & Sandy Knight	https://stlfoodbank.org/
Outreach Haiti	Support for the operation and growth of the St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church & School, Petit Harpon, Haiti	Chris Knight	Chris Knight	https://gslookout.org/outreach/

Organization	Projects/Partnerships	Board Members	SPEC Champion(s)	Website
Stray Dog Theatre	committed to unleashing the art of theatre and community service on Saint Louis and the surrounding community		Bill Gilbert	https://www.straydogtheatre.org/
Boys and Girls Club of Greater St. Louis	BGCSTL provides after-school, teen, sports and summer programs to youth across the Bi-State Region while also providing a safe place for them to learn and grow		Bill Gilbert	https://www.bgcstl.org/about-us/
NCCI-STL	To create inclusive, representative communities through leadership and education.		Bill Gilbert	https://www.nccjstl.org/
Tower Grove East Neighborhood Charities	Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association's strength is due in part to broad resident involvement, which informs community engagement		Bill Gilbert	https://towergroveeast.org/who-we-are/
Five Star Center	By direct service and collaboration with other organizations in St. Louis City, we aim to provide the necessary supports and services to meet the evolving needs of aging citizens and adults with disabilities in our community.		Bill Gilbert	https://5starcc.org/about/
STL Venture Works	Economic development team which serves St. Louis City and County		Bill Gilbert	https://stlpartnership.com/
Horizon Housing	To assist in providing housing services to St. Louis City homeless individuals with developmental & mental disabilities.		Laura Gilbert	https://www.hhdc-stl.org/
St. Louis Equity Fund	Our mission is to effectively utilize corporate investment and available tax incentives to stimulate the development of affordable, low- and moderate-income housing units.		Laura Gilbert	https://www.slefi.com/
Move St Louis	(MOVE) is a community for Veterans and their families experiencing homelessness. The key to MOVE's success begins with Veterans living among their peers in a secure and sober environment with on-site services.	Jimmy Grimmit	Jimmy Grimmit	https://www.move-stl.org/

Appendix II. Outreach Ministries in MODIO Emory Washington Convocation Churches: (Taken from websites in 2023 or 2024 as noted)

- [Advent, Crestwood](#)

Advent's Community Outreach Meals began on Thanksgiving several years ago by members who saw the need to serve their neighbors who are living alone in their surrounding community. Advent members served more than 80 people at that first meal. The idea was so successful that the parish has continued inviting neighbors to potluck meals, pancake suppers, chili dinners and summer picnics. During the pandemic, Advent has moved to a drive-through meal service. Advent volunteers are cooking and packaging meals to go, allowing neighbors to take home a meal, a smile, and a prayer.

Some of the food for the Outreach Meals comes from a very successful community garden, which is run by Advent's Men's Group but also open to community members. That garden produced a whopping 20,000 pounds of fresh vegetables in 2020.

- [All Saints & Ascension, Northwoods / St. Louis](#)

Before the lockdown, All Saints and Ascension's food pantry served about 100 families each month. During the pandemic, the congregation built a little food pantry outside their building and keeps it stocked to continue serving their community.

As of July 2024, they are in the process of reimagining their food pantry with Health and Wellbeing including their new food pantry, a community garden, a speaker series and educational opportunities.

As of January 2025, All Saints and Ascension and St. Peter's have been paired as Companion Communities. Companion Communities is a pairing of communities of faith that make up the Diocese of Missouri for mutual support, discipleship, and collaboration in ministry. This offers us an opportunity to explore how we can partner in our communities, worship and outreach.

- [Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis](#)

Blessing Box:

The Blessing Box is a self-serve "Free Pantry" just outside of the Cathedral doors. Members keep the Blessing Box stocked, providing neighbors who are experiencing homelessness and those experiencing food insecurity with nourishing food and snacks in single-service packages, along with bottled water and items for personal hygiene and other basic personal needs.

LGBTQ+

At Christ Church Cathedral, when we say "be here, be you, be loved," we mean it. We strive to be a congregation that welcomes all, and we especially embrace our LGBTQ+ sisters, brothers, and siblings. The Cathedral is a place where everyone can bring their full selves to worship and be in fellowship.

Providing a safe place for people in LGBTQ+ communities has been a priority of CCC for decades, including when the Cathedral draped a banner from its building proudly proclaiming in the 1980s: "Our Church Has AIDS." Our Cathedral has kept up its ministry and outreach to all God's beloved people by becoming an Oasis congregation, regularly participating in Pride festivals, engaging in spiritual formation around LGBTQ+ issues, gathering socially in community, and in many other ways. If you identify as LGBTQ+, we hope you will join us in these ministries and in the life of the Cathedral. You are always welcome. Be here. Be you. Be loved.

Winter Outreach:

The Winter Outreach ministry at Christ Church Cathedral is part of the larger St. Louis Winter Outreach program staffing a larger shelter at St. Paul's UCC Church in South City on Wednesday nights. The shelter opens when temperatures drop below 20 degrees (or 25 with precipitation). Volunteers provide dinner, breakfast, and a safe, warm sleeping space for people who might otherwise spend the night in deadly cold. Volunteers serve in a number of roles including food preparers, greeters, overnight innkeepers, or clean-up/set up.

- [Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton](#)

2024: They have an excellent website setup for outreach ministries with details of what they are doing, who is doing it and video clips of those involved talking about it and how individuals can get involved.

Hunger Ministry: Donate food for Trinity Episcopal Food Ministry or Arthur Johnson Community Outreach.

- Volunteer making sandwiches and casseroles from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM in the Taylor Room on the third Saturday of the month. Preparation begins at 9:30 AM. Gloves will be provided. Trinity Episcopal Food Ministry and Gateway 180 are the recipients.
- Make a casserole at home for the Trinity Episcopal Food Ministry.
- Make a financial donation to Hunger Ministry which will be used for sandwich and casserole supplies. Trinity Episcopal Food Ministry, Arthur Johnson Community Outreach, Person to Person Street Ministry, Holy Cross Episcopal Church, and Sts. Peter & Paul Community Services will receive monetary help when donations allow.

Episcopal City Mission: Support birthday parties and are interested in expanding their activities there.

The Shelter Ministry: If you are unfamiliar with the Shelter Ministry, it gathers early on Sunday mornings to prepare and serve at The Gateway 180 Homeless Shelter at 1000 North 19th Street to cook and serve. We need approximately 10 to 15 people—but more is better! Sign up [here](#) to help, or contact Bill Wallace at williamhwallace@yahoo.com. Cooks, servers

and clean-up volunteers are all essential and everyone is kept busy. Casual clothes and a friendly atmosphere make this ideal for singles, couples, families and groups of friends. No experience is needed, just a willingness to help people in need.

Education Equity: With the church building closed to worship during the pandemic in 2020, some parishioners began to look outside the church for opportunities to live their faith. Education Equity was chosen and a ministry was formed. Because of a relationship with Sumner High School which began with the planting of a peace garden in November of 2019, the EEM asked to become a community partner to the school. In the fall of 2021, the ministry added a new partner—Columbia Elementary School on St. Louis Avenue near North Grand. The goal of the ministry has been to engage with these schools by being present and listening.

As needs are identified, the ministry:

Connects the school to community resources

Meets urgent needs of students and their families through donations

Advocates for changes in policy that result in education inequities

If you wish to be a part of the Education Equity Ministry, contact Mary Ann Cook, micoann@outlook.com You will be added to the EEM membership list and contacted whenever a need arises. You will also learn of the successes of our school partners and receive invitations to events held at the schools.

World Service Ministry: The World Service Mission Ministry to Nicaragua supports the Carolina de Sirker Christian School in the rural outskirts of Managua, as it has since 2000. For many years, the ministry raised money to support the school and traveled there every summer to work on the school, engage with students and enjoy the wonderful culture and people of Nicaragua. The pandemic has affected both the school and this ministry. At the school, enrollment has dropped, but classes and activities continue. At CSMSG, the ministry is on hold, with no mission trip or fundraiser currently scheduled due to the pandemic and political situation in Nicaragua. In the meantime, the ministry is providing financial support for the school with funds that were raised prior to the pandemic. It is our hope that with God's help, we will once again be able to travel to Nicaragua.

St. Michaels Homes: The St. Michael's Houses Ministry (St. Michael's Houses) helps build affordable housing for low-income families who wouldn't otherwise be able to own a home. The ministry provides financial support to and acts in partnership with a number of St. Louis area housing organizations. These organizations include Beyond Housing, Cornerstone, Doorways, Places For People, and Lydia's House. Learn more about St. Michael's Houses.

[Give Now.](#) Under "Giving" in "Realm" click on "Give" and select "St. Michael's Houses" from the dropdown menu. Or, if you prefer, contact Terry Arthur at 314.721.1502, ext. 4037 or tarthur@csmsg.org with details.

- [Emmanuel, Webster Groves](#)

Emmanuel's congregation has maintained a food center since 1973. The food center receives referrals from other churches, from Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, Webster University and others in our community. The center is open to walk-ins Monday through Friday. Donations come from parish members, who fill up wagons with non-perishable items each Sunday, and community members, like students at The College School, a private Pre-K through 8th grade school, which donates thousands of cans of food each year. In addition to the food center, Emmanuel donates non-perishable food and funds for food to various organizations such as Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, Isaiah 58 Ministries, COVID testing sites, and a children's camp in North St. Louis City.

A group of Emmanuel volunteers oversees the food ministry and other outreach efforts throughout the parish. The group, called Faith in Action, meets every other month to gather ideas and decide what outreach projects and ministries the parish will focus on. Along with the food ministry, Faith in Action helps direct other ministries, like the caring committee, social justice efforts, and adult mission trips.

- [Grace Church, Kirkwood](#)

Share Space: 12-step programs, And the Kirkwood parish shares its certified kitchen with caterers and food truck vendors, including [Skewered](#), Cinnacrush, [The Wandering Yeddi](#), and [Ding Dong Dish](#).

Grace has an active food ministry, with member donations helping to stock the shelves of several different food pantries in the area and providing a meal each month to those in need through the Hot Lunch program at Trinity Episcopal Church in St. Louis. Grace is a founding member of KirkCare, which provides food and financial assistance to families in the Kirkwood School District, and Grace members also serve at the Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood, which provides services to seniors in the area.

- [Holy Communion, University City](#)

Laundry Love: Holy Communion members help neighbors in need get their laundry done

Parish Food Garden: Members grow greens to distribute through the [Webster-Rock Hill Ministries](#) to help feed the hungry.

Grace Gathering: This new worship community is a space for individuals who are neurologically diverse.

- [St. Barnabas, Florissant](#)

The parish supports [TEAM](#) food pantry (the emergency assistance ministry) that serves the Florissant-Hazelwood area.

- [St. John's, Tower Grove / St. Louis](#)

Peace Meal serves anywhere from 40 to 65 guests each week, with a total of 2,585 guests served in 2021. Prior to the pandemic, meals were served cafeteria-style, inside St. John's parish hall. Now, volunteers hand out dinners in bags at the parish hall door. One guest said about the meal, "I love, love, love Peace Meal! I made great friends while having great meals. These people at St. John's are my best friends."

The meals are organized by volunteers at St. John's, but the ministry is a community project. Along with St. John's, 10 other congregations serve as cooks and hosts on a rotating basis. Most of the cooperating congregations are Episcopal, but the list also includes Roman Catholic, Mennonite, and Presbyterian groups. There is also an individual family and a Scout troop which each host one week a year, and many high school and confirmation students also help serve.

Food for the Peace Meal Project is purchased through grants and donated funds. St. John's also gets fresh vegetables during the summer from The Good Shepherd Farm at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Town & Country. And Panera Bread Company donates leftover bread from one of their stores each week.

- [St. Mark's, St. Louis](#)

Currently in search for new rector. Updated parish profile 2024.

They partner with Isaiah 58 ministries, which serves low-income city residents through a food pantry, clothing closet, and utility assistance.

They also support Doorways Interfaith Housing in its efforts to improve the quality of life of area residents who are HIV positive or have AIDS.

They host birthday parties for incarcerated youth through Episcopal City Mission, hoping to show them through a meal, presents, and games that they are worthy of God's love.

They celebrate holidays with the residents of Kasey Page Assisted Living.

They provide food and Christmas gifts for area families who struggle through Feed My People.

We join with our sisters and brothers at St. John's Episcopal Church to make sandwiches for their Peace Meal

- [St. Paul's, Carondelet / St. Louis](#)

The parish may be best known for their community outreach, serving 25-30 "to-go" meals every Thursday to their neighbors, stocking free food and library pantries, extending free wi-fi coverage the street, and maintaining a bus stop bench in front of the church.

The congregation also has a strong appreciation for the arts. The parish hosts musical concerts and exhibitions for local artists. St. Paul's proudly displays colorful icons created by church member and artist Evan T. Smith as a focal point of their worship space.

- [St. Peter's, Ladue](#): NA

- [St. Stephen's, Ferguson](#)

St. Stephen's Food Pantry: Accepting donations of non-perishable foods along with fresh fruits and vegetables from throughout the community and distributing bags to 50-60 families each week.

Clay Cafe: St. Stephen's collaborates with other local faith organizations and businesses to provide a meal to neighbors in need on the third Sunday of each month.

Ferguson Winter Farmers' Market: Offering local farmers a place to sell their fresh produce and other goods.

- [St. Thomas, Crestwood](#)

Deaf ministry

- [Trinity, Central West End / St. Louis](#)

Trinity runs a food pantry that is open two afternoons each week and serves a free hot lunch to neighbors every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon, and with volunteers from around the Diocese and the community helping Trinitarians cook and serve meals. The congregation has also teamed up with "The T," a community-based service promoting holistic healing from trauma related to bullet injuries and overdose in St. Louis. The T's mobile harm reduction van and team of trained workers have hours in Trinity's parking lot each week to treat injuries, provide education, and build relationships with the people in their community.

Appendix III. Proforma outline of a process we could follow to engage in partnerships with other churches and not-for-profit organizations.

Developing a standard process for building partnerships with other churches in our diocese can help ensure success and sustainability. Here's a stepwise approach that could serve as a potential guide:

Step 1: Define Objectives

- **Identify Goals:** Clearly outline the specific goals for the partnership (e.g., local food ministries, community development, educational resources, mentoring).
- **Establish Shared Values:** Identify core values that align between congregations to foster a common vision.

Step 2: Research Potential Partners

- **Identify Churches:** Create a list of churches in your diocese that share similar missions or values.
- **Assess Strengths and Resources:** Evaluate the strengths and resources of each church that could complement your goals.

Step 3: Initial Outreach

- **Contact Key Leaders:** Reach out to the pastors or leaders of the identified churches to gauge interest in partnership.
- **Set Up Informal Meetings:** Arrange casual gatherings to discuss potential collaboration and build rapport.

Step 4: Formulate a Partnership Proposal

- **Outline Benefits:** Create a proposal that outlines the benefits for both congregations and the community.
- **Develop a Vision Statement:** Collaborate on a shared vision statement that encapsulates the partnership's goals.

Step 5: Gain Buy-In from Congregations

- **Host Joint Meetings:** Organize meetings with both congregations to present the proposal and encourage open dialogue.
- **Address Concerns:** Listen to feedback and address any concerns or hesitations about the partnership.

Step 6: Formalize the Partnership

- **Create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** Draft an MOU that outlines the responsibilities, expectations, and contributions of each church.
- **Set Clear Goals and Metrics:** Establish specific, measurable goals and success metrics to track progress.

Step 7: Develop an Action Plan

- **Create Task Forces:** Form committees with members from both churches to handle various aspects of the partnership (e.g., food ministries, mentoring).
- **Outline Timelines:** Develop a timeline for initiatives, ensuring alignment on schedules and resources.

Step 8: Launch Initiatives

- **Kickoff Event:** Host a joint event to launch the partnership and engage both congregations and the community.
- **Promote Collaboration:** Encourage active participation from members of both churches through service opportunities.

Step 9: Maintain Ongoing Communication

- **Regular Check-Ins:** Schedule regular meetings to discuss progress, challenges, and celebrate successes.
- **Share Updates:** Use newsletters or social media to keep both congregations informed and engaged.

Step 10: Evaluate and Adapt

- **Review Progress:** Periodically assess the partnership's impact against established metrics.
- **Gather Feedback:** Solicit feedback from congregation members and adjust initiatives as necessary.
- **Celebrate Successes:** Recognize and celebrate milestones to maintain enthusiasm and commitment.

Step 11: Sustain the Partnership

- **Build Relationships:** Encourage social interactions and community-building events to strengthen relationships between congregations.
- **Explore New Opportunities:** Continuously look for additional areas for collaboration and growth.

By following these steps, you can create a structured and thoughtful approach to building partnerships that foster community impact and ensure lasting engagement from both congregations.