

**Recommendations from Mission Renewal Team
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Mission Renewal 2013

The objective of Mission Renewal 2013 is to make tangible recommendations that Mt. Carmel can implement in the next 1-2 years.

The team was guided by the church's mission to Live, Learn and Share God's Word. Based on the team's work since April, we recommend the following:

1. Increase communications of Rally Day and in future years add Car(a)mel Fest to encourage attendance among the community,
2. Separate time and talent from financial stewardship
3. Encourage and initiate shared ministry with other area churches for greater positive impact on both outreach and inreach efforts.
4. Increase the church's outreach efforts by supporting The Waite Park School/Sheridan Story Partnership and explore other opportunities.
5. Improve communication of church events - both internal and external - by developing a shareable calendar of activities, improving the website and better leveraging social media
6. Review all ongoing activities to ensure all are impactful and support Mt. Carmel's Mission.

Details for each recommendation follow below.

1. Increase communications of Rally Day and in future years add Car(a)mel Fest to encourage attendance among the community,

I. The Mission Renewal Team recommends putting focused energy and resources into our annual Rally Day Celebration in the fall, and publicizing the event to the larger NE community.

Rationale: This is an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful activities happening at Mt. Carmel and to invite neighbors to explore what we have to offer them.

Possible steps:

A. gather an intergenerational team of energetic, creative members during the summer to plan special events for the service and fellowship on Rally Day

B. promote the Rally Day in the community (door hangers, social media, sandwich boards, newspaper ads for example)

C. invite Mt. Carmel members to assist the core planning team so that as many members as possible are involved with the day (hanging posters to advertise,

shopping for food, set up/ clean up, organizing games, baking “sweet treats” for new visitors, etc.)

D. Have available for newcomers and visitors an activities directory which includes descriptions of the church’s activities, committees and contact information for how to get involved

To increase attendance from the community, we recommend developing a plan to add Car(a)mel Fest to Rally Sunday. While details will not be finalized until 2014, the event will include a Bake/Cook Off for the best recipe made from, you guessed it, caramel.

2. Separate time and talent from financial stewardship

The Mission Renewal Team recommends separating the emphasis on time and talent from the emphasis on financial stewardship. Specifically, the recommendation is to do time and talent programming in the early weeks of the fall followed by a TIME AND TALENT SUNDAY. A Time and Talent Commitment Form would be distributed to the congregation listing all of the Service/Participation opportunities for the members to review and respond to on the special Sunday. Two options would be available for each opportunity, currently involved and interested in becoming involved. This would provide an updated inventory of those now serving and an indication of potential participation by new members.

The rationale for this recommendation is that stewardship to many members only means financial support and pledging of financial resources for the coming church year. The emphasis on time and talent would focus on a broader view of stewardship and the essence of what it means to be a practicing Christian by what we do. It would help prepare us for the financial stewardship presentations to follow.

The next paragraphs assume that we have made the decision to accept this recommendation.

Rally day is past and we are back in our full schedule of church activities. Among the things we particularly focus on each fall is the opportunity to rethink and renew our commitment to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

Our attention for the next couple of weeks is directed at using the special gifts that God has given to us in the form of time to accomplish positive, meaningful, and productive tasks and in the form of unique abilities or talent that might be used to benefit others. We are expected, but not forced to use these gifts to do something for other people and help fulfill God’s mission.

All of us daily have the opportunity to exercise the stewardship of time and talent by making wise choices of how we utilize the 24 hours available to us and developing our full potential as human beings. As Christians, we recognize that it is important to put God at the center of our lives and let His will guide our thoughts as well as our actions. If we do this, it will be easier to make the most productive use of our time and give of it generously to God and others. It will also help us to do the best in everything we do, whether in our job, as a member of our family, in volunteer work, or other constructive activity.

All congregations need active stewards that are people who give of themselves to serve other members of the congregational family as well as the community and neighborhood. Mt. Carmel has a solid nucleus of faithful stewards that are using their time and talent in God's service. But we do have many more untapped personnel resources in our membership that could be employed to help fulfill God's mission by helping other people, spreading the Gospel of Christ, and building a better world of love, peace, and justice.

3. Encourage and initiate shared ministry with other area churches for greater positive impact on both outreach and inreach efforts.

Rationale: The Mission Renewal Team recognizes that many area churches face common barriers; most notably, limitations of time and funding. By pooling resources, individual churches can provide greater opportunity for member participation, education, fellowship, community outreach and visibility

Current examples:

- *Confirmation partnership with NE Community Lutheran Church and St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
- *Participation in the Children's Musical at Gustavus Alolphus Lutheran Church
- *Summer Youth Events and Mission Trips with St. Timothy's Lutheran Church and Nativity Lutheran Church
- *Partnership in Mission NE and participation in NE parade

Shared resources in above examples: teaching talent, musical talent, time, funding (including, busing/transportation costs), connections, creative energy, enthusiasm

Possible steps and potential areas for further collaboration:

- ☐ continue to support successful partnerships listed above, considering input from those involved
- ☐ Senior group outings
- ☐ Young Family outings
- ☐ Music groups

- ☒ Intergenerational outreach projects (i.e. Habitat for Humanity, Food Shelves, Feed My Starving Children)
- ☒ Administrative and/or custodial needs

4. Increase the church's outreach efforts by supporting The Waite Park School/Sheridan Story Partnership, Habitat for Humanity and Northeast Seniors

The Mission Renewal team recognizes the need and desire for the congregation of Mt Carmel to reach out into our community in more robust and meaningful ways. Here are three suggestions from the team, that would directly impact Northeast Minneapolis, and that cut across generations. The Mission Team also encourages the Social Ministry team to continue their wonderful work in the community, and to keep encouraging the congregation to participate!

Waite Park School/Sheridan Story Partnership:

Working with the non-profit organization The Sheridan Story, Mt Carmel will be helping to provide food to Waite Park School children who are currently suffering from food insecurity on the weekends. Mt Carmel's role in this partnership will be financial, as well as providing volunteers on a weekly basis at the school for food distribution. Specific details are as follows:

- Mt. Carmel will begin to sponsor the Kindergarten classes in January 2014, serving around 50 children on a weekly basis.
- We will require 3-4 volunteers every Friday to distribute food to the students. Amy Riesenberg has volunteered to be the liaison between the school, the church and The Sheridan Story, and will be rounding up volunteers.
- We are financially responsible for raising the funds to help purchase food, generously subsidized by funding from the Sheridan Story organization.
- We can participate periodically in "pack nights", where a group of volunteers can go to pack the food into units for transport.

Other options to consider supporting:

Habitat for Humanity Project:

The Mission Renewal team contacted the local Habitat for Humanity organization, and received the following options for projects that members of Mt. Carmel could be involved in:

- **Construction Workcamps:**
 - Build season: May-September
 - Work days: Monday-Friday
 - Time frame: 8:30am-4:00pm

Required number of volunteers: 15-18/day
Age requirement: 16 years of age or older
Sponsorship: \$6000/week to assist with costs of construction and site supervision

- **Construction One-Days:**
Build season: October-May, *some opportunities may become available during the summer
Work days: Tuesday-Saturday
Time frame: 8:30am-4:00pm
Required number of volunteers: 10-13/day – winter, 15-18/day – summer
Age requirement: 16 years of age or older
Sponsorship: \$500-\$1000/day suggested, but not required for one day. Groups requesting multiple Saturdays are requested to provide a sponsorship.
- **A Brush with Kindness (ABWK)**
Build season: April-September
Work days: Tuesday-Saturday
Time frame: 8:30am-4:00pm
Required number of volunteers: 10-15/day
Age requirement: 16 years of age or older
Project duration: 3-5 days, but one days are available
Sponsorship: \$3000/project; \$500-\$1000/day suggested but not required
- **Landscaping**
Build season:
May/June & August/September
Work days: Selected Saturdays
Time frame: 8:30am-4:00pm
Required number of volunteers: 2-10 individuals *dependent on site
Age requirement: 14 years of age or older (one adult chaperone per four youth)
Sponsorship: none required
- **ReStore:** retail outlet in New Brighton where quality new and like-new building materials are sold at discounted prices.
Season: Year Round
Work days: Monday-Saturday
Time Frame: weekdays 9am-6pm, Saturdays 9am-3pm (3 hour minimum shift)
Required number of volunteers: none, maximum of 10

Age requirement: 14 years of age or older (one adult chaperone per four youth)
Sponsorship: none required

Northeast Seniors:

The Mission Renewal team contacted the NE Seniors organization. NE Seniors serves about 450 seniors each year, about 100 in our rides program, 30 in the foot clinics, 12 in exercise class, 20 in legal clinics, 25 on housing tours, and 250 with information and referral/connections to needed services.

They made the following suggestions on how Mt. Carmel's members could get involved:

- Transportation for seniors
- Start a "friendly visitor" program, connecting volunteers to seniors either in - person or by phone once per week, with possibly a quarterly gathering for all volunteers and seniors.
- Start a greeting card program -where a volunteer or two would mail birthday, get well, thinking of you, congratulations on your new home, etc., as appropriate, on a weekly basis. Cards are being donated to the organization; they just need the volunteers to keep them going out the door.
- "Seniors time" at Audubon park on Thursday morning from 10-11:30 during the summer. The room inside will be open for coffee and checkers and conversation; outside horseshoes will be available (and maybe pickle ball), and they hope to have a short walk each week to a location in the neighborhood. They are looking for volunteers to greet seniors, to keep the conversations going, and to plan/lead the short walks.

5. Improve communication of church events - both internal and external - by developing a shareable calendar of activities, launching a Facebook page and Twitter account.

Develop a shareable calendar of events so busy families can quickly and easily manage church activities along with family time and work obligations.

Review website to identify needed improvements.

Better leverage Facebook to facilitate communication between Mt. Carmel and members as well as among members.

Launch a Twitter account to better connect with the community. @MtCarmelMpls has been reserved.

6. Review all ongoing activities to ensure all are impactful and support Mt. Carmel's Mission.

Since members are already stretched in terms of financial and time commitments to the church, we recommend that all activities be reviewed to ensure they are impactful and support Mt. Carmel's mission – especially in light of the new recommended activities.