

MISSION & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN ASSOCIATION 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee members are: Chuck Adams (Ebenezer Stone Church, Gerald); Joan Allenbach, (Grace UCC, O'Fallon); Rev. Kemery Baldwin (St. John UCC, St. Charles); Rev. Craig Blaufuss (Zion UCC, Troy); Nancy Croson (St. Peter's UCC, Washington); Mary Anne Kemper (Zion UCC, Troy); Rev. Armin Klemme (Zion UCC, Union); Rev. Bruce Moeller (Femme Osage UCC, Augusta)

Our committee worked from the Fall of 2008 until we adjourned for the Summer in May 2009 to prepare, implement, and evaluate the programming for the 2009 Spring Association meeting held at Zion UCC, Union on April 26th. The theme of the program was "Facilitators of Hope: equipping faith communities to work for economic justice". The core of the program was centered around two consecutive breakout sessions lasting 50 minutes each. Each of the 130+ participants who gathered that afternoon had the choice of attending two of the following four presentations:

- a Food Pantry Roundtable, featuring speakers Rev. Armin Klemme (Zion UCC, Union), Judy Schneider (St. Peter's UCC, Washington), and Cheryl Barta (Hope Food Pantry, O'Fallon) discussed topics relevant to the operation of a food pantry, such as site location, staffing, food acquisition and distribution, clientele, and record-keeping.
- Rev. John Hogue, Pastor of Faith UCC, Wentzville, and Mandy Doumit, R.N., presented on the RAPHA clinic, a medical clinic for transients and the working poor which operates out of Faith UCC.
- Dorothy "Dottie" Kastigar, Community Development Coordinator of the Community Council of St. Charles County, presented on the topic "Support to People Experiencing Homelessness", and distributed homeless resources to those who attended her presentation.
- JoAnn Toerper, Program Administrator for the Missouri Career Center in Warrenton, presented on workforce retraining programs and resources available in Lincoln, Warren, and Montgomery Counties, and distributed workforce development resources to those in attendance.

An offering of \$659 was taken up during opening devotionals to benefit the RAPHA Clinic. Session participants were also given packets with extensive resource materials for Lincoln, Warren, Franklin, Gasconade, and St. Charles Counties, in addition to the materials available at each breakout session. The afternoon finished with a catered dinner, and time for informal discussion and fellowship.

The next meeting of the Mission and Social Concerns committee will be held Tuesday, October 6, 1:30 pm at Femme Osage UCC. The committee would like to express our deep thanks to these committee members who have completed their terms of service: Nancy Croson, Chuck Adams, and Rev. Armin Klemme. Their hard work and dedication, coupled with their spirit of collegiality, has been a great blessing to this committee and to the Eastern Association.

Submitted by Rev. Craig Blaufuss, Chair