

TO: SMLC Council

FROM: James Gavin, 2023 Service (Benevolence) Chair

DATE: November 19, 2023

Reflections on 2023

The main duties for the Service (Benevolence) Chair are:

- To collect input from the congregation to guide council on how to use foundation funds,
- To use congregation input to prepare a monthly benevolence list,
- To inform the congregation of benevolence opportunities,
- To coordinate activities with other chairs.

A tally sheet was distributed during the January 2023 Congregational meeting. The top 3 were recommended to council for the distribution of \$19,000 in funds. The top 12 were spread through the year with emphasis on timing for maximizing interest, e.g. school scholarships in September when back to school activities are prominent. A tally sheet is being prepared for the January 2024 congregational meeting. Input from the congregation will be gathered from the congregation on new organizations to add. Pastor Ellen has recommended dropping the River City Youth due to poor management of funds.

Each month an article is prepared for inclusion into the Weekly Share and the Church Bulletin describing the organization and their activities. The organization is contacted to see if someone from the organization is interested in addressing the congregation during a Sunday service to generate interest. If no one is interested, I would personally address the congregation at a service when possible.

At Community Sunday, worked with groups that organize volunteer efforts to set up tables to communicate with the congregation. The Weekly Share now lists opportunities for congregants on volunteer activities.

Attended the monthly chair meeting when possible to coordinate activities. Carey Henderson and Penny Davis were very helpful in that they would attend meetings in my absence.

This is my second year as chair which ends my commitment. Either Carey or Penny could make recommendations on who would make a good service chairperson.