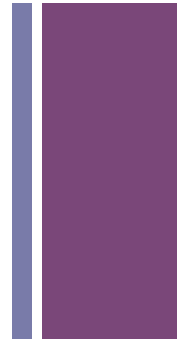


# Faith in Action

The Outreach Development Initiative

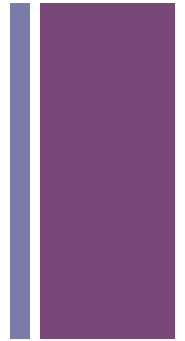
# + Reasons for Change



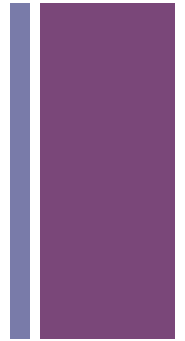
- M&S Committee identified the need for not only our members to have a better understanding of mission projects being undertaken by other groups or committees in the congregation, but for the congregation as a whole to have a more complete grasp of everything being done from an outreach perspective.
- A need to eliminate duplication and better support the projects and programs of other groups and committees
- More projects and ideas than current people-power allows for
- Current structure does not encourage widespread congregational involvement
- People are more willing to join teams with shorter time frames and less commitment
- We can reach more people both inside and outside W-K with a nimbler approach
- More possibilities and ideas will come forward simply due to having a larger number of people encouraged to become involved.
- Greater participation allows for an easier succession strategy

# + Ideas

- Existing M&S Committee evolves into a group which assists with coordinating all outreach activities and is the direct link to Council and Official Board
- Rename the M&S Committee to better reflect this change in approach - FAITH IN ACTION (FIA)
- Existing outreach activities which do not fall under any current committee could come under the FIA umbrella.
- Create teams by major outreach category – each team with representation on Faith in Action.



# + Proposed Structure



# + Teams and Responsibilities

*Faith in Action is meant to improve communication, assist groups and committees and open up outreach to anyone in the congregation interested in getting involved.*

## Global Action

- **Support International & National Outreach Projects**
- **Existing:**
  - South Sudan High School Scholarships for girls
  - CASS
  - South Sudan Mission trips
- **Future Ideas:**
  - Other missions e.g. Haiti, etc.
  - UCW National Project – Bread Not Stones

## Hospitality

- **Provide hunger relief, emergency clothing & a W-K “hug” to the community**
- **Existing:**
  - Out of the Cold
  - Community Breakfast
  - Salvation Army Christmas Kettle
  - Socks & Mittens Tree
  - Christmas Hampers
  - Student Care packages
  - Limberlost Support Project
- **Future Ideas**
  - Clothes Closet
  - Out of the Heat

## Social Justice

- **Act as faith advocates for the poor, disenfranchised and those in search of justice**
- **Future Ideas**
  - Aboriginal rights and issues
  - Israeli-Palestine Relations
  - Syrian refugees



# Teams and Responsibilities

## Economic Sustainability

- **Support individuals in achieving longer term financial & food security & independence**
- **Existing:**
  - Food bank drives
- **Future Ideas:**
  - Affordable Housing Initiatives
  - Senior Assistance
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - Food vouchers
  - Veteran Assistance
  - Work with micro-loan lenders

## Environment Stewardship

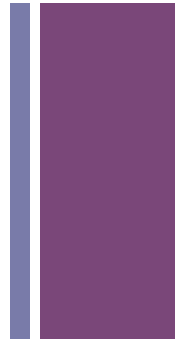
- **Focus on environment sustainability in our homes, church and community**
- **Existing:**
  - Electronics Recycling
  - Tree Planting
  - Environment Sunday church service
- **Future Ideas:**
  - Church vegetable garden
  - Solar Panels
  - Climate Change

## Education & Mentoring

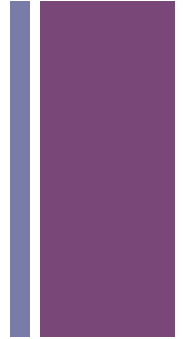
- **Support children, youth and newcomers in all areas of education**
- **Future Ideas:**
  - ESL tutoring
  - Music
  - Literacy and math skills
  - Support and supplement Youth Quest as needed
  - Fitness programs for long-term health for seniors

# + Responsibility and Make-up of Faith in Action

- Chair of Faith in Action will serve on Council
- Secretary of Faith in Action will help in coordinating the communication between teams and ensure minutes are taken for the Faith in Action group
- The Chair and Secretary will not necessarily be in charge of any team. Meetings would be on a monthly basis.
- A representative of each team would serve on Faith in Action and would have direct responsibility for their team. In the case of Hospitality, more than one representative may be appropriate given the number of projects associated with this team.



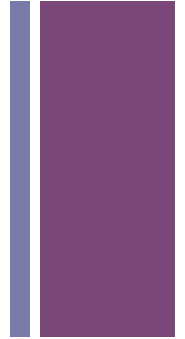
# + Responsibility and Make-up of Faith in Action



- Consideration of having a ministry staff representative serve on FIA
- One member of Faith in Action will be the United Church of Canada Mission and Service “Enthusiast”. This person will coordinate Minutes for Mission, advise Faith in Action of UCC programs, initiatives, etc. The Enthusiast will also report on congregation givings to the M&S Fund.
- Teams will meet on an as needed basis as determined by the projects and programs
- Faith in Action Sunday will be taken by one of the other teams (excl. Environment Stewardship as this is done each April)



# + Next Steps



- Present proposed Outreach Development Initiative to Council for input. If approved take forward to Official Board.
- Understanding that this will be a gradual evolution away from the current structure, approach individuals involved in the many outreach programs to serve on Faith in Action.
- Develop a communication strategy for roll-out to congregation, taking a page out of the Stewardship Committee's effective approach over the past couple of years.
- Ideally, have the first teams organized with initial presentations for the September welcome back Sunday in the Social Hall