Scranton Area Ministerium Minutes 14 November 2018

St. Peter Rectory 305 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton

**Present:**

Sahar Almasri Islamic Center Rev. Rebecca Barnes St. Luke Episcopal

Atty. Shannon Brown Homeless Coalition Lillian Burnett AmerihealthCaritas

Bev deBarros Exodus Ministries Charlotte Ledbetter Community Activist

Darlene Leonard Salvation Apostolic Temple Benan Mozayen Islamic Center

Rev. Jack Munley Hospice Chaplain Sr. Terry O’Rourke IHM Friends of the Poor

Anthony Pauline Tiffany Pauline

Rev. Jim Redington SJ U of Scranton Msgr. Dale Rupert St. Peter Cathedral

Rabbi Daniel Swartz Temple Hesed Rev. JoAnn Usry Love Fellowship Ministries

Vera Walline Baha’i Community Katy Windels Diocese of Scranton

Phil Yevics PA Prison Society

Ministerium President Rev. Jack Munley called the meeting to order at 9:09,welcoming all present. After Vera Walline offered the opening prayer, Rev. Munley invited all present to Introduce themselves.

**Minutes from the October meeting** were distributed by email the night before and were available in printed copies for review. Sr. Terry made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Charlotte Ledbetter seconded, all approved.

**Financial Report** Fr. Redington reported that there had been no activity, although he had received two checks which have not yet been deposited. Msgr. Rupert made a motion to accept the Financial Report, Rabbi Swartz seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

1] Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – Rabbi Swartz

* The evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 6 PM.
* The Service will begin at 7 PM. If anyone would still like to volunteer to do a reading or hymn, please contact Rabbi Swartz by this evening.
* A video of the service will be created to be included on our website in the future.

2] AmeriHealth Caritas – Lillian Burnett

* Lillian is a Community Health Navigator for NEPA.
* AmeriHealth Caritas includes concern for the poor in their mission.
* They provide Health Education Programs, Mostly for children.
* They are willing to help sponsor events, all that is needed is a solicitation letter.
* AmeriHealth Caritas employees will also volunteer at events.

3] Grant from Moses Taylor Foundation – Phil Yevics

Just announced last Tuesday November 13 2018,

**Diocese of Scranton/Scranton Area Ministerium**

Awarded $1,490 to offer a senior isolation workshop to community faith leaders.

Details will be discussed at future meetings.

4] Prison Ministry

A] Bookmobile – Bev deBarros reported that 555 inmates were served inOctober, up from 325 in September. There is still a need for more volunteers.

B] Cypress House – Mother Barnes reported that a board had been recruited and officers chosen and several grant applications prepared. They will next meet in early December.

C] Bev shared a concern that the women in her Bible study reported that the CO in Foxrtot would not allow Bibles to be brought to the Chapel, while women in Bravo were being mocked for their interest in religious services.

5] Greater Scranton Homeless Coalition – Atty. Brown reported on a meeting held November 1 at the Keystone Mission. Other activities of the Coalition are covered in his December Report to AEM which is appended below. SAM members are encouraged to sign up for these updates at [greaterscrantonhomeless@gmail.com](mailto:greaterscrantonhomeless@gmail.com)

6] MLK Commission - MLK Holiday is Monday January 21, 2019 A site has not yet been determined for the Interfaith service that evening.

7] Member updates

* Rabbi Daniel and Rabbi Marjorie attended the Parliament of World Religions in Toronto.
* Friends of the Poor will have their Thanksgiving Dinner on Tuesday November 20 and the food giveaway with Family to Family on Wednesday November 21.
* Mother Barnes hopes to sponsor ongoing conversations on “Hot topics”.

Future Meetings

Wednesday **December 12** 9 -10:30 AM

**University of Scranton** Montrone Hall [900 block of Mulberry]

- Msgr. Rupert offered a Tour of Renovations at St. Peter’s.

Abington Ecumenical Ministerium Report

Greater Scranton Homeless Coalition

December 2018

Next GSHC Meeting

January 8, 2018, at 6:30PM at the Nazareth Student Center on the Marywood Campus

Major Activities Summary

The Greater Scranton Homeless Coalition (GSHC) activity from November 11, 2018, to December 12, 2018 includes:

* }  November 19, 2018—Meeting with NEPA Youth Shelter, serving approximately 42 per day
* }  November 20,2018—Attended Pennsylvania 5-Year Plan Housing Update (including homelessness, little funding for emergency shelters under current program plan)
* }  November 27, 2018—Meeting at St. John Byzantine Church in Scranton. 20 people attended.

o Small group Short Term discussed companion animal pilot program at St. Anthony’s Emergency Shelter and Overflow Shelter presented a 2017 emergency shelter application

o Small Group Youth discussed ongoing support for the NEPA Youth Shelter

o Small Group Strategic discussed feasible employment options, employee wages, expungements, and advocacy for poverty and homelessness

o MINUTESAT https://sites.google.com/view/greaterscrantonhomeless/2018-11- 27minutes

} November 29, 2018—Blight to Bright Meeting, county assessment of blighted properties in Lackawanna County

o REPORT AT http://files.constantcontact.com/5b63e5fa201/5a54fc1d-b500- 4d06-a88a-9be29e9fcfec.pdf

} December 6, 2018—met with group providing dental packs in the area, additional are available if needed

Requests/Needs

* }  Congregations to assist with hoarding issues, life-skill instruction, apartment clean-out, and light housekeeping--ongoing
* }  Funds for auxiliary overnight shelter

Contact

greaterscrantonhomeless@gmail.com