

Hunger Task Force 2021 Synod Assembly Report

Members of the SEMI Synod Hunger Task Force include: Co-Chair Rev. Sara Freudenburg, Co-Chair Rev. Anna Taylor-McCants, Dea. Denise Benjamin, Rev. Diane Greble, Rev. Ken Greble, Rev. Ms. Doris Haskins, Rev. Vicky Lovell, LLM Christine Ritter and LLM Robin McCants of Synod Staff.

The Hunger Task Force was reforming just as the pandemic surfaced in 2020. However, the team has remained faithful and continues to set goals and make plans to be a useful entity to the hunger ministries of our synod. God blessed our team with our 2020 Co-Chairs Deacon Denise Benjamin and Rev. Ken Greble. We are again blessed with two new co-chairs for 2021.

We are in the midst of surveying our congregations to create a database of SEMI Synod hunger ministries. This database will help our team relay opportunities such as the Hunger Leaders Gathering and various grant opportunities to leaders in our congregations. We also want to connect leaders to one another to share resources, best practices, etc.

Members of this task force serve as grant reviewers for local applicants of the ELCA's Domestic Hunger Grant process. The past three-year awardees are: *Christ The Redeemer Lutheran Church Adrian, Michigan (2018) Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES) Detroit, Michigan (2019) Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church, Detroit, Michigan (2020)*.

In June 2021, we anticipate another round of Daily Bread grants to become available to support the small-project hunger initiatives of our congregations. More on those grants are available at https://support.elca.org/site/TR?fr_id=1391&pg=entry.

In December of 2020 our synod began the exploration phase of a new synodical authorized worshipping community (SAWC) which has come to be known as FedUp Ministries. FedUp serves good, healthy, food truck style food with dignity to communities who have been economically oppressed and exploited in Southeast Michigan.

Several members attended this year's Virtual Hunger Leaders Gathering January 20-23, 2021. Invitations to the leadership gathering are made by the synod. This event occurs roughly every 18 months. An invitation to hunger leaders will be extended as soon as details become available.

Our 2021-2022 Goals include:

- Contact each hunger ministry in the synod to build relationships with them
- Create and schedule a grant writing workshop
- Plan a hunger event for members of our synod
- Create Hunger Education for the synod.

Respectfully Submitted

Robin McCants

Assistant to the Bishop for Advocacy & Urban Ministry