

Board of Stewards Report 2020-2021

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

This season has brought much pain, sorrow, anxiety, and isolation for some, but it has also provided rest, reflection, and opportunities for deeper creative ways to engage the presence of the Lord, and in spite of social distancing, to connect with each other, virtually and otherwise.

As Stewards we consider it a privilege to offer our time and spiritual gifts in acts of service and administration, and to cooperate with the pastor to promote the cause of Christian stewardship. A more formalized approach to connecting with congregants in the first half of the pandemic has evolved organically as new friendships and relationships have developed among members.

Stewards provide oversight and support at various levels in our church community, including:

Prayer:

We are grateful to Sister Sharon Davis for ably leading our monthly virtual third Saturday prayer and fasting. Her passion for intergenerational ministry is demonstrated in the rich spiritual offerings each month. The active participation of Latino ministry during these prayer times is one area of growth in our effort to become one community.

Coordination of the weekly Friday intercessory prayer continues.

Compassionate Ministry:

We facilitated assistance and practical support to members of our church and wider community as needs arose, in addition to supporting services provided by the Bronx Bethany Community Corporation (BBCC) and Nazarene Missions International (NMI).

Membership Assimilation:

Despite challenges, the GROW team under the leadership of Sisters Francine Palmer-Mullings and Shyrill Powell continues to coordinate the membership assimilation process through Fresh Start, Bridge, and Spirit Filled classes. New Members were received into Fellowship in August and Stewards assisted in preparation of three candidates for baptism.

A new team was established to coordinate and maintain the database of our church community.

Youth Ministry:

Virtual youth engagement on Fridays was challenged with low participation. Thanks to Sister Xucia Carr and other volunteers who stood in the gap to maintain personal connections with our teens. We look forward to renewed efforts to reconnect and resource our youth in the upcoming months.

Care for Sick & Shut:

Thanks to the group of committed members who serve our sick and shut-ins as we continue to explore ways to increase wider congregational participation.

Pastoral Support:

We continue to pray for and support our pastoral staff and their families; significant anniversaries and birthdays were recognized, and Pastors given an appreciation gift in October.

Bereavement Acknowledgement and Support:

In the midst of life there is death, and members were supported as they mourn the loss of immediate family members. Thanks for the faithful assistance of the pastoral and church staff including Sisters Pansy Thomas, Everitt Palmer and Coleen Mendes.

Acknowledgements:

We sincerely thank you, our Pastors, staff, and everyone who serve and assist in the various ministries. We are committed to the tasks ahead as we continue to seek God's guidance.

Bishop Desmond Tutu said, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness," thanks for allowing us to serve in this capacity, "let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works". Hebrews 10:24 (NLT)

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Clarke, Chairperson

Richard Ashmeade

Sharon Davis

Loisen Harris-Jacobs

Sandra Morris

Francine Palmer-Mullings