

March 1, 2018

To: Presbytery of San Francisco  
Mission and Vision Leadership

From: Trinity Presbyterian Church's Session and Community Outreach Ministry Team

Subject: \$5,000 Regional Mission Partnership Gift

Thank you very much for your generous regional mission partnership gift of \$5,000 as a means of equipping our congregation to more effectively engage in the challenges affecting our community. At Trinity we are very focused on both global and community needs and as such have formed ongoing relationships with many ministries over the years. Our Community Outreach Ministry Team (COMT) and our Global Outreach Ministry Team (GOMT) work to have their pulse on the challenges and hardships facing the less fortunate both regionally and globally.

Upon receiving your gift COMT discussed thoroughly, and prayerfully considered, the best distribution of these funds, keeping in the forefront our session's current priority of engaging in issues of injustice. COMT made a distribution recommendation to our session which they approved in September 2017. Your gift was allocated a couple weeks later to the following ministries.

**\$3,000 to St. Francis Center's Capital Campaign to purchase a passenger bus** -- St. Francis Center and Siena Youth Center are one of Trinity's supported ministries, and are very dear to the hearts of our congregation. Together the centers work to positively impact the lives of economically disadvantaged families and youths in the Redwood City area. St. Francis Center is dedicated to meeting the needs of very low-income families by providing housing, food, and clothing services which addresses the short-term needs of their clients, along with education of both children and adults which breaks the poverty cycle. Siena Youth Center, an extension of St. Francis Center, promotes young people to live a healthy and active lifestyle, create lifelong friendships and mentorships, empowers youth, and teaches them how to find their voice and engages them with their community. Through mentorship and guidance Siena offers academic support, arts, leadership, and physical activities. Both centers are non-profit organizations. Their focus is on helping families in need and attempts to assist such families in whatever ways will allow them to live with dignity and become self-supporting members of the community.

Last fall St. Francis Center held a \$84,620 capital campaign to purchase a 28-passenger bus, along with its associated costs. As part of its curriculum St. Francis/Siena Center provides opportunities to take their "inner-city" youth out of the concrete jungle they live in and expose them to the experiences of museums, nature, college campuses, etc. Without these experiences children's vocabulary, education, and well roundedness is not on par with other children their age. The center rented buses, which was not only costly, but time consuming as grants had to been written to fund each field trip. The purchase of the bus would allow both centers more freedom and opportunities to allow children to experience all our area offers them.

UPDATE: In September 2017 your \$3,000 gift "topped off" the bus campaign and the following month St. Francis Center purchased a brand new 28-passenger bus. Siena Youth Center's youth director is currently studying for his Class B license. In January 2018 St. Francis Center commissioned an artist to paint a mural on the bus depicting the "roads to adventure" and "rivers of opportunity" the bus would provide. The artist held her own fund raising to pay for the mural. On February 24, 2018 a beautiful ceremony was held to bless the bus. Please see attached pictures.

**\$1,500 to Puente's Citizenship Funding Pool** -- Puente de la Costa Sur ("Bridge of the South Coast") has been one of Trinity's supported ministries for over a decade. They are a church-based non-profit organization that serves the migrant worker farming community in and around Pescadero, and a significant number of the people they work with are undocumented immigrants. They have started citizenship classes for those people who would like to remain in the U.S. and go through the somewhat arduous process of obtaining citizenship here. These are not rich people, and one difficult sticking point is the \$725 fee that must accompany each person's application. Last year Puente created a Citizenship Funding Pool, which will offer loans up to the full \$725 for those eager and committed applicants. As of August 2017, their funding pool only contained \$1,500. They told us they had twelve (12) individuals who were ready to move forward with the application process, but Puente's funding pool is not nearly large enough to meet the need. These are loans, so it is hoped that the pool can become self-sustaining in the future. COMT saw Presbytery's generous gift as helping at least two, and perhaps six or seven individuals, make a giant leap forward in improving their lives and their lifestyles.

UPDATE: To date, your gift has helped two individuals start the citizenship process. Puente calculates that two or more applicants will soon be asking for fee support. In the future, more and more applicants will be helped as the loans are repaid.

**\$500 to The Catalyst Project** --What is God calling us to do in these times, and how do we answer that call?" Because engaging in issues of injustice is one of our three priorities at Trinity, Catalyst Project, located in Oakland and San Francisco, was chosen to receive a portion of the money allocated to us by Presbytery. Catalyst Project is a grassroots nonprofit organization focused on training, mentoring, and organizing white people into conscious, accountable action around racial justice. Partnering with organizations led by people of color, their goal is to support and educate organizations and activists looking for help in their anti-racist journey to understand and integrate racial justice into all their work for change. Specifically, Presbytery's gift will be used toward scholarships in their upcoming 4-month Anne Braden Anti-Racist Training Program. This program which costs up to \$3,500 per attendee (cost determined by income level) will have participants from all over the country. Its focus is to help participants become more effective, historically grounded anti-racist organizers, leaders, and multiracial movement builders. We believe that by contributing to Catalyst, we are responding to the injustice that surrounds us in our entire community, which extends well beyond our local communities.

UPDATE: In November 2017 The Catalyst Project let us know that had already received over 200 incredible applications for just 25 training spots. As a result, they decided to run two simultaneous Anne Braden Anti-Racist Organizing Training Programs beginning in February 2018. Catalyst indicated they "have been moved by tears reading the applications, as hundreds of people from rural Appalachia to Ferguson write about their longings to be stronger racial justice organizers." The two programs began February 16 with a 4-day intensive workshop and are being attended by people from Appalachia, Canada, and various other locations. Scholarships allowed Catalyst to assist attendees with the cost of flights. Catalyst is all aglow with how the first long weekend went (there are three more long weekends to come) and feel it exceeded all the leadership team's expectations.

Thank you again for the vision of what your missional gift could do in our community. It has definitely made an impact and who can even begin to anticipate the ripple effect it will have on the lives it has touched. We are excited about the ongoing relationships Trinity has with its local ministries and will continue to support them financially, with action, and in prayer. In each case we anticipate there will be continued follow-up with these entities which will lead to stronger relationships between them and Trinity.

Respectfully submitted by Trinity's Session and Community Outreach Ministry Team