

## Westmoreland Volunteer Corps Board

### Minutes of meeting on May 11, 2014

**Attending:** John Graves, (chair), Beth Ferris, Edrie Hough, Mary Sue Johnson, Susan Langley, Chris Lawrence, Lorrie Meier, Jason Moskowitz, John Pielemeier, Jane Williams (note-taker)

John G. called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and Lorrie did a reading for the opening. John G. thanked the Volunteer Corps Board and Outreach Ministry Board for individual members' contributions that fully reimbursed Tim Tutt's senior minister's discretionary fund for the money donated to a volunteer for a special need.

Susan reported that the Corporation for National and Community Service, the parent federal agency for **AmeriCorps**, has decided not to fund the **Catholic Volunteer Network's** program of educational grants. CVN will appeal. The 2014-15 volunteers will get letters in this regard. Beth will draft a message. Mary Sue will contact the national UCC office regarding the potential loss of funding for grants for volunteers. John P. asked if we can still use the CVN Web site for recruiting.

Jason reported the VCB **budget** is OK expect that miscellaneous donations are down from the projected amount. [NB: After the meeting, VCB received a gift of \$2,000, to give transition bonuses to departing volunteers.] Members proposed various educational efforts for the Westmoreland congregation, including an article in the church newsletter, helping the congregation to understand the real sources of support for the VC program, and including financial/funding information in future Mission Moments during the church service.

The **weekend getaway** for the volunteers with Jason at his family's house on the Outer Banks is next week. The volunteers understand they will be responsible for their own transportation and meal costs and a cleaning fee for the house. Board members thanked Jason and his parents for their generosity.

The **spring retreat** will be May 30 and 31 at Mary Sue's house. It will start with a Friday night dinner at 6:30. It will resume on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. with a bagel breakfast. Beth passed around a sign-up sheet for help with food. She will also circulate it via e-mail.

The **farewell party** will be this summer at the Pielemeiers' home. Beth will check on volunteers' availability for July 6.

Gabrielle Gill, Celestina Lee and Audrey Purdue joined the meeting as discussion turned to the **Volunteer House**, the basement of which flooded again three weeks ago. Furniture had to be disposed of. Westmorelanders will be asked to donate replacement furniture. Westmoreland will file a claim against WSSC. Gabrielle will do an inventory and place a value on the clothes

she had stored in the basement that were discarded, as part of the claim. Audrey expressed concern about not knowing when the repairs might be completed and she can move back to the basement. There was also concern expressed about what preventive measures could be taken, to avoid a similar incident in the future.

John G. handed out copies of information about a potential new agency, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR), which is in Arlington. It provides jail services, services for those required to do community service, and re-entry services. The latter two might be of interest to the Westmoreland Volunteer Corps Board. Board consensus was to add the agency, depending on what the job descriptions say. OAR has two AmeriCorps volunteers now and is interested in adding a WVC member, perhaps in 2015-16.

Chris will do the opening for the June 8 meeting. Carryover topics will be reflections on the recruiting season and a policy statement for the VCB. The first topic might also be covered at the spring retreat. Lorrie mentioned that the retreat should include volunteers' talking about their experiences at their agencies.

The meeting ended at 9:55.