

Diaconate Report for 2017

This report must start by offering our thanks to God for his generous provision to the ministry of the Deacons through you, our congregation. The contribution of your finances, your time, and your talents is a wonderful expression of the love of Christ to individuals throughout our congregation, community, and the world. We Deacons, entrusted with the office of serving others, are blessed to be an extension of such a spirit among God's people.

In 2017, your contributions to the Deacon's Fund totaled nearly \$80,000. That fund is used only to relieve the burdens of others. In this past year, two-thirds of the total financial assistance that we provided was given to members and adherents of Faith Presbyterian Church. The remainder was used to help those in our community – both local and global.

Those that do come to us for assistance often receive temporal financial aid, but they are always presented with the Gospel and offered the eternal comfort provided through faith in Christ. We should note that your engagement in the community has enabled us to help in ways that we would not have known about. Please let us know how we can use our resources to support the relationships you are building.

Outside our local community, through your gifts, we were able to provide significant contributions to hurricane relief efforts both in the Houston area and in Cuba. We also contributed to famine relief in South Sudan.

Another example of your generosity was the collection of about \$8,000 in a special offering designated towards the construction of a church building in the far east of Russia. Pastor Ruslan Moroz has reported that they are now able to hold services in the new building.

The Deacons continue to maintain our partnership with The Homes of Naomi, Ruth, & Boaz. This ministry provides shelter and Christian wisdom to those in need of transitional housing. The work projects coordinated by the Deacons included a roof replacement and other yard work. Thank you for sacrificing your time to these efforts, too.

Our past annual reports have commended the work of our adoption committee to you and this year is no exception. In this past year, the adoption fund was able to help two families with the expenses related to adoption. We look forward to how this work will enrich our congregation in years to come.

Again, on behalf of the Diaconate, thank you for the opportunity you have entrusted to us to serve others in Christ's name. Thank you as well to our wives and families for the support and encouragement provided to us. And finally, may God's name be glorified through us as we work together to serve him in the year ahead.

Regards,
Doug Lawty
2017 Chairman of Faith Presbyterian Church Diaconate