

**Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth
Benevolence Giving Policy
Due Diligence Partner Review**

Partner Organization:

General Information:

Trinity Lutheran Congregation has been a vital congregation in the Cedar-Riverside/West Bank neighborhood of Minneapolis since 1868. Trinity is the only permanent functioning Christian congregation in a neighborhood of 8,000-10,000 people.

Address/Contact Information:

Pastor Jane Buckley-Farlee
2001 Riverside Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55454
www.trinitylutherancongregation.org
612-333-2561
pastorjane@trinitylutherancongregation.org

Executive/Board Contacts:

President – Nancy Homans	hesser@earthlink.net
Secretary – Garry Hesser	hesser @earthlink
Vice President – Eunice Eckerly	euniceeckerly@gmail.com
Treasurer – Aman Woldeselasia	amanmpls@gmail.com

Relationship to Mount Olivet:

Trinity has been a mission partner with Mt. Olivet for 9 years. We support each other and our other mission partner congregations in our unique settings.

Areas of Focus:

Trinity's mission statement is: Nurturing wholeness and holiness in Cedar-Riverside. As the only Christian presence in a predominantly Muslim immigrant neighborhood we take our work seriously. We use the model accompaniment by listening to our neighbors, being present at community events and doing what we can to help the neighborhood be the best it can be. Specific activities include: Safe Place: Homework Help, a daily drop-in tutoring program for neighborhood kids; Wednesday Night Suppers, a weekly meal for neighborhood moms and kids, now including homeless people; and interfaith conversations and workshops which all include relationship building. Because of our context we serve as a resource for Muslim-Christian dialog.

Financial Condition:

Trinity is small, but very vital. Our budget for 2015 is \$226,820. For the last several years our expenses have been greater than our income by \$10,000 - \$30,000. We make up the difference by taking money out of an endowment fund. We are a very frugal operation and our goal is to balance our budget.

Results & Impact:

Mount Olivet's financial support of Trinity has been very generous. Without it we would have to be even more bare-bones. We do not have a traditional building that demands a large portion of our budget. Most of our costs cover staffing for the work we do in the neighborhood.

Success Stories:

Story #1 – On January 1, 2013 an explosion and fire occurred in Cedar-Riverside. Three lives were lost, an apartment building destroyed, and a mosque damaged. Our friends at Dar Al-Hijrah mosque had nowhere to go. Trinity was present in the community on the day of the fire and at community meetings that followed discussing how the neighborhood could recover from the fire. We had a fledgling relationship with Dar Al-Quba for many years. But this crisis was the door to a deepening relationship. We invited Dar Al-Hijrah to use our lower level for as long as they needed. They used our building for a year and a half while their building was repaired. During that time our friendships grew and a commitment to offer together, with Augsburg College, interfaith experiences for other continues. In this world where we are told over and over that Christians and Muslims hate each other, we are showing that there is another way.

Story #2 – Mt. Olivet and Trinity have been mission partners for years. Through hard work and fun our relationship has grown. Where once our settings – large suburban church and small inner city church – created some barriers between us, we have become good friends and are committed to each other's ministries. Our relationship is not about a suburban church supporting an inner city church. We are about accompanying each other so that we can each learn from each other and become the best we can be.

Story #3 – In 2010 Umar came to Trinity looking for homework help. He was new to the U.S., having come from Ethiopia. His family came to the U.S. because of persecution at home. Umar took his school work very seriously, worked hard and also became part of a group of Oromo youth learning about their culture. In June 2015 he graduated from Sough High School and was awarded a Bill Gates scholarship which will cover his entire post-secondary education, including doctorate studies. He has said that Trinity's homework help program was key to his success. He will become an amazing leader.