

Proposal for how to give away a portion of the 2020 Assembly surplus

At the February 2021 congregational meeting, the congregation decided to give \$35,000 of our 2020 surplus away. A wide variety of ideas about “how” to give the money away were suggested, but no decision was made. Leadership Group discussed the ideas raised at that meeting and was drawn to a plan which:

- a) enabled wide participation; and
- b) did not require a lot of future congregational meetings and decision-making.

The suggestion which best fits these parameters is dividing the amount we are giving away among small groups¹ (roughly \$1,500 per small group), and asking each small group to decide where they want their small group’s allotment to go.² To implement this plan, Leadership Group suggests the following:

- Before small groups make their decision, small groups and individuals can share suggestions of worthy organizations to receive this money (see sample form below). Send suggestions to the Assembly Office where they will be collected and shared with all small groups.
- “Worthy organization” is intended as a broad term; the point of this disbursement is to benefit organizations in significant need or those providing critical services.
- Small groups will be given a deadline for when to make their decision, and each group’s decision will be final (no congregational approval necessary). The complete list of disbursements will be shared with the congregation.
- For the sake of keeping things somewhat simple, and to provide greater benefit to recipients, small groups are asked to make contributions of \$500 or more.

Timeline: If this plan is affirmed, we imagine collecting suggestions of worthy organizations by April 11th; sharing them with small groups soon thereafter; and then having small groups make their decision by May 2.

Suggestions for where to give a portion of the surplus money

Name of specific recipient:

Rationale for suggestion:

Your name(s):

kss
3/5/21

¹ If there are 8 or more people not in a small group who want to gather for the purposes of this discernment, they will get a portion too. Let the Assembly Office know if you want to participate in that.

² This idea has some precedent. In the past, a small group was randomly selected to distribute that year’s surplus.