



**Perinton  
Congregations**

for Greater Rochester  
Habitat for Humanity

A Ministry of Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton, Inc.

## **Steering Committee Minutes, January 29, 2024, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

**Attendance:** **Bethlehem Lutheran Church:** Mike Joyce; **Church of the Assumption:** Charlie Szilagyi; **Church of the Resurrection:** Dan Killoran (Treasurer); **Fairport United Methodist Church:** Carlee Brown, Rick Hill (Co-Secretaries), Joan Mullings; **Member At-Large:** Chris Hirschler; **Perinton Presbyterian Church:** Mark Stevens (Chair); **St. John of Rochester Church:** George Orosz. **Guest from Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity:** Gareth Evans, Associate Director of Development, Volunteer Engagement, and Fundraising.

**The meeting was called to order** by Mark who welcomed all and introduced our newest member, Joan Mullings from Fairport United Methodist Church. Joan is a long-time resident of the Fairport area who previously volunteered for Flower City Habitat for Humanity and Family Promise of Rochester and has a heart for this kind of work.

**The New logo appears above.** It was designed by Darren Miller of Custom 100, who designed and maintains our website. It is a pen and ink-style rendering of our first Habitat home on Cuba Place that we built in 1999. It reflects our new legal name, which was finally approved by NYS Department of State in September. Both our website and the Greater Rochester Area Habitat websites have been updated with the new logo. It was a good experience working with Darren.

**108 Ackerman:** Mark introduced Gareth Evans, the new Associate Director of Development for Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity and staff advisor to Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders. Gareth reported that the house is weatherproof and they're starting to install drywall, which should be completed this week. Groups from Bethlehem Lutheran have worked on the house three times, the Knights of Columbus from St. John of Rochester installed windows, and a group from Mt. Rise worked too. A group of Honor Society students from Brighton High School helped with the insulation. Mark reminded us that we can volunteer as individuals and Gareth can reserve time for groups Thursday through Saturday. Gareth will send a current picture to Charlie for our website. The house will probably be ready for dedication in April. Soon after that, we'll start our new house.

**Finance update.** Dan reported that we have \$60,251 in the bank. He will start distributing monthly finance reports that officers currently receive to everyone on the distribution list. We received our last donation from ExxonMobil (renamed Charities Aid Foundation) in January, which will no longer support nonprofits in New York State. They have decided to donate to charities only in areas where they have manufacturing and office locations.

**We discussed acknowledging contributions** from individuals and churches. We've received a generous annual check for \$3,000 in recent years from an individual. There is no address on the check and no one recognizes the name of the donor, so we are unable to send a thank you letter. We already have a thank you letter for individual donations that includes the IRS statement that no goods or services were received. It was agreed that we should send an annual thank you letter to donor churches that would like to receive them. Please let Carlee and Rick know if you want a thank you letter sent to your church and to whom it should be addressed.

Given our balance, we should consider investing some of our reserve funds in CD's. Gareth reported that he helped another non-profit group get 5% for a six-month deposit. Mark and Dan will investigate.

**Donation Estimates:** Perinton Presbyterian Church plans to contribute \$2,000 again this year. George will check with Father Peter to see if Church of St. John of Rochester will contribute another \$4,000 this year. Fairport United Methodist Church is meeting soon to set the budget. It's expected to be the same \$5,000 as previous years, plus \$1,000 from Charities Aid (ExxonMobil) received in January. Charlie checked the balance of the Tithing Account that contributed on behalf of Church of the Assumption in the past--\$2,700. The group that managed the fund no longer exists, so he's unsure of future plans. In addition, we may continue to receive contributions from other participating churches. While we have enough cash on hand, some of it is based on non-recurring contributions and an accumulation of funds that occurred when we delayed building during COVID. Once the current surplus is exhausted, contributions from participating churches may not be sufficient to sustain our goal of contributing \$20,000/year to Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders for one new home each year. Subtracting possible one-time gifts and anonymous donations from what we received in 2023, our remaining income from churches was \$17,000.

**2024 Greater Rochester Interfaith Builders donation:** Our goal is to contribute \$20,000 for each house. Last year we contributed \$28,000 because some of the groups were finishing building and didn't have much money. Penfield will probably contribute \$30,000 to \$35,000. Other groups contributed \$10,000 to \$15,000 apiece last year. A total of \$100,000 is needed to pay for a house. If we're short, Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity is committed to obtaining the funds needed to support a house. **Moved by George/Chris to commit \$20,000 to GRIB for 2024. Passed unanimously.** Gareth thanked us on behalf of Habitat.

**Congregation/parish presentations by representatives of Greater Rochester Area Habitat** are available and a great way to build enthusiasm in our churches. Please contact Gareth to arrange. Gareth will even sing!

**Next meeting:** Mark proposed meeting quarterly via Zoom and there was a consensus to do so. Mark will set a date for our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Hill, Co-secretary

Attachment: January 25, 2024 Finance Report; current roster