

A HISTORY OF THE DOWNTOWN PARISH HUMAN CONCERNS COLLABORATION: 1994 - 2009

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” Lk. 17:6.

In July, 1994, Archbishop Weakland established an Archdiocesan District 13 Downtown Milwaukee parish cluster including the Cathedral, Gesu, Old St. Mary’s and St. Benedict the Moor. The intent was to have these four parishes work in collaboration around downtown human concerns. In December, 1994, three members from Cathedral, Gesu and St. Ben’s Parishes, each representing their parish Human Concerns Committee, began meeting to establish collaboration. Initial networking continued through March, 1995, consulting with St. Vincent de Paul and the Wisconsin Catholic Conference to see how we could better advocate for their issues. On March 15th, members attended “Community AIDS Day” in Madison.

From April through June, 1995, time was spent gathering more information about downtown human concerns issues and building up the collaboration. Gesu and St. Ben’s took leadership on the capitol punishment issue. Parishioners from downtown parishes joined a May legislative hearing in Watertown, Wisconsin. Holly Gardiner, then Executive Director of the Guest House, met in May and gave a thorough overview of homelessness in the downtown area; she also invited participation in the first annual “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” sponsored by the Guest House, The Open Gate and St. Ben’s Meal Program. Marquette University representatives met with the Collaboration in May to discuss how Marquette could enter into collaboration. To better understand the issue of Milwaukee County dropping General Assistance, Dick Bushman, Milwaukee County Department of Human Services, shared information on how this impacted those on General Assistance.

During the summer of 1995, time was devoted to searching for a vision and mission. Thelma Walker, Archdiocesan Consultant for parish collaboration, joined the discussion. The Collaboration wrestled with a number of questions and issues. The end product was a September 27th meeting at the Cathedral with members of the four parishes and Archbishop Weakland. This brainstorming session surfaced over 130 potential ideas for ministry. Each parish human concern’s committee prioritized their top ten recommended ministries. On December 9, 1995, the Collaboration’s Steering Committee held a retreat at the Catholic Knights; Thelma Walker facilitated the process of looking at prioritized goals. To follow the Archbishop’s call for us to have a conversion of heart toward the poor, it was decided that efforts must always be gospel based. The following goals were established:

- **To address the Milwaukee downtown homeless issue.**
- **To integrate different levels of society around homelessness.**

Through the leadership of Sister Helen Gourlay, BVM and the efforts of Sisters Anne-Marie Doyle and Ann Halloran of the Dominican Center, *Collaborative Voices* was

established as a newsletter to help communicate the work of the Collaboration from 1996 to 2004.

In May, 1996, the following mission statement was drafted:

“We, the People of God in downtown Milwaukee Catholic Parishes -Cathedral, Gesu, Old St. Mary’s and St. Ben’s –gather in collaboration as a Eucharistic community, out of our common concern for human needs and social justice. We gather in collaboration so that the lives, gifts and resources of our members, our communities, of our brothers, sisters and neighbors may be invited, developed and offered to give glory, praise and thanks to God. We gather to raise awareness, to educate ourselves and encourage others in our communities to take action and respond to God’s love:

- **To educate ourselves on and live out the social teachings of the Church.**
- **To share our resources.**
- **To align our priorities as downtown churches with the ever changing needs of poor people in the downtown area.**
- **To provide more pastoral services to those in need.**
- **To provide opportunities for members of the business community to respond to downtown needs.**

We gather in solidarity, especially with people who are poor, homeless and voiceless through prayer and worship, learning and teaching, serving, advocating and empowering.”

In 1996 **The Repairers of the Breach** became part of the downtown parish collaboration as an ex-officio member.

Three specific ministries surfaced over time:

- **The Brown Bag Brunch Breaking Down Barriers**
- **The Companion Families Ministry**
- **Housing for the Homeless**

The Brown Bag Brunch Breaking Down Barriers

The Steering Committee felt that before the larger Milwaukee community could be invited and challenged to “walk with the homeless,” the four downtown parishes needed to work on their own “conversion.” The **Brown Bag Brunches Breaking Down Barriers** was established during Lent, 1996. On Fridays, each parish hosted the noon reflection and prayer that included members from the Guest House Extended Stay Program and Repairers of the Breach. This six-week experience using an African prayer method solidified the Collaboration. It was so successful that bi-weekly Friday reflections and prayer continued during the summer at Repairers of the Breach.

Collaboration members, along with others celebrated Repairers of the Breach new home on October 19, 1997. A number of Collaboration members were involved in helping to make this move possible; it included a number of meetings with government officials to get the necessary zoning approval. This was in line with Archbishop Weakland's challenge that the parish coalition must be about both charity and justice. The new site at 1335 West Vliet Street was named in honor of Tony Lee, a founding member of Repairers of the Breach who died in 1996. Members of Repairers of the Breach continued to be an integral part of the downtown parish human concerns collaboration.

The Human Concerns Committees from Gesu, St. Ben's and St. John Cathedral received recognition for outreach to the homeless on June 9, 1997, at the Archdiocesan Justice Celebration held at the Cousins Center.

Repairers of the Breach developed a video in 1998 entitled "**Acts of Kindness.**" Collaboration members met in September at Gesu to view the video. The topic was timely because of alleged incidents during the summer where police ticketed homeless persons for loitering. The human concerns committee at the Cathedral responded with an action alert to their parishioners urging them to write to Police Chief Arthur Jones and ask him to cease selective ticketing for loitering and to treat our most vulnerable neighbors with the respect and justice due them as daughters and sons of God.

In the spring of 1999 parishioners from St. John Vianney in Brookfield became the first suburban parish to host a "brown bag lunch." They were later joined by Good Shepherd, Menomonee Falls, St. Alphonsus, Greendale, St. Mary's, Hales Corners, Seventh-Day Adventist Church, St. James, Mequon, St. Williams, Waukesha, Cross Roads Presbyterian, St. Bernadette's, Milwaukee, St. Joseph's, Grafton, St. James, Menomonee Falls, Pius X Justice and Peace Committee. The Steering Committee felt that the best way to reach suburban Catholic members of the Milwaukee downtown business community was through their parishes.

The Brown Bag ministry was shared at the Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress in November, 2000. Over 80 parishioners from various parishes and 56 members of Repairers of the Breach participated and experienced the premier showing of the brown bag video.

Over the last thirteen years this ministry has expanded to many Catholic and other faith-based groups including the Faber Center at Marquette University and St. Boniface in Germantown. Five years ago, Mary Ann Davel began coordinating Faith Relations at the Repairers of the Breach which includes coordinating the Friday schedule for the Brown Bag Lunch. There are currently over sixteen faith communities. A member from Gesu mentioned recently, "It is hard to get on the calendar." For the past couple of years, the Brown Bag Lunch has been held nearly every Friday of the year.

Over the past thirteen years, hundreds, if not thousands of parishioners and members of the Repairers of the Breach have come together to "break bread" as brothers and sisters with a common God. The lives of many in the faith community have been deeply

touched by the opportunity to meet and pray with members of the Repairers of the Breach. Hopefully, members from the Repairers of the Breach have experienced the genuine care and love from members of the faith community.

The following parishioners have shared their experience:

“I have been associated with the Brown Bag Lunch program at Repairers of the Breach almost from its inception. I have encountered many different experiences, all of which have been positive spiritual encounters. My overwhelming sentiment is amazement at the deep faith of many of the residents who have suffered addictions and possess almost nothing. Nevertheless they feel a deep personal relationship with our Lord and have absolute faith in Him. The most striking event I recall was during a prayer session when a resident’s prayer was that he would not commit suicide that day. Fortunately I was able to alert a counselor about this man. Repairers of the Breach has been a great leveler for me. I realize more clearly now how God is present to all, especially the poor.” **David Walker, St. Alphonsus Parish**

“Archbishop Weakland saw the importance of working together and created the downtown parish collaboration. His vision was the leaven for the outreach planning of the downtown parishes. Matthew 25: 35-36 ‘For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Repairers of the Breach responds to that mandate.

“Repairers of the Breach is an important resource in Milwaukee. Repairers has gone through many transitions, provides many services for men and women and continues to discern needs. MacCannon Brown has provided leadership, empowering their guests and inviting many parishes and community groups to become involved. MacCannon is an important advocate for the poor. The Brown Bag Lunch provides opportunities to share a meal, to share scripture reflections and get to know people that we would not otherwise meet. We involve people in preparing the lunches and share reflections of the experience on the way home. My most vivid memory is that the participants have so much faith in God and firmly believe that life will get better. It puts a human face on many issues – homelessness, hunger, lack of resources, and allows us to put our faith in to action.” **Thelma Walker, St. Alphonsus Parish**

“Tutoring at Repairers offers an excellent way to deploy my retirement energies for the past ten years or so. Besides the educational and developmental benefits for homeless students, it has provided a gracious bond of family-like relationships with them, the tutoring team and the other guests at the Breach.” **Dick Thomas, St. Alphonsus Parish.**

The Companion Families Ministry

“**Stories from the Streets**” was the theme for the October 30, 1997, fall retreat at the Cathedral. **Sister Jean Verber** from the **Women in Poverty Public Education Initiative** provided audiotape accounts from women who were impacted by the new

welfare initiative, **Pay for Performance**. Many found themselves in deeper poverty. This presentation provided the impetus for Collaboration members to discern how we could respond to this need. A W-2 task force worked for almost a year to come up with a response. This task force included representatives from Gesu, Legal Action, SET Ministry, Shade Tree, Repairers of the Breach, Catholic Charities, St. Ben's and the Women and Poverty Public Education Initiative. They incorporated their own experiences working with persons in poverty, but, even more importantly, they drew in people in poverty to share their own stories. Volunteers also collected many of these stories from women who were part of an initiative of Catholic Charities and the Wisconsin Catholic Conference.

Much time and energy was devoted to coming up with a workable plan that called for recruiting, training and matching parish families with families who came from a number of social service agencies in the task force.

The **Companion Families Ministry** was established in 1999 following the scriptural passage: "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there!" Companion Families is a ministry of presence and solidarity in response to the cry of the poor living a "third world" experience in Milwaukee. In addition to the downtown parishes, it also included Legal Action, SET Ministry, House of Peace (Catholic Charities) and Shade Tree Family Resource Center. It was launched as a response to growing needs of many single parents struggling with returning to the job force, facing growing demands on their time, energy and resources. Parish members and persons/families in struggle were invited to learn from one another. Catholic Charities took on a coordinating role that included recruiting, training and monitoring the families involved.

"It is hoped that parish families can help open doors, smooth paths and build bonds of support and resilience with marginalized families. It is hoped that marginalized families can help open eyes and hearts, transform fears and myths, and build bonds of trust and respect with the parish families... 'where two or more are gathered in My name, there am I in their midst.'" (Companion Families brochure)

On September 17, 1999, a gathering was held at the House of Peace. Volunteers from the four downtown parishes and community families from S.E.T. Ministry, Shade Tree Family Resource Center and the House of Peace came together to begin the **Companion Families Ministry**. Out of this experience seven matches were made that brought together parish families and community families. Each family committed itself to "walk with each other" for a minimum of six months at least every two weeks. Over time, more families became involved. Irene Perez, original coordinator of the program, stated: "This program has flourished farther than was ever expected, with relationships that are very interwoven. Families call each other several times throughout the week, attend each other's school activities and are genuinely concerned about one another. Some families have formed their own mini-communities where they celebrate each other's successes. One of the community moms completed training and is now qualified through the State to be a foster parent. That was a celebration!"

A Valentine's Day social was held in 2000 to celebrate the Companion Families Ministry. Parish blessings were held at Gesu and St. Ben's Parishes.

In 2001 there were twenty one companioned families who committed themselves beyond the six-month program. Suburban parishes joined up including St. John Vianney and St. Alphonsus. Parish families also included single people joining up with other family members. Father Jim Brady, a retired priest from the Archdiocese, joined up with Dianne Henke from Gesu to be a companion family with Jimmie Woods, a sixty-two year old grandmother raising four grandchildren. Marty Dooley and Geri Kohl, from The Cathedral Parish, formed a family to walk with Sheila Ford and her family.

A Steering Committee comprised of members of the agencies providing community families and members of the participating parishes joined together under the coordination of Catholic Charities to provide guidance and direction for this ministry. Two thousand two was a year to continue to recruit both parish and community families. Time was also devoted to providing training for parish family volunteers. Recent graduates of "Justfaith" were invited to join this ministry. Brochures were developed to promote the ministry including a number of articles in the Catholic Herald and Catholic Charities Today. Freddie Carr from SET Ministry was very instrumental in recruiting community families.

A milestone was reached in 2003 when Sheila Ford, a community family member, joined the Steering Committee, bringing a new perspective to the ministry. A day of reflection relaxation and renewal for adults from both parish and community families was held at Bethany House. Staff and members of the Dominican Center facilitated the retreat.

The Steering Committee remained quite active throughout 2004 and 2005. Recruitment of both parish and community families continued to be challenging. Many community families presented issues that would interfere with functioning in this ministry. Efforts were made to reach out to more parishes, especially in suburbs. Mary Ann Davel from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, a very active member of the Steering Committee, lent her efforts to begin a "Family Partnership" effort in Waukesha. Another challenge was the creation of "community" among both parish and community families. Various social gatherings were held throughout the year to help create a "community" of companion families ministry. There was question whether the ministry should continue to grow or devote more time and energy to solidifying the existing matches. At least five matches were over five years! Way beyond the original six months commitment asked of each family.

In 2006 Marlea Linse from Catholic Charities became the coordinator of the Companion Family Ministry. In 2007 there were a number of Steering Committee meetings. There were 10 active families in 2007. The challenge was always between deepening the bonds between the established family matches and recruiting more families. There was a plan in 2007 to recruit 10 families a year.

At the end of 2007, Catholic Charities chose to no longer coordinate or fund the ministry. The Steering Committee, however, continued to meet during 2008.

The “miracle” of Companion Families Ministry is that ten years since its inception, a number of companion families are still continuing their journey. Just to name a few. Diane Henke and Jimmy Woods are close friends and continue to keep in touch, though not as often. Diane emphasized the importance of this relationship in her life “Jimmy is important to me as I am to her.” Mary Ann Davel has continued her journey with Tonja Jordan and her family since 1991. Mary Ann is very close to this family and has shared many wonderful experiences with them. “Throughout the years I’ve been present at school plays, concerts and dance recitals, planned shopping trips and medical appointments.” She is very proud of Tonja’s children and their educational successes; two have graduated from Pius High School and are now in college. Tonja is now enrolled at Mt. Mary College.

Like Diane and Mary Ann, Geri Kohl and Marty Dooley from St. John’s Cathedral continue to be involved with Sheila Ford and her family. They have attended numerous family functions including the high school graduation of Sheila’s daughter last May. Marty and Geri noted that “probably the most significant aspect of the program is learning that the color of skin, where you live, economic level, (religious affiliation, political views) aren’t what really matter in human relationships. We’re all just ordinary people. And we’re friends.” Joan Bleidorn, who attends St. Ben’s Parish, and her late husband Frank began their journey with Valerie Hutchen and her son Tyjun when Tyjun was fourteen years old. Today Joan continues her journey with Valerie by phone and restaurant lunches. Tyjun is now twenty-four years old.

Housing for the Homeless

Gesu Parish became an overflow site for the homeless during the winter of 1995-1996. Various members of the Collaboration volunteered to help.

The second semi-annual Collaboration Retreat was held on Thursday, April 25, 1996. In addition to reflection and review, people drew their impressions of what they felt was wrong with downtown Milwaukee relating to homelessness and another drawing of what would be their ideal for the downtown area. Members of Repairers of the Breach also drew their impressions at a later date. These drawings would become the basis for further reflection and discussion at the next semi-annual Collaboration Retreat on October 5, 1996.

At the October 5, 1996, Collaboration Retreat, Antonio and Marvin, members of Repairers of the Breach, shared their stories with those present. MacCannon Brown, Executive Director of Repairers of the Breach, shared her reflection on the causes of homelessness. Two nurses from the Red Cross shared their experience on the streets as it related to responding to people who ask for money. Their advice: “Go with your heart.”

Collaboration members visited Old St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Chicago in mid-June, 1997, to learn more about how this parish reaches out to the poor. Old St. Patrick's rejuvenated itself and has become a dynamic presence on Chicago's south side.

"Healing Racism," the theme of the Spring retreat on April 30, 1998, addressed the issue of racism as it impacts housing for the homeless. Collaboration members including Repairers of the Breach participated in a listening and sharing experience facilitated by Jerry Johnson and Jeannette Taborn from Hands-On-Learning.

Collaboration members once again participated in "Walk A Mile in My Shoes" on Saturday, April 25, 1998.

During 1998 St. Ben's Parish community went through a "revisioning process" to recommit themselves to being an even more vibrant parish. On Sunday, October 4th (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) individual members recommitted themselves to be "Eucharist Without Walls" at the crossroads of need in Milwaukee.

During 1999 the Women's Overflow Shelter moved to the Rescue Mission gym. Gesu Parish took a leadership role in providing volunteers from their parish; some parishioners from other downtown parishes joined in with them.

The fifth Anniversary of the Downtown Parish Collaboration was held at St. John's Cathedral on February 27, 2000. Bishop Richard Sklba led the prayer service.

During the Jubilee Year, 2000, the Collaboration took as its theme, **"Affordable Housing for the Poor."** A ten-minute video featuring the Brown Bag Lunch was developed in partnership with the downtown parish collaboration and Repairers of the Breach. Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance provided the technical production under the leadership of Bill Drehfal, a member of the Cathedral. The production was put together by David Toy and Marcia Thurnbauer, employees from NML.

"Hope for the Homeless – Transitional Housing" was the theme for a night of reflection on October 12, 2000. Presentations were made by Joyce Henry from the Open Gate, Holly Gardinier from the Guest House and Jeff Seider from the Red Cross, along with a resident of the Guest House.

The women's overflow shelter moved from the Rescue Mission to the former Capuchin monastery at 4th and Brown on August 1, 2002. Gesu Parish continued to take a leadership role in providing parish volunteers, assisted by some members from other downtown parishes.

The Weakland Center opened in September, 2002, to host lunches at the Open Door Café. Cathedral parishioners continued to be involved. This ministry has also tapped into the downtown business community by having suburban parishioners working downtown get involved in helping serve meals during the noon hour. At the same time, the Cathedral Overflow Shelter for women and families opened. Henry Monaco, a member

of Gesu Parish, took a leadership role in coordinating the planning that led to the establishment of the shelter.

On April 2, 2004, Mike Soika, a consultant to the Continuum of Care, which coordinates all applications to HUD for homeless services, met with the Steering Committee of the Downtown Parish Collaboration. He stressed that what is needed is to build an infrastructure which includes a strategic plan and the involvement of foundations, plus business, employers, the Chamber of Commerce, city, county and state governments. He stressed that a **Housing Trust Fund** is definitely needed and could take a couple of years to get in place.

Five members of the Steering Committee visited Chicago on December 8, 2004, to tour the Lakefront SRO and Los Vecinos. One member mentioned that Chicago has shown a commitment to “housing first” rather than “shelter first.” In order to help make permanent housing happen in Milwaukee, the committee, three years ago, picked working for affordable housing as a goal.

As a result of this trip to Chicago by a small group to see what had been done there to deal with lack of affordable housing, a Single Room Occupancy committee was formed on December 15, 2003. An on going discussion continued from 2003 through 2004. This committee set several goals: document the need, identify other groups interested in working on the issue, determine potential locations for SROs and identify possible funding sources.

At the same time, a Homeless Survey initiated by Mike Soika at the City of Milwaukee, Department of Administration, was conducted on September 11, 2003. Volunteers from churches and other members of the Continuum of Care conducted the survey at meal programs (St. Ben’s was one site.) and shelters for the homeless and on the streets. Seven hundred and sixty-one persons were interviewed. The results of the survey from September were released in January, 2004. There was a major report done by UWM called: “Under the Radar: A Survey of Homeless Adults in Milwaukee.” It is a very comprehensive report. It has been used by many agencies in Milwaukee.

The Downtown Collaboration sub-committee met with Mike Soika after the release of this report. The group expanded. Various ways of funding affordable housing were considered. National people like Mary Brooks from the National HTF came to meet with the Committee and to address a large group of 200 people at our Savior’s Lutheran Church. Meetings continued with elected officials, church groups, developers, service providers and others.

It was decided that a Housing Trust Fund was the best way to develop an ongoing source of revenue for affordable housing. In May of 2004, the Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund Coalition was formed with the Interfaith Conference providing a person to staff the Coalition. This Coalition grew to include over 140 endorsers of the Housing Trust Fund. Eileen Ciezki (Gesu Parish) and Lucia Murtaugh (St. Ben’s Parish) represented the Downtown Collaboration on the Coalition.

From 2004 to 2006, multitudes of grassroots activities were conducted by the HTF Coalition to educate the larger community on the need for affordable housing and to gain support to establish a permanent fund. These activities included calls, letters, and postcards to Alderpersons, the Mayor, and community gatherings. Testimony at City Council Committee meetings and at the City Council was ongoing over the two years, with large turnouts of people. Public witness of the need included demonstrating in front of City Hall and in Red Arrow Park. All these activities included persons bearing the brunt of lack of housing, their advocates and members of the downtown parish collaboration.

The success of these actions finally led to legislation being passed in 2006 to establish a Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund. An eleven-year veteran of the Common Council, **Michael Murphy**, in a letter to the Housing Trust Fund supporters stated that “your effort was the most effective grassroots campaign that I have seen in all my years in city government.” What a tribute to the dedicated work and leadership of all involved in the struggle for affordable housing! Two and a half million dollars was designated for the HTF for 2007. An Advisory Board was appointed representing the various constituencies. In early 2008, \$1.4 million of HTF money was given to five housing development projects. Proposals continued to be submitted and approved through 2008. The HTF Coalition continued to work to include \$1.0 million in the 2009 City budget. Due to the recession, only \$400,000 was earmarked in the budget for HTF.

The work of the Coalition in the future will be to monitor the work and distribution of funds for the HTF. The church communities that continue to work with the homeless and persons with limited income will need to be vigilant. Each budget will be monitored to assure that money is kept in the HTF for affordable housing. The housing needs of the poor will not disappear. The continued commitment to provide permanent housing will be ongoing. Although the Downtown Parish Human Concerns Collaboration no longer exists, parishes in the collaboration, along with other groups will continue to work to provide affordable housing for all

The Downtown Parish Human Concerns Collaboration

“If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘be uprooted and planted in the sea’ and it would obey you.” Luke 17:6

Over the past fifteen years, a number of very committed and faith-filled members of the downtown parish human concerns collaboration dedicated countless hours planning, initiating and overseeing the three ministries that have touched the lives of many people both church and unchurched. Their drive was nourished by a deep faith that a provident God would guide their efforts. These tiny mustard seeds (Brown Bag Brunch, Companion Families Ministry, and Housing for the Homeless) have grown and produced much fruit.

It is time to celebrate these fifteen years, a real “Golden Age” in parish collaborative ministry. It is also a time to recognize that the Downtown Parish Human Concerns Collaboration has completed its task. The future of these ministries will continue to grow with offshoots of their own. A number of these initiatives include The Brown Bag Lunch now being ecumenical, including the Muslim community; the Open Door Café has been part of St. John’s Cathedral outreach ministry for years, with staff from the downtown business community including Quarles and Brady, Whyte Hirschboeck and Van Briesen and Roper. Gesu Parish continues to provide volunteers for the Cathedral Center Shelter. They recently introduced Ignatian spirituality retreats for homeless men and women in the spring and fall. They have worked with Common Ground to address the issue of housing foreclosures. The Housing Trust Fund Coalition has established a sister group in Waukesha County called the Waukesha County Affordable Housing Trust Force. A number of St. Ben’s parishioners have continued their ministries to meet the needs of the homeless community in downtown Milwaukee.

The Collaboration is especially grateful for the vision and support given by Archbishop Weakland in the early days, the on-going support from Bishop Sklba and early-on and continual leadership, persistence and energy from Eileen Ciezki, Director of Social Ministry at Gesu. Eileen is the one person on the Steering Committee who was there at the beginning and throughout the history of the collaboration. Special thanks for the on-going support of parishioners from the downtown parishes of Gesu, Old St. Mary’s, St. Ben’s, St. John’s Cathedral and Repairers of the Breach.

The following were members of the Steering Committee at given times over the fifteen years:

Cathedral of St. John’s

Bill Drephal
Liz Hanna
Joan Engelhuber
Donna Gazanna
Emily John

Gesu

Eileen Cieski
Shirley Drexler
Patrick Coffey
Janice Bushe
Shannon Meagher

Old St. Mary’s

Joan Brenk

St. Benedict the Moore

Sister Helen Gourlay
Ted John
Lucia Murtaugh
John Cielichowski, OFM Cap
Jerry Schroader, OFM Cap
David Schwab, OFM Cap

Repairers of the Breach

McCannon Brown

Staff (Companion Ministry)

Sharon Kuzmirek
Irene LaBrie
Marlea Linse
Ron Spitz

This history was compiled by Ted John with input from Eileen Ciezki, Sister Helen Gourlay, Lucia Murtaugh, Mary Ann Devel, Liz Hanna and Ron Spitz.

