

Learning More About How We Neighbor (cont.)

By our Financial Giving –

During 2016, TriCon, acting through its Mission Committee, donated \$154,304 to 29 different charitable organizations. These included donations to undergird the ministries of the MA UCC Conference and 28 local, regional, and international charities.

Over and above this total, TriCon donated to various causes through special offerings, such as Christmas and Easter, and sent funds to support unique mission projects. The income raised by the Antique Show and a portion of earnings from the Mission Endowment supplemented the amount designated from our pledges to all these efforts on behalf of our neighbors.

By our Collective Social Action –

Highlights from the Social Action Committee for 2016 include hosting educational forums and promoting opportunities for hands-on neighboring. Homelessness was a forum topic and TriCon benefited from preachers on Martin Luther King, Jr. and Climate Justice Sundays. The committee regularly supports participation in the CROP Walk, clothing drives, school supplies, holiday gifts, Faith Works volunteering, Gaining Ground, and food donations to Open Table.

The Mission and Social Action Committees often partner on mission endeavors and are responsive to the suggestions of individual TriConnors.

By our Personal Stewardship of Time and Talents –

Please look at page three of this insert for a synopsis of how and where individuals at TriCon choose to neighbor and participate in hands-on mission.

October 2017



Learning More About Our Neighbors

About 70% of participants in Trinitarian Congregational Church currently reside in Concord, and around 30% come from surrounding towns, Carlisle, Sudbury, Maynard, Lincoln, Lexington, Bedford, and Acton.

When we take these zip codes as our study area and feed them into the program of demographic analysis called MissionInsite (access provided through the MA Conference of the UCC), we learn all sorts of facts and figures about our mission field. The following is just a tiny fraction of the information available.

Population Concord (2013) 15,954 Study Area (2017) 135,814
The 2022 projection would see the area grow by 2,714 to a total population of 138,528.

Age In this study area the numbers of children 17 years of age and younger is declining, and the number of adults 55 years of age and older are increasing as a percentage of the total population.

| Ethnicity | 2017 | 2022 (projected) |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Asian | 12.58% of pop. | 12.93% of pop. |
| Black/African American | 1.67% | 1.70% |
| White | 80.63% | 80.01% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 2.86% | 3.04% |
| Pac Is/Am In/Other | 2.26% | 2.32% |

Average Household Income In this study area, the estimated current year average household income is \$186,964, and is projected to grow by 12.6% to \$210,524. The number of families with incomes above \$100,000 is projected to decline over the next five years. Currently it is estimated that 75% of all household incomes exceed this benchmark, and in 2022 the percentage will be 74.6%.

Learning More About Our Neighbors (cont.)

Houses of Worship in Concord –

Congregation Kerem Shalom; Faith Redeemer Presbyterian Church; First Church of Christ, Scientist; First Parish in Concord; Holy Family Parish; New Church of Concord; New Life Community Church; Trinitarian Congregational Church (UCC); Trinity Episcopal Church; West Concord Union Church (UCC).

The Needs of our Neighbors –

To ascertain a sense of the needs of the community, the Transition Team conducted interviews with community officials, non-profits, and church members, and they consulted the *Town Annual Report*. These sources described the following list of needs, with the exception of the last three, as critical within our community. The last three surfaced anecdotally from the experience of members of the Team themselves.

Housing

Transportation

Substance Abuse Disorders

Difficulty Paying Bills

Food Insecurity

Mental Health Issues

Domestic Violence

Senior Services

Access to Disabilities and Legal Services

Youth Under Pressure

Loneliness

Spiritual Needs

Learning More About How We Neighbor

There are *so* many ways that **individuals from TriCon** give of their time, talents, and treasure in **hands-on mission, social betterment, activism, and generally helping others**.

We suspect that the following list of organizations through which persons neighbor is just the tip of the iceberg. If you yourself are involved in an additional type of hands-on mission, please write it down and put this note in the offering plate OR email it to the Transition Team through Jean Vandergrift: revdrjvandergrift@triconchurch.org.

Organizations on this list are always looking for volunteers. Ask more questions about those that intrigue you and let God lead you to hands-on mission that matches your gifts and interests.

- All Hands
- Carlisle Conservation Foundation
- Center for Restorative Justice
- Chaplains on the Way
- City Mission, Boston
- Community Chest
- Community Servings
- Concord Art
- Concord CAN
- Concord Carlisle Human Rights
- Concord Children’s Center
- Concord Land Trust
- Concord Museum
- Concord Prison Outreach
- Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries
- Domestic Violence Service Network
- Emerson Hospital
- Umbrella Community
- First Connections
- Food Project
- Gaining Ground
- Household Goods
- Kaislisi Project
- Lamontville in South Africa
- Minute Man Arc
- Open Table
- Public and Private School Parent Teacher Groups
- REACH Beyond Domestic Violence
- Solutions at Work
- Town Government Committees
- TriCon’s Caring Connection: Visits Transportation Casseroles Memorial Receptions Cards
- 350 MA Metro West Node (Environmental Group)