



THE SAMARITAN MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP
Overview of the Covenant Renewal Process - Revised, March 2016

The Samaritan Ministry Partnership is a collaborative mission partnership among the parish and school of partners of Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) in the Washington metropolitan region, seeking to do together what none of us can do alone. It is facilitated by Samaritan partner leaders and staff. The Partnership creates and cultivates strong and lasting bonds among partner schools, parishes and the staff – paid and volunteer – of SMGW. This happens primarily by: (a) equipping parishioners, students and clergy of partner parishes and schools on how to respond with rigorous compassion to persons in need who desire to make real changes in their lives; (b) providing long-term and short-term volunteer opportunities for parishioners and student to exercise their time and talent by sharing in the compassionate response that SMGW offers throughout the region in its three locations, thereby experiencing transformative change in themselves; (c) providing opportunities for partners, their members and students, to offer their gifts of treasure as faithful stewards of all that God has given them; and, (d) serving as catalyst and facilitator of life-changing mission in particular partner communities as well as the community at large.

It was for the purpose of sustaining this shared mission that 12 Partner Parishes founded Samaritan Ministry in 1986. Now over 50 partners carry on this shared mission through their Partner Representatives, clergy and staff leaders. They do it by organizing engagement in the transformative work that happens in our three (3) offices with our “participants” as well as our individuals from our partner parishes and schools. Supported by staff and other key leaders from Samaritan Ministry, partner leaders discern how the partnership can serve the mission of their parish or school, including workshops, forums and, in some cases, direct casework and coaching for folks who come to that parish seeking a better life.

Every year, our hope is that a renewed vision for partnership emerges and evolves in an ongoing conversation within the leadership of a particular partner including but not limited to its leaders in Samaritan Ministry. There are numerous possibilities for sharing our time, talent and treasure – and to be positively changed in the process. Specific examples are named in the attached model Covenant for Partnership which serves as a summary . . . many more possibilities wait to be inspired by our partner conversations, in the context in which your parish practices its ministry.

Below is an outline of the covenant that will help frame the conversation we hope to have with each current or prospective partner parish or school. Note that it is organized into 3 intentionally overlapping categories – Shared expectations, expectations of Samaritan Ministry by a Partner, and expectations of the Partner by Samaritan Ministry. *After the outline* is a *model covenant* that includes some of the comment elements but also possible specific elements of a particular partner’s vision for partnership. **Please note that the MODEL Covenant is for partner parishes, we are still working on one for schools once we have a bit more experience.**



I. Shared Expectations between Partners and Samaritan Ministry, reflected in –

- A. Communication
- B. Designation of a “Samaritan Sunday” (or “Samaritan Day” for schools) once every two years
- C. Educational Opportunities
- D. Financial Stewardship
- E. Prayer
- F. Collaborative Ministry

II. Partner Expectations of Samaritan Ministry, reflected in –

- A. Transformational Ministry Opportunities and Events
- B. Transformational Giving Opportunities
- C. Workshops (Urban Experience, Service Learning), Training, and Tools
- D. Facilitating Parish Mission Discernment
- E. Organizational Leadership Opportunities

III. Samaritan Ministry’s Expectations of Partners, reflected in –

- A. Discerned Commitment by the Vestry and Rector, or Chaplain, Headmaster & Student leadership
- B. Designation of TWO “fit and called” Partner Representatives
- C. Designation of ONE clergy person, chaplain or staff leader for school, to be the key clergy liaison
- D. Parish or school-wide engagement through one or more “time, talent, and treasure” opportunities.
- E. Commitment to an Annual Contribution



**A MODEL COVENANT FOR MISSION PARTNERSHIP
AMONG
PARTNER PARISHES OF SAMARITAN MINISTRY OF GREATER WASHINGTON***

** NOTE that we are still developing a model covenant for partner schools once we have more experience.*

I. The SMGW Parish Partnership: Purpose & History

The partnership between Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) and its Partner Parishes is a collaborative ministry that seeks to do together what none of us can do alone. The partnership creates and cultivates a strong and lasting bond between individual parishes and SMGW. This happens primarily by: (a) equipping parishioners and clergy of partner parishes on how to respond with real and rigorous compassion to persons in need who desire to make real changes in their lives; (b) providing long-term and short-term volunteer opportunities for parishioners to exercise their time and talent by sharing in the compassionate response that SMGW offers throughout the region in its three locations, thereby experiencing transformative change in themselves; (c) providing opportunities for partner parishes and their individual members to offer their gifts of treasure as faithful stewards of all that God has given them; and, (d) serving as catalyst and facilitator of life-changing mission in particular partner parishes as well as the community at large.

It was for the purpose of supporting this shared mission that 12 Partner Parishes founded Samaritan Ministry in 1986. Now over 40 Partner Parishes carry on this shared mission through their Partner Parish Representatives by organizing parish involvement in the transformative work with participants, identify and serve as leaders for key committees, and annually elect the Board of Directors.

The mutual expectations below outline how SMGW serves the missions of Partner Parishes and how Partner parishes serve the mission of SMGW, all with our mutual offering of time, talent and treasure.

II. Shared Expectations between Partners and Samaritan Ministry

- A. Commitment to Communication.** SMGW commits to provide consistent, clear and strategic communication about the present opportunities available in the Next Step Program, to connect parishioners' time, talent and treasure with SMGW's needs, "where our great hunger meets the world's great needs." Partner Parishes commit to communicate to parishioners through written, electronic and oral methods the basic opportunities for engagement of parishioners' time, talent and treasure at SMGW with special attention to sharing stories of transformation from both participants and volunteers. Partner Parish Representatives commit to participate in annual media training with the SMGW Communications and Volunteer Coordinator (CVC).
- B. Commitment to Designate a "Samaritan Ministry Sunday" or "SM Chapel Day".** The goal is a mutually-agreed upon visit of SMGW staff to each Partner Parish at least once every two years, though what that looks like depends on the parish. Ideally, these visits engage parishioners through preaching and teaching as well as more in-depth discussion with key outreach leaders, clergy and others around our shared mission, and the opportunities for mutual spiritual growth and service.



- C. Commitment to Educational Opportunities.** SMGW commits to provide educational opportunities to parishioners/students and clergy at Partner Parishes and schools on topics such as poverty, homelessness, socio-economic disparity and the spectrum of social ministry responses in which a parish might engage. These opportunities may be held at the member partner or at one of 3 SMGW offices. These educational opportunities also may be a part of Samaritan Ministry Sundays or may be separate events.
- D. Commitment to Financial Stewardship.** SMGW commits to budget and manage organizational resources wisely and be held accountable to our various partners, individual supporters and institutional supporters. Partners commit to making an annual financial contribution, and are encouraged to make a contribution of at least one quarter of one percent (0.25%) and at most 5 percent (5%) of the Partner's annual operating budget. In the case of partners making an in-kind contribution such as providing rent or real estate for use as a SMGW office, the contribution is at least \$500. As part of the stewardship journey, Partners commit to increase that percentage over time as they so discern.
- E. Commitment to Prayer.** SMGW and its partner parishes commit to pray for each other on a regular basis.
- F. Collaborative Ministry.** Reflecting our core value of shared ministry, SMGW and specific regions or individual partner parishes commit to collaborative ministry both informally and/or through tailored agreements to provide such tools as needs assessments or screening for emergency assistance.

III. Partner Parishes' expectations of Samaritan Ministry

- A. Transformational Ministry Opportunities and Events.** SMGW commits to provide ongoing *opportunities* for parishioners at Partner Parishes to serve as volunteer staff, such as Front Office Coordinators, Caseworkers, Workshop Leaders, Computer Mentors, Resume Writers, Pantry Managers and Building Stewards. SMGW also commits to provide one-time *events* that enable parishioners to share in the ministry, such as food and toiletries drives, business clothing drives, annual Help-the-Homeless walks, the annual Participant Christmas Party, annual Spring Gala and Next Step Breakfast, and/or special projects using one's unique gifts and talents.
- B. Transformational Giving Opportunities.** SMGW commits to provide opportunities for individual parishioners to practice their gifts of generosity through committed and passionate sharing of their treasure, both in kind and in cash.
- C. Workshops, Training and Tools.** SMGW commits to provide workshops offering guidance on encountering homeless and other persons in daily life who are "stuck" whether they are on the street, in a rector's office or showing up during Sunday services. This includes equipping parish staff, clergy and leaders to respond to such persons with compassion and clarity, as well as training and tools for Partner Parish Representatives, including orientation around SMGW's mission, vision and program, as well as opportunities for involvement.
- D. Facilitating Partner Mission Discernment.** Partner Parishes may ask SMGW to serve as a "mission consultant" to aid parishes in discerning the focus and direction of their mission, whether or not that



includes our specific work at SMGW. This includes facilitating conversations on the continuum of social justice ministry and mission as well as discussions with parish clergy and outreach leaders.

- E. Organizational Leadership Opportunities.** SMGW commits to provide parishioners at Partner Parishes opportunities to serve on the Partner Parish Council (as a Partner Parish Representative), the SMGW Board of Directors, and/or on one of the standing or *ad hoc* SMGW Board Committees, e.g. program, development or the *ad hoc* annual Gala committee.

IV. Samaritan Ministry's Expectations of Partners

- A. Discerned Commitment by the Vestry and Rector.** Parish leadership commits to a discerned acceptance of the call to serve as a Partner Parish with SMGW. This could be delegated to the Outreach Committee, but needs to have the conscious support of clergy leaders and the Vestry.
- B. Designation of TWO "fit and called" Partner Representatives.** Partner Parishes commit to identifying two Partner Parish Representatives to serve for 3-year terms as lead organizers and advocates in their parish for the shared mission with SMGW. This term can be renewed once, for a total term of up to 6 years. This includes but is not limited to participation in the five (5) parish council meetings of the year. A "fit and called" representative is a person who believes this is part of their ministry in the world.
- C. Designation of ONE clergy person to be the key clergy liaison for SMGW.** If a partner parish has only one clergy person, then that person is the rector or vicar. Otherwise the clergy liaison is whichever clergyperson is designated to attend occasional partnership clergy lunches, major SMGW events, etc. That said, *all* partner parish clergy are invited to participate in SMGW events, including Partner Parish Council meetings and Partner Parish clergy events. Clergy are invited to play a more active role, e.g., on the Board or on a Committee *if they so choose*.
- D. Parish-wide engagement through one or more "time, talent, and treasure" opportunities.**
Examples include:
- Hosting annual clothing, food and toiletries drives to aid in providing the basic necessities for program participants taking *next steps*;
 - Presence and volunteer support in the annual participant Christmas parties, hosted around the region;
 - Participation at all levels in the annual Help the Homeless campaign, including hosting a walk or educational activity *and* participating in the matching gift campaign;
 - Engaging and organizing individual members through the offering of their time, talent and treasure;
 - Participation in major fundraising events, including the annual Spring Gala and the Next Step Breakfast for current and prospective major donors.
- E. Commitment to an Annual Contribution.** As mentioned above, Partner Parishes commit to make an annual financial contribution, and are encouraged to make a contribution of at least one quarter of one percent (0.25%) and at most 5 percent (5%) of the Parish's annual operating budget. In the case of parishes making an in-kind contribution such as rent or real estate, the contribution is at least \$500. As part of the stewardship journey, Partner Parishes commit to increase that percentage over time as they so discern.