

Caring Committee

Chair/Contact _____Amy Norton_____

Contact email ___amy.norton@comcast.net_____

- Action**
- **Include both current and potential.**
 - **Include programs, education, spiritual experiences, attitudinal changes, and other experiences you think and feel would actively further our mission and vision.**

The mission of the Caring Committee continues to be to respond to the expressed needs and concerns of the congregation of First Parish. A future of growth might involve the committee expanding to offer select help for disenfranchised groups beyond our church community. In addition, the skill set within the Caring Committee may be helpful to some of the other committees within First Parish.

Time frame
or steps
If Applicable _____ongoing_____

Priority Rating _____ Based on action's potential to help achieve the vision.
Scale: 1 = highest priority, greatest pote

1 This action furthers the mission and work of our committee and the mission and vision of the church in the following ways.

Please, explain these in terms of your committee's work and mission as they support the vision and mission of the church, keeping mind specifically:

- Carry our gifts and message into the world
- Understanding and celebrating difference as wisdom, inside and outside our walls
- Empower people to create loving, fulfilling relationships

By providing and engaging others to provide meals, transportation, and social support to the members of the congregation at times of need, we strengthen relationships and the social fabric of our church.

The Caring Committee has found that the use of technology including the Lotsa Helping Hands website could help to coordinate work projects in Building and Grounds, families hosting social hour, coordinating volunteers for ushering and flowers, etc.

Caring Committee

2 This action will contribute to the church's institutional health in the following ways.

Use as much detail as possible, including numbers, such as targets and estimates. For example, number of people reached, number of hits to a web posting, number of members completing a training and committing to an action, dollars raised, lay work hours on something ...

Start with the following basic contributions, but add those not listed.

- Generate new energy or tap existing energy
- Create new fundraising opportunities or help use financial resources more efficiently
- Attract new members or deepen the experience of existing members

By offering support that sustains our church, we spiritually enrich the individuals in our congregation, who may be moved to reach out to others in need in the greater community with kindness and compassion. This has the potential for attracting new members to First Parish.

The work done by the Caring Committee enhances First Parish's identity as a "caring congregation", a safe and compassionate place to place to find one's spiritual home.

3 This action will draw on the following resources.

Include as much detail as possible, including numbers. Try your best to define resources already present in the congregation, as well as those that would need to be developed or secured in some way. Resources include quantifiable things, such as money, time, space; as well as things such as knowledge, skill (teaching), gifts (dynamic worship), orientation (openness), awareness (physical and other needs of people vary according to our current and changing abilities) and enthusiasm for a particular idea (visiting people detained by immigration authorities) or activity (pot lucks).

The Caring Committee's work provides a means for members to be more involved in the church by giving concrete support to others in the congregation. The resources used by the Caring Committee tap the energy of those within our congregation. Increasing the number of individuals willing to offer help will expand the potential for the work of our community. If the number of congregants willing to offer their time and energy for others increased we would be able to reach beyond our congregation to offer assistance to organizations such as the Eritrean community.

Committee

**Long-term Planning Process
Committee Action Plan Form**

Due October 31

The CC suggested adding a box to the announcements that notifies members of the need for volunteers and the ways to contact the CC if willing to volunteer. Also suggested emailing the CC volunteer survey to the church distribution list, rather than just distributing it in one church service and posting the link on the web page. We might reach more congregants that way.