

**A REPORT
TO THE PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON
AND THE SYNOD OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

**Concerning
A GRANT TO
THE HAMILTON ALMANARAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MINISTRY**

**From
The Creative Ministry Fund
THE SYNOD OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

**Under the care of
The Task Force on Middle Eastern Ministry
THE PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON**

June 15, 2017

PREAMBLE

In the early months of 2016 a vision of a ministry and outreach to Middle Eastern refugees living in downtown, central Hamilton was conceived in the heart and mind of the Rev. Amin Mansour, Pastor of the Hamilton Almanarah Mission. A proposal was developed and the desire was that it be funded, at least in part, by the Synod of Southwestern Ontario through the Synod's Creative Ministry Fund. Appropriate approvals were acquired through the Presbytery of Hamilton Task Force on Middle Eastern Ministry and the presbytery, itself. A grant request was submitted in late March to the Creative Ministry Fund.

The gist of the proposal was that, under the conduct of the Rev. Amin Mansour and the people of the Almanarah Mission, there would be:

- - a monthly social gathering at which a substantial meal will be provided, without cost to the refugee attendees, of what will plainly be recognized as Middle Eastern food. During the course of the gatherings, there will be time for the participants to mingle and will also be opportunities to share the Christian faith in a culturally sensitive way among, what will be a significantly large percentage of Muslim attendees. (Quotation taken from the Grant Request)

The intent was to hold ten monthly gatherings, from April to December 2016. The grant request was for \$4,000.00.

PROGRESS

In due course notice was received that we would receive a grant of \$2,000.00 but because of an unexpected mix-up the grant was not received until mid-October. Meanwhile, Pastor Amin and the good folk of the Almanarah Mission went ahead to plan and conduct three social events at three different churches within Hamilton City. These events were held on September 17th, October 22nd and November 19th. In addition to Pastor Amin and the Almanarah folk, there were in attendance people from the Middle Eastern Task Force and participants from the congregations involved. There was great enthusiasm for what transpired and everyone deemed what happened, a success!

The grant totaled \$2,000.00 while the total expenses amounted to \$1,352.90. A cheque is included to the Synod in the amount of \$647.10 for the unexpended grant.

THANKSGIVINGS

The Task Force on Middle Eastern Ministry is grateful to the Synod of Southwestern Ontario for the support received through the Creative Ministry Fund, to financially create an initiative to reach out to Syrian refugees with experiences that sought to be culturally sensitive to their lives. We are also thankful for the sensitivity and leadership of the Rev. Amin Mansour who provided such an impetus and faith-driven determination to bring these social events about. And we are appreciative to Mrs. Anne Forsyth for providing the financial support in the management of the funds entrusted to our care for the Syrian refugee social events.

Ultimately, we are filled with love and gratitude to our God and Father, and his Son Jesus Christ, who is the Source and provides the resources necessary to do His work in this world of needs. “To God be the glory, great things He has done!”

George Beals

**Rev. George Beals
Convener**