

Growing Together
A Community Garden Ministry

Sponsored by
Olivet Lutheran Church
&
First United Methodist Church

Fargo, ND

2010

Garden Ministry Toolbox Outline

- History
- Getting Started
- Defining some key leaders
- Gardening Tips and Planning
- Feeding the Families - Sample Menus
- Playing with the Children – Things to think about
- Sample schedules
- Transportation

Appendix - Tools/Samples

- Garden Plots samples
- Garden tool list
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The Growing Together Garden

This ministry was started from Olivet Lutheran Church in Fargo asking "What can we do support the New American families? From that question - came the idea to form a community garden - to provide food, fellowship and an opportunity to share our cultures. A time to support our new neighbors

A number of years later, when the original garden was space no longer available, Olivet began to search for a new garden location. First United Methodist Church had the space available and the idea of a garden had actually been planted a few years ago, but the idea had not taken root. When the opportunity to partner with Olivet was presented, many of us felt this was a ministry that had been sent to us, a calling. After much prayer and many meetings, First United Methodist Church decided to plant a garden in partnership with our new friends at Olivet.

This garden has been a blessing larger than any of us could have imagined. Two churches working together to support our New American neighbors. We have all learned a lot and we are excited to share some ideas to help you get started. We know there is growing interest in this concept and we want to nurture the spread of this and we hope you will take these tips and ideas and further develop this garden tool kit to fit your needs.

When you are ready to start your garden, there are some key things you will want think about.

Who will be the focus of you garden?

Will they need transportation?

Where will the garden be?

Are there some financial resources you can use to get started?

We have included some of the tools that we used to help us get started. Please feel free to modify these tools as you need. We would love to hear your feedback. Please let us know about your garden experience and your learnings.

Best wishes and happy digging!

The Growing Together Garden Ministers

Garden Ministry Leaders

Garden Ministry Coordinator

- Overall lead person for the Garden Ministry
- Assure communication between Garden Ministry and congregation
- Does not have to be present weekly

Garden Ministry Archivist/Photographer

- Responsible for archiving the start of this ministry
- Taking pictures
- Responsible for recording our progress for future

Celebration Planner

- Lead person for the Garden Ministry Celebrations
- Celebrations:
 - Planting/Blessing of the Garden
 - Harvest Celebration
- Does not have to be present weekly
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Communications Coordinator

- Responsible for sending communications about ministry – email will be the main communication method
- Responsible for getting messages about ministry to congregation (Announcements, Ministry Moments, Messenger, Website, Mousecall)
- Develop newsletter for inviting neighbors to participate

Garden Ministry Liaison to Trustees

- Responsible for representing the Garden Ministry to the Church Trustees
- Responsible to coordinate building usage to accommodate all ministries

Garden Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

- Volunteer Coordinator for the Garden Ministry
- Coordinate the Indoor/Outdoor Hosts
- Partner with the Communications Coordinator to request volunteers as needed
- Does not have to be present weekly

Meal Coordinator

- Responsible for coordinating the meals
- Purchasing groceries
- Responsible for kitchen and dinner supplies – paper plates, utensils, cups, etc

Transportation

- Bus Driver
- Transportation Aide – assists on the bus with phone calls, etc

Liaison to refugee families

- Someone to help find the families
- Get information regarding the garden to the families

Children's Activities

- Responsible to provide activities for the various age children
- Acquired crafts, toys, games

Gardening Tips - Getting Started

Garden Plan

The key to a successful garden is the planning. We used graph paper to plot out our garden plan (See attached for samples). This will help you estimate the number of plants needed and assure that you have adequate space.

Plot size

Plot size is very important. We found that garden size of 100' X 100 gives plot sizes of 18' X 18'. This gives a plot size adequate to plant 36 tomatoes (3' spacing) or 64 Peppers, Eggplant, Broccoli, or Cabbage (2' spacing). Square plots make it very easy to estimate for plant needs. Each plot has a path between so gardeners walk on the path and not the garden. We did use full length plots for our Row Crops and Vines. We put 2 x 2 stakes in the corner of each plot and use sisal twine to separate the plots. This is a great guide for our row marker. We later remove and use this twine for our tomatoes. We move the loose soil from our path to create a raised bed for better drainage.

Tools, Equipment

The more tools that you have the better your productivity will be. We have 15 of each: shovels, rakes, and hoes. Other equipment that is beneficial: a hammer to pound the stakes, wheel barrows, shed for storage, garbage cans for water storage, hoses, pruning shears, and gloves. When we needed more tools - a message in our church bulletins to ask for equipment was effective. You may also find these items at garage or rummage sales. If you are writing a grant - you may want to include some of these supplies in your initial request.

Seeds

One of the largest expenses of the community garden is the expense of seeds and plants. The key to keeping our seed expense low is buying seeds in bulk from companies that sell to commercial growers versus small packets from retailers. We have also started many of our plants (Tomatoes, Peppers, Egg Plant, Broccoli, and Cabbage) from seed.

Some Suggested Seed Sources

Stokes of Buffalo, NY = Commercial Seeds

Baker Heirloom of Mansfield, MO = Source for Heirloom Squash and Pumpkin

Tomato Growers Supply of Ft Meyers, FL = Worlds Largest Tomato Collection

Scheels of Fargo, ND = Onions

Bakers Nursery of Fargo, ND = Seed Potatoes

Variety Selection

It is important that you are selecting varieties that will do well in your climate.

Tomatoes, Peppers, and Egg Plants with a maturity date of 90 days might not have enough time to ripen.

Tomatoes

The tomato is the focus of the garden. Many of your crops like corn or potatoes may be reasonably priced in stores during peak season; however tomatoes remain over \$2.00 per lb.

The majority of the tomatoes that we plant are Heirloom varieties. One exception is the

Sungold which is a Japanese Hybrid. It is important that you use 3 foot spacing for planting. This will allow room to walk between your plants to do the necessary pruning and harvesting. We use wood stakes and Bamboo stakes for all of our tomatoes. Be sure to push the stake done as far as your can to keep the plant from pulling out the stake with July winds or heavy production. We remove the side shoots on the tomatoes as they appear and tie the center stem to the stake. This keeps the fruit off of the ground and allows for better air circulation which will help reduce viruses. We begin tying the plants as soon as you see the first blossoms. We also remove the blossoms on our larger varieties 45 days before the expected freeze and on the smaller varieties 30 days before the expected first frost. This eliminates green tomatoes and forces the plant to its energy into the remaining tomatoes.

Plant & Seed Spacing

This is very crucial to the success of your garden. You will maximize the production of your garden by spacing appropriately. Planting too close will actually severely lessen your production. Attached are our recommended spacing guidelines.

Wide Row Planting

This is a technique used for row crops like carrots, lettuce, and beets. Instead of a single row, plant a row that is 6-8 inches wide. This will increase your production dramatically.

Row Markers

This was a huge time saver. Important to help with proper spacing and productivity. This was fashioned from a 2 x 4 board that we installed 1' X 2' spacing with a pointed tip that could mark the row. We have markers designed for 2 foot, 3 foot.

Tilling

We rent a tractor with an attached Woods Tiller. This allows us to complete our tilling task in 2- 3 hours. Your first year garden may take longer if you are working in clay soils.

Planting

In 2009, we held a planting Celebration on Saturday, May 31. We invited our congregations, our refugee families and the larger community. We were able to plant both of our gardens in 6 hours. This event included a noon lunch. Prior to the event, we did a lot of planning. We designated leads for each aspect of the garden such as Vines, Tomatoes, Pepper-Eggplants, Row Crops, etc.

Weeding

The success of your garden can be attributed to how well you can keep your garden weed free. Because we were very diligent in our weeding in June and early July we had very few weeds later in July and August leaving us more time to water and harvest.

Watering

We had hoses that ran from our water source to our garden which we then stored in our garden paths at the end of each session. We used 50 gallons heavy duty garbage cans which were close to our actual garden. From those garbage cans we then carried 5 gallon buckets to water each plant individually. We were able to conserve by putting the water in a depression like well

surrounding each plant. We also used stakes to mark the roots of all our vine plants which enabled us to focus our water on the roots and we did not water our row crops. We did not use any type of sprinkler system (which positively impacted our water bills).

Harvesting

The highlight of the garden is the harvest. Harvest begins in mid August and continues until the first frost. Having enough containers for harvest can be a challenge and finding medium size boxes needs to be a priority. Tomatoes require shallow flat boxes. Most of the other produce can be gathered in bags. (We do encourage reusable bags) We constructed make shift coolers using large cardboard boxes with frozen water jugs as our cooling agents. This allowed us to harvest at one garden on Wed and distribute at our other garden on Thursday night.

Cleanup

Cleanup is a continual process. The majority of our plant material is returned to compost in our garden. We have a cleanup party after all produce is removed from the garden. This year we had our cleanup on Oct 17th. If possible, we recommend tilling in the fall.

Individual Plots

Each of refugee families had an individual plot. This gave our gardeners a sense of personal ownership. We plan to add personal plots for others members that help with the garden to further our fellowship. An important note, when we arrive at the garden - we all work together in the community spaces before tending to our individual plots.

Feeding the Families

Every week we ate dinner together. It was a time for fellowship and an opportunity to demonstrate hospitality and improve the nutrition of the participants. It was also a chance to discuss food with the refugee families. Many of their favorite vegetables cannot be grown in our climate. We tried to present new foods in different ways for them to taste. We talked about cooking methods, etc. to encourage the mothers to incorporate the available produce. There was a real concern that the teenagers, especially, were already moving toward a "junk food" diet so prevalent today. There was also a genuine concern that the children may not be eating well in the summer in the absence of the school lunch program.

We spent approximately \$50.00 per week on groceries which fed between 40 - 60 people, many of whom were children.

During the warmer weather we usually ate outdoors. The food was prepared ahead of time and brought out close to the garden. Luckily, we did have electricity outside so we generally served from roasters or crock pots. This also determined what we were able to cook. It was rather basic fare - sloppy joes, chili, tacos, spaghetti, shredded beef on a bun, etc. However, we added many extra vegetables to improve the nutrition level. We added onion, bell pepper, and carrots all finely diced to the sloppy joes. In the spaghetti sauce we were able to add onion, bell pepper, zucchini, and even beets, again all finely diced. We did stir fried vegetables with chicken over brown rice. (This one took a lot more prep work) There were never any complaints. We frequently added a side salad with as many fresh vegetables as we could find. Later in the summer, we cut-up our own vegetables and served them with ranch dressing (always served in a squeeze bottle). It is easy to default to some type of prepackaged chips as a side but we tried hard to avoid that.

For dessert, we initially asked volunteers to bring bars or cookies. As it got warmer we moved to ice cream (by far the children's favorite item) or popsicles. It didn't matter how messy they were when they were outside. We also used watermelon as dessert several times. The only beverage we served in the summer was water. It was available while people were gardening as well as with the meal. No big deal if it spills, gets on things, etc.

Check with the local bakery outlets for day old buns, etc. They are considerably cheaper and from what we could tell; but just as good.

During the winter months we met at our churches where a kitchen available. This makes the preparation of the meal much easier. We also added coffee as a second beverage.

Meal Suggestions:

Spaghetti

Brown hamburger at home put into zip lock bags. Cut up onion or other vegetables and put into zip lock bags. Cook spaghetti noodles just too al dente stage or less, cool and package.

On site, combine burger, vegetables and tomato sauce and seasonings in the roaster. Cook at simmering stage for 30 mins or more. About 10 - 15 mins before serving, add the noodles just to bring them up to heat.

1 lb of hamburger usually feeds 4-5. The more vegetables added the less meat is needed. Follow package directions to find serving size.

If I am using a 20 qt roaster, I usually have 5-8 lbs of hamburger. I usually cut up 3 lbs of onions, 2-3 large green bell peppers, also one can of diced cooked beets, 2-3 zucchinis diced small. The amount of tomatoes needed may vary. Start with one #10 can of tomato sauce, add in stages. Canned diced tomatoes can also be added.

The most important ingredient is Italian Seasoning. Use generously to taste.

Sloppy Joes

Follow direction of back of "Manwich" can. To this recipe we added 3 lbs of diced onion, and about 3 lbs of carrots grated in the food processor. Combine in the roaster and cook on simmer for about 30 - 45 mins.

Coleslaw is an excellent side dish with this. Buy large packages of prepared coleslaw and the coleslaw dressing. Quick, easy and delicious.

Tacos

Determine the number of people to be fed and buy the amount of hamburger needed. Probably will get 5-6 tacos from a 1 lb of burger. Brown at home. Add seasoning. Put in large crockpot.

Serve like a taco bar. Have lettuce, tomato and cheese available, along with sour cream, salsa.

Recipe Suggestions:

Meaty Chili

12 lbs of ground beef
3 lbs of onions
1 head of garlic

Brown beef, remove. In same pans cook onion and garlic (which have been diced). Remove and drain. Divide between 2 roasters.

Also divide between the roasters:

10 14.5 oz cans petite diced tomatoes, undrained
8 14.5 oz cans chili beans, undrained
4 14.5 oz cans kidney beans, drained
6 14.5 oz cans tomato sauce

8 teaspoons chili powder
4 teaspoons cumin
4 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons red pepper

Cover and simmer (at about 400 degrees) for an hour to hour and half, stirring occasionally.

Serve with crackers and/ or bread
Also vegetable relish tray with ranch dressing

Serves @50

Hearty Vegetable Beef Soup

5-7 lbs of boneless beef chuck, cut into bite size pieces
2 cartons beef broth
3 lbs onions, chopped
1 head garlic, diced
1 large cabbage, chopped
1 #10 can of diced tomatoes
2-3 lbs of potatoes, cubed
2-3 lbs of carrots, sliced
16 oz frozen beans
16 oz frozen peas

Toss beef with flour and saute in skillet with a little canola oil. Drain. Add to roaster. This will take a while if doing it in batches. Saute onion and garlic in the same manner. Pour a little beef broth in the skillet to remove brown bits. Add this to the roaster. Now add all the other ingredients to the roaster and simmer for at least an hour. Salt and pepper to taste. Add water, if needed while it cooks.

Serve with bread or crackers
Orange or apple slices make a nice side dish.

Serves @50

Smothered Mushroom Chicken

Brown Rice

Vegetables

Chicken Dish:

12-15 # chicken breast

4 pkgs mushrooms

1 # onions

1 head garlic

Cook chicken breast in boiling water until done. Keep broth on low simmer. Then remove and cut into smaller pieces. Lightly saute chicken with canola oil, remove and saute the mushrooms, onions and garlic that have been diced small. Add some chicken broth as needed to remove fond. Pour all of this into a roaster. Add the two cans of mushroom soup and as much chicken broth as needed for the right consistency.

Rice:

98 oz Instant Brown Rice (Minute brand is the best)

Make rice as instructed by box except not quite as much water. Use half water and half chicken broth. Will get done rather quickly. Then move to roaster to keep warm. Add a little chicken broth off and on if needed to keep from burning.

Vegetables:

200 oz mixed frozen vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, carrot)

Dump all the vegetables into a roaster and cook until thoroughly heated. Add broth if needed.

Serves @50

(If you have broth left over ~ freeze and date)

Cheeseburger Casserole

3# wide noodles
6 lbs ground beef
6 onions, chopped
1 head garlic, minced
2 - 8 oz pkg sliced fresh mushrooms
3 lbs bag of shredded cheddar cheese
90 oz tomato sauce

Pam two (12x20) baking pans

Cook noodles al dente. Drain and toss with a little oil to keep from sticking. Divide in equally into the two baking pans.

Cook beef until browned in two large skillets. Drain and divide equally into the baking pans over the noodles. Do the same with the onion, garlic and mushrooms.

Pour equal amounts of the tomato sauce over this. Sprinkle about 1 lb cheese per pan over the noodle, meat mixture. Lightly toss with two forks. Cover with foil. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove foil. Sprinkle remaining cheese equally on top of the mixture. Return to oven (about 30 mins) for cheese to melt.

Serves @50

Playing with the Children

All of our new American families had children. All of the children were a part of our garden, even the very young had a role. The older children would share in the work - from weeding to watering. The very small children carried buckets to water the plants. We also provided some leadership to oversee the children. The parents were working the garden or tending to their individual plots. It is important to provide some structure and intentional focus to this area.

We provided age appropriate games, basketballs, soccer balls, bubbles, Frisbees each week during the summer months. We had storage bins with our children's equipment in them. We also had blankets and quilts for the infants or small children to use.

During the winter months when we gather - we provided board games, we decorated cookies, played Bingo, and craft projects.

Sample Schedule

Weekly Gardening:

We met every Thursday. The buses would start picking up people at 4:30pm. The families would arrive at the Garden around 5:15pm. We garden together until around 6pm at which time we eat dinner. Some families go back into the garden, while others would visit and have fellowship. At about 7pm, each family gathers their food to get back on the bus to go home. Gardeners then pack up the hoses, equipment, etc and are done @7:45 pm.

Planting Day Schedule:

We planned this event for the 1st weekend after Memorial Day weekend. In our Northern Climate very few of the transplants should be planted before this date to avoid the danger of frost. We invited members of our churches as well as the local community to participate in this event, using this as a recruiting tool for new volunteers. The key is organization. We started this event at 9 AM. We did some prep work the previous week, marking the rows, putting in stakes for tomatoes, organizing the tools. The Garden leaders met at the garden at 8 AM on planting day for final preparations. We had leaders assigned to each area. A leader was assigned for each of these categories, Tomatoes, Vine Crops, Row Crops, Peppers and Egg Plants, Cabbage and Broccoli. Individual plots could be planted the week prior. Our goal was to plant our entire garden by 12 Noon followed by a meal and a blessing of the garden by the pastors of our churches. Cleanup was done afterwards. The most important part is the organization and planning.

Harvest Celebration:

This was another event in which we invited the community to participate by hosting a Farmer's Market. This was a huge success. We promoted this event thru the Newspaper, Church Bulletins, and word of mouth. Other keys were finding a trailer for the display and signage on the street. We held this on our regular Thursday meeting night with our refugee families helping with the sale. We have decided to continue to sale to enable us to self sustaining garden by 2011. This event was held the 3rd week in Sept.

Year End Clean Up:

This is crucial to your future success the following year. We held this the 3rd week in October. We removed all of the plant matter from the garden area. Much of it was buried in the garden for compost. Any stakes that were used during the year were removed. This is also a great time to clean out your garden shed and discard any thing that you will not use the following year. We drained and stored all of our hoses. Threw away any damaged tools, etc.

Winter Garden Schedule: See attached

Growing Together Garden - Winter Schedule
2nd Thursday of the month
5:30 - 7:00pm

Roles needed:

- Site
- Drive and ride
- Cook and serve
- Provide activities
- Baby care
- Toddler care
- Kinder plus care
- Child and teenage care
- Interact with Adults

Dinner – 5:45pm

November 12

Site _____
Drive and ride _____
Cook and serve _____
Activity _____
Baby care _____
Toddler care _____
Kinder plus care _____
Child and teenage care _____
Interact with Adults _____

Transportation

Each week, we provided transportation for the families. We picked them up using the church bus. Two people would participate in this. One to drive the bus and one transportation aide to call the families 30 minutes ahead of the pick up time and let them know it was time to get ready. They also assured that no neighbor children got on the bus either. This helped the process move a little more smoothly.

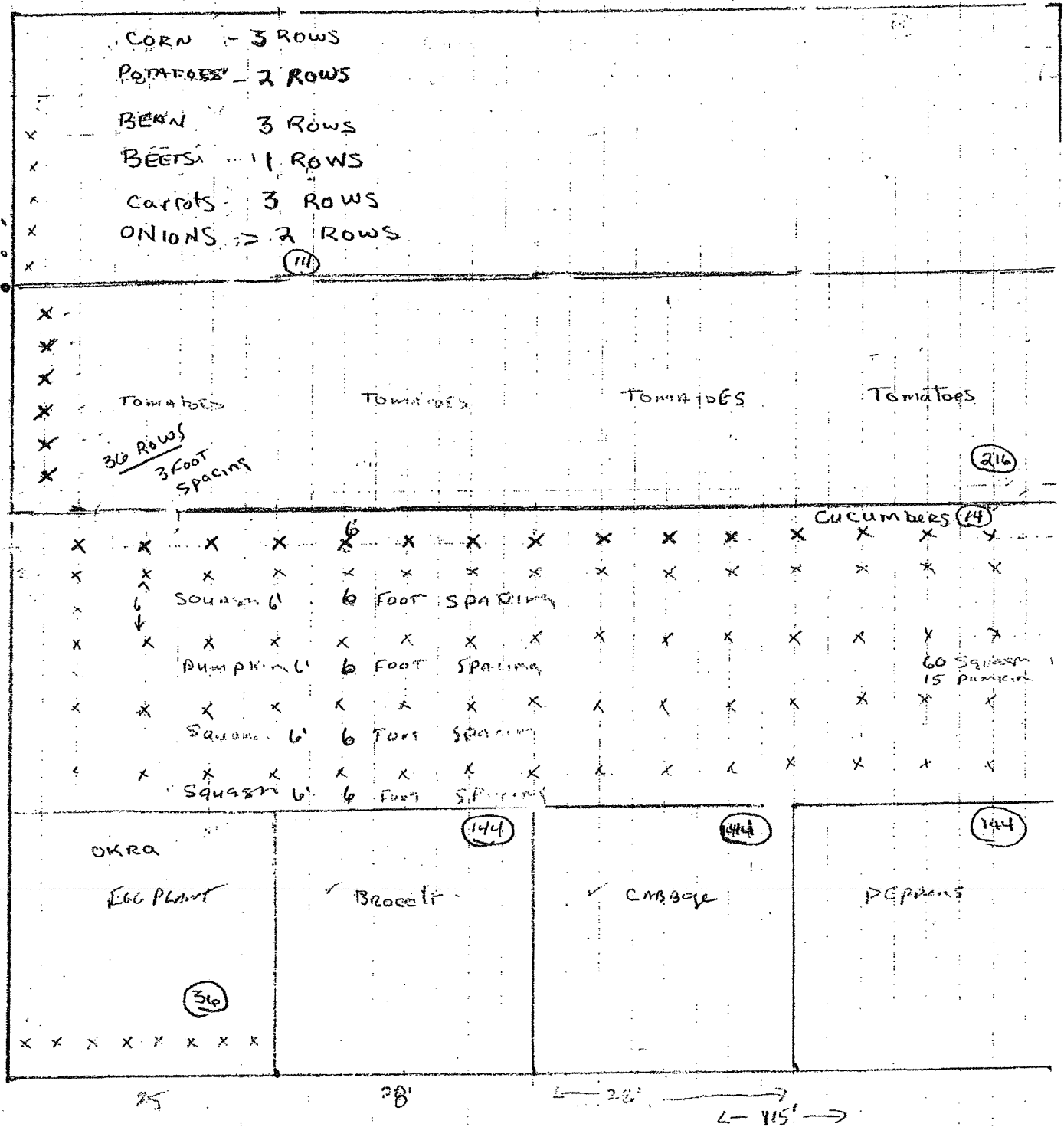
The churches consider the transportation costs as part of the cost of doing ministry. Without transportation, these families would not have been able to participate as many of our new American families do not drive. Public transportation is not available to drop off very close to our garden site.

Appendix

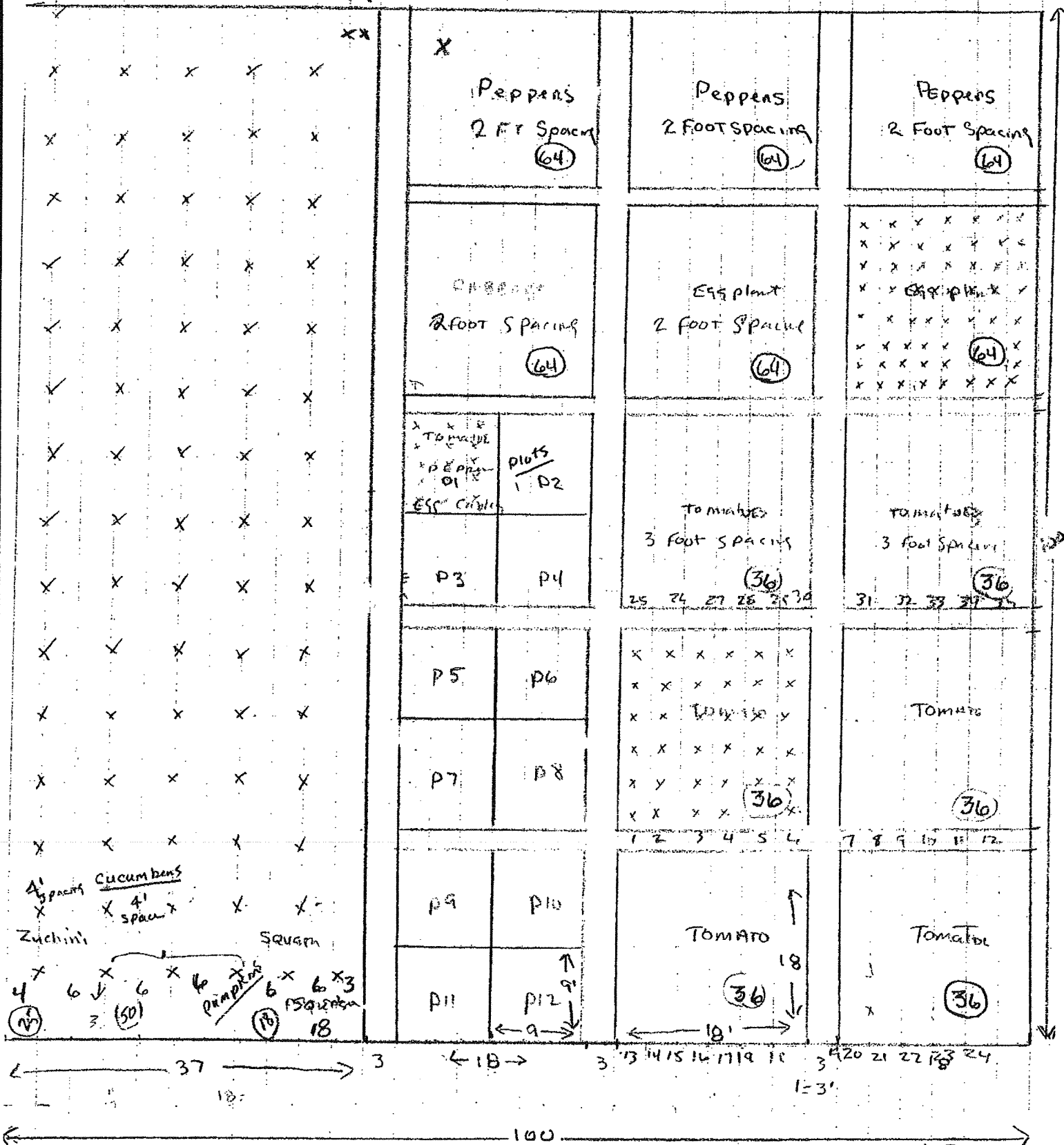

GROWING TOGETHER
CROSS ROADS GARDEN 2009

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Garden Tool Suggested List

Garden Hose - At least 2 hoses.

Water Barrels - 2 50 gallon garbage cans can be used.

Water Buckets - Buy twice as many as you think that you need. We had 40 pails and at times we needed more. We also have ice cream pails for the young one that wanted to help.

Hoes, Rakes, Shovels - We started with 4 each. This definitely was not enough. Now we have over 20 of each. We found many of these at rummage sales or some were purchased to get started. Watch for sales in the spring. Fiberglass handles will give you longer use than wooden handled products.

Stakes - We use a combination of wood and bamboo. You will need stakes for plot markers. We use stakes for each of our tomato plants for support. We use short bamboo for all of our vines to indicate the root area for watering.

Twine - Buy a roll of sisal twine. You can buy a large spool for about \$9.00. We use this for our plot markers, row markers. We later recycle to use to tie up the tomatoes.

Boxes, Bags - Start stockpiling early. You will need lots for your harvest. Encourage the use of recycled bags that can be used all season.

Other Needs - Hammers, Screwdriver, Pliers, Electrical Tape, Canvas Gloves.

Suggested Seed Varieties

Plant Name	Variety Suggestions
Beans	Blue Lake, Provider
Beets	Detroit Supreme, Ruby Queen
Broccoli	Goliath
Cabbage	Copenhagen
Carrots	Danvers, Royal Chantenay
Corn	Jester II, Brocade
Cucumbers	Speedway, General Lee, Stonewall
Egg Plant	Black Beauty
Okra	Clemson Spineless
Onions	Spanish Varieties (Can be purchased locally)
Pepper	California Wonder, Long Red Cayenne, Jalapeno, Hungarian
Potatoes	Yukon Gold (1st choice) Buy local varieties
Pumpkin	Howden, Connecticut Field
Spinach	Unipack, Bloomsdale
Squash	Buttercup, Acorn, Butternut, Spagetti
Tomatoes	Choose Small, Med, Large, (Plant 6 each variety)
Zucchini	Reward, Paycheck, Fortune, Gold Rush

Plant Spacing

Plant Name	Rows	Special Notes/Seed Placement
Beans	2 feet	Seeds 2 - 3 inches 1 inch deep
Beets	2 feet	Wide Row 1/2 inch deep
Broccoli	2 feet	2' x 2'
Cabbage	2 feet	2' x 2'
Carrots	2 feet	Wide Row Experienced Sower
Corn	2 feet	Seeds 6 inches Cover 1 inch deep
Cucumbers	6 feet	Seeds 4 feet apart
Egg Plant	2 feet	2' x 2'
Okra	2 feet	2' x 2'
Onions	2 feet	Wide Row 2 inches apart
Pepper	2 feet	2' x 2'
Potatoes	2 feet	2 feet apart
Pumpkin	6 feet	6 feet apart
Spinach	2 feet	Wide Row 1/2 inch deep
Squash	6 feet	6 Feet apart
Tomatoes	3 feet	3' x 3'
Zucchini	6 feet	4 Feet apart

Sample "Year End Council Report"

Growing Together Garden Ministry A Partnership of First United Methodist and Olivet Lutheran Churches

Through a grant from First United Methodist Church's Endowment and an opportunity to partner with Olivet Lutheran Church, we were able to produce over 4.7 tons of food worth over \$18,000. Food that was given to the New American Families who worked in the garden with us, to the New Life Center and to Charism. This ministry not only touched the lives of the immigrant families but each of us as well.

This opportunity was presented to us and we needed to move quickly to participate. Partnering with Olivet Lutheran Church was a huge piece of the success of the garden. From there, we worked with the Trustees, wrote a grant to our Endowment, people stepped forward to cook, drive the bus, play with the children and work in the garden. We needed everybody's help and support to make this happen.

Every week we gathered with the New American families and gardened together, ate together, and formed friendships. We laughed, we cried tears of joy when our plants produced, we raked, we ached and we were all changed. Every week as we prepared to eat, MaSara would get down on her knees on the cement and pray in her native African language - it was the holiest moment of our week. A beautiful expression of God's love. Food was the least of what was shared each Thursday.

We plan to continue to meet with the New American families each month over the winter. We will do crafts, play games, help with homework, and continue to grow our friendships.

We have put together some information regarding how the grant money was used and what the fruits of our labors produced. For every one dollar invested in this garden, we grew \$10 of food. A pretty good investment.

Our plans for sustaining this garden have become successful as we have started a Farmer's Market to earn money for seeds/expenses for next year. We have over \$800 put aside for next year.

We are grateful for the support that First United Methodist has provided to this growing ministry. We look forward to next year and we welcome you to join us.

Growing Together Garden 2009 Production

Gathering Garden Production

Plant	# of Plants	Lbs	Per Pound Cost	\$ if purchased at local grocery store	Income	
Pepper	192	384	\$1.99	\$764.16	Total Pounds Produced	10558
Egg Plant	128	168	\$1.79	\$300.72	Cost if purchased	\$18,146.76
Tomatoes	288	1728	\$2.99	\$5,166.72		
Cabbage	36	108	\$0.59	\$63.72	Expenses	
Cucumber	50	500	\$0.79	\$395.00	Supplies	\$1,878.00
Squash	27	818	\$0.69	\$564.42		
Zucchini	25	750	\$1.49	\$1,117.50		
Pumpkin	9	180	\$0.65	\$117.00		
Total	755	4636		\$8,489.24		

Crossroads Garden Production

Plant	# of Plants	Lbs.	Per Pound Cost	\$ if purchased at local grocery store
Pepper	144	432	\$1.99	\$859.68
Egg Plant	24	72	\$1.79	\$128.88
Tomatoes	216	1296	\$2.99	\$3,875.04
Cabbage	144	288	\$0.59	\$169.92
Cucumber	35	140	\$0.79	\$110.60
Squash	60	1080	\$0.69	\$745.20
Zucchini	12	120	\$1.49	\$178.80
Pumpkin	18	432	\$0.65	\$280.80
Broccoli	144	288	\$1.50	\$432.00
Onions	600	100	\$0.92	\$92.00
Corn	900	384	.30/each	\$345.00
Potatoes	120	240	\$0.79	\$189.60
Beans	1200	900	\$1.79	1611
Beets	400	150	2.99/per bur	225
Carrots	1800	600	\$0.69	414
Total	5817	5922		\$9,657.52

Total for both Gardens \$18,146.76

Expenses			Other Supplies	
Seeds	Donated	\$278.00	Shovels	
Food		\$850.00	Tiller	
Compost		\$300.00	Grass clippings	
Paper Products		\$150.00	Use of Church buses	
Tractor	Donated			
Rental		\$300.00	Hoses	
Total		\$1,878.00	Buckets for watering	

Sample Ministry Garden Proposal for Church Council

Garden Ministry

Growing Together to Change the Community One Vegetable at a Time

The seeds of this lay ministry were planted through the community walks with the pastor, a church book club reading “Ending Hunger Now”, the personal nudges of several parishioners, the Cass Clay Health People Initiative and the invitation from Olivet.

Proposal: First United Methodist Church will partner with Olivet Lutheran Church in an ecumenical ministry of a community garden for ten New American families. This fits within the Showing Ministry where the expectations are fellowship, caring, service and discipleship.

Why Should First United Methodist Church start a community garden?

We will:

- Develop a foundation for future partnerships with other faith communities
- Help families grow their own food reducing dependency on subsidies, such as food stamps
- Provide fellowship and community building opportunities
- Help refugees integrate into the community and build their skills
- Participate in an intergenerational, multicultural and multi - faith ministry
- Provide opportunity for family ministry
- Provide an opportunity for people to be involved in a local mission
- Receive holistic benefits
 1. Physical activity
 2. Healthy eating from the fresh produce
 3. Social interaction
 4. Improved mental health
 5. Spiritual health
- Need only minimal funds for water
- Be better stewards of the land
- Participate in the “Green” movement
- Provide a learning opportunity for FUMC
- Reach out and serve food pantry and shelters
- Be able to trial this ministry with mentoring from experts
- Provide outreach to neighbors
- Provide a small group ministry opportunity

Opportunities for First Church Members to Participate in Ministry

- Planting
- Learning about gardening
- Helping to maintain gardens
- Hosting weekly gatherings and special events for planting and harvesting
- Helping to prepare and serve meals
- Harvesting assistance
- Playing with the children

- Praying for the ministry

Olivet's Assistance

They will:

- Provide leadership, supervision and expertise
- Plow and prepare the soil
- Provide the plants
- Provide the tools and hoses
- Provide transportation for the refugees families
- Cook and prepare meals for participants
- Maintain the garden area

History of Olivet's Growing Together Garden

• Garden started in 2006 as a program that was designed to support 10 New American families with vegetables and fellowship. Each family has their own individual plot plus community plots that the participants garden together. Please see attached for more detail.

Ministry Needs:

- 100 x 100 foot plot
- Water Source
- Storage for garden tools
- Kitchen usage
- Weekly Meeting Space – May through October, Monthly November - April
- Volunteers from First United Methodist Church
- Ministry Leadership from both congregations

Possible Concerns:

- “What will the neighbors think?”

We believe that the neighbors will be grateful for our appropriate stewardship of the land. We plan to invite the neighbors to participate. At the previous location, neighbors actually got involved and participated. A number of First Church members witnessed this ministry and were inspired. This ministry makes public our commitment to feeding the hungry and demonstrating our faith through our actions.

- Mowing and spraying challenges

Although the garden creates a potential obstacle for mowing, several of the garden ministers have volunteered to assist in moving the immediate area around the garden and believe that we are willing to cooperate with the current caretakers to do whatever we can to make their work easier.

- Water pooling and quality of soil

We have consulted local experts who believe this is a common challenge for gardening in our area. These issues will be addressed and corrected when they plow and prepare the plots.

- Other concerns will be addressed in a cooperative fashion to develop suitable solution.