

## **Little Library Initiative in four East Houston Communities (newsletter)**

As the struggle continues to overturn Houston ISD Superintendent Miles's appointment and his decision to close and remove books from school libraries, the Justice Coordinating Committee and the Board have approved an initiative to collaborate with civic associations to construct and stock books in Little Libraries. Several of the Houston Public Libraries had severe damage caused by storms and are either just reopening or still under renovation.

Currently the four communities are the Fifth Ward Progressive Neighborhood, Third Ward Home Civic Association, South Macgregor Civic Association, and Super Neighborhood #52. Each civic association and First Church will establish an agreement that sets the responsibilities for the collaborative work.

First Church is committed to seek funding for the Little Library Initiative through grant writing and individual donor participation. A pre-application to the Powell Foundation was submitted on November 28th. Other foundation grants are being prepared.

Two ways that First Church members can participate is by becoming an individual donor. The following link has a donor giving page where there are options for donating. Other donors who are not First UU members but have expressed concern about the removal of school libraries are being contacted to become a Little Library donor. The goal for 2025 is to have 20 Little Libraries constructed and books stocked in those Little Libraries. First Church seeks to stock each of the 20 libraries each financial quarter of 2025.

The second way to contribute is to become a Little Library Volunteer Team member, a civic association liaison. First UU will need two people for each civic association to collaboratively follow the individual agreement between First Church and the civic association. The civic association liaison would first work with the community to identify the individual property locations of the Little Libraries. The second responsibility would be to work with the civic association's book selection committee and the Little Library managers to discuss the book selection options and complete the books selection order page. Once the civic association has completed the book selection forms then these will be submitted to the Little Library Volunteer Team Order Lead for processing the order. All of the above work can be completed through phone calls, zoom meetings, and face to face contacts.

For more information or just a conversation about Little Libraries email [sheilawhitford@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sheilawhitford@sbcglobal.net) or call 281 793 7629.