

2023 January Mission Committee Minutes
Valley Presbyterian Church
10 January 2023

Members Present: Doug Clark, Pastor Craig Lindsey, Steve Ginader (fill in for Steve Larson), Judy Aguayo, Carol Stephens, George Curtis, Kylene Joplin, Ann Ball, Kay Brouwer, Jim Fitzpatrick, Kara Fitzpatrick, Reed Olson, Ed Storey.

Members Absent: Larry Craft, Les Walter, Pat Nau, Mary Horn, Steve Larson

Devotional: Five Love Languages – Do you have a favorite love language with God? (Doug Clark)

Thirty years ago in 1992, Dr. Gary Chapman, counselor and pastor wrote *The Five Love Languages* on how to express heartfelt commitment to your mate and practice self-sacrificing love. Through his clinical experience he identified five primary ways you give and receive self-sacrificing love. These are words of affirmation, receiving gifts, quality time, physical touch and acts of service, The premise of the book *The Five Love Languages* is quite simple. Different people with different personalities and different backgrounds give and receive self-sacrificing love in different ways. God gave the ultimate example of self-sacrificing, agape, love.

Romans 5:8 (New International Version) 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Self-sacrificing love is a gift which as Christians, God expects that you to share with your spouse and others. Words of affirmation, receiving gifts, quality time, physical touch and acts of service are a love language which keeps your love tank full so you can give self-sacrificing Love.

Have you thought about a self-sacrificing love language to share with God? Each of the love languages is a way to show your love and appreciation for Christ and keep your spiritual love tank full. God is no debtor; He always gives back more than you give! Let's briefly look at this spiritual love language.

Words of affirmation -Praise, thanksgiving and worship are natural ways to return agape love to God. When we consider all that God has done for us, our praise comes automatically. **Giving gifts** -What can you give to God who has everything? You can give your free will. It's easy to give money and material things but to give oneself is difficult. **Quality Time** -You need to spend quality time with God to know Him better and to grow as a Christian. Time in prayer, Bible study, practicing in His presence, and worshiping with God privately and corporately fill your spiritual love tank. **Physical Touch**- Touch seems impossible with God until you realize that Jesus is in all believers. Passing the peace on Sunday and participation in fellowship both in and out of church, **Act of Service**- You perform acts of service for God in your mission field which is under your own two feet. He doesn't ask us to do tasks that are beyond your capability because He always supplies you with the Holy Spirit to enable you to do what He asks.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m./opening prayer

Announcements/Prayers for Members: Pastor Diane is "retiring" from the Mission Committee. She will be replaced by Pastor Craig Lindsey. Pastor Diane's contributions to this committee over the past years are truly appreciated.

13 December 22 minutes were approved as presented.

Financial report given by Doug Clark. 2022 was an outstanding year with pass-through giving exceeding the budgeted income reflecting the increased interest in our mission programs. Approximately \$705 available in our contingency fund. Discussion on fiduciary responsibility of Mission Committee with financial reports required from different organizations. ~~Only outstanding Financial Report is Crossroad Nogales Mission which is~~ undergoing reorganization and understands our need for future reports. The Amado Food Bank financial report is forthcoming,

Mission Reports/Comments

- **Amado – Green Valley Food Bank** (Kylene Joplin)
 - Financial report is in the works; Kylene will receive report in next few days.
 - For 2022, a total of 777 pounds of food and \$12,801 was delivered to the food bank.

- **Posada Life Services** (Doug Clark)

The La Posada Community Center has been growing in usage each month in 2022. We saw a boost when our Tuesday/Wednesday Salad Bar was reinstated. Known in Green Valley as the "best salad bar in town," our offering of bountiful choices for a suggested \$3 donation receives praise and word of mouth recommendations. As part of the Lunch Program Monday through Friday, local entertainers, musicians, and educational presentations also take place. The Senior Lunch Program is available to everyone over the age of 60 who live in Green Valley and the surrounding area. The Community Center hosts community groups and hosts a Memory Café. There is currently no representative on the Mission Committee and Doug will recruit in the Eblast to see if there is an interest in filling this void.

- **Casa Vida Nueva para Niños** (Reed Olson)

Orphanage Mission Breakfast is 11 February 23 at 0830. The December 22 orphanage visit was outstanding. A total of 26 people went on the trip; most were first timers. The February mission breakfast needs help. Reed passed around a signup sheet. Breakfast presenter will be Reed Olson. Several people from the Mission will attend, including the Director and his spouse. There are currently 4 mission youth in college and 6 in high school. Preparation for the breakfast will be 10 Feb at 1:00 p.m.

- **Compañeros in Misión** (Judy Aguayo)

Judy reviewed her November trip to Tapachula (extreme south part of Mexico). East of Tapachula is where the plantation growers formed a co-op 20 years ago. They sell coffee beans to churches throughout the US. Valley Presbyterian sells coffee beans from this co-op at church on Sundays.

Crossroad Nogales Mission – Les Walter unable to attend meeting.
Pastor Craig received a letter from Alejandra Martinez, Executive Director: "Crossroads Nogales Mission continues to advance its mission to help, inspire and enable people in need to realize their full potential as we help them to become responsible, productive, and better persons. Through our programs and the good news of the gospel, we already have seen many lives changed for the better....Thank you for your donation of \$335 received recently and for all you have done in 2022."

- **General Mission Support** (Ed Storey)

Presbyterians Today This magazine is suspending publication for the balance of 2023. They have what they call a "sacred pause" underway. The intent is to try to discern more clearly what "what God is asking in how we share the stories of hope in the world." They are trying to work out how best to engage with the readers.

Voice of the Martyrs VOM is an organization striving to bring Christianity to our sister and brothers in nations of the world where it is not welcome. They define these areas as "Hostile Areas and Restricted Nations". They are committed to placing a Bible in the

hands of every Christian living in these areas. This largely covers a continuous region from North Korea to Mauritania.

Native American Churches Valley Presbyterian Church has assisted in the re-roofing of a native American church near Sells. (Sells is about 50 miles due west of GV but requires a trip, first, to Tucson to get there.) The reality, however, is that there are church buildings in many Indian communities across the country that need repairs and renewal.

One such example is at the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, covering parts of Washington and Idaho. Other churches, as we did, have been contributing toward the repairs and upkeep of the facilities.

Adapting to a changing world. As devastating as COVID was and still is, it has increased the ability of churches and leaders to see the need for change. Many of us remember the church of our youth and might like to go back to that time. "Each person has to wrestle with what gives them life rather than what takes it away and see if it is time to do a new thing." Church leaders are coming to realize that our success is predicated by our pacing, or ensuring we change neither too quickly nor too slowly.

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- **Hands of a Friend** (Kara Fitzpatrick)
 - The HOF mission breakfast will be held this Saturday, 14 Jan 23 at 8:30 a.m. at Valley Presbyterian Church. Both leaders will be in attendance. Alexa will be the speaker. As of this meeting, 69 tickets have been sold. Setup will be Friday 13 Jan at 1:00 p.m.
- **Mission at Large** (Ann Ball)
 - The Christmas boxes collected by Valley Presbyterian went out to different islands in the Philippines.
- **Mission Quilts** – no update
- **Operation Mobilization** (Doug Clark)
 - Doug received an email from Dave and Pam Lovett. They were on their way to Istanbul and are organizing a conference for about 30 Iranian young pastors who are being trained. These individuals are also persecuted and refugees. They are taking a team of psychologists from Elmbrook Church Network to do training on Hope to Cope with Trauma and find God and healing in the midst of it.
- **PCUSA Seminary** – no report
- **Presbyterian Campus Ministry** (George Curtis)
 - The regular PCC contact is on maternity leave. Two board members will be monitoring the Campus Ministry office during her leave. A sub-committee was formed to write an after-action report on items that were discussed at retreat – maintaining identity, control of resources and planning, making partnerships and collaborations. The next meeting is the first Monday in February, with the goal of developing action steps for going forward. A follow up meeting will be 6 March.
 - Pastor Craig received a thank you letter for our support for Gaslight.
- **Bob and Kristi Rice** (PCUSA missionaries) (email received by Doug Clark)

In Fashoda County, South Sudan people's homes and communities are being burned to the ground, they are running for their lives, they are hiding in swamps, surrounded by floodwaters. The innocents have been targeted for death, the elderly, women, and children. Please pray for those in harm's way, those who seek refuge, and those who need God's supernatural intervention. Bob visited this area in August of this year, so it feels close to home. Two evangelists and several members of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church have been killed in Fashoda this month.

We want to share a ‘call to prayer’ (below) from the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) this month.

Dear friends in Christ, (Full text in blog)

Let us be in prayer for the people of South Sudan, especially those who carry the burden of this ongoing conflict — the women, children, and the elderly. Pray also for our Global partners, the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, RECONCILE, ACROSS and the South Sudan Council of Churches. Pray that God will give wisdom to these partners as they minister to their fellow South Sudanese and that they can be a voice to the leaders of the country. Let us pray for the leaders of South Sudan that they will put peace, genuine security, and the dignity of all the people of South Sudan as the priority of their leadership.

I would also invite those who feel able to do so to contribute to the PC(USA)’s efforts to accompany and support our partners’ ministries by making gifts to:

[DR000097](#)-South Sudan, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s crisis response and recovery initiatives in South Sudan

[E051172](#), Presbyterian World Mission’s South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Project

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian [Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

- **Saint Andrew’s Children’s Clinic** (Kay Brouwer)

Laura Romero reports that the first Clinic in 2023 will be January 12 – this coming Thursday. It will be small because of limited spaces and restrictions to protect the families from COVID. The departments offering services are Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Speech and Audiology. Laura is trying to figure out how many children will be treated this month. The volunteers and staff have taken off time during the Holidays to rest from the work involved to make the new building accessible for Clinic services. Laura would like Les Walter to meet her at the Clinic on Thursday to discuss the installation of a television. Laura and staff will be there to talk with him. The Church women have been knitting and crocheting blankets, caps, and sweaters to donate to children. Kay will take this wonderful collection to the Clinic later this month. Gearing up again after a period of no Clinics is going well. She is very grateful to the Valley Presbyterian Church for our prayers and support through many years.

Valley Assistance Services (Steve Ginader)

- It was a busy December, with 2 vaccination events. VAS volunteers distributed 200 gift bags and 60 food bags to people in need. One card received told the story: “Thank you for thinking of me – I have talked to my loved ones and told them how much I appreciate the assistance.”
- Empty Bowls will be 18 February. Tickets are on sale beginning 11 January. The event will be a walk through; soup will be packaged for carry out.

• **Youth on their Own** (YOTO) (Mary Horn)

- January 15, 2023, the 3rd Sunday of the month will be COLLECTION SUNDAY for Youth on Their Own’s Mini Mall. Items requested for this month include Shelf Stable Milk and Instant Potatoes. Inspirational Card Makers will meet on Wednesday, January 25 from 1

– 3:30 in Classroom 5. It will be GREAT to be meeting/crafting in person again!! All are welcome to join!!

Other:

- Mission Breakfasts will be held:
 - 14 Jan (Hands of a Friend) Sign-up sheet
 - 11 Feb (RISE/Casa Vida Nueva) Sign-up sheet
 - 25 Mar (Nogales Crossroads Mission)
 - 18 Nov (TBD)
- Noisy Offering 2023
 - 29 January – RISE/Casa Vida Nueva (Reed Olson)
 - 30 April – YOTO (Mary Horn)
 - 30 July - Posada Life Community Services
 - 29 October – Presbyterian Campus Ministry (George Curtis)
 - 30 December – TBD
- Presbyterian Giving – Christmas Joy was held on 18 Dec 22; One Great Hour of Sharing will be on 3 April 2023. Pastor Diane and Ed Storey will arrange publicity. \$1,452 has been received to date.
- Crossroad Nogales Mission Christmas Ham Dinner (Doug Clark) approx. \$600 received
- Resuming lunches at Crossroad Nogales still on hold
- Financial reports for all agencies due. Still outstanding: Crossroads Mission and Amado-GV Food Bank.
- Mission Sunday – 15 January 23. Plans for service/Mission Outreach 2023 booklet/service options. Pastor Craig will give sermon. Jim Fitzpatrick and Ed Storey will present part of program.
- Homeless Packet Program- 2023
 - Ann Ball, Ed Storey and Mary Horn will meet on Tuesday, January 17 to review and revise our Snack Bag for the Homeless Project and dates that follow. The Tentative Collection Sundays will be: February 19 and 26, and March 5 and 12. The Assembling of the Bags will be after our Mission Meeting on Tuesday, March 14th. Display of bags to the congregation and the opportunity to take bags to offer to the homeless will be Sunday, March 19. Delivery of remaining bags to the Hospitality House of the Salvation Army will be the week of March 20.

New Business

- Approval of Agencies for 2023.
 - Ed Storey moved; Kara Fitzpatrick seconded to renew all 15 agencies for 2023.
- Funding of 2023 Mission Budget
 - Doug Clark moved; Kay Brouwer seconded to give a 15% increase to 14 agencies, and \$800 to Mission Quilts.
- Discussion on Young Adult Volunteer Service (YAVS) program.
 - YAVS is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people (ages 19-30) in sites across the United States and around the world. YAVS volunteers accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation. Alongside this work, volunteers explore the meaning of their Christian faith and accountability to their neighbors in the community with peers and mentors. The YAVS year occurs from August to August. YAVS office is in the Southside Presbyterian Church. We have been asked to share funding with Southside Presbyterian Church to provide a \$10,000 stipend to a YAVS volunteer (\$5000 contribution per church). Discussion on designating the 18 November 23 Mission Breakfast to YAVS, with James (from YAVS) as the speaker. If we take on a new agency, it can't be funded until 2024, however money may be used this year from the seminary fund for partial funding.

Decision was made at this meeting to table discussion and come up detailed plan. This will be added to the agenda for the 14 February Mission Committee meeting.

Closing Prayer – Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

- Next meeting is 14 February 2023 at 8:45 a.m. in Room 1. Zoom available if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Fitzpatrick, Secretary

Doug Clark