

## **Missions Committee**

April 13, 2021

### **Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting at 8:45 – 10:15 April 13, 2021 Room 5 at the Church and at our homes via ZOOM due to COVID19 quarantine**

**Present:** Doug Clark, Kay Brouwer, Reed Olson, Joan Bolin, Mary Horn, George Curtis, Mark Horton, Judy Aguayo, Rev. Diane Christopher and Rev. Craig Lindsay.

**Absent:** Pat Nau, Steve Larson, Patti Bright, Tom Spurlock, Larry Craft and Charlie Ashton

Doug presented our Spiritual Growth lesson on Patience as an attribute of God and one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Patience is the choice to wait. A believer is driven either by the world or by the Holy Spirit. As Christians, God wants us to be more Christ like and wait for the Lord. God is patient toward us, waiting for us all to come to repentance. God want us to be guided by the Holy Spirit, not by the concerns of the world. We should not let the time control our lives, but we need to control time. We have the choice to be patient. Can we focus on that to become more Christ like? This question was in our minds as we contemplated today's lesson.

Doug opened the business meeting with prayer.

#### **Business Begins –**

**Approval of Minutes:** Done

**Financial Report:** The 2021 budget is \$81,250.00 with an addition of \$1,000 from a Transfer of funds. The available Mission Committee emergency funds are \$698.61.

#### **MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS**

**Amado-GV-Sahuarita Food Bank** – Kylene Joplin and Carol Stephens were welcomed as co-workers for this agency. Kylene met with Vicki who said that our church had given 29 pounds of food. Our church gave \$449.00 to the Green Valley Food Bank and the same amount to the Amado Food Bank. Kylene will write a notice in the next Valley Voice reminding our congregation that on the first Sunday of every month, food and money donations to the Food Banks are encouraged. In the article they will also explain what why these donations are needed.

**Posada Community Services** – Mark Horton has been unable to get a report from Bill. Mark expressed concern that agencies which we support should be responsible for giving us a monthly report and that doesn't happen with all agencies.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Niños** – Reed Olson reported that (1) the new updated solar system is still pending due to a delay in receiving a response from the solar company and (2) the Home just received 5 new children – bringing the total to 55 children.

**Compañeros en Misión** – Judy Aguayo expressed concern that she does not get information monthly from the administrator. Doug will send a request now that he knows there's a person available in Mexico to translate his English to Spanish.

**Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona** – Joan Bolin reported she has been unable to contact either Ben or Bert Wenke, Co-Directors of Crossroads Mission. The last time she has seen or spoken to them is January 21, 2021, when she took her SUV filled with clothes and quilts to Crossroads. Since that time, she has made another trip, March 3, 2021, to Crossroads with her SUV filled with clothing and canned food, and talked with Jason, hired help overseeing operations at Crossroads main property. That is when she learned Ben and Bert were at a Phoenix area hospital for scans on Ben's brain due to his continuing unstable walking condition.

A lady from the United Methodist Church in Green Valley called and texted Joan, stating she had gently-used clothing and wanted to know if Crossroads could use them. Joan texted her back with a YES, and to please drop the donations off at our church's office. (Joan has contacted our church's receptionist so she knows the donation is coming.) Now Joan is wondering who can take the clothes to Crossroads since she's in Washington State until the end of September 2021. Doug Clark volunteered to see that is taken care of.

**General Mission Support** – No report

**PCUSA Seminary Support** – No report

**Hands of a Friend** – No report

**Mission Quilts** – No report

**Operation Mobilization** – Pam and Dave L. are still quarantined in Wisconsin but keeping up with news from friends in North India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. They've heard nothing from Iran.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry** – George Curtis reminded us that Bailey will be leaving the first of July going to Vanderbilt College in Tennessee where her husband had a position. Brad Monroe is filling in as Board Moderator. The board will meet on April 24 to plan what to do about replacing Bailey. The Christian Center on the University of Arizona campus is a corporation to which 3 denominations belong: Presbytery de Christo, Methodist and Episcopal.

**Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries)** – Doug told us there are now 16 of his friends reading the blogs of Bob and Kristi Rice. He encourages us to join to read the real-life story of Bob and Kristi who share on a weekly basis the story of God working in their lives. They said in the last blog: "Since last April, our group of Presbyterian mission co-workers are serving in Africa has been meeting every Monday morning at 11 a.m. Eastern time via ZOOM for a time of devotions and prayer. This weekly gathering has transformed us from a cohort of colleagues who all gather together every four years into a veritable family. It has been one of the many gifts we have received during the COVID-19 pandemic."

During Lent, the group went through daily devotional called Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery by Cheri L. Mills. In the book, the author recounts true stories of men, women and children who escaped from slavery by means of the Underground Railroad. Rice's African American colleagues offered to lead in the devotions each week. Cheri L. Mills described how the greatest cause of atheism among Black Americans is White Christianity.

**St. Andrew's Children's Clinic** – Kay Brouwer reported that Director Laura Romero was excited to announce that services are starting with two cleft palate missions to Hermosillo, Mexico. Late in September they will take 25 new born babies who have been diagnosed and pre-selected for cleft lip

surgery. In early November, they will take 25 babies who need cleft palate surgery. St. Andrews staff and volunteers had set the cleft lip/cleft palate as their goal to begin resuming services. They are thrilled to know that this goal will be accomplished.

The Nogales, Arizona clinic cannot begin services yet because border is not open. Also, the clinic is requiring parents of children who come to the clinic to have had two vaccine shots. In Mexico, the vaccines have just started to be administered to people 65 and older so parents cannot bring their children to the clinic. If the border opens and if adults get vaccinated, there's a slight possibility that the Nogales Clinic could offer some services this December. Until then, they will continue helping via telemedicine and zoom.

On March 28, a van load of blankets was delivered to the St. Andrew's office in Green Valley. The staff happily accepted that donation. However, Laura and the staff are requesting that no more items be brought to the clinic. The storage is over-flowing; they cannot take more until things can be distributed. Items such as blankets and diapers are needed in Mexico, but it is not possible to get them across the border.

The St. Andrews' volunteer staff, including doctors, are ready and willing to begin providing help to children. However, until they are able to come across the border, services must wait.

We will keep St. Andrews' Children's Clinic in our prayers. Laura and all the staff extend sincere thanks for the support of Valley Presbyterian Church.

**Valley Assistance Services** – In Steve Larson's absence, Chris Erickson sent information reporting that the Annual Empty Bowls event on March 27<sup>th</sup> at VPC was a drive-thru where 150 empty bowls and 78 containers of soup were sold. Still, the income was about 1/5 of what was made last year. She thanked the Valley Galley and VPC for support of this event.

VAS is helping many individuals and families in need of money to stabilize their households, keeping them together in their homes and their utilities and essential services on. There is a continued need for volunteer drivers to take people to medical appointments and to the grocery store.

**Youth on Their Own (YOTO)** – Mary Horn sent a report that:

- 1) Arizona Gives Day on April 6 raised \$40,285 from 266 supporters and received a \$20,000 match from Tucson Federal Credit Union to provide a monthly stipend check and Covid-19 supplement to over 250 YOTO youth (currently supporting 2, 176 students)! From Monday, April 12 to Friday, April 16, YOTO will feature short, fun, informative videos on their website, social media and email blasts. They are encouraging folks to share this content with as many people as possible and ask folks not just to donate, but to join the YOTO Family and the movement to support youth in our community!
- 2) Donations of 2 throws, 8 purses, a box of Clinique Assorted Make-up products, and a box of sample size lotions, shampoos, conditioners, body wash, and bar soaps were donated and delivered to Youth on Their Own Mini-Mall on Monday, March 29. In addition, 161 cards of inspiration were also delivered.
- 3) Five ladies met at church on Wednesday, March 24 to make Inspirational Cards. Our two scrap bookers brought Spring cut outs of bunnies, chicks, grass, etc. to share with the group. We

made 95 cards and logged 11 hours of volunteer time. Ladies working from home added 66 cards and logged 26 hours of volunteer time. Our next scheduled meeting of Inspirational Card Making will be on Wednesday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m. in Classroom 5.

**Old Business:**

**Mission Breakfasts:**

- November 13, 2021 – YOTO (Mary Horn has contacted Rachel and they'll have someone to speak.)
- January 15, 2022 – Pam and Dave L. (Doug Clark)
- February 12 or 19, 2022 – Food Bank (Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens)
- March 28, 2022 – St. Andrews' Children's Clinic (Kay Brouwer)

**Noisy Offering**

- May 30, 2021 – Seminary Support -- Larry Craft will need to put an article in the Valley Voice
- August 29, 2021 - Presbyterian Christian Ministry lead by George Curtis
- October 31, 2021 – Nogales Crossroads Mission lead by Joan Bolin

**One Great Hour of Sharing March 28, 2021** – Tom Spurlock reported donations of \$3,225.00.

**Mission Sunday is January 16, 2022:** Plans for a Mission Festival-Subcommittee? Brain Storm next month!

**Valley Voice articles** – Our goal is to have 4 or more per month; there were 7 in April plus 2 for the Patio Sale.

**Review and Update of Mission TV Assignments** - None planned.

**The Peace & Global Witness Offering** supports the peacemaking and reconciliation efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts given to the PCAUSA are divided with 25% returned to the local church. VPC could have received \$23.50, but since the money could only be use for this purpose, Mark Horton moved that our church let the program keep the money. The cost of postage and transfer would be counterproductive. Judy Aguayo seconded the motion, and it was approved.

**Custodial Accounts** - action explained and discussed. These are non-operating fund accounts which carry over from year to year and are outside of the church's operating budget. The Financial Committee has questioned what the committees might do with the funds.

Military Ministry	\$1,214.01
Mission Emergency Fund	\$ 983.11
Christmas Joy	\$ 30.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 25.00

Pastor Craig explained options, indicating that the Mission Committee would be a good forum for this decision.

- For the Military Ministry Fund, Pastor Craig talked to a member of our congregation who is in the military. Brandon contacted the Post Chaplain who said there are 2 families to which a donation would be a great help. Judy Aguayo moved that \$1,214.01 be sent to the Post Chaplain

for the needy families. Mary Horn seconded the motion and it carried by a unanimous vote of the Mission Committee.

- The remaining 3 Custodial accounts- Mission Emergency Fund, Christmas Joy, and, One Great Hour of Sharing, were then discussed and were voted to be moved from the custodial accounts to be given to each area for distribution at this time.
- Judy Aguayo moved to send Committee Emergency Funds of \$1,000.00 to Valley Assistance Services since the Empty Bowls brought in much less this year. Mark Horton seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous vote. Most of that \$1,000.00 will be \$983.11 of Mission Emergency Funds transferred from the Custodial Account.

**New Business:**

There are stimulus checks from the U.S. government to people who feel they do not need the money. We have mentioned to our congregation the possibility of giving to Valley Presbyterian Church. In the past, Pastor Diane has asked in the E-Blast. Another request will be written by Doug Clark indicating that our church itself is in need of funds.

The next Mission Committee meeting will be at 8:45, May 11, 2021, in Room 5 with a ZOOM option.

Pastor Diane gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Brouwer, Secretary