

**Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting at 8:45 – 10:30
December 14, 2021 in Room 5 at the Church and at our homes via ZOOM**

Present: Doug Clark, Kay Brouwer, Steve Larson, George Curtis, Kylene Joplin, Carol Stephens, Pat Nau, Judy Aguayo, Reed Olson, Parkie Copeland, Les Walter (our new member representing Crossroads) and Pastor Diane Christopher.

Absent: Patti Bright, Tom Spurlock, Larry Craft, Mark Horton, Mary Horn

We read Doug's Spiritual Growth lesson about "Song of Ascents". Psalm 120-134 are songs sung by Hebrew pilgrims as they walked to Jerusalem festivals. We can relate to these as we approach worship at our Valley Presbyterian Church. As pilgrims of the past, we must remember that all life's experiences are in control of our Lord. There is a promise in the Psalm stating that no injury, illness or distress will have evil power over us. God is our constant guardian. Our faith is in Guardian God who keeps all evil from getting inside us. Following the lesson, we discussed the various ways we prepare to worship.

Doug Clark opened the business meeting with a prayer.

Business Begins

Approval of Minutes: Done and submitted to the VPC session.

Financial Report: The 2021 Total Mission Giving showed that we have emergency funds of \$11,266.96 which we can disburse before the year ends. Plus, the church budget allotted the Mission Committee \$10,000 from the Covid Relief funds received from the government. Later in this meeting we will decide how to distribute these funds.

MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS

Amado-GV Food Bank – Kylene Joplin and Carol Stephens reported that 12 pounds of food and \$420.00 was split evenly between the Amado and Green Valley Food Banks. Kylene met with Vickie to revise the Food Bank Mission Statement for the up-coming Mission Booklet. That revision will be submitted to the church office.

Posada Community Services – Bill McCreery sent no information this month.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños – On behalf of the children at Casa Vida Nueva para Niños, Reed Olson thanks the church congregation for generous donations to their 2021 Christmas event. So far, the donations are \$2,126.00.

This will be the third year to miss their Christmas event due to COVID issues. However, the donations have been received by the director, Elias Herrera who is very grateful for the love and support from Valley Presbyterian Church. Due to a recent large donation for expanding their solar panels, Elias is currently working on either securing additional solar panels or opting to get real electricity from the City of Nogales. The city is putting in power poles and he believes this process will be better than adding to the solar system. A special request is that the money the Mission Committee sends to this Home be designated specifically for electrical wiring from the highway poles to the residence because the city funds will not provide for that.

Myrna (Elias' wife and co-director) has come down with a mild case of COVID. The children all remain healthy, so far. There are 4 children in high school and 2 in college. Reed will meet with Elias on Dec. 17 to give him the VPC Christmas donation check. This will be the first time they have met since Oct. 2019 due to COVID and border issues.

For updates, go to the RISE web site at: www.risesa.org

Compañeros en Misión – Judy Aguayo has not received communication from Reverend Jorge Paz because he is in the hospital with COVID. Our prayers are with him.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona – Les Walter, our new agency representative, visited the Mission and found it was up and running. 149 people were served Thanksgiving dinner with about ½ from across the border. The mission has stayed open during COVID with a very limited staff. The lunch program is back serving from 60 to 80 people daily. Clothing and food items are available to people who come to the mission. A Christmas ham dinner is planned for 150 to 180 guests. Gift and food boxes will be given out. In the absence of Ben, Jason has been filling in with day-to-day operations.

Ben Wenke is unable to continue his work at the mission and will be missed with his retirement as his attitude was contagious and uplifting. In January, he and Bert will return to their home in the Midwest. A Board of Directors is being formed for future leadership.

General Mission Support – Tom Spurlock sent no report.

PCUSA Seminary Support – Larry Craft sent no report.

Hands of a Friend – Pat Nau reported information from Jeannie Dalsing. Genesis house is full and is a lovely facility. Many of the women who live there have day jobs to supplement their income.

Mission Quilts – Patti Bright sent a report that approximately 9 girls attended quilting sessions the past couple of times. On Dec. 20th they will be changing out the quilts which are hanging in fellowship hall and delivering them to Aviva this month. They have donated ten 40"x 40" lap quilts to the Women's Ministry to be part of their Christmas giving.

Operation Mobilization – Because Dave and Pam L. speak Farsi, they have been active in Iran with Afghanistan refugees who have no legal status in there and are cruelly treated. They have written about their deeply personal experience Iran. They are also helping with the influx of Afghans in the Milwaukee area of Wisconsin. They are providing orientation and training for local Christians and churches who want to help the 113 Afghan refugees resettle. We will hear more about Dave's and Pam's experiences on January 22 and 23 when they come to our church for Saturday Breakfast and Sunday Worship and fellowship.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry – George Curtis reported that the PCM Board meeting was Monday, Dec. 6. The PCM office has officially moved to St. Mark's at 3809 E. Third Street in Tucson. However, Amanda is doing a joint Bible Study for students with the Disciples of Christ minister and the youth minister from Trinity at Trinity Presbyterian Church. More shared activities are planned. Trinity is also providing Amanda with a meeting space. The PCM Board set productivity goals for Amanda to achieve during the spring semester. The next PCM Board meeting is Jan. 3, 2022.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) – Doug Clark reported that \$2320 has been donated by our church for new churches in South Sudan. Dave and Kristi are thrilled to hear that our church had such a positive response to the Mission Committee's suggestion for this project.

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic – Kay Brouwer reported that, to be safe, St. Andrews' staff and volunteers decided to hold off until February 3, 2022 (the first Thursday) when they will conduct a small clinic. A lot of protocols will be in place throughout the day to make sure they provide a safe environment to everyone involved.

Later in February, they will send children to Hermosillo for Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate surgery. This is the same group of children who were selected to go for surgery last October. They will take 35 to 40 pre-selected babies and very young children for first-time surgery for cleft lip/cleft palate. And later they'll take 25 toddlers for their second surgery.

Laura thanks us for always being such a big part of the Clinic. It has been with our continued support that they have been able to carry on our mission through very unpredictable times. With this report, Laura submitted the St. Andrew's financial statement.

Valley Assistance Services – Steve Larson attended the VAS Open House on Monday, December 6th which was held to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. The Empty Bowls fund raiser will be brought back this winter.

VAS is partnering with the Food Bank to provide bags of supplies and food to needy residents. The need is extremely great; the County services cannot keep up. However, VAS is still turning people away. 7000 clients were served in 2021 which is a 15% increase from the year before.

The annual budget of \$700,00 is not enough to support the necessary staff. They are overworked and need more funds to hire another person or two to meet their goal: Deliver comprehensive, compassionate care to each of their clients, offering a glimmer of hope as they travel a difficult path.

Youth on Their Own (YOTO) – Mary Horn sent no report, but a thank you letter from Bethany Neumann, Director of Development and Communications was read. She had presented an excellent program at our last Mission Breakfast and thanked us for the opportunity give information about YOTO. Today, about 500 students are being helped; a year ago there were about 2000. COVID restrictions hurt the homeless kids who may have "fallen through the cracks."

Old Business

Mission Breakfasts:

- November 13, 2021 – YOTO – 52 tickets were sold, 42 attended, \$1396 was donated plus \$2000 given directly.
- January 22, 2022 – Pam and Dave L. (Doug Clark) – We'll assign jobs in on January 11.

- February 12, 2022 – Food Bank (Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens)
- March 26, 2022 – St. Andrews’ Children’s Clinic (Kay Brouwer)

Noisy Offering

- October 31, 2021 – Nogales Crossroads Mission – Doug Clark announced that \$896.96 was collected.
- January 30, 2022 – Casa Vida Nueva – for Missionaries, Dave and Pam L.
- May 29, 2022 – Hands of a Friend – Pat Nau
- July 31, 2022 – Food Bank – Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens
- October 30, 2022 – St. Andrews’ Clinic – Kay Brouwer

Operation Christmas Child – Parkie Copeland provided a report that from October 13 through November 15 our church handed out, filled and delivered 75 Christmas boxes to Calvary Chapel in Sahuarita. Samaritan’s Purse will then send the boxes to children around the world. Joan Bolin led the effort with Parkie and Kay Brouwer helping.

Mission Sunday is January 23, 2022 – Plans for our Mission Program will include the distribution of our Mission Outlook Booklet, Sermon by Dave L, and Fellowship with Pam and Dave L. in Fellowship Hall. There will be an Open House at the home of Pastor Craig Lindsey. Details will follow.

Mission Outlook Booklet – The 2021 Booklet needs to be reviewed and revised for 2022. Send changes to the church office. Reed Olson will find out which covers have used in the past and send a suggestion for the 2022 cover.

Financial Statements – All are in except Crossroads. We will continue to support all our listed agencies.

Support for South Sudan Churches – We collected and sent \$2320 to South Sudan to help start new churches.

Christmas Joy Offering –Susanne in the church office said as of now, the Christmas Joy Offering is \$130.

Political Donations from Food Banks – Doug wrote a letter asking for an explanation from the Food Bank’s political contributions such as “fight for \$15 campaign” in Tucson. The return letter is available for review from Sio Castillo, Chief Development officer, Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. She states non-directed funds from the 71 million dollars collected for the Food Bank can be used for socially active groups as “fight for \$15 campaign”. \$50,000 was given to support this program from non- restricted Food Bank giving. Valley Presbyterian Church has only given directed gifts to Food bank of Green Valley and Amado. It is clear that our donations are used only for food to clients, not any political entity. Doug will put an article with a full explanation in the Valley Voice including the observation that any monies should be given as directed funds or should give as “through the church.”

“Valley Voice articles – Our goal is at least 4 articles per month. We had 7 in September, 9 in October, 11 in November, and 7 in December.

Review and Update of Mission TV Assignments – none in December

New Business

Approval of continuing support of our 15 agencies – Kay Brouwer made a motion and Reed Olson seconded it that we continue support of all 15 agencies. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Budget Progress – Distribution of \$10,000 (COVID relief to church) and Emergency Fund \$11,266.96 totaling \$21,266.96. It is suggested that each of the 14 agencies (omitting Mission Quilts) get equal amounts.

Pat Nau made a motion that we give \$8,000 to PCUSA Disaster Assistance to help with recent Tornado Disasters across 6 states. Kay Brouwer seconded the motion. During discussion, the motion was amended to a donation of \$5,000. The amended motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Pat Nau made a motion that we give \$1,000 to each of 14 agencies. Steve Larson seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

Les Walter made a motion that we divide the remaining \$2,666.95, giving ½ to Crossroads and ½ to VAS. George Curtis seconded the motion. It was approved by a unanimous vote.

Budget 2022 will have 15% increase/Patio Sale monies pending – The funding from Patio Sales in the future may change. The volunteers working the sale are getting tired and retiring, although Patio Sale is a wonderful witness and

Christian service to our community. A greater share of funding in the future will come from the direct congregation giving.

Recruitment Progress – This committee needs to recruit an additional person's to help with the Homeless Packet Program and for Operation Christmas Child. In addition, a volunteer is needed for organizing and sending people to prepare lunches at Crossroads Mission.

Brainstorming – Pat Nau suggested that we encourage more congregation participation and financial giving.

The next Mission Committee meeting will be at 8:45, January 11, 2022, in Room 5 with option of ZOOM.

Doug Clark gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Brouwer, Secretary