

December 12,2023

Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting

December 12, 2023, in Room 1 from 8:45 – 10:15

Members Present: Doug Clark, Pastor Craig Lindsey, Les Walter, Kylene Joplin, Kay Brouwer, Reed Olson, Ed Storey, Judy Aguayo.

Members Absent: Patti Bright, Steve Larson, Mary Horn, Ann Ball and Jan Farrington

8:45 Devotional:

Doug Clark

Philadelphia: the love of brothers and sisters, brotherly love

Jesus took the 613 laws of the Old Testament and reduced them to two in the New Testament, love God and love your neighbor. This is true and leads us to self-sacrificing, *agape*, love for others. This applies to all our friends, neighbors, orphans, prisoners, the poor, and even our enemies whether they are Christians or not Christians. *Philadelphia* is different and represents a special love of brothers and sisters in the family of Christ. This means that however different you may be from other Christians – in age, gender, or abilities, in education, or social status – you must regard every fellow Christian as someone for whom Christ died and in whom Christ dwells. Think of this- Jesus is our older brother, the first born, in the family of God. The Church is for believers because we have been adopted into the family of God. Today we have many options for fellowship, but God's plan is fellowship for believers in His Church. In New Testament time, the Church was the only safe place from persecution, and this fostered fellowship. Today, we are not as persecuted but the need for fellowship is the same. We band together to grow in God and practice fellowship to be protected from the evil world.

Philadelphia, in Strong's concordance from the King James Version, is derived from *philadelphus* which is translated as brotherly love (3x), brotherly kindness(2x), love of the brethren (1x). All describing a fraternal love relationship. This word is only used in 5 epistles 6 times and describes a relationship which directs our love to our Christian brothers and sisters.

Romans 12:10 (Amplified Bible) ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another with [authentic] brotherly affection [as members of one family], give preference to one another in honor.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 (Amplified Bible) ⁹ Now concerning brotherly love, you have no need for *anyone* to write you, for you have been [personally] taught by God to love one another [that is, to have an unselfish concern for others and to do things for their benefit].

Hebrews 13:1 (New International Version) ¹³ Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

1 Peter 1:22 (Revised Standard Version)

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere love of the brethren, love one another earnestly from the heart.

2 Peter 1:5-8 (The Voice)

⁵To achieve this, you will need to add virtue to your faith, and then knowledge to your virtue; ⁶ to knowledge, add discipline; to discipline, add endurance; to endurance, add godliness; ⁷ to godliness, add affection for others as sisters and brothers; and to affection, *at last*, add love. ⁸ For if you possess these traits and multiply them, then you will never be ineffective or unproductive in your relationship with our Lord Jesus the Anointed.

Affection for others as sisters and brothers is a critical part of God's plan for our lives. God wants us to have a relationship not only with Him but also with fellow Christians! Relationship is spelled T.I.M.E. It is not enough to just worship on Sunday or read your Bible regularly, although both are important, God also wants fellowship in His Church so we can practice love and we can grow and mature. When you hear **Philadelphia** don't think "The city of brotherly love" think the "The Church is the home of fellowship."

Remember, you are in a family and Jesus is your older brother.

QUESTION: How important is fellowship in your life?

9:00 Call to Order

Doug Clark

Prayer

Ed Storey

Announcements: Prayers and condolences for passing of members Pat Nau and Carol Stephens. Many thanks for their service and they are missed.

Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2023, minutes were approved and submitted to the Session.

Financial Report: The November 2023 Mission Budget was presented and reviewed. The Contingency Funds are \$1,951.93.

MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS – Round Table

Update Reminder: Each person with an assigned Mission area should contact agency or Missionary on a regular monthly basis for update and activity. If able or unable to attend our meeting, please submit written update for committee and minutes.

Amado-GV Food Bank –

Kylene Joplin

Kylene Joplin reported that 89 pounds of food was delivered to the Food Bank and \$2430.62 was given to each Food Bank (Green Valley and Amado). These two food banks are separate, but under one “umbrella.” We give each food bank the same amount of money, but food donations stay in Green Valley. Our donations are directed to milk and eggs. The yearly donation is 678 pounds of food and \$9,403.99 to each Food Bank (Green Valley and Amado). The Mission Breakfast scheduled for March 23, 2024 will introduce Roberto Hernandez as director of Amado-GV Food Bank.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños –

Reed Olson

The December 9th trip to the orphanage was unfortunately canceled due to the participants’ concerns regarding border crossing times and the unrest at many AZ borders. Reed checked on the wait times and they were 90 minutes to 2 hours. So, we came up with a “Plan B.” Reed invited all people who had signed up for the trip to come to his house to view a zoom meeting set up by Elias, Director of the Home and witness the children opening their Christmas gifts. The computer zoom connection was streamed to Reed’s large screen TV. Everyone had good seats. Snacks and drinks were provided. After the children opened their gifts, each child walked up to the zoom camera and in very clear English thanked all of us for their gifts. This was the first year we were thanked out loud in English. We felt the new ESL (English as a Second Language) program had been well attended. The zoom connection lasted about 60 minutes. After signing off, Reed showed videos of last year’s children’s performances during the 2022 Christmas visit. Attached in Valley Voice are photos of the group watching the zoom meeting, and the children opening their gifts.

Compañeros en Misión –

Judy Aguayo

A presentation at the Presbyterian Meeting October 22, 2023, was a fund raiser. Bricks were sold for \$10 for completion of their building project. In support of this program a donation of \$1,000 from Contingency Fund for Bricks was given last meeting. Approximately \$36,000 is still need for this project. A group including Judy Aguayo, Pastor James Martin, and Gail Griffin will visit the program this month.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona –

Les Walter

Thanksgiving donations were used to serve approximately 180 people and hams and children’s gifts are donated for the Christmas dinner, December 16, 2023 with a similar number of souls expected. We continue prepare and serve lunches at the Crossroads Mission every second and third Wednesday. Volunteers may sign up with Les Walters in Fellowship Hall if interested in this mission opportunity. A car of 3 or 4 volunteers will leave VPC front lot at 8:15 on mission days. Return will be about 1:00. The Mission needs, including new floor and roof repair, are great with grants pending. It was moved by Doug Clark and seconded by Judy Aguayo and approved to give \$1,000 for general use from Contingency Fund.

Posada Community Services – Deb Jones reported that "It's Just Fellowship Lunch" is a proposed program to foster congregation fellowship by having lunch at Posada Live Community Service with church members.

Planning is still in progress but could include a sign-up table in Fellowship Hall after advertising by pulpit, Valley Voice, and Email. The cost of the fellowship lunch is \$3.00 per person and does require reservations. This plan was discussed at the Fellowship Committee on October 23, 2023, and was well received. Future details are pending. Deb has offered to teach sign language to youth at Los Ninos Valle Preschool.

General Mission Support –

Ed Storey

There are many Missions activities beyond those that are supported at Valley Presbyterian Church. Here are two examples. Voice of the Martyrs focuses on supporting Christian leaders in the strife-torn areas of the world. These people go where there is danger from the governments or from Islamic rebel groups and they minister to Christians in need of guidance, love and support.

TechnoServe is a charitable organization with a different focus. Rather than provide food or medical aid; they teach local people, primarily farmers, how to be better at what they are doing. For example, in Mozambique, they are helping a cashew farmer, operate a nursery to raise new and better-quality trees. The existing trees are aged and were not being replaced because there was no source of young trees. TechnoServe helps meets this need.

Hands of a Friend –

Jan Farrington

Hi , just wanted to give you an update for the month of November and December. For November, we had the event at Quail Creek, where we received wonderful donations from the Women's Golf Club there. We also received lots of donations from the Elk's lodge such as toiletries, cleaning supplies, and things like that. We will not be receiving a grant from the White Elephant this year (I had an emergency and could not get the application sent out on time), but that is okay, and we are grateful to have the snowbirds back and more monetary donations coming in. Now, for December we have a board meeting this Saturday, the 2nd and I will gladly send over the minutes once I receive them. We also have a presentation for the Chapter EJ, at the Posada Life Community Center on Tuesday the 12th. I hope you have a great Christmas and New Year's. Thank you for all that you do for Hands of a Friend, we appreciate it very much. If you need anything else, please let me know. -Alexa Delgado

In view of loss of White Elephant donation and continued needs it was moved by Ed Storey, seconded by Reed Olson, and approved to give \$1,000 for general use from the Contingency Fund.

Operation Christmas Child Box Mission-

Ann Ball

The final count of total boxes taken to the processing center was 94.

We sent about \$1200 to Samaritan Purse, so all shipping costs were covered and an additional \$250 went to the Bible Study series. I do not have count from Samaritan Purse on how many used the online option to pack a box. I also have not heard to where our boxes were sent. All materials were cleaned up at church, removed, and are stored in Ball garage. There are enough labels and boxes that very few will need to be ordered next year.

Mission Quilts -

Patti Bright

Our setup arrangement had to be revised for the head custodian, as we are needing more tables than in the past. We changed out the quilts, so we could deliver the quilts that were hanging and the previous batch of quilts that had been hanging. All arrangements have been made to deliver to More-Than-A-Bed and to Springboard Home for Youth in Crisis. The quilters who are helping deliver to these places haven't had a tour of this agency and home, so we are looking forward to future tours.

Operation Mobilization –

Doug Clark

No Report

YoungAdultsVolunteers

On 18 November, we hosted the Borderlands Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program that Valley Pres is supporting. There are five YAVs from 3 countries currently in the program. Two came along with James Martin the pastor leader and the chair of the committee managing the program. They described how they are showing the love as God has instructed us, by aiding in home repairs for low income folks in Tucson and helping with

refugees on our southern border. While many of us are not able to directly help those in need, the YAVs are doing it on our behalf.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry –

Judy Aguayo

Change and a long-term plan is evolving. The sale of the previous partial owned building is in legal process and should be resolved in the next few months. The value, between \$23,000-\$41,000, will be used with the Lutheran Church (LCA), also partial owners, to build on owned land for a Campus Ministry. This will include housing, scholarships, and student facilities.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) –

Doug Clark

We are looking forward to returning to Juba in a few weeks, particularly reconnecting with friends and colleagues. Beyond the people, we wanted to share a few *things* that we enjoy or appreciate about life in Juba that are very different from life in the U.S. This includes friendly people who have this saying- Americans have watches and Africans have time. More will be in the Valley Voice.

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic –

Kay Brouwer

On December 7, St. Andrews' Clinic celebrated with a Christmas party. Children had their regular Clinic appointments Then came to the activity room to collect gifts brought for them. More than 100 children came, accompanied by a parent and sometimes, a sibling. Many organizations brought gifts for the children to take home. There were wooden toys, clothing, cookies, and other miscellaneous toys. Kay took 13 quilts donated by VPC Quilters. She also took knitted caps, sweaters, mittens, baby blankets and pocket prayer squares given by The Creative Hands of VPC. A friend collected money and bought 70 gifts each with a warm sweater/jacket and a toy. These wrapped packages were labeled so they would be given appropriately. Another friend arranged for handmade/hand painted toys made by a group in Elk River, Minnesota. They were presented at the Christmas party. Left over items will be presented in January to children who were unable to attend the December party. Laura is very appreciative of these generous Christmas offerings which will help the Clinic Children have a very joyous holiday.

The pastors of five local churches have met to suggest ways to help with financial needs of St. Andrews' Clinic. A golf tournament is a possibility. This event might happen in March of 2025. Until then, congregations will be made aware of the Clinic's needs and encouraged to give through a special offering. Current plan to meet \$50,000 short fall for rental of property is for each Church group including VPC raise \$10,000 per Church.

Valley Assistance Services –

Steve Larson

-Chris Erickson will present on the current environment and challenges at Valley Assistance Services at the January 13th Mission breakfast.

-Empty Bowls, our primary annual fundraising event, is February 17, 2024.

-Donations continue to be critical. The needs in the area we serve continue to increase; lack of affordable housing, increase in costs of rent, lack of transportation, social isolation, health changes, food insecurity and adequate nutrition.

Youth on Their Own (YOTO) –

Mary Horn:

We will look forward to doing a church group tour/info session at YOTO on Thursday, February 15, 2024 in the morning. (pending YOTO approval). YOTO is partnering with Ben's Bells to do a special YOTO Bell that will be available during tours. I plan to put info about the organization Ben's Bells in the January newsletter to give people some background. YOTO CARD MAKING will be resume "in person" on Wednesday, January 24 from 1-3:30. All are welcome to come and create cards of inspiration for the students!! Sunday, January 21 will be COLLECTION SUNDAY for Yoto's Mini-Mall. We will be collecting: Individually packaged snacks (chips, granola bars, trail mix, fruit snacks, jerky, etc.)

Old Business

Mission Breakfast

- November 18, 2023 – Young Adult Volunteer Program – Pastor James + 2 YAV workers – results \$646 with 55 tickets sold
- January 13, 2024 – Valley Assistance Services
- February 10, 2024 – Youth On Their Own
- March 23, 2024 – Amado-GV Food Bank

Noisy Offering – 5th Sunday of month for 2023-2024

- December 31, 2023 - Compañeros en Misión – Judy Aguayo
- March 31, 2024 – YAV (Young Adult Volunteers)- Ed Storey
- June 30, 2024 – Pam & Dave Lovett- Doug Clark
- September 29, 2024 – Crossroads Nogales Mission
- December 29, 2024 – Hands of a Friend

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Information is in a report above.

Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) - Information is in a report above.

Homeless Packets Project –leadership being sought.

"It's Just Fellowship Lunch" at Posada Life Service-update plan for January.

Financial Reports- Agencies' latest Financial Report for 2022 due by year end.

Mission Outreach Report/Mission Sunday is January 14, 2024, Report reviewed and front-page picture chosen

Church Van- Consideration for a church van for transportation needs was presented to Pastor Craig

Valley Voice articles – Voice articles- 8 or more / month- December (9) January (9) February (10) March (10) April (11) May (11) June (12) July (9) August (11) September (15) October (12) November (11) December (9)

New Business

The general concept of increased budget monies would be equally distributed to agencies as stated in Giving Guidelines.

Improving communication to congregation by short information on a specific mission in eblast- presented by Ed Storey and approved.

Pending Financial Reports, support for all 15 agencies were approved to continue for 2024.

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

Respectfully submitted, Doug Clark

The next Mission Committee meeting will be at 8:45, January 9, 2023, in Room 1.