

**Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting at 8:45 – 10:15 February 9, 2021  
in Room 5 at the Church and at our homes via ZOOM due to COVID19 quarantine**

**Present:** Doug Clark, Larry Craft, Kay Brouwer, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, Reed Olson, Mark Horton, Tom Spurlock, Joan Bolin, Pat Nau, Judy Aguayo, Mary Horn, George Curtis, and Rev. Diane Christopher

**Absent:** Steve Larson, Patti Bright and Charlie Ashton

Doug presented our Spiritual Growth lesson on the omnipotence of God. This is the third attribute of God following presentations on God's omniscience (all-knowing) and God's omnipresence (always present) at previous meetings. Now we reflect on God's omnipotence. God is All-Powerful. Many stories in the Bible tell of God making promises which God will always keep. God has the power to keep promises. God will do what He says He will do. It is impossible to explain how our perfectly good, almighty and all-knowing God permits evil and suffering. Christians accept this attribute in faith through the cross. We were then presented the question: Do we believe that nothing is impossible for God Almighty?

Doug opened the business meeting with prayer.

Dave and Pam L. from **Operation Mobilization** joined our meeting via ZOOM and told of the trauma that is occurring in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Iran. The closing of businesses, factories, schools, etc. by the very oppressive Iranian Government has put workers out of jobs and made food production almost impossible. People are starving. The Christian Missions reach out to help feed the people with lentils, beans, rice and other staples. There is an underground church in Iran because the government forbids religious gatherings. All transportation has stopped. Pam and Dave are very frustrated to be here when they want to be in the Middle East serving with their partners there. They have been traveling around the United States speaking of their concerns and praying for the countries in which they serve. They are hoping to travel abroad in the spring.

**Business Begins –**

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 12 meeting had been approved and sent to Carla, but they never got to the church session for the January 28 meeting packet. They will be sent again.

**Financial Report:** The 2021 budget is \$81,250.00. Mission Committee emergency funds are currently at \$983.11. We should consider how to disburse these funds.

**MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS**

**Amado-GV-Sahuarita Food Bank –** Betty Kiesle-Yoder reported that we donated 60 pounds of food and \$861.00 to the Food Banks in Green Valley and Amado. The January 31 Noisy Offering brought in \$482.83.

**Posada Community Services –** Mark Horton spoke with William McCreery who said they still "keep on keeping on." The response from the Appeal for Meals was strong, allowing this program to continue into the summer. Most of the staff and residents have received their first COVID19 vaccination shot.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Niños –** Reed Olson reported great news that he knew we would appreciate. He received three thank you letters from the children who are either going to college or attending high school. They are all well-written, expressing their deep appreciation for the people of Green Valley and throughout the USA for their love and support of their continuing education to help them become better adults. People ask Reed all the time "so how are the children doing?" and "do they really receive the donations and do they really know where the donations are coming from?" Gee-Gee will be publishing some of the thank you letters in the Valley Voice - both in their Spanish language and English translation. An added photo of the child will answer their questions. When you read their letters, you will get choked up.

Reed encouraged everyone to visit the updated RISE Scholastic Achievement web site to see these letters and their thank you video. [www.risesa.org](http://www.risesa.org)

Doug reminded us that this Mission Committee has three goals, all of which have been evident in Reed's Report: Spiritual Growth, Communication and Service.

**Compañeros en Misión** – Judy Aguayo reported that she has received no new information from this mission in Mexico. She did coordinate the Noisy Offering and spoke to the congregation on January 31. The church collected \$482.83 for this mission.

**Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona** – Joan Bolin reported she and her sister, Jan Sullivan, on January 21, 2021, delivered 28 beautiful quilts (14 small-size, 10 medium-size, and 4 twin-size) to Ben and Bert Wenke at Crossroads Mission. These quilts were all made by the women of Valley Presbyterian’s Quilting Group. They will be used at the Mission and given to people in need of a warm blanket. They also delivered 12 large plastic bags full of gently-used clothing, bedding, personal items, hand crocheted neck scarves, etc. Ben and Bert were so excited and thankful to receive such a large delivery of items for use at the Mission or given to the needy that come into the Mission.

Ben and Bert were saddened to say Jay George, Pastor of Tucson Mt. Baptist Church, passed away. Pastor George was the mentor and mastermind behind opening Crossroads Mission. He will be missed, especially by Ben and Bert.

**General Mission Support** –Tom Spurlock reported that there is a lot of discussion at the upper levels of Presbytery about, “Should culture groups have separate institutions or intermingle to understand one another?” There seems to be extremes of left (liberal) versus right (conservative) ways in living and thinking.

**PCUSA Seminary Support** –Larry Craft presented information about James Martin, a young student who is attending Austin Seminary in Texas. He plans to become a pastor and our Presbytery de Cristo is supporting him in his endeavors. The Noisy Offering in May will be for this mission and it’s good to know of an individual who may benefit from our contributions.

**Hands of a Friend** – Pat Nau has not been able to contact Colleen for information. However, she knows that there are women and children living in Genesis House who could benefit from some quilts made by the VPC quilters. Pat will contact Patti Bright to learn of possibilities.

**Mission Quilts** – Patty Bright reported that on February 4, Linda and Richard Norman delivered 77 quilts of all sizes to More Than A Bed (MTAB). They met the founder, Grace, and got to enjoy Grace's excitement at receiving so many beautiful quilts to keep them in stock for a while.

Next, they delivered 10 large quilts to Springboard Home for Youth in Crisis. They were allowed to tour Springboard and got to watch the girls at Springboard select the quilt they wanted for themselves.

Linda and Richard were very impressed with both places.

**Operation Mobilization** – Pam and Dave L. shared information with our committee before our business started. They expressed sincere thanks for our faithful support and prayers.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry** – George Curtis reported that the Board for the Campus Ministry meets twice a month to brainstorm on what the future might hold. They discuss how leaving the Campus Christian Center will impact their services to students. Can its ministry be maintained? Since the dormitories and cafeterias will be opening up, they might be able to reach students who live on or near campus.

**Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries)** – There is no new information from our South Sudan Missionaries who are spending their time reading, writing and communicating from Illinois.

**St. Andrew's Children's Clinic** – Kay Brouwer reported that the St. Andrews' Clinic staff is continuing to work hard to figure out how best to help the children in Mexico. Laura Romero, her staff and volunteers are trying to reinvent how things will be done in the future with new technology. They are working to get all files and data onto computer data bases. There are no promises for the future except that they will be present to offer services to children of Mexico. Maybe they can begin talking of care in Nogales in the fall.

The promised building will eventually be built on property adjacent to St. Andrews' Church in Nogales, AZ. This building will provide most essential office space plus more storage & clinic rooms.

Families are suffering a lot from COVID19. Sufficient Vaccines are not available nor distributed. If they get the first shot, often people cannot get the second. St. Andrew's Clinic is focusing efforts on telemedicine and on-line contacts. They have a huge concern for their clients suffering in Mexico because travel is too risky; the border is closed. Most importantly, they are staying in contact with families of the children so that they do not feel forgotten.

Laura extended special thanks to VPC for including St. Andrews' Clinic in our gifts, thoughts, and prayers.

**Valley Assistance Services** – In Steve Larson's absence, Kay Brouwer reported that a new backpack program has begun where Nutrition + Resources + Supplies = Healthy Youth. It is called SMARTE.

**S = Supplemental M = Meals for A = Amado R = Rio Rico T = Tubac Regional E = Elephant Head**

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

- 1) Youth On Their Own celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday this month. In 1986 YOTO'S founder and guidance counselor, Ann Young, convinced her friends and colleagues to help her address a tragic problem: the challenge to graduation and academic success faced by youth experiencing homelessness. Now, what started as a small work of kindness among friends has become a veritable movement for change throughout Southern Arizona.
- 2) YOTO recently announced 4 new board members. One of these new members is: **Amanda McCraw**, a YOTO alumna from Amphitheater High School who grew up in Tucson and currently serves as a City Court Supervisor. She says, "Being a board member for YOTO gives me the opportunity to pay it forward to students who find themselves in similar situations I was in." YOTO's Board of Directors provides governance, financial oversight, and strategic vision for the organization.
- 3) Inspirational Card Makers continue to make cards at home. Karen Woodrow and a friend in Quail Creek made 34 Valentine themed cards and 8 general themed cards. In addition, friends at church have suggested a new book: 365 Days of Wonder for us to use for additional ideas for sayings of encouragement.

### Old Business:

**Mission Sunday** went very well. A big thanks to Reverend Lindsay for highlighting each of our agencies. Mary Horn volunteered to send him a written thank you.

### **Mission Breakfasts:**

- January 16, 2021 – Pam and Dave L. is cancelled
- February 20, 2021 – Food Bank is cancelled
- March 13, 2021 – YOTO is cancelled
- November 13, 2021 – YOTO (Mary Horn)
- January 15, 2022 – Pam and Dave L. (Doug Clark). Pam and Dave will also do the Sunday Sermon.
- February 12 or 19, 2022 – Food Bank (Betty Kiesle-Yoder)
- March 28, 2022 – St. Andrews' Children's Clinic (Kay Brouwer)

### **Noisy Offering**

- January 31, 2021 – Compañeros en Misión lead by Judy Aguayo
- May 30, 2021 – Seminary Support lead by Larry Craft
- 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 will head up this collection. There will be an article in the Valley Voice and envelopes for donations will be located at the church entrances.

**Mission Sunday is January 16, 2022.** Consider a Mission Festival. Maybe assign a subcommittee.

**Revision of Mission Outreach 2021 Booklet:**

On review of the information in the Mission Outlook 2021 errors and incompletions were noted. The corrections were reviewed and accepted by the committee with changes to be made at the next printing. Consideration for general mailing was discussed and will be investigated as to cost and advisability.

The word “Support” will be omitted from the opening page of the booklet.

A chart identifying Mission Committee Giving and Pass Through Giving for 2020 will be included to clarify monies which this committee receives from several sources. Pass through giving are funds which are given outside of the adjusted budget.

- 1) Extra envelope giving such as Food Bank and PCUSA Special Giving (i.e., Monies for One Great Hour of Sharing).
- 2) Additional checks given to VPC for specific Mission Agencies (i.e., Casa Vida Nueva, Crossroads Nogales Mission, VAS) as noted in the memo area on the check. The advantage of giving to agencies through the church includes easy bookkeeping as these contributions are given to the agency as a check from VPC which reflects our church’s involvement in the community.
- 3) Projects which generate income such as Mission Breakfasts and Noisy Offering, etc. if identified by check or in Special Offering Envelopes.
- 4) Undesignated gifts to the Mission Committee which are placed in the Emergency Fund and are used in that calendar year as needed.

Approximately 51% of the total revenue of the 2020 Mission Committee Giving is from the Patio Sale.

Approximately 25% of the total revenue for the 2020 Mission Committee Giving is for Presbyterian programs.

**Sahuarita Food Bank Request:** After consideration of our use of Emergency Fund money, it has been decided that those funds should be used for our designated and approved agencies. A letter was sent to the Sahuarita Food Bank declining their request for \$4,000.00 to help fund their building of a new facility.

**Valley Voice articles** – Our goal is to have 4 or more per month; there were 7 in January. Keep writing!

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

**New Business:**

George Curtis asked about what’s going to happen with the Patio Sale this year. The Patio Sale Committee is discussing possibilities because our storage units are very full of items which need to go on sale. Timing might be in April before our winter residents depart. Location might be tents outside and/or small rooms inside. Restricted attendance would be required. All plans are tentative. Eloise Fredricks will send out a letter to learn who will be able to help this year.

The next Mission Committee meeting will be at 8:45, March 9, 2021, in Room 5 with a ZOOM option.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Brouwer, Secretary