

**Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting at 8:45 – 10:15, January 12, 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, Rev. Diane Christopher and Rev. Craig Lindsey

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

Mark Horton presented the Spiritual Growth lesson on missions as Social Justice. Micah (6:8) was told by God that God insists that the people live in Social Justice, being fair and just to their neighbors and compassionate and loyal in love. Also, they should not take themselves too seriously. At the end of the 1700's William Cary went to India to spread the knowledge and faith of Jesus Christ. He has been called the father of modern missionaries. Asian Christianity began with this amazing man. He preached and fought against the religious practices among the Hindu's that persecuted and severely punished women. William Cary preached the law of Social Justice, being kind and good to all people. Committee members then explained how their Mission Agency effectively practices the concept of Social Justice. Doug brought out that Pastor Craig is encouraging Valley Presbyterian Church to become more Missional, again practicing the law of Social Justice. We, as Mission Committee Members, might try to bring individuals in the church along with us so they could become actively involved in mission work.

**Business Begins** – Pam and Dave L. were supposed to be with us via ZOOM, but have been rescheduled for our February meeting.

Mark and Doug opened the business meeting with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 8 meeting had already been approved and sent to the church session. Doug stressed that we should read the minutes and promptly send revision or approval via email.

**Financial Report:** The end of 2020 budget is \$81,250.00. Mission Committee emergency funds are currently at \$983.11 because miscellaneous money which comes to the church is put in this area. We should consider how to disburse these funds. The 2020 financial budget was reviewed with no further questions.

**MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS**

**Amado-GV-Sahuarita Food Bank** – Betty Kiesle-Yoder reported that the Food Bank did much better in December due to Holiday giving. She received a request from the Sahuarita Food Bank for help financing a new building. They are currently housed in a church facility. They've gotten 70% of the money needed but ask that we help with the rest. Doug reminded us that the Mission Committee Funds traditionally go to our designated agencies. He will look over the request from the Sahuarita Food Bank and we'll discuss a possible contribution during our February meeting.

**Posada Community Services** – Mark Horton spoke with William McCreery who said they were still "hunkering down." They were happy to receive 30% budget donation from the White Elephant. They also got \$40,000 from miscellaneous contributions. Their Friday Meal Program got a huge boost from donated Stimulus Checks several residents got from the government. Posada Community Services buy meals from local restaurants and deliver the food to people in need. They will continue until funds are used up.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Niños** – Reed Olson reported that 2020 activities were limited due to the prolonged closure of the US/MX border crossing sites throughout the year and COVID-19. All supportive trips to see the children were canceled including the Christmas trip. However, we were able to collect donations to help the children have a good Christmas.

**There is good news:** The children of Casa Vida Nueva para Niños are doing well because they are blessed with adults who love them, have a roof over their head, plentiful food, great education opportunities (RISE Scholastic Achievements, Inc.), a love of God in their lives, and support from VPC, the Green Valley area and people across the USA; plus, they all get along with each other. This past year, three students enrolled in

Universidad (college) majoring in: marketing, robotic engineering, and nursing; five students in Preparatoria School (high school - at a cost of \$560 USD per child) and eleven in Secundaria (junior high school). RISE also donated 6 new laptop computers for the children to use as they remote learn from home.

Elias Herrera, Director of the Home, created two short, year-end videos that will be loaded onto the RISE web site in February, 2021. The first video shows the initial construction phase of their new basketball court. The second video personalizes how grateful the children are for the support they have received from the Green Valley, AZ community and throughout the USA. This month's report announces that the children are healthy (no COVID) and are well taken care of. Please keep the children in your prayers. Let's hope the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 will allow us to start our visits again. The children miss us and we miss the children. Thank you for your continued support.

For updates on this mission and to see the new videos, go to [www.risesa.org](http://www.risesa.org)

**Compañeros en Misión** – Judy Aguayo reported that the only program that has been able to continue is the Ministry to Migrants. Volunteers and staff have been exposing themselves at high risk from the Covid-19 virus when going out on the streets looking for migrants. They continue to prepare a total of 300 meals with drinks per week (100 meals 3 days a week), but have also been able to get extra clothes, since most of the migrants come from places with a different climate and the cold is very difficult for them. Doug asked if this mission agency might come for a Breakfast in 2022. Judy will look into this possibility.

**Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona** – Joan Bolin reported that on her January 11, 2021, phone conversation with Ben Wenke, Co-Director of Crossroads Mission, the following information was received:

All Crossroads Mission's facilities are open and functioning at this time. One of the women's transitional houses is getting a new furnace.

Ben has hired a lady, who lives in one of the transitional houses, to work in the kitchen preparing food.

The Mission served 125 Christmas ham dinners on December 19, 2020. Due to the coronavirus this total is about half what is usually served. The dinners were all packaged in clamshell containers to take home.

The Mission saw a nice "uptick" in monetary giving during the Christmas holiday. The Mission is now out of debt and running in a positive financial position. Thanks goes to members/friends of Valley Presbyterian Church who have donated to the Mission. Also, thanks to our church's Mission Committee for voting to send an extra \$500.00 to help Crossroads during the Thanksgiving Season. Ben is happy and thankful for the extra help during the holidays.

On January 21, 2021, Valley Presbyterian's quilting group will donate quilts to the Crossroad Mission. They will be used at the Crossroad Mission's facilities, and be handed out to needy families.

**General Mission Support** –Tom Spurlock reported that PCUSA has been promoting a bill on Fairness and Honesty in Voting. Tom learned that Reverend Margaret Kibbens, a retired Rear Admiral, is the first ever woman to act as the Chaplain at the U.S. House of Representative. The General Mission has also started a program which will help individuals know more about the Covid-19 virus.

**PCUSA Seminary Support** –Larry Craft had no report

**Hands of a Friend** – Pat Nau announced that Colleen and her staff are spending hours sorting and cleaning files and updating computer documents. Colleen did turn in the necessary financial report for 2020. She expressed thanks for the \$400 at year end from our emergency fund.

**Mission Quilts** – Patti Bright reported that since quilts are needed more now and in the next month or so, quilters are trying to complete enough quilts to make a delivery trip to Crossroads Nogales Mission and to Holy Cross Nogales Hospital in a week or so. Only a few quilters have come to church to do the layering this month. Quilters also came to pick up quilts to work on or brought in work they had completed.

**Operation Mobilization** – Pam and Dave L. sent information to Doug:

**The Challenge and Opportunity of Covid-19**

WE have continued to work hard these last 8-9 months to provide food and other aid to about 20,000 families suffering from lack of work and therefore lack of food in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Our teams have been reaching out to suffering people in villages across these countries, serving and loving them in Jesus's name. We continue to bring relief to those suffering from flooding and disease and bringing hope to many more.

Almost 40 years ago Pam and I started serving with OM in India. Now OM has asked us to re-start a ministry focused on 200 unreached Muslims there. Just before COVID-19, I was able to visit and partner with National Indian Ministries. While I was there, I was deeply inspired by my visit to the church William Carey started about 200 years ago in Kolkata which serves like a light on a hilltop. Let us live out his motto: "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God".

Thank you for your faithful support and prayers, Pam and Dave L.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry** – Bailey has given us an update in a written article for the Mission Outreach 2021 Booklet.

**Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries)** – Doug Clark shared information from Bob and Kristi who are still living in Illinois. They are very frustrated here in the U.S., communicating with their mission friends partners only through internet and ZOOM. Bob is feeling closer to God as, in isolation, he writes memories of the work he and Kristi have been doing in South Sudan.

**St. Andrew's Children's Clinic** – Kay Brouwer reported the St. Andrews' Clinic staff is continuing to work hard to figure out how best to help the children in Mexico. There has been a big rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in Nogales, Sonora. St. Andrews' is sending medications whenever possible. There is no "in person" treatment; all help is given online or via telephone. The flights to Shriners' hospitals in Seattle and Spokane have been canceled. Things might improve when vaccines are widely distributed, hopefully this summer.

St. Andrews' staff is spending time reorganizing the ways the clinic can function when it does open. They realize that the programs will be offered in a very different way than they were in the past. However, services will continue to be provided to the families of suffering children in Mexico.

**Valley Assistance Services** – In Steve Larson's absence, Kay Brouwer reported that:

- The SantaCAUSE program delivered over 179 bags of gifts and food to clients in this area.
- The VAS Wish List includes USPS Forever stamps, paper towels and a new printer.
- If people want to donate their stimulus check to VAS, give Wes a call at 520-625-5966.

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

- 1) All Youth On Their Own offices continue to remain closed to the wider public.
- 2) GREAT NEWS! Youth On Their Own was able to "SPREAD THE WARMTH" to YOTO students this holiday season. They raised enough to give \$80 to each student enrolled in the program to help them through this unique holiday season. Our mission committee and individual members made generous donations to help make this happen. \$400.00 was given from the Mission Committee.
- 3) On January 27 our Inspirational Card Making is changed to "at home" work. Several ladies have continued create cards on their own.

**Old Business:**

**Financial Statements** of our agencies from 2019 are complete. We might start requesting the 2020 financials from our agencies.

### **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 – ~~Food Bank~~ Betty Kiesle-Yoder asked that this collection be changed to Compañeros en Misión lead by Judy Agauyo
- 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

**Mission Sunday** will be January 16, 2021. In the sermon, Pastor Craig will highlight a few stories from some missions.

Mission Outreach 2021 Booklet has been drafted. We should review the preliminary copy and send Carla any changes that should be made. 160 new Mission Booklets will be distributed that day with bulletins in the pews.

**Homeless Packet Program** - Mary Horn's recommendation is that we suspend our Homeless Packet Program for 2021. Discussion as to the future leadership and focus occurred with a plan to continue the program in 2022. Patti Bright has recommended we look into an organization called COTS – Church on the Streets possibly in place of our Homeless Packet Program. Our current outlet for packets is the Salvation Army.

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

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

### **New Business**

**Mission Committee 2021-2022 Overview** – Doug provided a copy of this including Goals, Specific missions and leaders, potential rotating chairmanship, Mission Breakfast schedule, Noisy Offering schedule and other programs. The outline was accepted as guidelines and plan for 2021.

- Presbyterian Giving: One Great Hour of Sharing on March 28, 2021; Peacemaking Offering on October 3, 2021; and Christmas Joy Offering on December 19, 2021
- Operation Christmas Child in November 2021
- Mission Sunday/Annual Report/Possible Mission Festival on January 15, 2022
- Homeless Packet Program in January/February 2022
- Tools of Communication: Valley Voice, Website with monthly minutes and agency updates yearly, and TV in Fellowship Hall

**2021 Guidelines for VPC Noisy Offering Sundays** – Doug gave us a copy of guidelines which will work when the threat of Covid-19 has lessened. Then we'll be able to have church in the sanctuary. Now, during Covid-19, we'll furnish buckets at the main entrances into which attendees can put their donations.

The next meeting will be at 8:45, February 8, 2021, in Room 5 with a probable ZOOM option.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Brouwer, Secretary