

**Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting at 8:45 – 10:30
January 11, 2022 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, Les Walter, Pastor Craig Lindsay and Pastor Diane Christopher.

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

Prior to the agenda's business, we discussed, with Pastor Craig's help, the distribution of Mission Emergency Funds. We made an error at our last meeting, assigning too much for various purposes. Judy Aguayo moved and George Curtis seconded a motion to request funds from the Gifts and Memorial Committee to cover the mistake. After discussion, the motion failed. Pat Nau moved and Steve Larson seconded a motion to rescind the allocations voted upon on December 14, 2021. The motion passed and 14 of our agencies will each receive \$500.00 from our Emergency Funds.

Announcement: Parkie Copeland wants to remain a retired member of this committee. However, her hearing impairment keeps her from participating in discussion at meetings. She'll keep in touch, read all communication and help whenever she can. We will look for another "at large" member to fill the position.

Doug's Spiritual Growth lesson today was on KINDNESS, one of the Fruits of the Spirit. As a lay person's concept, this is common: being friendly, generous and considerate. However, the kindness of God is much more and with different purposes. The kindness of God is intended to lead us to repentance. Kindness requires Christian maturity and God's grace. We are expected to be kind to those who are against us and practice kindness often, without thought of reward. During the discussion committee members mentioned that this kindness is providing help to our friend, family and neighbors. It is thinking before we speak to be sure we will not accidentally offend. It accepting people just as they are, withholding any judgement. We model Christ when we are Kind.

Pat Nau opened the business meeting with a meditation and prayer about the meaning of mission in today's world. Being a "Mission Church" involves our daily activities to express and extend our Christian faith to everyone in everything that we do.

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 \$7,995.96 which we can disburse, giving each of 14 agencies \$500.00. This total includes \$5,000 from the Covid Relief funds received from the government.

MISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS

Amado-GV Food Bank – Kylene Joplin and Carol Stephens reported that, in December, only 8 pounds of food was collected and \$575.50 was sent to each of the Food Banks. Kylene read a letter from Mike McDonald thanking the church for generous help in feeding the hungry people in this area. Carol talked with Vicki Turner who confirmed that Norma Cable will speak at our February 12th Mission Breakfast.

Posada Community Services – Bill McCreery will retire on the 14th of this month. He has been the director for many years, keeping us informed of activities. Doug will ask Mary Horn to write a thank you note to Bill from our committee.

Claudia Ortega will be Bill's replacement as the Director of Community Programs. Regina Ford, coordinator of outreach, will provide monthly reports for the Mission Committee and send the annual financial statement.

Posada Life Adult Day Services host a free in-person Caregiver Support Group on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 2:30 to 3:30. Caregiver support groups provide welcoming, and confidential settings for caregivers to share their experiences and emotions, as well as answer questions, share wisdom and helpful resources.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños – Reed Olson has received 10 photos of the children opening up their Christmas presents. The joy and excitement are evident. Some pictures will appear in the next Valley Voice. It's been over 2 years since we had a trip and the photos show new children Reed's never seen before and others who have grown up. Two youths are in college, one in nursing and one in business. Reed would like to schedule a trip to the home, but with COVID spreading, it's probably not possible.

Compañeros en Misión – Judy Aguayo announced that Reverend Jorge Paz of Mexico passed away on December 25, 2021, from COVID-19. He pastored 3 churches, worked with women’s and children’s groups and other organizations while ministering food, water and spiritual guidance to many migrants seeking asylum and/or a better life. He will be greatly missed.

Lucy Greenleaf is the US Director of Compañeros en Misión. She’s working with the Presbytery de Cristo to establish procedures for this mission to build faith, understanding and relationships among Presbyterians on both sides of the border. The PCUSA and the National Church of Mexico are working together to enable churches in Mexico to become self-sufficient, self-governing, and self-propagating.

As a Presbyterian Mission, we can pray and donate to support Compañeros en Misión. Judy will check with our church office to see if she can deposit donations directly into the bank used by this mission when given from the church.

Crossroads Mission, Nogales, Arizona – Les Walter, visits the Mission regularly and finds it stays open with a very limited staff headed by Jason and Lupita. The lunch program is back, serving from 60 to 80 people daily. Our church has cooked and served lunches on Wednesdays in the past. We are looking for a person to set up and coordinate this program again.

General Mission Support – Tom Spurlock sent no report.

PCUSA Seminary Support – Larry Craft sent no report.

Hands of a Friend – Pat Nau reported that a parishioner wanted to donate to one of our agencies. Pat was happy to give a check for \$1,000 to Gina Dalsing to help Hands of a Friend. We are all encouraged to submit donations to the church office so the money can be listed as “Pass thru Giving.”

Mission Quilts – Patti Bright sent news that all reports were turned in and quilts were delivered before the end of the year 2021. A total for the year is 284 quilts with an approximate value of \$6,215. More deliveries will be made early in 2022 since these are the coldest months of the year. The group’s pot luck lunch was canceled because of the need for masking during the recent increase of Covid.

Operation Mobilization – Pam and Dave L. are international speakers for Operation Mobilization with responsibility for activities in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, and North India. Speaking Farsi, they have been active in Iran with Afghanistan refugees who have no legal status in Iran and are cruelly treated. When they write “**AFGHANISTAN: MY TEARS**” it is with their deep personal experience which is also reflected in their work in Wisconsin. At the Mission Breakfast on January 22nd we will learn more about how Pam and Dave have been serving. On Sunday, January 23rd, Dave will give the morning sermon. From 1:00 – 3:00 on January 23rd in Fellowship Hall there will be an Open House where we can talk with these missionaries and hear more about their experiences.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry – George Curtis reported that the PCM Director, Amanda, is working on food donations from area churches to provide meals for students after weekly meetings at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The board reviewed the Productivity Planning Document with Amanda. The goal is to have at least ten regular students and to connect with all area Presbyterian Churches by the end of the spring semester. The treasurer reported that the deficit at the end of the year will be less than the budgeted amount. All financial information is not yet available. They need to find a replacement for Dick Davison, the current treasurer, who plans to retire. A litigator has been hired to assist with the PCM move of their offices out of the Campus Christian Center to St. Mark’s Church.

Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) – Doug Clark reported that, finally, Bob and Kristi are legal residents of South Sudan for a two-year period. It has been a struggle with the government officials, regulations and often suggested bribes. Many days were spent getting their VISAS cleared. Despite all the complications, their Christian Ministry continues to thrive.

St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic – Kay Brouwer reported that, on February 3, 2022, there will be a small clinic at St. Andrews’ Episcopal Church in Nogales, Arizona. There is a need to limit the clinic to pediatric patients. These will be children whose families are somewhat bi-lingual so not many translators will be required. The available space has been reduced in size because the church has reserved the pre-school area for their own use on the first Thursday of the month. Laura, the staff and many volunteers are gearing up for this first clinic in almost 2 years.

On February 17 Laura and some staff, volunteers and doctors will go to Hermosillo to prepare for Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate surgeries. They must check the safety of the Hermosillo environment. They will be taking the same group of approximately 35 children who were selected to go for surgery last October. Most of these are babies and very young children for first-time surgery. This endeavor will be expensive because, for health safety, the families will need to be isolated in hotels for 2 days before and after scheduled surgeries which will be Sunday and Monday, February 20 and 21. Cost of hotel rooms and food will be provided by St. Andrews' Clinic.

There is a desperate need for added building space. The office in Green Valley is too small to accommodate the needs of the Clinic staff. They are doing most of their work from home. The contributor who is financing most of the planned new building on the St. Andrews' Church property is waiting to begin construction. As soon as plans are finalized, it will not take long for the facility to be completed. It will provide office and storage space, examination and therapy rooms, all greatly needed by St. Andrews' Clinic.

The St. Andrews' Children's Clinic continues to need our prayers and support. Donations can be made through our Valley Presbyterian Church. Thanks to the many people in our church who provide help to this mission. Laura will be presenting information about this mission at the Mission Breakfast on Saturday, March 26. We hope many of our congregation will attend.

Valley Assistance Services – Steve Larson extends wishes from VAS for good health, safety and comfort in 2022. VAS also reminds us that many members of our community will face hardships, health struggles, a lack of food and essential household supplies and isolation. Their Mission Statement is: "Combining social services and community health, Valley Assistance Services guide seniors, individuals, and families to live healthy, resilient, and vibrant lives, while remaining safe and independent." The last two years have seen an exponential growth in the number of clients seeking assistance from VAS; the financial assistance program alone has increased over 1,000%. Our gifts are needed now more than ever.

The "Empty Bowls" event is in the planning stages. It has been a successful fundraiser in the past and they hope to continue with COVID safety protocols.

Youth on Their Own (YOTO) – Mary Horn sent no report.

Old Business

Mission Breakfast Mission/missionaries for 2021-2022 Programs:

- January 22, 2022 – Pam and Dave L. (Doug Clark) – A list of needed help is being passed to committee members.
- February 12, 2022 – Food Bank (Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens) – Speaker will be Norma Cable
- March 26, 2022 – St. Andrews' Children's Clinic (Kay Brouwer) – Speaker will be Laura Romero

Noisy Offering - Doug and Judy are in search of a place that will count our coins.

- January 30, 2022 – Operation Mobilization with Dave and Pam L. – Doug Clark
- 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

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 after the service with Pam and Dave L. There will also be an Open House from 1:00 – 3:00 in Fellowship Hall.

Mission Outlook Booklet – The 2022 Mission Outlook Booklet was reviewed and is almost complete.

Financial Statements – Except for St. Andrew's and Crossroads, all reports are in. We will continue to support all our listed agencies. Kay Brouwer will try to get an acceptable report from St. Andrews' Children's Clinic.

Support for South Sudan Churches – We collected and sent \$2420 to South Sudan to help start 12 new churches.

Christmas Joy Offering – November 28 – December 19, 2021, Tom Spurlock said \$425 was collected.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños – Christmas gift giving was \$2201.

Presbyterian Disaster Relief - \$5,000 from Mission Committee Emergency Fund; \$9,311 from the congregation.

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

Emergency Fund 2021 Reconsideration of Distribution -- \$10,000 from Session and \$2,000 from Emergency Fund 2021 - \$5,000 dispersed. Due to error in number of monies to be assigned, the minutes and remaining distribution proposed was corrected at the beginning of this meeting. See the minutes as recorded above.

Review and Update of Mission TV Assignments – 1/9/22 and 1/16/22 -- Doug Clark

New Business

Budget 2022 – estimated to be \$95,737 with \$55,000 from Patio Sale monies. Consider distribution of increased income (\$81,250 for 2021 and expected \$95,737 for 2022) of \$14,487 to 14 agencies (omitting Mission Quilts).

Recruitment Progress – This committee needs to recruit an additional person “at large” 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 – George Curtis mentioned that Amanda from Campus Ministry would like to talk with our committee. Doug asked George to schedule a 10-minute time before one of our meetings for her to tell us about what she’s doing now and what she plans for the future.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Brouwer, Secretary