**Minutes from the VPC Mission Committee Meeting – 8:45 - May 12, 2020**

**at our homes on computer via ZOOM due to COVID 19 quarantine**

**Present:** Doug Clark,Tom Spurlock, Reed Olson, Mary Horn, Kay Brouwer, Betty Kiesle-Yoder, George Curtis, Mark Horton, Steve Larson, Judy Aguayo, Rev. Diane Christopher and Rev. Craig Lindsey.

**Absent:** Joan Bolin, Pat Nau, Sally Ruschmeier, Charlie Ashton, Larry Craft

Doug presented information about another attribute of God: **Jealousy.**  The second commandment says “Do not worship any other gods, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.” In His covenant for His people, he demands unqualified love and loyalty. In man there is a type of jealousy which has a positive aspect which God accepts. This is the jealousy to protect a love relationship, especially in marriage. The Hebrew word for “jealous” can also mean “zealous.” Jealousy in God is possessive. However, “zealous” implies passion, enthusiasm and dedication for someone. God is jealous and zealous! Our mission group considered the question: How does our use of time, talent and resources arouse God’s jealousy?

Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the February 11, 2020 were approved to be sent to Carla Goings.

**Financial Report:** Of the total $89,323.00 Mission budget, quarterly payments of $20,312.50 were made to our agencies.

**Mission Reports/Comments:**

**Amado-GV-Sahuarita Food Bank** – Betty Kiesle-Yoder reported that the Food Bank is in desperate need of money. Our church gave $1,068 in April. No food donations are allowed yet.  No volunteers are allowed into Food Bank right now.  Distribution of food is done totally by staff with drive-by for food pickup.

**Posada Community Services –** Doug announced that all services have been shut down until the threat of Covid 19 pandemic is lifted. Sally Ruschmeier is having Rotator cuff surgery soon. She will be unable to come to our meetings or collect information for reports so wants to retire from the mission committee.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Niños –**Reed Olson reported that, like the USA, the children are not going to school but staying in The Home. All are well. No trips are scheduled until the US/MX border reopens and the virus is contained. Reed also reported that the March trip to visit the children was canceled due to covid-19 and closing the US/MX border. However, in April, we were able to deliver 52 hard cover, new Spanish books to the Home using Cal Judson’s project called “Give a Kid a Book.” Each book was personalized with the child’s name inside the front cover. Needless to say, each child was thrilled to receive their book. Thank You Cal Judson! Although we could not experience this event, it was a great day to share the love of Jesus Christ with these children. Reed is still accepting donations of food, clothing, and health care items. He can be reached at 520-576-8597 or email: olsonr1@cox.net

**Compañeros en Misi****ón –** Judy Aguayo reported that the mission is doing all they can to help. Due to COVID-19 which is now in stage 3 (the highest threat) all normal programs have been on hold: kids club, health program and recycling program. Currently Rev. Pazos is delivering sandwiches and drinks to the migrants who are on hold also waiting for the border to begin opening up again to receive asylum seekers.

**Crossroads Mission** – Joan Bolin sent the following information she received from Ben Wenke on a telecon with him on April 16, 2020:

-As mentioned in the April Valley Voice, the founders of Crossroads Mission, Ben and Bert Wenke, came out of their 8-week retirement to become the directors again after the new director, Pastor David Lopez, didn’t work out.

-The Mission is not open to the general public at this time because of Governor Ducey’s restrictions due to the Corona virus. The Mission has been handing out bags of produce to people that come in looking for food. Ben has been working with 5 men in the men’s shelter recovery program. There are 4 women in the women’s shelter.

-The Mission is refurbishing their 3 homes at this time. Ben stated there is a need for woodworkers for some small jobs at the Mission. Call Ben, 1-520-264-8434, if you could help with these small jobs.

-Ben told the following story that just happened. “There were 30 Cuban people, and a naked baby that was delivered in the desert, who all crossed the Mexican border into Arizona. The Cubans were dropped off in the desert somewhere near Patagonia, Arizona. The Cubans ended up in Nogales, Arizona, and were taken to Crossroads Mission where they talked with Ben. Ben called the Border Patrol who came to the Mission. Ben gave the baby’s mom one of the baby quilts that he had at the Mission. The quilts came from our Valley Presbyterian Church’s quilting group. You never know where a quilt will be needed.”

-Crossroad’s Easter lunch scheduled for April 11th, didn’t occur because of the restrictions from the Corona virus. The Mission did fill 35 Easter baskets, which were given to the Nogales Police Department so the police could hand them out to the kids they know are in need.

Govenor Ducey’s restrictions are being followed so operations at Crossroads will change on a weekly or monthly basis. --Valley Presbyterian Church will not be sending people to Crossroads to prepare and serve lunch until approved by the church.

Ben was upbeat on the telecon, and has taken his and Bert’s return to the mission in stride. Ben sends hugs to all.

This mission is another one of our agencies which is in desperate need of monetary funds, prayers and support.

**General Mission Support** – Tom Spurlock reported that it is very quiet during this pandemic. All efforts are put toward dealing with the Corona Virus problems. Doug Clark added that there is great need of funds, prayers and support for Disaster Assistance.

**PCUSA Seminary Support** – In the absence of Larry Craft, Tom Spurlock reported that there are scholarships available for seminary education even though many colleges and universities are not open at this time.

**Hands of a Friend –** In place of Pat Nau, Doug Clark announced that there is a change in leadership at Hands of a Friend. Colleen Hanson replaced Madelaine Paschel as of May 13, 2020. Dazee’s and Genesis House are closed down. The residents are in quarantine but still need help. Again, funds and prayer support are greatly needed.

**Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L.)** – The following is a message Doug received:

Dear Valley Presbyterian Church,
 We have been thinking about you. We are in social isolation in our home in Wisconsin.
 We heard that one of our friends in Tajikistan died of the Covid 19. The hospitals out there don’t have the right equipment like the western world hospitals have. When someone dies out there, the body is immediately buried so family can’t see the deceased before burial. Very hard on the people. Many people are having a hard time not being able to eat properly because of the very high prices of food. Work is very scarce because of lockdown. I feel so bad for those people. Many dear Tajik friends have been struggling with this sickness.
 One of our Tajik friend’s son, Parviz, is in the hospital with the Covid while in Russia. His whole family of about 7 had it, but he was the worst and ended up in the Russian hospital, for they live there now. We worked with him while we were working in Tajikistan. He was one of the Christian leaders that we helped disciple while out there.
 We continue to pray for you and many others.
 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Standing Together,
Blessings, Pam and Dave

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry –** George Curtis reported that the Board met the evening of May 11, 2020.The Christian Center building is closed, but Bailey is counseling with three students. The issue of building (property) ownership was discussed. The Presbyterians and Lutherans are renters of space, but the building is owned by others. The Lutherans are planning to stop their occupancy so the Board is concerned about the decrease of funds this will cause.

**Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries) –**These missionaries have left Sudan upon the request of the Presbytery. They are working from their home in Illinois. Bob had decided to pursue his PHD in Divinity. He is now working on a research proposal and plans to earn his degree at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Our prayers are with he and Kristi as they continue their service at a distance.

**St. Andrew’s Children’s Clinic –** Kay reported that Laura Romero is realizing that the Children’s Clinic will never be the same. However, she and the staff cannot let it end. They are working from home since they are considered a non-essential clinic. They will discontinue clinics through May, June and July and maybe through August. Changes must be made to find a different/better way to serve the children. Departments may be functioning in separate months. Many children are very frail, especially those with respiratory problems. All children are in desperate need of St. Andrew’s help. They need our prayers, support and funding.

Laura hopes to start Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate services on a small scale very soon. Fund-raising is under way. Volunteers have said they can provide services. Hopefully, the October trip to Hermosillo Hospital for surgeries will happen.

**Valley Assistance Services** – Steve Larson reported that the number of participants in the monetary assistance program has increased more than 3000% since the onset of COVID 19 pandemic. Desperately needed money donations may be made by check, by mail or credit/debit card, by phone or by visiting the website at [www.valleyassistanceservices.org](http://www.valleyassistanceservices.org). The RN Care Managers continue to advocate for their clients’ health through tele-health. A new Access To Food link is on the website to help people with food insecurities. One-on-one coaching is available to anyone 16 and older to help with resume and cover letter development, interview skills, etc. VAS is developing a roster of Volunteer Workforce Coaches. Please contact the office if you’re interested. There is a drastic need for VAS volunteers in all areas from pickup and delivery of prescriptions and groceries to making friendly phone visits with many quarantined individuals.

**Youth on Their Own (YOTO) –** Mary Horn reported that:

1. YOTO is Social Distancing. For the safety of students, staff, and community, YOTO’s administrative offices will be closed until further notice. The Mini Mall is open to students only on Thursdays from noon to 5:00.
2. YOTO is currently running a campaign to provide a summer stipend of $200 for each of their 1100 students. As of early May the amount collected was $17,060.
3. Our Inspirational Card Makers’ last meeting was in February. During the Covid 19 suspension of our meeting, volunteers Jane Hamby, Karen Woodrow and Nancy Storey have made 178 cards and worked a total of 22.5 hours for YOTO.
4. We had to cancel our scheduled tour of YOTO for Valley Presbyterian church members and friends on Monday, March 23. We will plan to re-schedule the tour in early 2021 to accommodate our Winter Family who might want to participate.

**Old Business:**

**Mission Breakfasts** will be November 14, 2020 – YOTO; January 16, 2021 – Missionaries Pam and Dave L; February 20, 2021 – Food Bank; March 13, 2121 – Not yet assigned.

**Noisy Offerings** were not collected in May and will be canceled for August 2020. On November 29, 2020 offering will be collected for St. Andrews’ Children’s Clinic. We hope to reschedule the canceled collections for Food Bank, Seminary Support in 2021.

**Homeless packet program:** Mary Horn reported that monetary donations for the Snack Bags totaled $356. Needed extra supplies to prepare 125 bags totaled $198.53 leaving a balance of $158. However, the balance on record from Suzanne is higher – a total of $278.00. This higher amount is due to congregants donating directly to VPC.

We assembled 125 Snack bags for the Homeless at our Mission Meeting on February 11. In addition to committee members, we were helped by Marion Coberly, Carol Wilking, and Ann Ball. On Sunday, February 16 people from the congregation took about 25 of the bags to share with the homeless. One person sent information that they had delivered a bag to a person on Ajo Way on March 6, and he seemed very appreciative to receive it. They signed their email so that we could contact them to see how the distribution went. I will plan to contact them this month.

The remaining 100 bags and the extra individual snacks were delivered to the Hospitality House of the Salvation Army on Monday, February 17. Dick made the delivery and noted that the lady who received them was working in the kitchen and handed several of the bags out to people while he was continuing to bring the bags in. Having the bags ready earlier in the year allowed the Salvation Army to pass them out to folks who were staying with them due to the colder temperatures.

**Valley Voice articles** – 4 or more per month; there were 5 in May; articles must be turned in to Carla Goings by June 15 for the combined June/July issue.

**Review and Update of Mission TV Assignments** - none planned through summer

**New Business:**

**Website issue –** Dick Horn has taken over the VPC Website maintenance. He thinks the Mission material needs to be revised. He and Reed Olson will meet to consider what changes need to be made. In the meantime, each committee member needs to study the website which tells about their specific agency. Information should be current, accurate and attractive with pictures if possible. **The committee members’ suggestions should be presented to Reed Olson by June 12 for revision of the website.** There was discussion about the necessity of the Mission Booklet since the information on the website is mostly the same. That discussion will be continued in the fall.

**Monthly minutes –** After the minutes are approved, they are sent to Carla Goings who submits them to the Website and to the Session. This committee recommends that current year minutes stay on the website and replaced regularly.

**Distribution of $10,000 Mission Agencies’ Emergency funds:**

The bulk of these funds is from the Patio Sale ($7,500). Doug Clark proposed that the funds be dispersed to 8 of our agencies which are in greatest need because of the COVID 19 virus emergency. This money is in the Mission Budget, separate from the VPC budget. No adverse impact of the proposed distribution of the emergency funds would affect the church.

The following are the agencies and the amounts. The committee approved Reed Olson’s suggestion that we give the Crossroad Mission $2,000 instead of the listed $1,000 because of their extensive needs.

$1,000 to Compañeros en Misión, Hands of a Friend, St. Andrews’ Children’s Clinic, Valley Assistance Services, Youth On Their Own and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

$2,000 to Amado-GV-Sahuarita Food Bank and Crossroad Nogales Mission.

After discussion, Judy Aguayo moved to accept motion to dispense monies as presented, seconded by Reed Olson, and unanimously approved by the committee.

**Brain Storming:** Reed Olson suggested we strongly remind our congregation that there is a tax benefit for donations. There is a tax-deductible available for contributions to many agencies. Reed will write a piece explaining this opportunity for the Valley Voice and the Presbyterian Church E-Blast.

The next meeting will be at 8:45 September 8, 2020 in Room 1.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Brouwer, Secretary