

Valley Presbyterian Church
Mission Committee – Minutes
10 May 2022

Present: Doug Clark, George Curtis, Kylene Joplin, Mary Horn, Steve Larson, Carol Stephens, Les Walters, Ed Storey, Rev. Diane Christopher

Absent: Kay Brouwer, Reed Olson, Pat Nau, Judy Aguayo, Ann Ball, Larry Craft, Patti Bright, Tom Spurlock, Mark Horton, Parkie Copeland (retired)

We began with a reflection on what it means to be clean and unclean particularly with respect to leprosy. God is unchanged and unchanging and His goal in the Old Testament, New Testament, and today is to establish a holy nation from self-acknowledged sinful unclean people through Jesus Christ. The message for us to take to heart is that our focus should be on loving God and our neighbors, more than rituals and rules. Biblical leprosy is different than today's leprosy. For the rich world, leprosy is not an issue, unless we are in close contact with armadillos. For our brothers in poverty, it is still a scourge but is being eliminated worldwide.

Budget: The April budget was reviewed. There is \$4,091.96 in the Mission Committee's Emergency Fund -Note that part of the fund was disbursed in Operation Mobilization, below.

Food banks: For April, Kylene Joplin stated we collected about forty pounds of food and about \$400 for each of the two food banks. This local charity is the largest single project of the Missions Committee.

No report from neither Posada Community Services, nor Casa Vida Nueva para-Niño's.

Compañeros en Misión: Rev. Josh Robinson, is Pastor at Hope Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas. Recently, he launched a doctoral research project through Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary focused on helping people in the dominant culture see and honor the sacred/divine inside people in marginalized cultures, specifically within marginalized communities along the US/Mexico border. This month and in June, he will be driving the distance of US/Mexico border conducting interviews and site visits of agencies serving within these communities. Judy Aguaro will be his contact.

Crossroads Nogales Mission: Les Walters has a report in the Valley Voice. Patio sale clothing donations are sorted into 3 groups: The best stay for the sale. The next group are donated to Crossroads and the bottom group is just discarded. The quality of the first two groups seems to be improving, due to better sorting.

Hands of a Friend: Pat Nau reported that Genesis House is upgrading security as well as some new construction. There might be an opportunity at the Noisy Offering for a 29 May minute for mission for a short presentation.

Operation Mobilization: Doug reported that Pam and Dave L are hosting a South Asia retreat in Kathmandu, Nepal. The purpose of the retreat is to provide a break and training for the staff, mostly nationals. Nepal was chosen because it is modestly priced and central to workers from their 14 countries. It was moved by Doug Clark, seconded by Ed Storey, and approved by the committee approved to provide \$3,000 from the emergency fund to be sent toward the expenses of the conference. The overall cost is about \$121,000, of which about \$57,048 is yet to be raised. The conference is 6/20-25/22. The program will be presented in the Valley Voice and by E-blast to the congregation for possible support. Pam and Dave have a full plate with currently hosting a Director from Pakistan, local speaking, travel to Cyprus for an international conference and fund raising for the South Asia Area Retreat.

PCUSA Seminaries: Doug reported that the Presbyterian Church has determined they no longer need or can support nine seminaries. A committee of PCUSA was formed to determine which seminaries to stop funding but the committee chose instead to make voluntary congregation support without specific goal of giving to fund the seminaries. We will provide \$4309 in 2022.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry: George Curtis indicated there might be a Gaslight Theatre fund raiser in the fall. Also, that Judy Aguayo is being considered as the next treasurer. The presbytery has directed all AZ congregations to address families and friends of graduating seniors, with their permission, to allow sharing of information of the Presbyterian Christian opportunities at the 3 state universities.

PCUSA Missionaries: Bob and Kristi Rice have been on vacation in Uganda, at the source of the Nile.

St. Andrews Children's Clinic: Kay reported the clinic served 29 children on 5 May. They utilized the Knights of Pyphias facility, but it is not well suited. The Spokane Shriners Orthopedic will offer a clinic in the same facility on 2 June. There is an urgent need for better facilities that formerly met at St Andrews' Episcopal Church. They need our prayers and perhaps a member of a facility committee. Our mission committee felt our addition financial support might better wait until they have a clearer plan.

Valley Assistance Services: Steve Larson, their treasurer, reported they helped about 6400 people in 2021. Volunteers ages ranged from 14 to 95. The fundraising walk was not successful but needs time to develop. The empty bowl effort is a major fund source and raised about \$20k. The Quail Creek car show proceeds of \$5K were dedicated to VAS. The needs of the community are growing and so are the needs of VAS.

YOTO: Mary indicated that about 160 cards of encouragement were made in May, to be sent along with the stipends. The *Tucson Lifestyle* magazine had a May article about Angel Charity for Children. It was started by Louise Thomas, who lost a son to lymphoma. The organization raises and distributes funds to local charities. This year their largest recipient will be YOTO of \$75K to help them refurbish their new facility on Country Club Rd.

Old Business:

Mission Breakfast Mission/missionaries for 2022-2023 Programs:

- November 12, 2022 – Posada Community Services (Mark Horton)
- January 14, 2023 – Hands of a Friend (Pat Nau)
- February 11, 2023 – RISE/Casa Vida Nueva (Reed Olson)
- March 25, 2023 - Pending

Noisy Offering – 2022

- May 29, 2022 – Hands of a Friend – Pat Nau- Volunteers needed to sort coins 5/30/22
- July 31, 2022 – Food Bank – Kylene Joplin/Carol Stephens
- October 30, 2022 – St. Andrews' Clinic – Kay Brouwer

Snack Bags for the Homeless: Mary reported that 210 bags were prepared. Some were given to the congregation and the rest to the Salvation Army. Those who took bags to give out reported it was an uplifting experience and we might encourage more to take bags for self-distribution. We had several(10) church members participate in filling the bags.

Ukraine Disaster Fund: \$23,638 has been donated to be sent to PCUSA for Ukraine relief.

Crossroads Nogales Lunch Program: Les Walters reported that they have made changes to the preparation of meals and may not need volunteers. He plans to assess the situation and report to the committee. We need to decide if we will support sending people for this mission project and we need a leader to be organizing our church involvement. Recently, they have been serving about 40 to 70 people for lunch.

New Business: Church on the Street: Patti Bright submitted and withdrew request for Mission Committee funding due to lack of a specific sponsor and lack of financial information.

Meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Diane Christopher

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Storey