Minutes November 11, 2025

Minutes Mission Committee

VPC Mission Committee Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2025

Time: 8:45 AM
Location: Valley Presbyterian Church, Room 1

Chair: Doug Clark

Co-Chair: Ed Storey

Recording Secretary: Jan Schoeben

Members Present:
Maureen Brealey, Kay Brouwer, Don Brooks, Doug Clark, Laurel Erickson, Jan Farrington, Geneva Halliday, Steve Hart, Mary Horn, Kylene Joplin, Pastor Craig Lindsey, Reed Olson, Linda Piotrowski, Monica Pataki, Jan Schoeben

Members Absent:

Judy Aguayo, John and Judy Fenlason, Deb Jones

Bible Study/Talk: Doug Clark

Jeremiah 29:13 (New International Version) [13] You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. The Bible is the word of God and a way to seek God. The word "Bible" comes from the Latin and Greek words meaning "book". Here is Good News for the Good News. The Bible is the best-selling book of all time, with estimates of 5 to 7 billion copies printed over the centuries. It is also the most translated book in the world. Bible sales in the US have increased significantly in recent years. The increase also saw a sharp jump in September 2025, following the assassination of Charlie Kirk, with sales increasing 36% over the same month the previous year.

The Bible has about 40 different human authors written over a period of about 1500 years. The authors were kings, fishermen, priests, government officials, farmers, shepherds, and doctors. From all this diversity comes with an incredible unity. **2 Peter 1:21 (New International Version) [21] For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy**

Spirit. Sixty-six different books comprise the Bible. They include books of law, such as Leviticus and Deuteronomy; historical books, such as Ezra and Acts; books of poetry, such as Psalms and Ecclesiastes; books of prophecy, such as Isaiah and Revelation; biographies, such as Matthew and John; and epistles (formal letters) such as Titus and Hebrews. The Bible's unity is due to the fact that, ultimately, it has one Author—God Himself. The human authors wrote exactly what God wanted them to write, and the result was the perfect and holy Word of God. **Psalm 12:6 (New International Version)[6] And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold[a] refined seven times.** The Bible is divided into two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. In short, the Old Testament is Jesus concealed and the New Testament Jesus reveled. **2 Timothy 3:16 (New International Version) [16] All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness**

The purpose of the Bible according to Artificial Intelligence is to reveal God's nature and His plan for humanity through the person and work of Jesus Christ. "It serves to guide believers in their relationship with God, provide moral and spiritual instruction, and equip them for living a righteous life."

Key purposes of the Bible: (From AI)

- **To reveal God:**

  The Bible is a source of God's self-revelation, showing His character, power, and love through His words and actions.
- **To offer salvation through Jesus Christ:**

  A central purpose is to present Jesus Christ as the means for salvation and to lead both believers and non-believers to have faith in Him.
- **To provide guidance:**

  It functions as a spiritual guide, offering "a lamp to our feet and a light to our path" by providing moral instruction, correction, and training in righteousness.
- **To equip for "every good work":**

  The Bible is intended to thoroughly equip believers for every good work God wants them to do, helping them to honor Christ and live according to His teachings.
- **To establish a relationship with God:**
- The ultimate goal is to foster a personal relationship between people and God by revealing His will and calling them to intimacy with Him.

- **To offer hope and comfort:**
  It provides hope, comfort, and assurance in the face of life's challenges by reminding believers of God's faithfulness and promises.

What are some my practical tools I use in Bible study? **Inductive Bible Study:** This is a three-step process of observation, interpretation, and application.

- **Observation:** What does the text say? Pray and ask questions to understand the who, what, when, where, why, and how.
- **Interpret:** Determine what the passage meant to its original audience, considering the historical and cultural context.(remember if you take the text out of context you have a con)
- **Apply:** Figure out how the message can be applied to your own life today.

I love Bible studies of all kinds, for example, Men's Bible Study, Bible Reflections Class, and Seekers Today. Word study devotionals for Mission Committee are educational, fun, and have led me to valuable tools including Bible concordances and Bible commentaries.

A concordance is simply an index of Bible words to help a person find specific verses in the Bible. Many Bibles will have an abridged concordance in the back of their Bible, and many Bibles will reference words to other parts of scripture. This is helpful because the Bible is internally true! Reading the word in other parts of the bible helps clarify God's meaning for that passage. The Bible was originally written in 11,280 Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words while the typical English translation uses around 6,000 words. Obviously, nuances and shades of meaning can be missed in translation. Another tool to aid understanding is biblegateway.com which lists 64 English translations and/or paraphrase translations, which can be used to even review familiar verses to gain new insights because of the way different words are translated.

A Bible commentary is a series of notes explaining the meaning of passages of Scripture. Commentaries are widely used in personal Bible study The advantage of a Bible commentary is that one can quickly gain perspective on the text's meaning, as understood by the commentary's author. However, Bible commentaries should not be used instead of personal study; rather, in addition to personal study. Since the commentary is not scripture, weigh the information with your own Spirit-led analysis. If you underline and

make notes in your personal Bible, in t I forgot to incude Marie Ramirez in minutes. Not sure where you wanted her to showime, you soon have your own commentary.

QUESTION: How do you read and study the Bible?

Call to Order/Prayer **Doug Clark**

Announcements : Guest-Marie Ramirez

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the October 14, 2025, meeting approved and submitted to Session.

Financial Report: The October 2025 Financial Report presented—Custodial Funds $3,602.02

1. Error in money for Casa Vida Nueva para-Ninos noted and corrected
2. Transfer of $500 from Just Coffee to Custodial Funds discussed and motion **Passed**

Budget request 2026 approved for $120,000 with changes-Attached

1. General mission support for PCUSA and Synod mission's monies transferred to Presbytery de Cristo
2. Mission Quilts will not be in budget and will be funded $1,000 from Custodial Funds
3. $3,952.80 will support Mark Adams through Presbytery de Cristo.

Mission Reports/Comments - Round Table with monthly reports.

Amado-GV Food Bank **Kylene Joplin**

48 pounds of food were delivered last Monday and $699.03 was collected last month (split in half for Amado and Green Valley). The needs are great!

Casa Vida Nueva para-Ninos: **Reed Olson**

The Home for Children is entering its busy time of year, and we are deeply involved in some of the activities. Starting Sunday Nov 16 and continuing on Nov 23 and 30, Reed will be set up in Fellowship Hall for the annual Christmas Card signing and signing people up for the December 13 trip to the Home. This time the trip will not drive to the home but drive to Nogales AZ, park about 5 cars and then walk across the border to waiting rental vans that will take us to the Home. It will be an exciting day with an overview of the home, RISE presentation to the children and awarding RISE t-shirts to all high schoolers, children's performances, facility tour, lunch and then witnessing the children opening

their Christmas gifts. Plus lots of loving hugs from the children. Departure time is 9:00 am from VPC and everyone arrives back at 3:30 pm. Reed received updated photos of all the children, and young adults and placed them on their Christmas Cards like previous years. Reed wants to thank the Mission Committee and the Gifts and Memorials Committee for approving the request for a new (used) passenger van. Hopefully, Session will agree as well.

Companeros en Mision Jan Farrington

CeM Directors met via ZOOM on Thursday, November 6, 2025. Gale Griffin, who acted as a consultant was officially appointed to the Board. Josue Issac Pazos shared videos via YouTube of participants in the after-school tutoring program.

1. https://youtu.be/bqksAc_QZls Excellent presentation

2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ealRcgLtnTU Children

The CeM Board would like to add a team of "communication specialists to the Board to share videos and other activities of CeM, one person from each side of the border.

1. **Construction update:** The process of getting permits continues to delay groundbreaking for the new community building. The two main obstacles remain the environmental report and not having the original documents for land title, even though notarized copies have been furnished. Construction may be delayed till February. Jeny Pazos assured the Board that communication continues with the government agencies, and the engineer is following al protocols.
2. **Community News in Nogales**: Mexican government is supplying shelters for displaced migrants. Many are returning to their original homes. Many are staying in Nogales and finding jobs in factories.

Crossroad Nogales Mission: **Linda Kucera/Steve Hart**

Bags of clothing have been delivered for distribution. Anticipating approval of needed van for clinic's use.

Presbytery de Christo Support Ed Story

No report

Hands of a Friend: **Jan Farrington**

Genesis House had a mother and son move out a couple months ago to go and be with her daughter in Northern AZ. This was her second time staying at the Genesis house, escaping from the same abuser both times. She is doing well. She keeps us updated on how she and her son are doing. She just found a job there, and her son is doing well in school. She is finally away from her abuser and is reconnecting with her daughter and living a much happier life now.

The plumber to fix the issue with the laundry room was scheduled for November 5th. *That cost was approximately $800 to theVPC donation last month covered.* As always, we appreciate all that VPC does for Hands of a friend!

We had a previous resident, from a little over 2 years ago donate an illustration to use as a logo for the Genesis House. We will hopefully be using it soon. Thank you!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox: **Monica Pataki**

Shoeboxes have been distributed with expected return this Sunday. There has been an increased use of direct donations using the internet. Expected number of filled shoe boxes will exceed 80.

Mission Quilts: **Patti Bright/Geneva Halliday**

Our quilting Mondays are back in fall-time mode with the following: humming of sewing machines, gals leaning over the layering table sandwiching quilts together, ironing boards back in constant use, and the excitement of seeing each other after six months of not seeing each other. A non-sewer has come to us with a sincere interest to learn to sew quilts and is being tutored by an advanced quilter. Also, a former quilter came to us wanting to be inspired to get back into quilting. Both have joined our group this month. Geneva Halliday's cousin sent us 12 quilt tops she made, some with bindings and backings, to donate with our quilts after we layer and complete the quilts.

Native American Advancement Foundation (NAAF) **Linda Piotrowski**

Like most everyone of low income the Tohono O'odham are struggling due to cuts in government good and good subsidies. The O' Oldham government office in Sells is releasing funds and having food distributions at a number of sites on the reservation. NAAF is assisting in this distribution. The GUVO district is distributing food at several sites. Due to regulations hidden in the "US Big Beautiful Bill" that was passed, members of the

tribe living on tribal lands in Mexico must now pay $1,000 per person to enter the US. This is a great hardship for tribal members wanting to visit relatives or sacred sites on the US reservation.3 young people recently passed their GED exams.
Committee members visited is the Amerind Museum for the celebration of Fall Fest hosted by NAAF.

Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave Lovett): Doug Clark

Miracles still happen! Civil war continues in Sudan with food supply limited. A group of neighbors ,including several Muslims, gathered together for safety in one Christians home. She was almost out of flour. Like the Biblical story, she and her Muslim friend prayed for the flour to be multiplied. Not only did the flour not run out, but with prayer to God in name of Jesus, two Muslim friends had a similar miracle. God's power to change lives is beyond our understanding. An article from OM.

Posada Life Community Service: Deb Jones

No report

Presbyterian Campus Ministry: Judy Aguayo

No report

St. Andrews Children's Clinic: Kay Brouwer

1. New government regulations have caused major problems for the Clinic. In the past, the Customs Border Protection (CBP) officials have waived the $75 charge per person for families to cross the border for appointments at St. Andrews' Children's Clinic. Now, it may cost $1,000 per person to cross the border. Laura is working with U.S. and Mexican Consulates to get to a reduced cost for families who need services at the clinic. So far, there is no answer. Here is what she's asking to help 50 children plus a parent:

   Mexican Passports cost approximately $99.00 per adult for 3 years ($4,950) and $49.50 ($2,475) for each child. The U.S. Medical Visas cost $15.00 for children under the age of 15 ($750), and a U.S. Medical Visa for an adult for 10 years is $185.00 ($9,250). The U.S. Visa is designated as a "Medical Visa" and can be used only for an appointment at St. Andrews' Children's Clinic. The cost for 50 children and 50 accompanying parents would be $17,425.00

2. If funding cannot be acquired, Laura, the St. Andrew's staff and volunteers are very concerned about the future of the Clinic's ability to serve children from Mexico. At present, families cannot afford to cross the border.
3. Since families could not pay to cross the border on November 6, there was no clinic. I gave donations from our church of an infant stroller, big box of snacks, colored pencils & crayons, books of paper, plus other supplies. Staff members, Diana and Mariandrea were in the office accepting donations and taking phone calls. The December 4 Christmas party and gifting is questionable. A friend from Minnesota has brought me about 100 hand-made toys (cars and trucks) which I hope will be given to children on Dec. 4.
4. Please let me know if you would like to receive the Clinic monthly newsletter via email or paper mail. I'll give your contact information to the Clinic.

St. Andrews' Clinic expresses gratitude for the supplies, toys, and cash donations which VPC have given so generously. Please continue the support and prayers for the future

Valley Galley: **Maureen Brealey**

Valley Galley Lunch Program will be served this Friday November 14th. GVFB and VAS will both receive lunches; the numbers are to be called in later today. Volunteers are lined up and ready to prepare the meals. A new sticker will be placed on each bag noting the meal is from Valley Presbyterian Church.

Valley Assistance Services: **Laurel Erickson**

Social Services and community health have launched from prevention to acute, crisis mode.

Available monies for direct to client services have been paused, causing serious discomfort for our area folks who need financial assistance, help with food and assistance with eviction avoidance, help with rent and utility payments.

There are several reasons for these problems which elicit a need not seen since the pandemic.

Government shutdown has stopped, or nearly shut down , the SNAP (food stamp) program at this time of writing.

VAS has the frustrations of applying for grants to support their work, finding that many other agencies are all applying to the government and foundations for the same dollars.

Truth be told, unless help arrives soon, they will be nearly unable to serve their clients.

At VAS they are working into the night many nights, writing grants, searching for contributions and ways to help.

They are asking our community to please remember they are on the wonderful Arizona Charitable Tax credit list, meaning an individual can give $495 or a couple $987 for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on the State Income Tax. They will be holding a January Fundraiser Hoedown and Empty Bowls February fundraiser. ANY HELP is greatly appreciated by VAS. Thank you in advance.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program: **Ed Storey**

Five YAV worker are now working on the border and will be presented at the January Mission Breakfast.

Youth On Their Own: **Mary Horn**

1. ANOTHER REMINDER! SAVE THE DATE! YOTO's SPRING LUNCHEON will be held Friday, March 6 at the Tucson Convention Center. This will be a special event for the YOTO organization – CELEBRATING 40 years of service in the Greater Tucson Metropolitan Area. Last year we had one table 10 from Valley. We hope to have 2 tables of 10 in 2026! Luncheon price is $60 ($40 of which is tax deductible).

2. YOTO posted 5 days of 5 minute each videos during their GIVING WEEK: October 20-24 showing lots of information about the students and the organization. These videos are available on line at YOTO.org under the News and Events tab.

3. COLLECTIONS for the YOTO MINI MALL will be the 3rd Sunday, November 16. Needed items are Kraft Mac & Cheese Dinners and Fruit Cups. Bethany Neumann, Director of Development and Communications will be speaking during this service about YOTO. Our 5th Sunday Noisy Offering on November 30 will go to YOTO.

4. YOTO CARD MAKING will be held on Wednesday, December 10th in Classroom 5 from 1-3:30. This will combine our November and December meetings as they each fall close to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Old Business:

Mission Breakfast Schedule:

November 15, 2025- In House Missions

January 17, 2026- YAV_ Ed Storey

February 14, 2026-Rise/Casa Vida Nueva

March 28, 2026-Companeros en Misión

November 14, 2026-Crossroads Nogales Mission -Linda Kucera/Steve Hart

Noisy Offering-

November 30,2025- YOT0- Mary Horn

March 29,2026-NAAF

May 31, 2026- Compañeros en Misión

August 30,2026-Presbyterian Campus Ministry

November 29,2026-Posada Life Community Services

Old Business-

*Update of Projects and funding from G&M/ Patio Sale/missions.

Items Passed and referred to Session for final approval

Mission Projects Requesting Support November 2025

Projects	$ G& M	$ Mission /Patio Sale	Total
Bible School in South Sudan	$14.5k	$0	$14.5k
Casa Vita Nueva Para Ninos	$20k	$7k	$27k
Companeros en Mison	$10.07k	$0	$10.07k
Crossroads Nogales Mission	$16k	$0	$16k
Hands of a Friend	$0	2k	$2k
St Andrews Clinic	$5k	$5k	$10k
Tohono O'odham Four projects	$13k	$16,118	$19,118
YOTO	$5k	$5k	$10k
Total	$78,570	$35,1184	$113,688

*Consideration and plan for requests for additional mission projects to all agencies for 2026

Further Old Business-
Budget request/Changes- 2026 **approved** for $120,000 with changes-**Attached**

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox- November 3-24,2025-Leadership Monica Pataki

Contribution drops- off problem (inadequate storage) proposed cabinets- Maureen Brealey

Plans for a new storage unit to be built in Charter Hall where the tables with bins now sit. We have discussed this a couple of times in the past as the area looks like an unkept garage. Several of the Mission committee members met last month after our meeting to discuss possibilities. I offered to draw up a plan. I showed it to Pastor Craig and he asked we wait to present it to Buildings and Grounds as they are severely over budget for this year. Of course they will need to approve anything added to the building. My idea is build a wood structure 24" deep and 12' long under the window of the custodians office where the tables are now. A wood frame creating a toe kick is the base 3" high. The back and ends are plywood stained to match the existing wooden storage units in the room. The bottom shelf, middle shelf and top would be high pressure laminate with a round or bull nose front edge, basically kitchen counter material from Home Depot. There would be 12 cubicles to hold large bins, 2 each for the Mission projects to collect contributions from the congregation. The window I would recommend adding shelving for The Ushers use as they have nowhere for their stuff. This would really clean up the area. Budget under $2000. The proposal was approved by the Mission Committee and will be submitted to Building and Grounds for consideration and funding.

The story of our mission projects (60 seconds) during Sunday service. Two/ month signup sheet. Bethany Neumann, Director of Development and Communications will present on 11/16/25

Name tags for mission agencies available

Mission summary brochure of mission programs for presentation at Mission Sunday, January 18,2025 with Mission Outreach 2026 Annual Report.

Communicating to the congregation-articles in Eblasts- information to Ed Storey.
Voice articles- 8 or more / month goal- November (9) December (9) January (9) February (9) March (9) April (6) May (10) June (9) July (9) August (12) September(9) October (9) November(14)- New record

New Business:

Discussion followed regarding the serious cutback in funding that VAS is experiencing due to the government shutdown and Doug Clark moved that we take $3,000 from our contingency fund and donate it to VAS. Motion was seconded and **PASSED**.

Budget for next year was discussed and accepted. **Attached**

Doug asked the Mission Committee Chairs to review the Mission Outreach Booklet and submit updates to show what we have done this year. The Brochure will be ready for presentation at Mission Sunday on January 18, 2026.

Don Brooks is standardizing financial reports and requested that each committee asks their charity for their IRS form 990 from 2024.

Prayer and Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 with a prayer by Doug Clark. Next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2025, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 1.

Submitted Jan Schoeben/ Doug Clark