Minutes 2/10/26

VPC Mission Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026

Time: 8:45 AM
Location: Valley Presbyterian Church, Room 1
Chair: Doug Clark
Co-Chair: Ed Storey
Recording Secretary: Jan Schoeben

Members Present:
Blair Beaver, Maureen Brealey, Doug Clark, Laurel Erickson, Jan Farrington, John and Judy Fenlason, Steve Hart, Mary Horn, Kylene Joplin, Tom Lobb, Reed Olson, Linda Piotrowski, and Monica Pataki

Members Absent:
Judy Aguayo, Don Brooks, Kay Brouwer, Geneva Halliday, Deb Jones, and Jan Schoeben
9:00 a.m. Call to order
Prayer Blair Beaver
Devotional Ed Storey
Nancy & I had a friend who was from Bethlehem. He was a Palestinian Christian. He was part of a group who carved olive wood into Christian items for sale in churches & he was the representative who would come to the US to work out the details. Joseph was born in Bethlehem & is about 60 years old. His wife was born in Jerusalem. She could be in Jerusalem or Bethlehem at any time, but Joseph is not ever allowed to stay in Jerusalem overnight. Even during the day, there was an arduous checkpoint process.I thought I could do a bit to help him. The reality is that church people support & give to what they understand and feel connected to. I thought I would work on trying to help the people at our then church to better relate to Joseph and the carvers. To help us Gringos better understand the olivewood effort, I asked for pictures of the other carvers & their children to share in church. I thought as people got to see these struggling families and the children who depended on us, they might be more responsive. How they got into carving olivewood I do not know, but eventually the market for olivewood carvings can became saturated. I thought there might be something else where we and the carvers could connect & explaining their situation might help.The kids would help the church members appreciate that they had families just like we do. I learned, however that I was naive about the real situation in Israel. No one would share anything, or especially about their children. They were all fearful.
Joseph has a card with his contact information on it. Included is the statement: *If you want Peace; Seek Justice.* To me, this is a very deep statement. True peace requires addressing what is the real cause, not just papering over. When there was a Memorial service for Charlie Ashton, Martha gave out some small stones that had Micah 6:8 inscribed on them. The verse is: And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and

to walk humbly with your God. This is a profound verse that should be inscribed on our hearts. There are three important parts of this single verse. First, we are rhetorically asked what God is requiring of us. There can be no mistaking that we have a part to play. God has set important actions for us as his people. We cannot pretend we do not know our role. Second, we are told how to act and what to love. These are not complex statements. There is little room for discussion. After WW2, there was a book, God is my Copilot by Robert Scott. Max Lucado, says God is not the copilot, but the pilot. Further we are not the copilot either. We have no say in where God is headed. We are to obey – that is all. Thirdly, we are to walk humbly with our God. We might remember that Indiana Jones said "A penitent man is on his knees." That is where we are to be. Arrogance has no place in Christian life As we look at others in the world, we should be applying Micah. The Joseph and his coworkers I talked about would be much better off, if Micah was being taken seriously. His problems can be directly traced back to a lack of taking obeying the direction clearly given in Micah by others. If others were focused on Justice, Joseph and the carvers would not feel afraid. There has been a lot in the news recently about two white citizens who were murdered in Minnesota. We hear a lot about their names and the tragedy of their deaths. We hear much less about refugees who have also lost their lives. If we were truly working to apply Micah, we would be just as concerned about the refugees. No where in the verse are we told that it only applies to us.
Question: What does the LORD require of you?

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the January 13, 2026, meeting was approved and submitted to Session.
Announcements: Prayers for Mike Brouwer, Mike Schoeben, and James Martin recovering from disease and or injury.

Doug Clark

Financial Report: Mission Budget Review- December 2025 year-end report, January 2026 Report, and January 2026 Custodial Account (Transaction Report) were presented. The Custodial account is $1,088. Doug Clark

Presentation for possible addition of Frontera de Christo/ Mark & Miriam Adams to VPC Mission Committee's missions was given with Q&A following. Mission Project tabled awaiting further information. Tom Lobb

Round Table Update Reminder: Each person with assigned Mission area should contact assigned agency/Missionary on a regular monthly basis for update and activity. If able or unable to attend meeting, please submit written update and email for committee to Doug Clark and minutes (jmschoeben@mac.com)

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Amado-GV Food Bank Kylene Joplin
January totals: 135 lbs. of food delivered and $759.03 sent to be split between the G V and Amado Food Banks.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños Reed Olson
Mission Breakfast for Casa Vida Nueva para Niños March 28, 2026- You don't want to miss this one.

Reed Olson invited everyone to the March 28th Mission Breakfast starting at 8:30 am featuring Casa Vida Nueva para Niños – Orphanage. He recommended arriving before 8:15 am for the best seats. The Directors of the orphanage and some children will be attending. Reed Olson will give a presentation (highlights) of past activities and current successes followed by updates/thank you(s) from the Directors and children. There will also be a surprise announcement. Tickets are only $5 for the breakfast prepared by VPC. He requested bringing a contribution of health aides (toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body soap, deodorant, or toilet paper). Tickets will be sold after service on Sunday, March 8, 15, and 22 in Fellowship Hall. You may also purchase them at the church office by March 23rd. To learn more about this mission, go to: www.risesa.org.
Caroline, a graduated nurse, will be leaving Orphanage to private life- success story. English as a second language, sponsored by RISE, is meeting 2 times per week for 3 hours (1 hour each for 3 age groups)

Compañeros en Misión Jan Farrington
The board of directors met after the Mission Breakfast on January 17, 2026. This was the first in-person meeting for this Board. All other monthly meetings have been on Zoom. The February board meeting will also be held here at VPC after the mission breakfast on February 14 in room 5. All are welcome.
No definitive news on the beginning of construction of the community building. Permit process continues. The after -school program hasn't been consistent due to lack of volunteers. Moderator, James Martin, who supervises the YAV group, suggested that a YAV may be able to work in this after school activity. Hosve Pazos, younger brother of Jeny Pazos, is interested in this position. He would have to apply to the YAV program. This would only be a year of service,
Board member and founder of Compañeros, Gale Griffin, shared a list of expectations the Presbytery of Cristo needs to clarify the activities of the Educational Training Program.

- What are the exact activities for after school program?
- What materials are used? What materials are needed?
- What does the Educational Passport look like?
- What are behavior issues? Are there guidelines to address them?
- Is there an outreach plan for participants?
- Where do materials come from?
- How can you find more volunteers?
- Is Ivonne Pazos working as the health resource?

Ann Skipper, recording administrator, from Presbyteries de Cristo and Grand Canyon called Cindy Brown in our office asking whether the Compañeros Facebook page was active. No posting has been made since 2022.
Upon investigating, the page is tied to Lucy Greenleaf's email and phone number. Lucy also is a founding member of Compañeros. The issue will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Crossroad Nogales Mission Linda Kucera /Steve Hart
Since the last meeting, I have taken two loads of clothing, and one load of approximately 500 grapefruit to the Mission. I received a quite detailed list of needs from Alejandra at

Crossroads. These needs along with estimated costs have been passed on to Doug Clark for consideration if any funds are available.
I spoke with Alejandra and got final paperwork from her exempting Crossroads Mission from paying sales tax on a van. I have found a 2012 Toyota Sienna Van with 122,000 miles (low for a Sienna) in excellent condition with an asking price of $9,000.00. I took the van and had it checked out by an independent mechanic who found the van needs a new windshield (cracked the length of the windshield, needs a new tire sensor for one of the tires, and will eventually need a bushing in a tie rod - it is just starting to show slight wear. Otherwise, it was given an absolute clean bill of health.
Linda Kucera is back and will join me on the Board of Directors for Crossroads Mission. The next meeting has been pushed back to sometime in March.
The next major event at Crossroads is the annual Easter Ham dinner and Easter egg hunt for the kids. I will post an article in the March Valley Voice and have a table in the Charter Hall beginning either March 1 or March 8 to start collecting hams or funds. The Easter dinner is on Saturday March 28. I already have more than enough volunteers to help with serving at the Mission.

Hands of a Friend Jan Farrington
Gina Dalsing, CEO, thanked VPC for the unexpected end of the year donation for Christmas at Genesis House The mothers and children staying at Genesis House were treated to wrapped presents courtesy of an anonymous donor and the office of Longs Realty. The children had a tree. After opening gifts, Gina Dalsing, CEO, and Alexa Delgado, executive director, made homemade tamales for everyone. They received a grant from White Elephant for a new refrigerator. They didn't report any special needs for this month.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Monica Pataki
No report

Operation Mobilization (Phone call to Pam and Dave L) Doug Clark
Pam and Dave Lovett are in decrement after 48 years in ministry to where God is calling them next as they recover from constant travel. The process includes prayer, stillness, and attending retreats. They will be in Hilton Hill at a retreat for pastors to focus on God , rest, and the Sabbath. They are still shepherding friends, co-workers, and agencies by phone and zoom. Iran's brutal crackdown includes loss of worker's family members and even murdering of wounded people. The loss 9,000 people in Ukraine is another worry. Both need constant prayer.

Mission Quilts Patti Bright/Geneva Halliday
No report

Native American Advancement Foundation (NAAF) Linda Piotrowski
NAAF in GUVO held several events for children, young people, and adults during the winter break. They consisted of Games and Strategies, Tonka (traditional, culturally significant game played by women and girls across O'odham communities, involving running and

hitting a mesquite puck with bent sticks), a hot cocoa social (for adults and children), and a Reading Challenge with free books. VPC members have been donating books for the NAAF Little Free Libraries. La Posada makes a book donation one a regular basis. A gentleman from the community who sews has donated sewn pajamas and dresses for preschoolers. Jan Farrington attended a tour which included visiting Tohono O'odham Nation Cultural Center & Museum in Topawa, AZ.

Posada Life Community Service — Deb Jones
No Report

Presbyterian Campus Ministry — Judy Aguayo
No report

St Andrews Children's Clinic — Kay Brouwer
The January clinic was held on the 8th and Kay did not attend. She will go to the next Clinic which will be February 5th. Jan Farrington, Kristine Sells and 2 friends will go with her on that date. Laura had funds to pay 60 children to attend the December Clinic. She has a list of 100 children who need Mexican Passports and U.S. Visas in order to come to Clinic appointments. The cost of those documents has not been set but will probably be around $100. She had added 10 more children to the previous 30 who will get the Humanitarian Passes for Clinic appointments. Laura will need funding for more Passports and Visas. She will contact Kay when she knows exact amount. She'll be meeting with the U.S. Consulate soon to get more information. Laura's surgery is scheduled for March 4. We'll keep her in our prayers.

Valley Galley — Maureen Brealey
The Valley Galley will be serving the February lunch on Friday the 13th. The actual request for lunch numbers will be called in later today from VAS, I anticipate the numbers to be about the same at 120 to 130. I have already had to place an order for the chicken this weekend in order to pick-up the quantity and price I'm willing to pay at Fry's. Need to take advantage of their sale price.
The next VG event will be on February 19th at Sopori
Elementary school. We anticipate dinner for 60 students and parents for the Women Who Care reading program. I'm looking forward to that one for sure. It is a joy to see the children so happy and excited the Valley Galley is there just for them!
Patio Sale is coming up and the galley will be in full operation as usual.

Valley Assistance Services — Laurel Erickson
VAS has a jobs program which assists older adults who find themselves returning to the workforce after some years of absence.
Stepping Back Into Success is a workforce training program run by VAS which aids older workers in returning to a job. They have a special teaching program which helps workers renew old skills and embellish their knowledge with new techniques, particularly enhancing computer and tech skills. Job search, resume writing, interview skills, financial education are some of the emphases of this program. A workforce coach helps folks to step forward or step back into today's workforce.

VAS advertises many of their standard programs in an information rack near the receptionist's office . These are free to all who visit and want some quick info on only some of the things VAS covers. A recent emphasis is on Transforming Health through Transportation is also a recent program through VAS. More information on this will be upcoming in the future , including all the things VAS does with their RN s and social workers, in the area of transportation . VAS is getting people to lead healthier lives by keeping up with their doctor appointments, prescriptions, and treatments, It is much appreciated. Reminder: Empty Bowls fundraiser is February 21.

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program Ed Storey

Mission Breakfast on 1/17/26 for YAV program with sale of tamales and donations of $1,071 was well received. Guests included Tito Baroquez-Compañeros en Misión Board of Directors, Gale Griffin- Board of Directors for Compañeros en Misión. Gale wrote the original grant to begin this ministry, and Stephanie Mitchell-Treasurer, Board of Directors for Compañeros en Misión. Presbytery de Christo Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) guests include Rev. James Martin- Borderlands YAV Coordinator and Young Adult Volunteers Jay Stone and Olivia Phelps. There are 3 more YAV who are not in attendance.

Youth On Their Own Mary Horn

1) YOTO's Spring Luncheon celebrating 40 years of service to youth in the Greater Tucson Metropolitan Area will be held Friday, March 6 at the Tucson Convention Center from 11 to 1. We are hoping to have two tables of 10 at this event. I plan to have a table in Charter Hall on three Sundays in February to sign people up: the 8th, the 15th and the 22nd. The cost is $60.00 per person: $20 is for the lunch, $40 is a tax-deductible contribution to YOTO.
2) Dick and I made a delivery to YOTO on Monday, January 5h with donations of food for the Mini-Mall, 82 cards of inspiration and 17 hours of Volunteer Hours.
3) Our next YOTO CARD MAKING will be held Wednesday, January 28th in Classroom 5 from 1-3:30.

Old Business

- Mission Breakfast-February 14, 2026-Compañeros en Misión- Jan Farrington-plans
- March 28, 2026-Rise/Casa Vida Nueva-Reed Olson
- November 14, 2026-Crossroads Nogales Mission- Linda Kucera /Steve Hart
- January 16, 2027- Mark Adams/ Frontera de Christo

Noisy Offering-

- March 29,2026-NAAF
- June 28,2026- Compañeros en Misión
- August 30,2026-Presbyterian Campus Ministry
- November 29,2026-Posada Life Community Services

Further Old Business-

We should be considering and planning our requests for additional mission projects to all agencies for 2026

Mission Sunday has been moved to January 15,2026 with presentation of the Mission Outreach booklet 2026 and Mission Brochure.

Request for 990 income report for 2025 from all agencies (when available)

Maureen Brealy reported that the contribution drops- off problem (inadequate storage) and proposed cabinets were approved. All the supplies have been ordered to build the cabinet. About two weeks for arrival at Home Depot. We will need the church truck to pick-up the delivery at Irvington store. We could have had it delivered, but I prefer to have them rip the Plywood sheets at the store, which means we must do the pick-up ourselves. Seems the best option. In the near future we will remove one of the existing doors from the adjacent cabinet for a couple of days, we'll be trying to match the stain. Construction will happen here at our home and bring the unit over for installation at the church when complete. Charter Hall has such a busy calendar it's hard to find time when construction could happen there.

The story of our mission projects (60 seconds) during Sunday service was approved by Blair Beaver to begin at the Mission Sunday, February 15, 2026, before the worship service.

Name tags for mission agencies are available (Steve Hart)

Communicating to the congregation-articles in Eblasts- information to Ed Storey.

Voice articles- 8 or more / month goal- (2025) January (9) February (9) March (9) April (6) May (10) June (9) July (9) August (12) September(9) October (9) November(14) December(12) (2026) January (12)

New Business

Request for 2026 project from VAS-Transforming Health care through Transportation. Proposal reviewed and approval by Mission Committee to be sent to G&M for funding.

Crossroads Nogales Mission proposals for repairs are under review by Patio Sale committee.

Informational request-My daughter, Sophia St John (Monica Pataki)plans to participate in a pro-life unpaid internship (Created Equal) this summer in Columbus, Ohio. The organization says she needs to raise $4,000 for rent/food/etc. Donations to the organization are tax-deductible. Letter available for review. Checks can be made payable to "Created Equal" with SS26 on memo line. Please do not write full name- this prevents the gift from being tax deductible. Mail checks to Created Equal, PO Box 260502, Columbus, Ohio, 43236

Brainstorming

Prayer: Doug Clark
Adjourn: -Next meeting is March 17, 2026, at 8:45 a.m. Room 1