

Valley Presbyterian Church
Mission Committee – Minutes
12 September 2022

Present: Doug Clark, Kylene Joplin, Mary Horn, Carol Stephens, Les Walters, Ed Storey, Rev. Diane Christopher, Kay Brouwer, Ann Ball, Anne Morrison, Pat Nau, Kara & Jim Fitzpatrick, Les Walter, Rick & Debbie Myers, and Reed Olson: Absent: Judy Aguayo, Patti Bright, Larry Craft, George Curtis, and Steve Larson

The Three Goals of the Mission Committee

Grow Spiritually; Take Care of the Needs of the 15 agencies we support; Communicate to the Congregation the needs of Those we support.

Bible Study- The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes are eight sayings given by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Each statement of the beatitudes is a proverb-like proclamation which is precise, cryptic, yet full of meaning; but, without the narrative of explanation. In the first three Beatitudes are listed the faults that must be corrected if human beings are to be perfect—spiritual arrogance, pride, and desire for pleasure. In the next three Beatitudes are found the virtues that must regulate our relations with God, our neighbor, and ourselves—justice, mercy, and purity. In the last two Beatitudes, Christ urges his followers to be zealous in spreading the Gospel and peace, and he promises that they will be rewarded with honor and power in the kingdom of God for all that they have had to suffer for him. Words and their meaning are very important if not critical. The Bible was originally written using 11,280 Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words, but the typical English translation uses only around 6,000 words. Nuances and shades of meaning can be missed. It is helpful to compare translations from the 61 Bible Book List, some literal and some paraphrased, found at biblegateway.com. Specific words of Blessing/ Happy and poor in the first of the beatitudes was explored for their nuances and shades of meaning. Most importantly, the Holy Spirit guides your growth and speaks to you wherever you are on your Bible journey.

Prayer-Les opened the meeting with prayer about our knock on the door and our need to knock.

Announcements-Welcome of visitors and prayer for health of committee members.

Financial Report- The approved budget through August 2022 was presented, with pass through giving, and income reviewed. The net committee contingency fund is currently \$528. With an additional \$375 available in the 4th quarter.

Mission Agencies Reports

Compañeros en Mision

On Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. the board and friends of Compañeros en Mision will hold a fundraising fiesta at VPC to honor the lives of Rev. Dr. Jorge Pazos and Rev. Robert Seel who were vital to continued growth and success of this joint binational ministry of Presbyterian Borderlands Ministries. The fiesta will be hosted by VPC and provide waitstaff for an estimated 100 persons. The advertising is by the Presbytery and a Mexican dinner, silent auction, etc, will be provided. The money raised will be used to continue ministry including

building a classroom for use for youths, migrants, and local families. VPC will sell \$10.00 tickets to our congregation on Sunday, October 2, and 9, 2022 in Fellowship Hall and also available in the Office. We will help serve and clean up on the 22nd of October, starting at 3:30. The menu will be Mexican lasagna. We will need to wear masks and gloves and ten volunteers will be needed. Ann Morrison collected 8 volunteers for the October 22 event: Pastor Diane, Kylene Joplin, Carol Stephens, Debbie & Rick Myers (new members), Ed Storey (maybe Nancy), Mary Horn, and Doug Clark.

Amado-GV food bank

The Community Food Bank Hunger Walk was a great success! Valley Presbyterian Church members raised \$1,016 and over 20 VPC members participated in the walk. There was a discussion of designating a Sunday each month for a special mission. The first Sunday has and would be the Amado-GV food bank, the second Sunday Crossroads Mission, and the third Sunday YOTO. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved. This program will be presented to the Session and then to the congregation in the Valley Voice.

Posada Community Service

Pets are welcome at Posada Life Community Services

Pets are more than just fun and adorable friends. Research shows significant social, emotional, and overall health benefits for seniors who have a furry pal by their side. "Pet therapy" is an umbrella term for both animal-assisted therapy and other types of animal-assisted activities. These types of activities are increasing in popularity as health professionals and families alike begin to witness the benefits.

Pet visitation to Posada Life Adult Day Services is always a welcome treat for participants and staff alike. The dogs that come to visit Adult Day Services have passed their Canine Good Citizen test making them eligible to interact with people.

It also appears to be particularly effective for those with dementia or Alzheimer's disease, as well as those struggling with a mental illness or those hospitalized with heart failure. Caring for a pet or interacting with animals can sustain quality of life and help seniors through challenging life transitions, such as a move or development of an illness.

Casa Vida Nueva para Niños

Next trip to the orphanage is scheduled for Saturday Dec 17. This is the first Christmas trip in three years. The Mission Breakfast for Saturday Feb 11, 2023 is confirmed with plans for visiting children. There are 4 young adults attending college for 2022-2023. Two students are new and 2 are already attending. Young adults who attend school can stay at Casa Vida Nueva as employees. All children are healthy.

Crossroads Nogales Mission

The mission is working to promote programs with the supporting churches with the reorganized Board of Directors (Les Walters is a member). There is a roof leak in the main building with need of repair. About 50 people/day come for chapel, a meal and clothing. They will be expecting about 200 people for the Thanksgiving dinner. Their addiction recover programs are ongoing.

General Mission Support

PCUSA has moved to a *one fund* for all missionaries. Since missionaries are then fully funded for salaries, additional gifts are dispensed through the Presbyterian Outreach Mission. Information concerning new church planting in South Sudan, which we supported, is not yet available. Ed

Storey is the new representative for General Mission Support to better review the activities of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Synod of southwest and Presbytery de Cristo.

PCUSA Seminary Support- No report

Hands of a Friend

A local Genesis house program for abused women, with 35 residents. They have had some storm damage but much of the funded renovations are complete. Genesis house is near GV at an undisclosed location.

Mission Quilts- No report

Christmas Children's Boxes

Ann Ball went over the details of the plan, and it is well on schedule. Boxes will be available beginning September 25 and must be returned by November 6, 2022. She will go to a training session supported by Samaritan Purse. There will be more emphasis on the accompanying \$10 per box to pay for shipping costs. We will be clearer in the publicity, as well as have a donation option when the boxes are handed out or collected.

Pam and Dave Lovett/ Operation Mobilisation

Email from Pam: Dave is in Dubai at special meetings with some of our directors from Pakistan. Please pray for him as the disaster with flooding in Pakistan and OM's response will be discussed. 60 percent of the 221 million people in Pakistan have been affected by the massive flooding. Here is a small report I just received this info today from one of our staff members in the flooded region. Even her house was touched with flood waters right to the door of their house. I called her this morning. Many people need drinking water, the flood water is not good to drink because it gives people diarrhea, people need tents, blankets, clothing, shoes, hygiene kits, cooking ware, and mosquito nets and food. The mosquitoes are very bad during this time. People's feet became infected as they were walking through the flood water to get to higher ground. Please pray for our partners as they are helping these many people, elderly, families with small children and older children. One family escaped from their home as the flood water was rising so fast in the middle of the night. Fortunately, they had a wooden bed that they could put their 7 girls on while the father pulled the floating bed through the waters to higher ground. The mother had their youngest son on her shoulders walking through the murky flood water, falling at least twice as she walked to the higher ground to save her own life and her little son's life. IN all the family of 10 made it to higher ground. Many livestock, crops, homes, and small businesses have been destroyed. Many will need to start their lives over from ground zero after the waters recede. Immediate relief is necessary and then help to rebuild and to get shoes and winter clothes because fall and winter are around the corner. Depression and disappointment are widespread amongst the traumatized peoples. The mosquitoes have been horrendous as the people have been exposed to the elements of rain for days. People are parked on roadsides that are built higher then the flood plains but really need mosquito nets as well as bedding, food and shelter.

Our partners in OM have been distributing food, water, and shelter materials to hundreds of families whose homes were recently destroyed by flooding. It is one of the worst natural disasters in living memory for Pakistan.

Pictures are on Dave and my Facebook if you would like to see them. Again, thank you to you all for how you helped with the Nepal conference for our staff to be refreshed!

All for now, Pam and Dave

The needs for the flood victims in Pakistan are overwhelming and the Mission Committee wants to help by prayer and finances. It was moved by Ed Storey, seconded by Kay Brouwer, and unanimously approved to provide \$500 from the Contingency Fund for flood victims in Pakistan. In addition, a one-time request for donations would be made for OM flood relief support in the Valley Voice.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry- Gas light Theater on December 8th for the 5p.m. show. The cost is \$40 per ticket. Another fund raiser will be a 5:30 dinner at St Marks Church on October 15, 2022.

Bob and Kristi Rice-PCUSA missionaries to South Sudan

Trip to Kodok

Due to security concerns related to the civil war still raging when we arrived in South Sudan in 2017, and since my role at Nile Theological College does not require travel, I had not left the city of Juba these last five years except for several trips to a Catholic retreat center seven miles outside the city. My understanding of the geography and geo-political realities of the country have come through conversations with my students and fellow faculty members, through studying maps, through reading, and through teaching which requires more reading and ongoing learning. However, within the last three months God has opened the door for me to make two important trips, including a recent trip to Kodok in Upper Nile State.. It was a significant journey. What came as a surprise during this trip was how my eyes were opened. After five years of being sequestered in Juba and only hearing stories about displacement and suffering caused by war, I now stood in locations previously described to me by students who fled the fighting in 2014. Rev. Johnson described the ongoing trauma experienced by his daughter due to the crisis and war. When I asked him if he also was traumatized, he affirmed what we have commonly heard, “Yes, all of us in South Sudan are traumatized.” As I think about contextual theology, one cannot avoid the context of South Sudan, a land broken and devastated time and again by war.

On our way back to Juba, we stayed in the major port city of Malakal at the “Hub,” a maze of offices and an alphabet soup of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the region, serving the humanitarian interests of the people. At the Hub, it felt like everyone was walking a bit faster; an air of importance and urgency permeated the place. Replete throughout was a sense of timeliness, order, speed, technological sophistication, accountability, and other highly prized values of western donors and aid agencies. In contrast to the Hub and its calculated efficiency was the large population inside the massive United Nations “protection of civilians” site (POC). Inside, protected by barriers and armed UN personnel carriers, the POC felt like a very large African village/town, suffused with life in all its strengths, weaknesses, and inherent glory. Children were playing everywhere, shopkeepers were relaxing after a long day, women were cooking local dishes in small restaurants, and almost everyone gawked at the strange “kawaja” (white westerner) walking with his South Sudanese friend to buy dried fish at the market within the POC. Being in the POC in Malakal reminded me that no matter how squeezed and pushed down a people are by deplorable circumstances related to the devastation of war and displacement, the reality of life and the hope of life will inevitably reveal itself. Lord of life, may the hope of life, the hope for a better life, and the hope for eternal life be the song which

keeps our hearts light and our feet moving, one step at a time. In your mercy, hear the cries of your children.

St Andrews Clinic

Thirty-eight children were recently seen in Nogales Az as a search for a suitable and permanent clinic site is developed. 60 Children will receive cleft palate/ cleft lip surgery in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico September 20-30, 2022. Laura Romero or a St Andrews representative will come to VPC to talk before the service on 23 October with Noisy Offering October 30, 2022. The Fitzpatrick's volunteered to help with coin sorting on the first of November at 9:30.

Valley Assistance Services

-The third annual fashion show will be held September 21st at Quail Creek as a fund raiser for VAS. Tickets are \$30 and available at VAS, Nancy Pantz, Trendz and Posada Java.

-A presentation detailing "Urgent Needs in Sothern Arizona" was made by Chris Erickson (Executive Director) to the Pima County Board of Supervisors on July 5th. A follow up meeting is being held this week. Goal is to receive more support from Pima County for the work of VAS serving areas South of Tucson. The presentation was front page news in the Green Valley News after the July 5th meeting.

-We have recently completed an extensive Strategic Planning exercise to prepare for a much larger role in the future – expecting increase demand for our services and the need for increased resources to fill that demand.

-A major renovation is nearing completion as we upgrade the facility to house a larger staff and serve more people. Financing for this was largely provided by Freeport McMoran. The work is being done by Housley Builders.

-VAS held a concert in the Quail Creek ballroom on August 15th. Singer Nick Gallardo entertained 150 attendees with music from the 60's. VAS earned \$3,000 from the event.

YOTO

We collected 8 large bags of BACK TO SCHOOL items, 19 sturdy backpacks, and \$195 for YOTO's Mini Mall on Sunday, August 21 and August 28. Many thanks to Doug for making a great poster to advertise the YOTO table!! These supplies plus 171 cards of inspiration were delivered to YOTO on Monday, August 29. Inspirational Card Makers will meet Wednesday, September 28 in Classroom 5 from 1 – 3:30. All are welcomed!

The Presbyterian Women will donate to YOTO Mini Mall at their September meeting.

I ask that \$20 per month (when cards are made) be deducted from the YOTO yearly budget for supplies for YOTO Inspirational Card Making including card stock, sharpie markers, stickers, border tape, stamp pads, etc. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to use \$20/month as needed from the YOTO Yearly budget for Cards of Inspiration program.

Old Business

Mission Breakfast Mission/ missionaries for 2022-2023 Programs

November 12, 2022-Posada Community Service-Regina Ford

January 14,2023- Hands of a Friend

February 11/2023-Rise/Casa Vida Nueva

March 25, 2023- Pending (? Nogales Crossroads Mission)

Noisy Offering- 2022 5th Sunday of month for 2022-2023

October 30,2022-St Andrews Clinic- Kay Brouwer- Volunteers needed to sort coins
 11/1/22 at 9:30. Kara & Jim Fitzpatrick volunteered
 January 30,2023- Rise/Casa Vida Nueva-Reed Olson
 May 29,2023 Youth On Their Own-Mary Horn
 July 31,2023 Posada Life Community Services
 October 30,2023 Presbyterian Campus Ministry-George Curtis
 Papago United Presbyterian Church-special giving- \$14,736 to \$15,220
 YOTO Back to School 8/21 and 8/28/22 report/plans and donations \$195
 Presbyterian Giving-Christmas Joy (December 18, 2022), One Great Hour of Sharing (April
 3,2023)
 Resuming Lunches at Crossroad Nogales on hold
 Financial Report for all agencies due (most recent)
 Voice articles- 4 or more / month- May (11) June (7) July/August (6) September (11)
 Review and Update of Mission TV Assignments-

New Business
 Mission Committee 2022-2023 Overview
Prayer Diane Christopher / **Adjourn**-----Next meeting is 10/11/22, at 8:45 a.m. Room 5 with
 Zoom

Mission Committee 2022-2023 Overview

GOALS –Support Missions (specific)

- Communication to congregation of missions (specific and general)
- Spiritual growth of members

Specific missions and leaders-

Amado-GV-Sahuarita Food Bank	Doug Clark-, Ed Storey, Co-chair
Posada Life Community Services	Kylene Joplin/ Carol Stephens
Casa Vida Nueva Para Niño	Debbie Myers
Companeros en Mission	Reed Olson
Crossroad Nogales Mission	Judy Aguayo
General Mission Support	Les Walker
Hands of a Friend	Ed Storey
Mission Quilts	Pat Nau/ Kara Fitzpatrick
Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L)	Patti Bright
PCUSA Seminary Support	Doug Clark
Presbyterian Campus Ministry	Larry Craft
Bob and Kristi Rice (PCUSA missionaries)	George Curtis
St Andrews Children’s Clinic	Doug Clark
Valley Assistance Services	Kay Brouwer
Youth On Their Own	Steve Larson
	Mary Horn

Issues --Rotating Chairmanship / Addition of new agencies leaders

Program- Mission Breakfast for 2022-2023

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May 29,2023 Youth On Their Own- Mary Horn
July 31,2023 Posada Life Community Services
October 30,2023 Presbyterian Campus Ministry- George Curtis
Presbyterian Giving- Christmas Joy (December 19, 2021) One Great Hour of Sharing (April 3,2023)
YOTO-Back to School/Mini Mall needs- August 21 and 28, 2022, On Going Needs-and
Inspirational Card
Makers every month
Community Food Bank Hunger Walk 9/10/2022
Compañeros en Misión Fundraising Fiesta-4:00-6:30 p.m. on10/22/22
Operation Christmas Child- November/December 2022
Mission Sunday/Mission Outreach Report 2003 January 15, 2023
Homeless Packet Program- Materials for packets to be collected January/ February 2023
Tools of Communication-
Valley Voice -6 or more articles / month (approximately 600 audience)
E-blasts- (approximately 400 audience)
VPC Website- Monthly Mission Minutes and Mission Agencies (updated as needed)
TV in Fellowship Hall