VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of December 11, 2018 Meeting

Present: Doug Clark, Mary Horn, Reed Olson, George Curtis, Betty Kiesler-Yoder, Mark Horton, Larry Craft, Pat Nau, Kay Brouwer, Steve Larson

Absent: Charlie Ashton, Susan Ruschmeier, Janice Potter, Pastor Diane Christopher

New member Ben Coppock was welcomed to the committee. Ben will be the committee rep for General Mission Support.

Doug Clark presented Bible Study/Reflections , continuing last month’s discussion on the names of God. The focus of this month’s discussion was on the name of **Jehovah-Sabaoth, the LORD of hosts**. This is a title that describes the leadership of the LORD over all created hosts/armies in heaven and on earth.

Doug then opened the formal meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the November 13th meeting were approved as submitted and have been placed on the VPC website under Missions.

**Financial Report:**

Budgeted giving for 2018 is $70,500, of which $43,955 is net proceeds from the 2017 patio sale and $26,545 is from VPC’s operating budget for 2018. Also, an additional $39,226 has been provided through November 30th by “pass through giving” – funds received from congregation members, including the Noisy Offering and the Mission breakfasts. This brings total VPC giving to our supported mission to $109,726 through November 30th.

The Mission Committee Emergency Fund has a remaining balance of $2,785 (see comments below under New Business).

**Mission Reports/Comments:**

**Green Valley-Amado Food Bank** – Betty-Kiesler Yoder reported that through November donations for the food banks collected at VPC totaled $12,917 and 1,291 lbs. of food, vs. $8,000 and 1,000 lbs. in 2017.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM) –** George Curtis reported on the November fundraiser at the Gaslight Theater, which featured a performance of “Scrooge”. The Gaslight had allocated 80 tickets, 59 of which ended up being sold by VPC. The PCM board published a thank you note in the Sunday bulletin on December 9th, thanking VPC for its “great support of our Gaslight Fund Raiser”.

Mark Horton reported on the recent evaluation conducted by the PCM board of the campus minister’s first year performance. The board agreed to continue her services for another year, and identified several changes to be pursued in an effort to increase student participation, including more ecumenical activities with other campus denominations.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos** - Reed Olson reported that 28 people ended up joining the Christmas visit on December 8th to the Home for Children, located in rural Nogales, Sonora. He felt this was the best visit for the children, and for the VPC members attending, of the five Christmas visits he has conducted. The children were treated to a visit from Santa, compliments of one of the trip members. Each child received a gift from Santa and had the opportunity to sit on Santa’s lap.

**Youth on Their Own (YOTO) -** Mary Horn was pleased with the response of our congregation to YOTO’s Spread the Warmth Campaign. VPC members donated $1,510 in cash, 9 gift cards, 13 plush throws, and 1 large hand- made quilt. Women’s ministry donated $12 in cash and several laundry baskets full of food and shampoos for the YOTO Mini-Mall.

VPC’s second Inspirational Card Making Get Together had five participants who made 38 cards, providing over 6 hours of volunteer time to YOYO. The next card making session is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23 at 2pm in classroom 5.

Mary reported that YOTO served 1,740 students across Pima County in 2017. Senior students in the YOTO program achieved an 84% graduation rate in 2017.

**St. Andrew’s Clinic** – Kay Brouwer reported that she and Reed reviewed the Clinic’s information and video currently on the VPC website. The video is impressive, but dated. She feels the opening page on the website could be improved by inserting more relevant pictures. She has located a good before/after picture of a child who underwent cleft lip surgery in 2010/2011 and will post it on the website (copy will be filed with these minutes).

A trip to visit the Clinic is tentatively being scheduled for March 7th, with a signup sheet to be circulated for those interested in making the trip.

**Hands of A Friend –** Pat Nau reported that Hands of A Friend is looking for volunteers to help with wrapping of Christmas gifts for the residents of Genesis House, the shelter for victims of domestic violence. Any members of our committee who could help would be greatly appreciated. Pat is also following up with the agency to schedule a tour of the facility for committee members.

**Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L)** – Pam and Dave will be the featured presenters at the January 19th Mission Breakfast and Dave will be preaching on Mission Sunday, January 20th.

**Crossroads Nogales Mission –** Janice Potter reported that the committee finally received a financial report from the mission, after repeated requests.

**Valley Assistance Services (VAS)** - the Neighbors AIM program, with classes for memory loss (see further discussion in the October minutes), and the Virtual Dementia Tour, have both been well attended and full. They will be offered more frequently in 2019 to meet the increased demand. VAS will be adding a newsletter, starting in December, to showcase its multiple programs and ways to give, including that VAS is a Qualifying Charitable Organization for the Arizona tax credit. VAS continues to write for grants to help with the cost of needed building improvements to roof, windows, stairs, and workforce training center. The workforce training program has 92% successful with getting participants back to work, searching for jobs and receiving jobs.

We will begin selling tickets after Sunday services in January for the 14th annual Empty Bowls event. This is a major fundraiser for VAS and is held each year at VPC.

**Posada Life Community Services** – Sally Ruschmeier reported that the outdoor classroom is now complete. She has arranged a tour of the new outdoor classroom/playground for members of the committee. The tour will be held April 5th at 3:00; rain date is April 12th at 3:00. Posada hosted a dinner for Military that had been flown to D.C. Adult Day Care services are picking up and the Senior lunch program now averages about 30 participants.

**Old Business:**

All Mission agencies have now submitted their most recent financial statements.

Mission breakfasts remaining for the 2018/2019 year: Pam and Dave L – January 19th; Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos – February 9th; Posada Community Services – March 30th.

Future Noisy Offerings: YOTO – March31st; Food Bank – July29th; PCM – September 30th .

A tour of the playground at Posada Community Services is scheduled for April 5th at 3pm (rain date of April 9th).

Review of Mission Giving Guidelines - Doug will rewrite to reflect the comments and bring to the next meeting for members review. Once final it will be used to evaluate each of our supported missions annually, as well to evaluate the potential inclusion of a new mission.

A new cover was selected by the committee for the 2019 Mission Booklet, to be distributed to the congregation on January 20th as part of Mission Sunday.

Mary Horn will follow up regarding the next Homeless Packet program, possibly for March, 2019.

**New Business:**

Emergency Fund – the committee voted to distribute the $2.785 remaining in the 2018 Emergency Fund as follow: Food Bank – 285; Crossroads Mission – 1,000; Companeros – 500; Hands of A Friend – 500; YOTO – 500.

Serving in VPC kitchen for the after service fellowship – the committee approved a motion to provide manpower for serving the food/beverages four times per year. Betty Kiesle-Yoder will follow up on scheduling the times and members who will participate.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Doug Clark.

The next meeting will be January 8, 2019 at 8:45.

Respectively submitted

Steve Larson, Secretary