VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of February 12, 2019 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Doug Clark at 8:45 am.

Present: Doug Clark, Reed Olson, Mary Horn, Sally Ruschmeier, George Curtis, Rev. Diane Christopher, Betty Kiesler-Yoder, Pat Nau, Ben Coppock, Larry Craft, Janice Potter, Charlie Ashton, Steve Larson.

Absent: Kay Brouwer

Doug Clark presented Bible Study/Reflections on the concept of **Lectio Divina**. This is a Latin term meaning “divine reading” and describes a way of reading the scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to way God has to say.

Doug then opened the formal meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the January 8th meeting were approved as written.

**Financial Report:**

Total mission giving through VPC in 2018 was $125,905, as outlined in last month’s minutes. The committee’s giving budget for 2019 will remain at the same level as 2018, $70,500, of which 46,000 will be covered by the net proceeds of last year’s patio sale. All committees of the church have been asked to reduce their requested 2019 budgets by 10%, which for the mission committee would be $2,400($70,500 - $46,000). However, no change will be made at this time. The committee approved a motion to designate a Noisy Offering later in 2019 to meet the $2,400 budget adjustment, if in fact it is still needed to assist the church’s 2019 operating budget.

**Mission Reports/Comments:**

**Crossroads Nogales Mission** - Janice Potter reported that attendance at the weekday noon lunches improved somewhat in January. People are again coming to the women’s shelter at the Mission. Director Ben Wenke noted that they are experiencing the same mix of people, “same as always, some are trouble makers and others are a joy to help”. On a personal note, Ben has been released by his back surgeon, but continues to have other health issues, having just been diagnosed with COPD.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos –** On February 9th, the Mission Committee sponsored a breakfast for the Home for Children. 132 people attended, including 13 from New Life Church of God in Tucson, AZ. The Home brought up eight people, six of which were children. Donations of toilet paper, paper towels and cleaning supplies were given to the Home. Total monetary donations equaled $3,133 with $1,410 designated for the operation of the Home and $1,723 designated for RISE Scholastic Achievements. Reed Olson gave an overview, then Elias and Myrna Herrera, Directors of the Home, gave their overview with a video. A special “Happy Birthday” cake was given to Myrna. Next event is the March 23rd trip to the Home with 35 people already signed up to go.

**St Andrew’s Clinic -** Kay Brouwer has arranged a tour of the Clinic on March 7th with a group of about ten people. She can accept more people if any would like to join the tour. They plan to meet at the church at 9am and car pool. The Tour will be from 10:00 to about 11:00, after which group will plan to have lunch together,

**Green Valley-Amado Food Bank** – Betty Kiesler-Yoder reported that VPC raised $1.143 and 32 pounds of food for the Food Banks in January and an addition 87 pounds in February.

**Youth on Their Own –** Mary Horn announced that the YOTO 2019 Spring Fundraising Event will be Wednesday, March 20th at the Tucson Convention Center. Tickets are $45 per person. She will put a notice about it in the Sunday bulletin for anyone interested in attending.

YOTO’s CEO, Nicola Hartman resigned on February 7th. Tom Hoyt will be acting as interim CEO. The organization wishes to thank Nicola for her service. Revenue over the last three years has increased 247%. YOTO is more stable and has eliminated its mortgage. Staff size has also increased to better meet the increased demand by students for YOTO’s services.

Five ladies from VPC met on January 23 to make inspirational cards that will be placed with the monthly stipend checks that students receive. The ladies worked over five hours, creating 109 cards that were then delivered to YOTO on January 25th by Mary and Dick Horn. The plans are to meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 2pm in Classroom 5, with next meeting being on February 27th.

**General Mission Support –** Ben Coppock updated the committee on his plans for the “One Great Hour of Sharing” (see comments also in last month’s minutes). He will work on getting an article in the March Valley Voice, as well as reminders in the Sunday bulletin, about this national Presbyterian fundraising program to help disaster victims and the disadvantaged in the US and foreign countries. Special envelopes are included with the April donation envelopes in the 2019 envelope packets available for pick up at the church.

**Posada Life Community Services –** Sally Ruschmeier reported that participation numbers are up at the Community Center, especially the Adult Day Care. They have 16 new people that have enrolled. Usual numbers in the program are 35 to 40 people. Staff schedules have been slightly reorganized to decrease costs about 5%. Director Bill McCreary feels there are caregivers that could use help but do not know where to get it. He said perhaps VPC could make some of those people aware of the adult day care and the senior lunch programs available. The committee suggested Sally consider an article in the Valley Voice to make VPC members aware of this.

Companeros en Mision – Charlie Ashton reported the mission has been focusing their efforts on providing relief to the refugees applying for entrance into the US on humanitarian grounds at the Nogales port of entry. Companeros is also one of the missions supported by the Presbytery de Cristo. The Presbytery has had success in getting some information on the agencies finances and activities.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM)** – George Curtis reported a Mother’s Day fundraiser is being planned for May 12that the Gaslight theatre. Tickets will be $35, with $16 going as a donation to PCM. George will make announcement to the church and place an article in the Valley Voice. He also indicated that the Valley Galley would like to take their food wagon to the PCM campus location. A joint effort with the Methodist campus organization will be explored, given that PCM is already engaged in joint projects on campus.

**Valley Assistance Services (VAS) –** focus is on the upcoming Empty Bowls event to be held on February 16th at VPC. This will be the thirteenth year that VAS and VPC have sponsored this event to raise funds for VAS programs in the community. See last month’s minutes for more detail on the event.

**Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L) –** Pam and Dave have expressed their thanks for the warm welcome extended to them during visit to VPC January 19th and 20th, thanking us for “the special opportunity and time together at the Mission breakfast, speaking at the Sunday service and the special open house at Doug and Judy Clark’s home. Thanks to all who volunteered and helped to make this possible. Your prayers and financial support over the last five years has enabled us to keep going forward in our mission to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the most unreached people’s in the Muslim world”.

**Bob and Kristi Rice -** The Rice’s recently conducted a workshop in Pochalla, South Sudan focused on healing, forgiveness and reconciliation. They are receiving many requests for these workshops that help people experience healing from trauma, forgiveness and a path to reconciliation that is based on Christ’s work on the cross. “Transport in South Sudan out to remote regions is expensive, but we know there is a great need in those places”. Support for the Rice’s in this ministry can be done be going to their link at Presbyterian World Mission: https://www.presbyiterianmission.org/donate/e052148/. Designate your gift for “reconciliation workshops”.

**Old Business:**

**Homeless Packet Program –** Mary Horn has received approval from Session for the Missio**n** Committee to conduct a “food drive” in March. We would ask the congregation to bring 10 items, or cash donations, to go into snack bags to be given to the homeless. We would collect items on March 17th, 24th and 31st in Fellowship Hall after the service. The bags would then be filled by the Mission Committee and anyone from the congregation who wished to participate. Filled bags would be taken to House of the Salvation Army and also given to any members who would like to hand out from their cars to homeless people they see in Tucson. Mary will announce the collections dates in the Sunday bulletin. A signup sheet was passed around to committee members for volunteers to man the collection table on those dates.

**Playground tour** at Posada Life Community Services will be Friday, April 5th at 3pm with a rain date of Friday, April 12th at 3pm. Sally Ruschmeier will have a signup sheet after the March 31st service.

**Noisy Offering** – the next collection will be March 31st to benefit YOTO.

**Mission Breakfast** – the next breakfast will be March 30th, with a presentation by Posada Life Community Services. The committee discussed the possibility of members wearing the Mission T-shirts when they collect the offering to increase church member awareness. Mission committee members wore the T-shirts at the last Mission Sunday services and felt it was effective in publicizing our mission program. Doug Clark asked committee members to consider scheduling the mission they represent for a future mission breakfast, especially if it has been a couple of years since they last presented. One possibility would be to have someone from Presbytery attend and review the eight different missions supported by the Presbytery.

**Mission Committee Overview** for 2019/2020 and an updated **Mission Giving Guidelines** were distributed to committee members for review. Subject to any further changes these will be considered final.

**New Business:**

**Fellowship service** – a signup sheet was circulated for committee members willing to work the coffee fellowship after a Sunday service.

**New VPC members** - Mary Horn agreed to present our Mission program to the current new member class on February 19th at 1:30.

**A Space Reservation Form** was made available to committee members to be used by anyone wishing to reserve church space for any event. This is necessary to enable the janitors to plan space utilization.

**Patio sale updates –** George Curtis will plan to do a brief update on the status of patio sale activities at each meeting.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Doug Clark.

The next meeting will be March 19th at 8:45am in classroom 1.