VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of November 13, 2018 Meeting

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

Absent: Charlie Ashton, Patti Bright, Pastor Diane Christopher

Doug Clark presented Bible Study/ Reflections on two of the favorite names found in the Bible for God – **El Shaddai**, which views God as all-powerful, all sufficient, keeper of promises, and **Jehovah Jireh**, who will provide through Jesus the forgiveness of our sins so we can have fellowship with God.

Doug then opened the formal meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting (October 9th) were approved as submitted.

**Financial Report/Comments:**

Budgeted giving for the year is $70,500, of which $43,955 is from the 2017 patio sale and $26.545 is from VPC’s operating budget. YTD an additional $33,800 has come from “pass through giving” – funds received from congregation members, including the noisy offerings and the mission breakfasts. This brings total giving for the year to $86,675 as of 10/31/18.

The September Noisy Offering raised $3,095. The committee approved the addition of $905 from its emergency fund. This increases the amount to $4,000, which will be donated to the St. Andrew’s Clinic, providing Cleft Palate surgery for four children.

A financial report has finally been received from **Companeros en Mission**, as a result of a letter by Charlie Ashton to the Presbytery (see the October 9th minutes). While the report is in abbreviated form, the committee agreed to accept it as sufficient and to continue to include Companeros as one our supported agencies. It was clear from the report that church support is critical to this mission.

**Mission Reports/Comments:**

**Green Valley-Amado Food Bank –** Betty-Kiesler Yoder reported that the Deacons have turned support of the Food Bank over to the Mission Committee. The committee agreed that it should continue to receive information as to pounds of food donated each month by the congregation. Betty noted that pounds collected recently were 84 in September, 56 in October and 28 in November. Betty will follow up to see if we can get information on food pounds donated over the last couple of years so the committee can track the trend. $636 was collected in the July Noisy Offering and was used to buy peanut butter, in response to a critical need announced by the Food Bank.

**Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos** – Reed Olson reported that 57 people signed up to join the Christmas trip to the Home on December 8th. This is the most he has ever had and a real challenge from a transportation standpoint. He has never taken more than 40 before. His prayers were answered when three members of the group volunteered to drive. Still he had to request that some of those planning to join the trip defer to a later trip. As of this date the total going stands at 51 people. Every child will receive a Christmas gift and each adult at the Home will receive $25. This year there are 43 children and 10 adults, up from 28 children and 6 adults last year.

**Crossroads Nogales Mission** – Janice Potter reported that Founder and Director Ben Wenke is due to be released from the hospital following a series of medical problems this year. She is still trying to get a financial report from the Mission for 2017. Janice suggested that we consider a letter from the Committee early in the year stressing the importance of financial reporting for continued support by VPC.

**Youth on Their Own (YOTO)** – Mary Horn reported that we held our first Inspirational Card Making Get Together on October 24th, with 10 participants making a total of 81 cards. YOTO needs about 700 cards, containing a hand written message of encouragement, to accompany the stipend checks that are sent to students each month. The committee has set a goal of holding a card making session every month at VPC (excluding December) with as many as are willing to participate.

YOTO’s mini mall is in need of in-kind donations of canned pasta, fish, chicken, chili, peanut butter, jelly, breakfast bars, jerky, nuts and shampoo and conditioner. VPC’s women’s ministry will be collecting these items after services through December 9th. The committee voted to provide $500 from its Emergency Fund to assist the mini mall.

Mary plans to be at the Missions table on December 2 and 9 collecting Christmas warmth and cheer – plush throws and/or $25 gift cards for YOTO students and will announce it with an article in the December Valley Voice.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM)** – George Curtis reported that Gaslight had allocated 80 tickets for the upcoming Xmas performance of “Scrooge” at the theatre on November 18th.VPC ended up with an allocation of 56 tickets to the performance, all being purchased by our members. A portion of the ticket price is provided as a fundraiser for PCM.

Mark Horton reported that the PCM board is concerned with the slow progress in increasing student attendance at PCM campus events and is planning a review of the performance of the new campus minister in December.

**PCUSA Seminary Support –** Larry Craft advised the committee that the Center for Faith and Service, based at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois, has announced the fourth annual list of Seminaries that Change the World (STCTW). Among the winners are four seminaries of the PCUSA: Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Columbia Theological Seminary, McCormick Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary.

**Posada Life Community Services -** Sally Ruschmeier will arrange for the committee to receive a tour of the recently completed playground facility at Posada’s Day Care. VPC was a major contributor to the construction of this facility in 2017. Sally is also a member of Posada’s Lifestyle Committee and her relationships at Posada Life may be helpful to the committee in joining witht Posada in various mission activities.

**Hands of A Friend** – Pattie o” Berry , CEO and Founder, spoke to the Mission breakfast on November 10th with a very moving and powerful message of how her faith and the power of prayer is responsible for the enormous success she has experienced with the foundation and Genesis House Shelter (see minutes of the September 11th meeting for details). We sold 71 tickets for the breakfast, 50 people attended and contributed $1,145 in donations. Pat Nau has agreed to become our representative to this mission and will follow up with Patti O’ Berry to become familiar with the organization and perhaps arrange a tour of the facilities for committee members.

**St. Andrew’s Clinic –** Kay Brouwer is planning to schedule a tour for committee member in the February/ March timeframe. See discussion under budget above regarding the success of the September Noisy Offering.

**Operation Mobilization (Pam and Dave L) –** Doug Clark reminded the committee that Pam and Dave will be with us for the Mission Breakfast on January 19th and Dave will be preaching on Mission Sunday, January 20th. Doug shared a recent message from Pam and Dave: “Thank you for your prayers. We go to Iran today. Please pray. Look forward to seeing you in January. Good news about Pastor Andrew getting release from house arrest in Turkey. Please greet the friends at church.”

**Kristi and Bob Rice, PCUSA Missionaries -**  recently the Rice’s wrote about God’s providence and sovereignty in the midst of turbulent times: “A few weeks ago Rev. Chris Ferguson, the General Secretary of the World Council of Reformed Churches (WCRC), with the Rev. Debbie Braaksma, the Affrica Officer Director for Presbyterian Church (USA) World Mission, along with Lynn and Sharon Kandel and myself, Presbyterian (USA) Mission Co-workers serving in South Sudan and the Horn of Africa Region, spent time at Nile Theological College (NTC) where I (Bob) teach, located in the capital city of Juba.

As we discussed the issue of displacement, Rev. Ferguson drew our attention to reformers such as John Calvin and John Knox who were themselves displaced from their homes of origin (France and Scotland) due to the political and religious upheaval of their times. Thus, much of our reformed thought and thinking germinated during a period of great national and international, political and religious turmoil. John Calvin even insisted to the City Council of Geneva that they set a precedent for being a place which would welcome refugees. The theme stressed by Rev. Ferguson in this discussion, God’s providence and sovereignty in the midst of turbulent times, felt like not only an important theological insight, but served a means of pastoral care for these South Sudanese leaders who persevere in their service in the face of the multitudinous challenges in this war torn nation.”

**Valley Assistance Services (VAS) –** Chris Erickson, the new Executive Director of VAS, reports that they are getting ready for their Holiday program in December to serve 150 seniors with gift bags of handmade knits, lap blankets, toiletries, books and a food basket. The Fourteenth Empty Bowls will be held on February 16, 2009 at VPC. This is a major fundraiser for VAS and the many years of support by VPC is greatly appreciated.

The Neighbor’s AIM program is starting on November 14th – memory loss classes for loved ones, family and neighbors. The classes will be held Wednesday afternoons, with education by an RN and support with a counselor as needed. A volunteer “meet n greet” will happen each month – a tour of the VAS office encouraging those attending to consider to volunteer with one of the many programs and events of VAS. Next “meet n greet” will be on December 3rd. Interested parties can call the VAS to register (625-5966).

VAS has a financial empowerment program to assist victims of domestic violence (20% of participants in their Map A Plan program are survivors of domestic violence).

**Old Business:**

Janice Potter reported that we concluded our participation in the Samarian’s Purse 2018 ‘Operation Christmas Child with the delivery of 80 shoe boxes donated by VPC members.

Doug Clark reminded committee members that 2017 financial statements for all Missions supported by VPC are due by November 13th.

Future Mission Breakfasts: January 19th – Pam and Dave L., February 9th – Casa Vida Nueva para Ninos, March 30th – Posada Life Community Services

Future Noisy Offerings: December 30th – Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, March 31st – YOTO, July 29th- Food Bank/Peanut Butter, September 30th – Campus Ministry. The Homeless Packet program has been put on hold for the time being.

Updates for the 2019 Mission Booklet are due to Wendy by December 11th (the updated booklets will be available for VPC members during the Mission Sunday service on January 20th). A new picture cover will be selected for the 2019 booklets. Reed Olson and Kay Brouwer will review several alternatives and present two for the committee to choose from at its December meeting.

Doug Clark emphasized the committee’s goal of having four or more mission articles in each month’s Valley Voice.

**New Business:**

Mission Giving Guidelines – Doug Clark provided committee members with a copy of the current Mission Giving Guidelines, dated March, 2014 and asked that we review and be prepared to discuss potential changes/updates at the December meeting.

A comparison of visits to the Missions page of the VPC website during the period of January 1st – October 31st,, of both 2017 and 2018, was provided to committee members for review.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Doug Clark.

The next meeting will be December 11th at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Larson, Secretary