

VPC Mission Committee – Minutes of October 10, 2017 Meeting

Present: Helen Phillips, Mary Horn, Doris Steffy, Reed Olson, Charlie Ashton, Steve Larson, George Curtis, Betty Kiesle-Yoder. Pastor Diane Christopher

Absent: Janice Potter, Patti Bright, Doug Clark, Judy Clark

Helen Phillips chaired the meeting and opened with reflections on a message from Bob and Kristi Rice, who are missionaries with PCUSA in Sudan, Africa. Helen then led us in an opening prayer. The committee welcomed Betty Kiesle-Yoder, joining the committee as the contact with the Food Bank.

The minutes of the September 12th meeting were approved as written.

An update of Mission Giving through September YTD was provided to the committee.

Mission reports/comments:

Mary Horn reported that she accompanied a group from La Posada on a tour of **Youth on Their Own (YOTO)** facilities in Tucson, as first discussed in last month's minutes. Their facilities include a home goods store, run mostly by volunteers, where the youth can get food, clothing and school supplies. YOTO serves 900 kids year round, with that number increasing to approximately 1500 during the school year. Each student receives a stipend, the amount depending on their grades and school attendance. A fund raising benefit for YOTO will be held at La Posada on Nov 11th.

Doris Steffy reported **La Posada Community Services** has hired a new behavioral health counselor. Also, the new playground project is nearing completion with soon to be delivered playground equipment.

Reed Olson reported that the Saturday, October 14th visit to **Casa Vida Nueva Para Ninos (CVN)** has 30 people signed up to make the trip. They will be bringing gifts for all the children with recent or upcoming birthdays.

Steve Larson circulated a proposed article on the Arizona tax credit available to VPC members willing to donate to several of our mission partners. The committee approved a motion to include the article in both the November and December issues of the Valley Voice. A copy of that article will be filed with these minutes in the committee records.

George Curtis reported on **Presbyterian Campus Ministry (PCM)**. The fundraiser held on October 8th at the Gaslight Theater (see September minutes) raised \$570 for PCM, with all 44 tickets available to VPC sold and the Mission Committee's advance fully reimbursed. PCM is in need of volunteers to serve the Tuesday night dinners offered to Presbyterian students at the U of A during the month of November. PCM is sponsoring a Spring trip to the Aqua Prieta Mission in Mexico. The committee approved \$600 to support the cost of the trip for two students, with

the December 31st Noisy offering applied to this cost. George noted that PCM is still looking for a campus minister.

Betty Keisle-Yoder provided an update on the Green Valley-Amado Food Bank. The 2017 Hunger Walk, held last month at La Posada, attracted 300 walkers and raised over \$26,000. VPC's Noisy offering in April raised \$798 for the food banks and VPC's special first Sunday of each month dedicated offering has generated \$8,509 in cash and 1,222 pounds of food, YTD through September 30.

Doug Clark received an emergency appeal from **Operation Mobilization (OM)** missionaries Pam and Dave Lovett for the food crises in Bangladesh. OM is actively working in Bangladesh and would welcome any contribution towards the relief effort. All committee members received a copy of the appeal and a copy will go into the records with these minutes.

Old Business:

Helen reminded the committee of several mission partners who still need to get their 2016 financial reports in to Dick Davidson.

Companeros en Mission will be the recipient of the October 29th Noisy Offering.

Janice Potter provided additional input regarding **Christmas Boxes (Samaritan Purse)**, noting that the gift boxes should not contain any toothpaste, food, candy or perishables, but could include clothing or a "wow" item.

The committee has requested January 14th for **Mission Sunday** and needs three volunteers to plan the event. Diane will follow up to confirm the availability of this date and discuss the topic of speaker with Rev Medina.

The November 18th Mission breakfast will be for the **Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship**.

Mission TV: Reed Olson has requested Nov 12, 19, 26 and Dec 3. Dec 10th and 17th are reserved for YOTO.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Pastor Diane.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Larson, Secretary

