Minutes Mission Council /Mission Budget Team

Monday 12/14/2020

7PM Zoom

[**www.fpcemission.weebly.com**](http://www.fpcemission.weebly.com)

**Attendees**: Sonia Bodi, Dave Ivaska, Younan Shiba, Peter Steffen, Dick Warnecke (Elder), Sharyn Wilson-Woods (Elder), Barb Smith (Elder), Ron Ehresman, Richard Taiwo, Cam Traut (co-chair), Susan Wilkins (co-chair) , Caryl Weinberg (staff).

**Excused:** Renee Cox, Bill Floyd

Caryl opened the meeting with prayer

**2021 Budget updates** (Caryl)

Pledging for 2021 is not finalized but currently is significantly down from 2020. There is an increase in faith giving for 2021. Missions budget is only designated from pledges and not from faith giving. Caryl talked with John Powell about the potential for a major decrease in 2021 Missions budget and what might be some options. The church received funds from the Payroll Protection Plan (Covid-19 relief). Could the 2020 Mission budget receive credit for Caryl’s salary which was taken from 2020 budget? John thought this was something which Trustees could look into.

The team discussed what options to explore to minimize a significant decrease in Missions budget and the associated necessity of having to decrease again our support to our mission partners.

The ideas included:

1. Draft a letter to both session and trustees with proposed ideas.
2. Take the $30,000 of Caryl’s salary out of the 2021 Missions budget.
3. Allocate 20% of faith giving of prior year to be included in Missions budget.
4. Return to the prior practice of allocating 20% of undesignated gifts to Missions budget.

Caryl agreed to draft the letter and Susan volunteered to assist. The letter would then be reviewed by the Missions council. Members of the council expressed belief that church members do not realize that faith giving does not allocate 20% to the Missions budget. FPCE is known for our history and ongoing support of Mission throughout Presbytery.

We will wait to work on the 2021 Missions budget until we have more information related to the 2021 FPCE budget.

**2020 Budget updates**:

We have no new information or reports from the church office.

The Thanksgiving offering is coming in and will be split between Christmas Lutheran Church and Bright Stars

There are envelopes in the Advent packet for both the Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings. The Christmas offering will be for the First Friends Refugee ministry.

In relation to a year end gift to our partners, in light of the budget news, we will not designate anything at this time. We will wait for a response to the letter. If we receive a “gift” in relation to budgeting then we will share that with our Mission partners.

**Christmas Greetings to our partners:**

Kelly is drafting an electronic Christmas card. She will forward the card to each of the members of the. council. We all agreed that each of us will send the card to the Mission partners that we were paired with earlier in the year. A spreadsheet of the partners, their current email addresses and who they were paired with will also be sent.

**A Mission partner focus for 2021**

Pastor Ray has asked for staff priorities to commit to one mission idea with an outreach component to it for this next year. We discussed partners and ideas which included the following:

1. First Friends
2. New Life
3. New job training program. Pastor Ray met with Paul Nelson and Kevin Taylor who have a new job training program in the Howard area. It is a 501-C3 organization. It is a mentoring program with a 90% success rate in job placement.
4. Prison Ministry
5. McAuly’s on Apache Reservation.

The Council agreed that First Friends would be a good focus group for 2021. What kinds of activities might be done with First Friends? Pastor Younan offered the following ideas:

* Youth to Youth integration
* Offering encouragement and advice or help in navigating in a new culture
* Visits on Zoom
* Help children with school work
* Help family with English (particularly the women)
* Assist with locating furniture, food resources, other material needs
* Help in completing necessary paperwork

We will invite the Howard jobs ministry group to meet with us in the future, possibly at our February meeting.

**New Mission Council Members**

Caryl mentioned asking Melanie Myatt and her daughter Tessa to join. All thought this was a good idea. We should all be thinking of others for the future.

**God’s Story: Perspectives on the World Christian Movement**

Class will begin January 10 after the service.

Our next meeting will be Monday January 11 at 7PM via Zoom.

Caryl will try to set up a council follow up meeting with Doug Wilson. Possibly Monday January 25.

Mission prayer meeting is this coming Wednesday. A Zoom link will be sent to all to participate if you can.

We closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Moreland-Wilkins