1300 Mission Council and Budget Team Meeting Minutes

Monday May 12, 2020

4PM Zoom Call

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

(Starred items on the Weebly site linked above)

Attendees: Susan Wilkins (Co-Chair), Richard Taiwo, Dave Ivaska, Younan Shiba, Cam Traut (Co-Chair), Dick Warnecke (Elder), Peter Steffen, Sharyn Wilson-Woods (Elder), Barb Smith , Sonia Bodi, Ron Ehresman, Caryl Weinberg (staff) Kelly Levander (staff) , Budget Team members: Bill Floyd

Excused: Renee Cox

Guest: Mike Miller

4:00: Caryl opened with Prayer

4:05-4:45 Discussion with Pastor Mike Miller Next Ministries [www.nextministries.org](http://www.nextministries.org)

Next Ministries is a church plant in Chicago. Their first goal was to become a community presence. Child advocacy was a strong interest in this particular community. NEXT ministries made a deal with CPS (Chicago Public schools) to pilot a program they developed called *Better Life.* After the pilot the plan was to distribute to 14 other schools. Covid-19 interrupted this planned roll out for now. The program is for parents and has 2 phases, a three-month phase and then nine months following with support groups. Mike shared with us the results of demographic research they had done on the population in this neighborhood. They have started on line virtual worship services every Sunday, which they had planned to do from the onset. They also have a prayer ministry, via e-mail and calling people. They plan to have a physical space sometime in 2021. They are asking for support to help build the community. Mike encouraged everyone to visit their web site as show above for additional information. He then answered questions. Is there funding from the denomination? There are Presbytery funds for 5 years and additional funds from the denomination for 2 years. These include a seed grant, an investment grant and a growth grant. What is the purpose for the funds you are requesting from us? This is a onetime request for this year to assist with baseline operations. They are not currently receiving any funds from CPS. Mike thanked everyone for their time and the opportunity to present information about NEXT ministries. Barb Smith thanked Mike for coming and prayed for NEXT ministries.

4:45-5:00 Cam: Review final version of Funding Guidelines ( guidelines\*\* as well as budget spreadsheets\*\* on web site and sent via e-mail)

Caryl had prepared a spreadsheet “Percentages According to Funding Guidelines”. Our mission partners were categorized into the general funding categories and the current percent of total spending compared to the goals for the categories. We are very close to these goal percentages. Caryl encouraged everyone to review the spreadsheet and ask questions or make suggestions for changes to the categories our Mission partners are assigned to.

Cam reviewed the Funding Guidelines document with the changes discussed and reviewed at last months meeting. It was suggested that we add a statement to address situations for one-time requests vs a request to become a partner. All agreed this was a good idea. The document will be updated and shared with everyone.

5:00-5:05 Update from Session -Dick

Session approved $4000 disbursement from the Great Commission fund for Connections to assist in covering a week of housing for some of the homeless population in Evanston. These funds have already been disbursed from Missions funds so will be replenished to the Mission budget.

4:55-5:00 Financial Update (Susan)

Mission Carry Forward: $30,501.00

Other Benevolence: $24,600.00

It was recommended that we keep $10,000 in reserve at this time for possible future needs.

5:00-5:40 Discussion on how we use remaining balance:

Caryl reported on some of our local partners. Emmaus received a $25,000 matching grant. Facing Forward Against Homelessness is also doing OK at this time. There are no specific requests from local partners.

Some of our international partners are having a very difficult time financially during this Covid-19 pandemic. Dick Warnecke asked about Cairo Seminary as he had participated in a conference call.

After discussion it was recommended that we distribute the following funds:

* + - Bethlehem Bible College: $4,000 to use as needed.
    - Dar al Kalima University: $4,000 to use as needed.
    - Salaam Medical Center: $4,000 to use as needed.
    - Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo: $4,000 COVID Support
    - COVID appeal in Syria: $2,000 (Outreach Foundation)
    - COVID support for Iraq churches: up to $2,000 (Pastor Younan will send a written request detailing how the funds will be disbursed)

Dick Warnecke moved that disbursement of these funds be approved. Dave Ivaska seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Requests**:

* + - Next Ministries request for $7,000-$10,000

After discussion it was recommend that we ask for details related to the cost of new equipment needed for broadcasting worship services. Barb Smith will contact Mike Miller and ask him to send the details of these costs. It was suggested that we consider support between $2,000-$5,000 and may vote via e-mail for approval of one -time financial support for purchase of equipment.

5:40 Richard reported that he and Peter have been investigating development of a new software app. They have details of what it would take to make this happen. Richard will forward information to all of the Missions Council It was suggested that this would best be developed as an app for the entire FPCE. There was discussion and recommendations on what next steps would be to get this development started.

Our next meeting will be June 2nd at 4PM via Zoom.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

“Our vision is to empower and equip every member of FPCE to be Christ’s witnesses locally and globally.” We do this by: “Engaging with our partners; focusing on relational and cross-cultural outreach ministries in areas of disparities with vulnerable people groups, focusing our funds on those serving in full time ministry, mainly in unreached areas; and providing education that is relevant and equipping in nature.”