**Meeting Minutes of Mission Council – Monday, October 18, 2021 7:00 PM Hybrid**

The Great Commission Fund Team was invited to join the Council meeting for the portion with the guests from Ukraine that have been supported by GCF.

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

**7:00 PM** – Had Technical Issues with Wi-Fi and ability to hold meeting on Zoom.

**7:43 PM** – Meeting began, with Zoom meeting on Sergey’s laptop computer.

**7:48 PM** – Our guests, the President (Valentin Sinyi) and a Director (Sergey) from Tavriski Christian Institute in Ukraine, discussed their strategic planning and mentioned some of their advisors and contributors, including Langham Partners and ScholarLeaders.

Discussed the need for the seminary, TCI, and its role to change with the changing times. The goals are as follow:

1). **Open the program so that the seminary and churches can better address today’s real-world challenges, such as various social programs.**

2). **Improve the technical savviness of the seminary and the Church so that it is better able to engage with a technology-driven modern world and people.** These include providing online education, so as to provide greater flexibility for prospective students, and in some cases enabling better security for those that are in vulnerable circumstances.

He mentioned Johnson University that is assisting them with the technology initiatives. They plan to have majority of their students be able to attend courses and fulfill their course work within 5 years.

3). **Improve the campus of the seminary (or TCI), to better meet the needs of students.** This will also enable them to generate rent from the properties of the seminary, as there are other religious groups and organizations that would be interested in using their properties. They did a study which showed that 4,000 people who visited their campus and have indicated that they might want to use their campus for their purposes.

4). **They want to equip those that are trained by the seminary, such as financially- with training in income generation opportunities.** This will provide a good foundation upon which they can get their start on their own mission work.

5). **They would like to be able to engage with the larger society by providing assistance to people as needed from time to time.** He used the example of the assistance that they provided when a dam broke.

6). **They want to start new branches of the seminary, starting with Kazakhstan.** And, in so doing, they hope to improve the lives of those that are out in the fields in the different countries, such as by providing them with ability to take time off and go on retreats:

- Provide 4 training sessions in Kazakhstan.

- Plan on starting training on bachelor’s programs in September 2021.

- Provide Winter retreats for Pastors.

- Provide services and programs for the wives of Pastors, such as retreats to thank them for all their hard work and discuss all their challenges and possible solutions. Meals will be served, overnight stays, and gifts given.

**8:15 PM** Q & A

* May asked for a little more info about the activities during the retreats for women and wives of Pastors.
* The Pastor urged that members of First Pres should come for a visit in the Ukraine to see the activities of the mission in-person and what all the generous donations of the church is helping to achieve.
* The Pastor mentioned a convention/conference that they will be holding next year and will be inviting people from around Central Asia and other parts of the World to attend.
* David mentioned that First Pres pray for missions on Wednesday’s. And, Sergey said that they will send First Pres their monthly newsletters, along with some prayer requests.

**8:30 PM** – Presentation by Sergey and the Pastor came to an end and good-byes were exchanged.

**8:35 PM** – Regular Mission Council meeting begins.

**8:35 PM** – Susan discusses the movie series and discussion sessions during the Sunday mornings Missions Adult Education class. She states that it has been going very well.

**8:36 PM** – Susan discussed the meeting that she and Caryl had with the Church Budget Team regarding the projected budget for Missions for 2022. She states that the projected Mission budget will be $30,000 less than last year.

(Note, last year, Session agreed to absorb $30,000 part of the Mission Director’s salary that they normally charge against the budget of the Mission Council. And they agreed to do so because First Pres received PPE money in 2020.)

**8:39 PM** – Susan briefly discussed the Funding Guidelines document that Matt Jackson had put together.

**8:41 PM** – David discussed the possibility of giving all of our Thanksgiving offering to our sister church in Bethlehem and their school (and seminary). Susan stated that we had already agreed to do so.

**8:44 PM** – David said a closing prayer.

**8:45 PM** – The meeting came to an end.

Submitted by Richard Taiwo