**Attendees:** Susan Wilkins (Co-Chair), Cam Traut (Co-Chair), Dave Ivaska, Dick Warnecke (Elder), Barb Smith, Peter Stefan, Sonia Bodi, Ron Ehresman, Melanie Myatt, Tessa Myatt, Caryl Weinberg (staff), and Richard Taiwo; Excused: Younan Shiba.

Documents may be [found here.](https://fpcemission.weebly.com/mission-council-2021.html)

**7:00 - 7:30 PM**

Devotions were updates on the status of mission partners in the Middle-East. Discussed COVID and the conflict between Israel and Palestinians. The council spent time in prayer for partners in that region.

**7:30 PM**

Meeting began.

**I. Updates from Caryl:**

- Should we use the book "The Future of Missions, Ten Questions About Golabal Ministry the Church Must Answer with the Next Generation" by Barna for our devotion times? Kelly forwarded the PDF (that was purchased) to each member of the council last week. The team agreed this would be good. Peter will start next month.

- Amal and her family are one of our refugee families. The eldest son has started college, and is attending National Louis University; he received a 4.0 GPA in his first semester. First Friends purchased the computer he is using. He says that made the difference. We hope to do that for future graduates attending college, in the refugee families.

- The Ukrainian missionaries of Tavriski Christian Institute (TCI) will visit in October and will need for someone to host them.

-There will be an info session on a "Trauma healing" training course and to see if any member of the Council wish to attend the course. The course is on Zoom, and the cost of the course is $100 per person. Sally Ivaska is attending this first "Free" Session with Caryl.

-The Great Commission Team met with the Ukranians from TCI because they wanted to redirect funds they received from Great Commission for Afhanistan to another unreached area in Uzbekistan. (There had been issues with leadership in Afghanistan and TCI didn't feel it was appropriate to send those funds unless the issues were worked out.) The GCF team agreed unanimously with their new proposal to divert the funds. (Full details in the GCF minutes.)

**II. Financial Updates from Susan:**

- We have $24,235.01 in the Mission Carry Forward Fund (money left over from last year). There will probably be funds from "other benevolence" to be added to this, though we don't know a number yet. Susan reported we have spent only $1,500 so far in 2021.

- We have $3,710.00 in Undesignated fund.

- Caryl said that she received a response about priorities of needs from Christudas in India. They need about $30,000 for construction of their Residential/Tuition Center in Maraudai. And, Susan said that the Mission Council had designated $5,000 last meeting. So, it will be sent now. And, the Great Commission will consider granting them some money as well. The mission financial advisory team should be able to meet prior to the next meeting.

**III. Special funding requests:**

1). Opportunity International Emergency Response in India. To assist with COVID emergency in India.

- Decision: Give $1,000 to assist with response to COVID emergency in India.

2). Pastor Isaac from Tenth of Ramadan Church in Egypt. Seeking assistance with Room & Board while at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

- Possible Alternative: We will see if there is a family willing to host Pastor Isaac, providing him with rooming and lodging while he is at the university, instead of giving direct monetary assistance. The Council will decide on funding, as needed in June.

3). Assist IFES/MENA to cover Shaher's medical expenses (contracted COVID) before he passed away. Total cost: $15,000. MENA had sent $4,000 already. Note that both Shaher and his mother-in-law died simultaneously. So, his wife Suzanne is left as a widow and an "orphan" at once.

- Decision: Give $1,000 directly to Susan in support of her as a widow; and $2,500 to MENA to help cover Shahir's medical expenses.

**IV. Goals Discussion:**

**Goal 1:** Collaborate with Our Families/Our Children Council to develop a partnership/friendship program between child/youth and partners in Mission - locally and globally by 2022.Caryl and Sharon Riley from Rebuilding together discussed options for Youth Summer Mission program, instead of the usual summer trip. It may be difficult because of the structure of the youth mission week. Caryl put Pastor Amanda directly in touch with Sharon to try and find a solution. Connections for the Homeless is very eager to work with the youth, as is Facing Forward. Their leaders have all been introduced to the youth council. Susan will be working with Good New? New Life to do the same. The program will be between 07-25-21 to 07-30-21. The Youth/Children had two asks of mission: 1) that we provide volunteers to help at certain times throughout the week. (Three members volunteered).2) That we host the Friday picnic (financially and with volunteers), possibly including refugees and/or kids from New Life. We agreed to do that but will need a small group to work on that. This will be decided in June.

**Goal 1:** Leadership - Develop and implement an educational program that nurtures, trains and mentors lay leaders so that 20 new individuals will participate in Mission-related activities by January 2022. The team discussed possible pieces:

1). Perspecitves Mini-course - (already done this year with two new volunteers from that.)

2). Cultural training (to be done in the fall)

3). Engage in local missionary activity with a partner

4). Have specific training on outreach to Muslims with an outing to a mosque.

5). Offer a mission trip (virtual and/or in person) along with training/debriefing.

6). Mission Movie Night: (Small group working on that - with a first series of movies on the subject of racial justice/injustice)

Ron suggested the addition of "How to pray for mission", which the group agreed with. Melanie said we should consider if we offer Perspectives again, will we get the same people? She thinks it’s time to look at a new way of teaching some of the same principles - (such as the movie series). The group agreed with this too. We agreed to be praying and considering for the next meeting - about what pieces we should include, what we might be missing, who we should be including in our conversations to get new ideas.

**V. Meeting's Close:**

Dave Ivaska discussed who will lead the mission prayer meetings once Ron leaves. But, possibilities include Ron continuing to lead from Indiana. The Mission Prayer Group will discuss this in June.

Barb Smith says that she will undergo her 2nd knee replacement surgery next Monday (05-24-21). The Council prayed for her and closed the meeting in prayer.