Minutes: Mission Council and Budget Team

Monday April 12, 2021

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

(Starred items on the Weebly site linked above)

[Communication with Session Form](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gv7ikwHpGbYHnS1Cy7M2XRQu3PiQmQ3kUKbFLFZpDLg/edit?usp=sharing)

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

Prayer/Devotion (Susan): What habits can we create to shift our worries into prayer? From 2 Timothy 1:5-7.

We met with Ken Johnson for update on Christudas/United Mission to India, who spoke about the various mission initiatives UMI is undertaking. UMI started 17 years ago and serves in areas that are resistant to the gospel. They go in to help with education or another need, usually with a couple or family in a leased property. They start work with women and children. Often meeting resistance (houses burned or couple is beaten), they focus on prayer and fasting until the door opens. Often a healing occurs with prayer and then they start seeing believers. Healings occur usually in areas of most intense resistance and where there is much suffering. First, they lease property, they buy the land and try to build on that as they have funds. Now 40 couples are serving in 250 villages. (See attached sheet with proposals for mission work.)

Financial Report:

* Susan reviewed our financial status which hasn’t changed since the previous meeting. Though the business office initially confirmed the following:
  + Carry Forward balance $18,984. ▪ Unspent budget $5,473, giving us an estimated 2021 carryforward $24,467 for undesignated spending.
  + Other Benevolence has not been confirmed though there may be funds available there as well.
* Christudas/UMI proposals\*\*\*\* (Note 1 Lakh+ +/- $1,500) After discussion, it was agreed we should learn which of the proposed is the priority for UMI. (Caryl will contact Christudas/Ken.) The Ron moved and Sonia seconded to set aside $5,000 to allocate for UMI for a priority project to be determined by Christudas. The motion carried unanimously.
* Susan presented the draft of a job description for a member of the missions (formerly budget team) Financial Advisory Committee. There was much discussion about this. (See attached document for changes.) In the end all agreed that this team’s primary role is to review the missions’ financials and make recommendations for spending to the council (with details in the attached) The amended draft was adopted. Caryl said that Matt Jackson has agreed to be part of this team. We are looking for 1-2 more members from the congregation at large.
* Caryl reported that we forgot to take the One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday. She spoke with the business office and the trustees. It was agreed the offering would be promoted online the rest of April.

Leadership goal work: (Goal 1: Develop and implement an educational curriculum that nurtures, trains and mentors lay leaders so that 20 new individuals will participate in mission related activities by January 2022.)

* Caryl reported on the survey following the God’s Story Perspectives Class, saying that what was most clear was that participants want:
  + cross cultural training. (Caryl to follow up with staff and Doug Wilson, then Adult Discipleship)
  + further training on interacting with Muslims, including visiting a mosque with Dan McNerney. (We will wait for Covid to relax before planning a visit – that might be tied to training.)
  + There was no interest heard as to creating a virtual mission trip, though Rev. Mitri Raheb is working to create one with a church in Japan and is willing to do that with us as well. We can explore this possibility with a small group invited specifically at a later time.
  + No one was interested in attending the Frontier Fellowship Anniversary celebration in Nashville in October. But Ron will attend. So we will publish the opportunity along with possibilities for scholarship help, a few months before the event.
  + One person wants to take the full Perspectives Course and has asked Caryl about a scholarship. She is following up to make sure this is a good fit.
  + Two people talked about engaging in local Chicago ministries.

(We had an oral evaluation time in the second to last week of the class. And 10 people returned surveys.)

Note that we also now have three people wanting to volunteer with Missions. One couple with First Friends. The third person is still exploring. Two of those people attended the class.

Note activity with Youth Mission Collaboration

* + Goal 2: Collaborate with Our Families/Our Children Council to develop a partnership/friendship program between our children/youth and our partners in mission’ children/youth locally and globally by January 2022
* There has been no report from the Our Families council about the summer missions project(s).

Updates from Caryl

* Great Commission Grants approved by Session
* Pastor Ray on Sabbatical until July 5.
* Movie Team Progress: The team has met three times (Rick/Charlene Parris; Cam Traut; Susan Wilkins; Dick Warnecke; Denise Drane, Caryl Weinberg and Pastor Ray) We have narrowed the possible list of films to show – Topics include: Racial Justice; Homelessness with Youth, Israel/Palestine, Refugees and Immigration, China, Creation Care/Environment.
* Palestine Update: Cam: Palestine not vaccinated. The Israeli govt. is bribing Embassies to move to Jerusalem through offering vaccines. In February, the Palestinian Authority was able to start vaccinating health care workers in Palestine. Now vaccines are for those older than 85.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday May 17 at 7:00 PM

“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.”

Current Priorities

* Adult Education/curriculum:
* Communication/Congregational Engagement
* Mission Partner Care:
* Community Outreach (Evanston):
* Mission Trips:
* Refugees/First Friends