Agenda: Mission Council and Budget Team

Monday January 28, 2019

6:30 PM Parlor

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Present: Richard Taiwo, Younan Shiba, Dick Warnecke (Elder), Peter Steffen, Sharyn Wilson-Woods (Elder), David Tilson (chair), Caryl Weinberg (staff)

Excused: Susan Wilkins, Ron Ehresman, Dave Ivaska, Cam Traut,

The meeting was opened in prayer. Jim and Karen (H./T.) visited and shred about their current work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Both serve as consultants now, based out of their home in Wheaton. Despite terrible condition, the projects that they had worked on in “Y” are going well –since their leaving the country. They told us they are struggling to get support for their ministry now. FPCE is one of two loyal supporting churches, though we have had to cut back on funding with them. They wanted to emphasize their thanks for all the support over the many years of FPCE support for them.

We had a brief time of personal updates of those present, and then time in prayer for each other.

Update Items:

* + The Overnight Shelter will be open every night January 27-February 10, at First Pres. Charlene Parris, Craig Baxa and Caryl are coordinating. Volunteers are still needed.
  + Caryl will send out a draft annual report for everyone to review. She/Kelly are collecting highlights from each of the serving groups.
  + No Vision Keeper this year (Voted to give $500 toward Interfaith Action, already budgeted, instead
  + 2019 Bethlehem Trip June 3-14: Three scholarship applications have been received. Deadline is February 10th.
    - Mission Council decide the upper limit of a scholarship from mission is $1,500/person. (less than half the cost of the trip.) Mission will pay $1,800 toward Pastor Ray’s travel expenses. Caryl knows of two others possibly applying. The STeM line in the budget was adjusted to reflect five scholarships plus Pastor Ray. (This still keeps our bottom line under our budget for 2019).
    - Mission gave Caryl and Pastor Ray authority to make decisions about the scholarships if others apply.
  + Adult Ed Curriculum: Suggestion for March 3 (spring class): Focus on Palestine - - Dave and Sally K.K and Caryl will facilitate. Caryl is asking Denise Drane to participate too. This will be open to anyone, though participation will be encouraged for those going on the HL trip.
  + Mission Videos : May Tchao has been working on the videos with a new editor (Another NU student.) He charges $100/per video based on the template that the first editor created last year. There are three completed videos with several more in process now. The team helped prioritize the “in the pipeline” videos (below). It would be good to focus on current serving opportunities and local mission, as there are still people in the congregation who believe all our funds and energy is spent internationally. Caryl was charged with asking staff about including the videos in the worship services. Jim Teague will be putting these on the new website as well.
  + Completed Videos:
    - * + Cairo Seminary (Egypt)
        + Bethlehem
        + Good News Partners
  + In Process:
    - * + Souper Saturday
        + Build Congo Schools
        + Emmaus Ministries
  + Next in Pipeline:
    - * + Rebuilding Together
        + First Friends
        + Pastor Younan/Family Life
        + IFES
        + Tumekutana
        + Overnight Shelter

2019 Budget Discussion: Caryl reported that Ron and Susan and she had worked on the budget. The budget team had discussed this as well. Their comments were shared with MC. The discussion focused on whether to continue our budgeting that we have followed the past two years, that we only budget for %10 of the amount given to MC by Trustees. This would mean we would have to make more significant cuts to mission partners. Though the Mission Budget Team believes being “conservative was more prudent”, there was pushback from several on Mission Council that we not cut more than what is necessary. MC made some “easy” cuts with partners that we had given to for one year only. Jay Sivit’s sad passing also allowed us to cut funds. We will wrestle with potential new requests in the future. One note: Melody told Caryl what she believed to be the final number from 2018 as to what mission had spent. So MC based spending on that estimate. Potentially numbers will change after the auditors have finished, later in 2019. (See Budget Atttached.)

Discussion on Roles/Milestones/Strategy for year ahead was postponed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Submitted by,

Caryl Weinberg