Minutes Mission Council and Budget Team

Monday February 15, 2020

7PM Zoom Call

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

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

*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.*

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

**Excused:** Renee Cox , Younan Shiba

**Open with Prayer/Devotion** : Melanie Myatt

Ephesians 4: 11. Melanie led us in a discussion and review of the paradigm of the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and the teachers. All five are needed for the church as each brings a unique perspective and plays a specific role. When we know our place, we feel relaxed and comfortable as we recognize our motivation or passion for a specific role.

**Updates from Caryl**

* Christmas Eve Offering for First Friends Refugees: $5975 is current total
* Devotion and Minutes Sign-Up for 2021: Follow this [link to sign up!](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BAFAE2BA2FF2-devotion)
* Doug Wilson Follow-up: Have any started on their plans? Sonia shared that Presbytery is also using this tool and she plans to coordinate her plans from both.
* Sunday School Class: High 56, Low 45. New zoom sign-in process to start soon to increase security. Classes are being recorded and will be available on website soon. We should think of what questions should be asked at the end of the class.
* First Friends and New Life Groups met. Lists of potential activities and ideas developed and shared with Caryl.
* New business manager has resigned. Eleanor Ehresman is going to help in the business office while a search is done for a new business manager. Scott Klamm is increasing his hours to full time.
* No Rebuilding Together FPCE day this April (possible youth day in July?)
* Youth Mission Week July 25-30 (Caryl/Cam/Susan)

Our Children/Our Family Council reached out to us to discuss planning a Mission week for the youth for this summer. Travel long distance will most likely not be a possibility so planning a Mission week with some of our local partners is the idea. After discussion we decided to have the focus be on Homelessness, services and partners in our local Chicago area. It could be with high school and middle school participants and possibly some family activities also. Caryl reached out to Rebuilding and they think it would certainly be possible to plan a workday with the youth during that week, dependent on Covid restrictions at that time of course. Susan spoke with New Life staff and they were also open and excited about having youth volunteers during that week and suggested several different activities which might be possible. Cam spoke with Doug Bradshaw of Facing Forward and he also expressed they would be open to participation. Another possibility being investigated is with Connections here in Evanston. Amanda mentioned a resource for a “Homeless Experience” through the Youth Ministry Collective. We will meet with the planning group again on February 22 to discuss results of our inquiries and next steps.

**Finances /Budget Updates** (Susan)

* 2020 Budget
  + The pre -audit numbers for 2020 are as follows:
    - Mission Budget $195,600.
    - Spent $189,689.31
    - Carry Forward balance $17,762.
    - Unspent budget $5,911.
* 2021 Budget (see Weebly site for document)
  + Budget from Trustees/Session $194,060.
  + No changes in support for mission partners except:
    - Mission Director trips: decrease to $6000 (per Caryl)
    - Evanston Ministries: increase to $2000 (based on last year expenses and potential support for youth mission activities
    - Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
      * Grad Faculty at NWU increase by $250 to $3500
      * NWU undergraduate support decrease to $0. One of the individuals we supported has left NWU and we have not had any communication from the 2nd individual in spite of multiple efforts to reach out. There was discussion on this lack of support for a local university from multiple council members. It was decided that Ron and Dave will reach out to NWU intervarsity to try and reestablish a relationship. We will discuss future support after this.
  + Pending final audit there may be additional funds to add to carry forward account.
* Ron Jasniowski Request for support: Council members discussed his request and the documents which Caryl had forwarded to us related to his ministry which Ron had provided. Several members of the Council had done further research on the organization and mission. Barb had reached out to Ron and spoken with him. After discussion it was decided that we would not support this ministry at this time.

**Report from Leadership Group** Dave

The group had a brainstorming session and there were many topics generated.

Dave forwarded to all Council Members the document the group created with all the ideas.

There were 2 main sections:

1. Building leadership in Mission
2. Building Capacity for Mission at FPCE

Dave asked the Council Members to choose one from each group that they think is important and send this back to Dave. What are good things to prioritize to work on now and what should then be worked on later. The group will get back together to develop some specific ideas for some of the categories.

**Update the Communication with session form**  Cam

* + 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.

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

**Social Justice films** Caryl

Each one of the council members volunteered to screen one of the films shown below and then share our thoughts on showing these to the congregation. In planning a possible monthly event.

* Against All Odds
* White Noise
* Hate Among Us
* Represent Justice
* Emmanuel (Charleston church shootings)
* Homestretch (following homeless youth in Chicago)
* Paper Children (refugees)
* Hope in the Holy Land

NEXT MEETING DATE:

* Next Council Meeting March15, 2021

Dick closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Moreland-Wilkins