Mission Council/Budget Team Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2020

10AM – 12 PM Zoom Call

Attendees: Younan Shiba, Dave Ivaska, Dick Warnecke (elder), Peter Steffen, Ron Ehresman, Richard Taiwo, Sharon Wilson-Woods (elder), Kelly Levander, Cam Traut (co-chair), Sonia Bodi, Renee Cox, Bill Floyd, Barb Smith (Elder) , Caryl Weinberg (staff), Susan Wilkins (co-chair)

Opening Devotion: Cam

Psalm 11: 1-4. When foundations crumble what should we do:

1. Lament: What we are missing. Ok to do this, but don’t get stuck there.
2. Rest: Take care of ourselves so that we can care for others.
3. Rejoice: Consider and offer praise for what we can be thankful for.
4. Serve: What can I do from where I am. Reach out to others in whatever way you can.

Sharing by team and opening prayer: Susan

Each person on the call shared how they were doing. There were concerns regarding fear, loss of work, depth of suffering (particularly for some of our partners) and isolation. But there were also praises for learning new things (i.e. Zoom), how people are being innovative to keep in contact and check on others, and a sense of all being in this together.

Updates from Caryl:

* Pastor Ray Sabbatical: will be postponed for now
* Building Closed except building crew and Souper Saturday, meal is being distributed outside. Caryl bought some ponchos to hand out in case of rain.
* Refugee Grants: There is approximately $17,000 in the refugee ministry restricted account which came from the Christmas offerings. We will give $500 from this account to each of our refugee families. Many are having a hard time financially because of reduced work opportunities. Several are ride share drivers.
* Caryl’s days: Meeting with partners online and by email. Staying in touch with Deacons and Souper Saturday volunteers. Going to Souper Saturday to see how everything is going.

Session Update: Dick

Session met last Tuesday via Zoom. There is a Ministry Architect update, which was tabled for discussion till April. An update on the FPCE Covid-19 task force was provided to session.

FPCE Covid-19 Task Force (Cam and Caryl)

- Cam reviewed the formation of, members and goals of the Covid-19 task force:

* Identifying needs
* Identifying peoples’ needs
* Sustained care system
* Mission Council Covid-19 Response Goals (e-mailed to everyone and on Weebly site)

[**https://fpcemission.weebly.com/covid-19-response.html**](https://fpcemission.weebly.com/covid-19-response.html)

We reviewed and discussed the proposed Goals:

1. Mission partners will experience regular connectedness and prayer support with FPCE during the Covid 19 crisis.
2. Requests for prayer from mission partners will be shared with the congregation.
3. Mission Director will remain in close contact with FPCE community partners in order to be aware of how we might support our partners and neighbors in the community.

Ron Ehresman moved and Peter Steffen seconded that we approve and adopt these goals. The motion carried unanimously.

The council reviewed and discussed actions associated with each goal.

[**https://fpcemission.weebly.com/covid-19-response.html**](https://fpcemission.weebly.com/covid-19-response.html)

Goal #1:

* Action: Mission council members paired with individual mission partners. Reviewed the spreadsheet with suggested pairings. Mission council liaisons will reach out to partners at least every other week.

FIND SPREAD SHEET [***HERE***](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YfNY04A2CrEGMWU6xIPYWMTH_UW2nbPvvn-_DLQ5S_4/edit#gid=0)

* Action: Share partner information with small groups coordinators for “adoption” during this time. They can reach out to Kelly to get partner information and Kelly will also put them in touch with the council liaison. All prayer requests from the mission partner will be given to the council liaison.
* Action: Congregation members will be encouraged to look at the Mission Council page on the FPCE web site to see if there is a mission partner they would like to reach out to. They will then follow the same steps as outlined above for small groups.
* Action: Create a resource page to assist FPCE community in engaging with partners. Put this on the Mission page of FPCE web site.

Goal #2: Kelly

Kelly reviewed the current set up of the Covid-19 prayers FPCE. Spreadsheet. After discussion it was decided that each individual liaison will update the spreadsheet with prayer requests from our mission partners as they are received. The current communication process of the mission prayer team with our mission partners will also continue. This is a familiar and long-standing relationship and process and everyone agreed it should continue as is.

* Community Interaction
  + Souper Saturday: meals are being prepared and distributed on Saturdays outside.
  + Thursdays at St. Marks: We are buying sandwiches from Subway on Dodge/Dempster and delivering to St Marks for distribution on Thursdays.
  + Financial aid for Connections for the Homeless?
    - 60 people in 40 rooms at a local hotel for $25/night per room
    - Estimated cost for one night: $1,000
    - We received $1000 from a donor to go toward providing rooms for a night.
    - Dick Warnecke moved and Younan Shiba seconded that we allocate $3000 from Mission carry-forward fund to provide 3 more nights. Motion was approved unanimously.
    - Great Commission is also considering giving $3000. This will need to be approved by session before funds could be disbursed.

- What to focus on, on our mission page:

- Connections ( Volunteer and purchases), link to Connections website

- Prayers for our Mission partners

We closed with prayers for Mission Partners.

We will schedule another Zoom meeting for April 9. Details will be sent out later.