Mission Budget Team Review

March 13, 2018

(Renee - Excused; Present: Ron Ehresman, Bill Floyd, Richard Taiwo, Susan Wilkins, Caryl Weinberg)

Ron opened the meeting in prayer. Susan facilitated the discussion.

**FUNDING GUIDELINES (DRAFT) (3.13.18)**

These guidelines are intended to guide the committee on how funds will be allocated

**General Funding Priorities**

The following are general guidelines to enable us to think strategically and to guide decision-making:

***Current Division based on 2018 budget***:

Justice and Mercy: 11%

Unreached People groups: 32%

Education and Training: 7%

University and Youth: 18%. (We should change this to University Student Ministries)

Sister Church: 4%

FPCE Volunteer Outreach: 7%.

Mission Team Operating Expenses: 6%

Mission Director Salary: 16%

**Guiding Principles for Initial Funding:**

1. We desire to support partners with whom we have a strong relationship.
2. We remain committed to smaller gifts that can have significant impact.
3. Primary consideration will be given to FPCE members if they are involved in “hand-on” roles, not advisory work.
4. A consideration will be whether the particular ministry is duplicating existing outreach efforts.
5. Preferential consideration should be given to individuals and/or organizations having a Christ centered/proclaiming orientation.
6. The organization or sending organization must have demonstrable financial competence.
7. We support individuals that are sent out through an outside funding organization. (We are not the “sending” organization of individuals.)
8. Budgeted support will be no more than $7,500 per individual partner and $10,000/year per corporate organization.

**Guiding Principles for Initial Funding**

We will ask prospective partners to complete a brief statement on their values, goals for ministry, endeavors for this year, and purpose for the funding they requested. (Standard Mission Partner Application Form)

**Guiding Principles for Ongoing Funding**

All continuing partners must:

* Acknowledge receipt of gifts
* Provide annual or more frequent communications that describe highlights/lowlights of the last year, for prayer and praise
* Provide their goals for the forthcoming year at the time of their triennial review.
* Be responsive to inquiries from FPCE

**Guiding Principles for Supporting FPCE’s Expenses:**

This section is intended to set amounts for support of various FPCE mission related activities. The objective is to have consistent, published support levels for these activists so that decisions are not made on an ad hoc basis relating in differences in the amounts members receive and expect.

1. Short Term mission trips within the U.S.: We will provide support up to 25% of projected costs, not to exceed $500.
2. Short Term mission trips outside the U.S.: We will provide up to 50% of projected costs, not to exceed $1,500.
3. Exceptions (amounts over) to the above can only occur with a 60% favorable vote of the entire membership of the Missions Committee. Phone/email voting is permitted. Exceptions cannot be made by 60% of member is attendance at a particular meeting.
4. Hosting people and events at First Presbyterian: We prioritize travel within the U.S. over purchasing international tickets.

**Addendum to Funding Guidelines:**

**Process for Notifying Mission Partners of Significantly Decreased Funding, or Cessation of Support**

This section is intended to specify the notification process to mission partners when the Mission Council decides to either:

* Reduce funding levels
* No longer support a mission partner

There are four primary reasons to change funding levels (perhaps others, but it is not necessary to have an exhaustive list for the purposes of this section.)

1. Our mission goals change
2. A mission partner has reached a financial level and sufficient funding that FPCE’s contributions will not have a material effect on the ongoing ministry.
3. A mission partner has significantly changed their ministry focus and/or are not able to clearly articulate what they are doing and why.
4. A mission partner fails to communicate with the Council or does not respond to concerns that the Mission Council may communicate from time to time.

Before anyone’s stipend is reduced, we will try to have a discussion with that person.

We will endeavor to give at least 12 months notice to a partner if we intend to cease or substantially reduce funding in the coming year.

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Congo Focus Group: We addressed Jan Sullivan’s email imploring Mission Council to not reduce funding of ministries r/t the D.R. Congo for 2018. Caryl explained that she replied to Jan explaining the necessity for across the board cuts. As well, Caryl explained that the Congo Focus group typically does not disperse funds until the very end of the calendar year. If by that time the Mission Council has extra funds available, it would be possible to consider increasing the amount of funds given to the Congo. The budget team agreed that this be the strategy, saying that the Congo group can meet with Mission Council during the year for discussion about the funding.

The next conference call will be Tuesday April 17th, 2018.

Caryl closed the meeting in prayer.