Minutes from the Mission Council and Financial Advisory Team Meeting

Monday August 23, 2021

Attendees: Richard Taiwo, Dave Ivaska, Cam Traut (Co-Chair), Dick Warnecke (Elder), Barb Smith, Sonia Bodi, Ron Ehresman, Peter Steffen, Suzanne Sawada, Caryl Weinberg (staff).

Absent Members: Susan Wilkins (Co-Chair), Melanie Myatt, and Tessa Myatt

Please note: Prior to the meeting there was a dinner at Peter Steffen’s house, a celebration of Dick Warnecke’s 84th birthday and a presentation and honorarium to Ron Ehresman for his many years of service on the Mission Council and all of his wonderful contributions to FPCE prior to he and Eleanor moving to Indiana.

Devotion: Peter Steffen: Instead of scripture Chapter One of Barna’s book, The Future of Missions, was outlined and discussed.

Updates from Caryl

* Caryl reminded everyone that the Barna book, The Future of Missions, is in the Google Docs file [HERE](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PIeya-KYzPiiFqSxgG_Guaag8AD6QVAb?usp=sharing)
* Caryl reminded everyone that the Fall kickoff begins September 12th with all Sunday Classes beginning on the 19th. (See info on Mission Movie series below.)
* Caryl’s Trip with The Outreach Foundation (October 1-8): Caryl informed everyone that the trip will be in Amsterdam and Germany and focused on the Iranian Diaspora in Europe and outreach within the diaspora.
* Movie Series Update: Cam Traut:
  + Cam announced that the Fall Movie Series will start on September 15th. The series of movies and subsequent discussions/classes will address racial justice . The first movie will be “The Long Shadow” which addresses the history of slavery. There will be four movies in the series all of which will be viewed virtually. The other three movie themes will be on Native Americans, Asian Americans and the Charleston Shooting. Movies will be on Wednesdays with follow up classes the following Sundays. Sunday classes will be in person or via zoom. Title of the class: See, Hear and Know Your Neighbor’s Story. This will be shared with the Evanston Community and via social media.
* Interfaith Action: Caryl reminded everyone that there will be a 3-part zoom series hosted by several Evanston Faith Communities. It begins on Sunday afternoon September 19th. The discussion topic will be Reparations. Details will be in the enews.
* Caryl reminded that there will be a dinner and a watch party at FPCE for Brighstar’s live gala presentation titled, “Hope Unlocked”, on September 18th. The dinner will precede the presentation at 6:00pm. During the dinner Dan Bannoura from the Bethlehem Bible College will talk and meet with us in person. Details with signups will start soon.

Financial Report/Decisions: Caryl updated everyone on the latest financial position for Missions this year.

* Mission Finances:
* Other Benevolence Finalized $3,199.50
* Spent this year outside of budget: $16,750
* Remaining non-budgeted funds before disbursements this month: $14,895
* Budget Team Recommendation: Caryl presented the following requests:
  + Give $1,500 to Build Congo Schools, School #10.
  + Give $2,000 to Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo in honor of Dr. Atef Gendy – for scholarships.
  + Give $500 to the Mission Partner of Ron’s choice in his name. He selected the IFES/MENA Publishing House in Egypt.

Dick Warnecke motioned that we approve the requests above. Cam Traut offered a second. The requests were unanimously approved.

* + Youth Mission Week Expenditures: $1675.32
* Rebuilding: $1351.37
* Syrian Cooking $139.89
* Mission Lunch with youth:$110.62
* Recommendation by Budget Team: We pay $750, ask Rebuilding to pay for the rest. ($601.37)

A discussion regarding why all of these Youth Mission expenditures were paid from the Mission Budget ensued. While everyone agreed that the expenditures went to good use, the fact that Youth Mission has their own budget lead the members present to wonder why it all fell on Mission Council. It was decided that Cam Traut should reach out to the leaders of the Youth Mission to discuss expense sharing in part but more importantly to try and set up a procedure going forward so that joint agreement can be reached.

* Closing Prayer: The closing prayer was a group prayer shared by all in attendance.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

* **Next Meeting Date: September 27th 2021 (Devotion: Minutes😊)**