

GLOBAL MISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2019

Global Mission Committee did not hold a meeting in January.

Present: Ron Vandeberg, Pastor Kelli, Bonnie Dirks, Wayne Corey, Beth Gilpin, Pete Ellestad

Devotions by Ron.

Puerto Rico

- Mike was not able to be at the meeting, but he wrote a status report which is included at the end of these minutes.

Uganda / Walk-4-Water

- Seven people from our congregation (Ron, Bonnie, Dale Marsden, Jim and Linda Ellestad, Gudrun and Adam Sindermann) will be on the trip and 5 from other congregations.
- A \$100 donation is anticipated from a congregational member to take to Uganda to cover needs that we see while there. There is \$500 remaining in our budget for Moringa project support and several hundred more for project needs while there. Ron to figure out exact amount remaining in the budget.
- Peter Obba sent a request for funds to build a dorm and sanitary facilities in Juba. The railroad took part of their land where the school classrooms were located so they had to build a new school. This is one of the potential projects we will check out in Uganda.
- Hope-4-Kids has purchased the land and buildings for 'Campus of Hope' in Tororo, which is planned to be a vocational education facility. This is another potential project we will check out. This project may already have sufficient financial support from others.
- Sesera, the village where we dug the first well, helped build the church, and build the latrine wants to build a school. They would start with 1 classroom for 3 or 4 year olds, and then add one classroom each year as the kids get older. There is currently no one else supporting this project. We have not seen a detailed plan for this project, but will check it out while there. Leveling the land near the latrine may be a first step that we can support.
- There will be well dedications in both villages where we funded wells. We may do other activities in each village. We only have one banner from our Walk-4-Water, and not sure if the banner can be used for each dedication or if the banner is left in village after the dedication. Ron to check with H-4-K. [Post meeting note: One banner can be used for both villages].

Habitat for Humanity World Day of Prayer

- March 1 is the date of this event. The Dane County chapter will hold an informational meeting and prayer session at their facility. Ron, Roger, and Pastor Tim are planning to attend.

Missionary Support

- We received a thank you note for our congregational support of Pastor Kirsten and StARS in Cairo.
- Pastor Kirsten will be leaving Cairo this summer and moving back to the USA.
- We will need to decide whether to continue missionary support of StARS or move support to another mission. Council has final approval for missionary support, although to date the council has always accepted the recommendation of Global Mission.

Budget planning for FY 2019/20

- Rita and Finance Committee need the budget planning forms by the end of March.
- Global Mission Committee activities for next FY are very undefined, especially around mission trips. Tentative thoughts are to do a trip to Uganda next year and then every other year, and Puerto Rico in 2 years. But until the upcoming trips are complete and we have a better feel for what is happening on the ground in P.R. and Uganda we won't have a firm plan.
- Ron will talk to Brent O'dell to see if we can submit budget after the mission trips. We will discuss further next month.

Upcoming Global Mission Events	
Feb 24, 2019	Fund raising breakfast for Puerto Rico mission trip
Mar 26 – Apr 2, 2019	Puerto Rico mission trip
April 2-15, 2019	Uganda mission trip w/ Hope-4-Kids

Next meeting is planned for the usual 2nd Monday of the month, specifically March 11.

Devotions for next meeting by Beth.

Puerto Rico Updates Global Mission 2-18-19 from Mike Catterall

Our group will be providing a breakfast this Sunday February 24. Funds received will be used to provide us with immediate funds for projects we work on, if needed, provide funds to Reconciliation Church and to Luther Disaster Response projects specific to Puerto Rico. Please encourage everyone to attend. We have been approved for funds of \$250.00 from Thrivent for costs with the breakfast. I applied for the funds via my membership with Thrivent.

We are very excited for this mission trip. With the services of LDR, as a leadership team, we no longer have to decide what work needs to be done. We will be sent where there is a need and we will provide the labor. Also, having breakfast and dinner provided for us; we will be more on a schedule. This should provide us ample personal time at camp or do other things.

We will spend some time with our brothers and sisters from Reconciliation which is most important. We will worship on Sunday and ferry over to Old San Juan on Sunday.

Mission update.

Judy and I went to Puerto Rico first weekend in February. We went to scout out the area and get familiar with area that we serve to evaluate notable changes from the hurricane. Fortunately, there are no issues with driving or road changes that we need to be concerned with for travel. The island is naturally recovering. The palm trees have new growth, the lower foliage is beautiful and the rainforest has change but is in recovery. Many trails in the rainforest are still covered and closed. Facilities in the rainforest are closed. If we choose to go to the rainforest, it will be a drive in, but no adventures into the woods. There are areas to pull over and take photos.

Reconciliation Church did have some major damage, for most part is now repaired. The church did have roof damage on the alter end of the building and this has been professionally repaired. The structure that we built on the other end, did not sustain damage. Therefore, those that worked on this can now say they built a hurricane proof structure. The fellowship hall had the most damage, the roof to the building was damaged was unrepairable and needed replacing. They chose to raise the supporting walls and installed a concrete roof. This will make the room feel bigger, eliminate future damage and provide a space for the church to offer more outreach programs and to allow them to rent out the space for receptions/meetings etc. They hope to have their kitchen available in the next few weeks.

All the crank window blinds have been replaced with newer security blinds, which saves on maintenance to steel window safety gates. Lastly, the issue with electricity to the church was resolved. The local municipality told Pastor Pablo that the church owned the pole transformer which is on church property. This was a surprise to Pastor Pablo as there were other wires from this pole going outside the church property. They proved this through historical documents and Pastor Pablo conceded to the fact and the church purchased the new transformer for over six thousand dollars. He told the municipality that there will be no other wires connected to this pole unless they are needed for the church. I'm sure that he will fulfill that promise.

Reconciliation is very active providing food pantry services and outreach to homeless in Puerto Rico. It was mentioned how important our support to their mission is and appreciated. It has been stated to us many time times; everyone from McFarland Lutheran is welcome anytime. They are grateful for our financial support to them.