

## **GLOBAL MISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**April 11, 2022**

Attendees: Ron Vandenberg, Wayne Corey, Katherine Miller, Gudrun Sindermann, Linda Olson, Mike Catterall, Jim Green, Bonnie Dirks, Roger Marty

Global Mission did not hold meetings in February and March, 2022.

Devotions by Gudrun.

### **Puerto Rico** – Mike Catterall reported

- Chris Landerud visited P.R. on vacation, took time to visit Caribbean Synod bishop and Pastor Pueblo. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is no longer running the camp where our mission teams have stayed. Camp is now under the purview of the synod bishop and a board has been setup to manage the camp. Some revenue is earned by renting the pool. All dorm rooms now have air conditioning. Dorms do need some roof repairs which are planned to be done by June.
- In contrast to when LDR was running the camp, now there is no one to coordinate building repair projects. This makes it significantly harder to plan mission trips where we serve by repairing houses.
- Caribbean Synod bishop is still hoping to have organized groups stay at camp. Camp does have a truck and 10 passenger van that may be of use for future trips.
- Financial situation in synod is difficult since number of people attending church has dropped 50% since Hurricane Maria and Covid pandemic.
- No youth mission trips from MLC to P.R. are planned at this time. Perhaps spring break 2023 will be possible.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

- All international trips to build houses have been cancelled.
- Locally, houses are being constructed in Sun Prairie and Stoughton.
- Habitat ReStores sales are at record levels of over \$200,000 per month. More volunteers are needed to run the stores.
- Dane County Habitat is looking at combining warehouse and office on the west side into one building, thus saving money and making coordination between functions easier.

### **Outreach for World Hope**

- Infant formula that was purchased with funds from our bake sale in December has been delivered to Guatemala.
- OWH is planning a mission trip to Guatemala in June.

### **Uganda**

- We usually only speak of Hope-4-Kids in relation to their mission in Uganda, although they also have operations in 7 other countries. H-4-K is planning a trip to Guatemala in early June and they are looking for participants with a medical background.
- H-4-K is planning 2 trips to Uganda in July.
- Agreed that we should do another Walk-4-Water in the fall. Gudrun Sindermann volunteered to take the lead role. Our 'recipe book' of steps and procedures to plan a walk is on a google drive,

and Ron will send link to all members of Global Mission Committee. [Post meeting note: Council approved W-4-W fundraiser at their April meeting].

- In late March we received word from Uganda of a severe electrical storm in Juba, the village that all H-4-K trips visit and where Pastor Peter Obbo runs a boarding school. The storm killed two Juba villagers with lightning strikes, Pastor Peter's wife Sara was paralyzed for an hour by a lightning strike but fortunately her heart did not stop, and most of the electronics at the school compound were damaged, including the motor and controls for the well.
- Pastor Peter Obbo asked if funds (\$10K+) could be raised for him to get the well pump and controls replaced, lighting fixed in the boarding school dorms, computers and office equipment replaced, and make improvements to electrical systems to prevent future damage. Kent Dirks' church in Minnesota and Margo Peterson's Woodland Lutheran church in Nekoosa, WI were able to raise the funds in a couple of days and send to Pastor Peter.
- MLC members who have been to Uganda donated \$50 to MLC, designated for use in Uganda, to help Juba recover. Since the immediate need was already addressed by other congregations, we agreed to hold the funds until another need in Uganda arose.
- Question raised whether there was a way for us to be able to respond faster if / when 'emergency' requests for funds are received. Answer could somewhat tie into an initiative by finance committee to develop a process for requesting to spend funds that are in designated savings. There is \$2348.35 in an account labeled K. Schroeder: Global Mission. Ron will forward Katherine an email from treasurer Brent that discusses a proposed format for requesting these funds, and Katherine will write up a proposal and send to Brent. On a related note, there is \$635 in a fund designated Tanzania Scholarships. This ministry is probably not active and Ron will check with Janet Knutson (lead for the TZ ministry programs) to see if these funds can be used for another global mission purpose.

#### **Pastor Christie Manisto and Steven Saari visit**

- Missionaries we support in Cairo, Egypt and who serve at St. Andrews Refugee Services (StARS) will visit MLC weekend of Aug 6 and 7. Christie will preach at all 3 services and Steve may provide music.
- Global Mission will plan a dinner after the Saturday evening service, possibly at Skaalen clubhouse or similar location. Currently Skaalen clubhouse is not open for events, so this venue may not be possible.
- If someone wants to host Christie and Steve at their house for Saturday evening, that would be appreciated because it saves them the cost of a hotel room.

#### **22/23 budget**

- As last year, we are hoping to get back to 'normal' pre-covid activities and mission trips, so repeat same budget as last 2 years. [Post meeting note: All committees have been requested to reduce budget by 10%.]

Ron will write the GM report to be included in the annual report.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for May 9. Linda Olson will do devotions.