

Mission Promotion Team

December 5, 2020

Present: Lyndy Zabel, Karen Thompson, Gary Bochman, Gail Chalbi, Pat Toschak, Beth Holland, Lori McBride, Cindy Saufferer, Kendra Miles Smith, Ed Holland, Jill Michael, Becky Boland,

Reports –

Health Ministries: Ed encouraged us to keep wearing masks. Even with the vaccine, he understands this will take some time. Parish nurses are conducting their ministry by phone. He will send us information about Rev. Dr. Ron Bell's webinars (at Camphor UMC) about health care and disparities. He recommended we listen to them. Ed is doing an advanced care presentation in January. They are willing to do these for any churches remotely.

Disaster Response: Gary reported that it's been fairly quiet. They reached out to Iowa and did not need to help. He attended a recent VOAD meeting and they are looking for people who may be able to help with phone work. They have a need for delivery drivers in the Metro area. People can contact Gary and he will help to connect people. There is a training class on Monday for recertification early response teams. UMCOR has only approved the recertification classes to be done via Zoom. UMCOR is talking about some options for training and keeping volunteers active. Lyndy reported that 16000 pounds of supplies were collected in June and October and delivered to MMDC.

VIM Scholarships: Lori has not had any requests for VIM scholarships. She will get info about the amounts in the account. As it is designated monies, it can roll over to future years.

School-Church Partnerships: Jill reported that we have money in the 2021 budget to give funds to churches and a school. Beth suggested that we give the remaining funds to churches that are hosting school children during the pandemic. We have \$4500 left in this fund.

Lyndy suggested that the balance of monies in our budget ~\$13,000 we could also add those funds to spend for this or other things that churches may need.

Lori, Jill, Gail and Beth are empowered by MPT to find creative ways to share both these funds with local churches.

Vietnam Partnerships: Kendra reported the leadership and missionaries changed in the beginning of the year. Things have been quiet since March. The new coordinators in Vietnam are the Parks. Kendra is on the General Board team that makes decisions about programming.

Laos Partnership: Lyndy reported that although there is no travel, they were able to go to a partnership meeting in March. Daniel Y. from MN was commissioned at the last General Conference, he has been planting several churches in southern Laos.

The team is also putting together a video about the work in Laos. The folks at Columbia Hts. UMC are also interested in working in Laos.

Conference Mission Trips: Lyndy reported the 3 trips we've had over the past few years (intergenerational was postponed to next August. The Sager-Brown trip was cancelled and rescheduled for Jan 2022. The Puerto Rico trips are pending currently. We have 8 trained leaders for PR trips. One of the churches, Hamline UMC has partnered with a church in Ponce PR.

Haiti Partnership- Pat reported that scheduled November trip was cancelled. They sent funds and sent a video to people at the clinics in Yvon. The clinic was able to have a doctor (cost \$1500) at the clinic. It costs about \$700 for a dental clinic. They work with the Haiti Methodist Church and have trust and accountability with the leadership there.

Church & Society – Gail reported they decided not to do a virtual summit. They are disbursing Racial Justice \$300 grants for a book study (they have a list of books) for local churches. The information is available on their website (part of the conference site <https://www.minnesotauc.org/churchandsociety>). So far 3 churches have either applied for the grants or are in process. The churches must have the book study, engage in conversation with other churches about this issue and then partner with another church with a different cultural background to explore the issues. The website has suggestions about how to accomplish these ideas. The grants are available as long as funds allow. It has been advertised in the Conference emails and website. The team is also calling local churches to advertise.

General Conference Advance: Lyndy reported that Connie Wieck is our interim mission advocate for our jurisdiction and provided the report for Minnesota giving (see budget document). Gordon Graner is retiring but Ardell is staying on. This giving reflects about \$6 per person of Minnesota Conference.

The Global Partnership in our budget is for UMCOR supplies and delivery, Laos and Vietnam.

2022 Budget: Lyndy explained the current status of the budget. The 2021 budget is the same of 2020. The budget request for 2022 is to be the same. (See the attached document.)

2021 Love Offering: Karen opened the discussion for suggestions for Love Offering gifts. Beth suggested that we focus on Social Justice. Lori suggested state-wide mental health and grief support initiatives may be a focus. Ed suggested we support parish nurses. Jill will also contact MMDC about what their needs can be so churches can do a collection. We want 10% go to VIM scholarships. At our next meeting we will each bring a couple of suggestions for possibilities. Karen will send out a survey for the next meeting dates.

Submitted by Karen Thompson