

Mission Promotion Team Minutes August 2 2018

Present: Ruth Wiertzma, Karen Thompson, Lyndy Zabel, Mary Gates, Cindy Stauffer, Jill Michael, Ed Holland, Beth Holland, Lori McBride, Pat Toschak, Mary Longsdorf

- Health Ministries Report: Dr. Ige's visit at Annual Conference, was well received. Unfortunately it was a small group. Ed is considering writing a story about her information along with an offer to get the health information to local churches. Dr. Ige is willing to come back to MN. Perhaps we could have a future event in Rochester so to attract the medical community there. Lyndy received a request for an 'Abundant Health Initiative' ambassador from the General Board of Global Ministries. Ed will work with his team and respond as they think appropriate.
  - Ed reported that he's been talking with Tracy Kiebler about workshops about aging. He presented a proposal. (see attached) They are suggesting a pilot program and begin this to happen in each district, over a period of years. We do have some funds in the budget that would support the workshop and possible Golden Cross funds could also support this. They are looking for next spring timeframe. MPT agreed to move forward with this program.
  - Health Ministries team has given approval to send an individual to COSROW's event in Dallas, which is a train-the-trainer event. They have requested \$500 from Golden Cross funds. Because this is a request for an individual to go to training rather than funds for community health activity. MPT affirmed the team's decision. We hope the training is made available to clergy.
  - Deanna Thompson, professor at Hamline Univ., has a book launch on Aug. 22 at 5 pm.
  - ON Oct. 25 there is a End of Life Conference in Brooklyn Center. There is a fee but this event offers CDE credits.
  - Health Ministries and Congregational Nurses would like to have space at the Mission Summit. They will participate as a breakout session.
- AIDS Summit in Indiana: Ed was interested in going to the event, Oct 25-26. Lyndy explained there may be some funds available. If not, we can ask Cindy Gregerson for assistance. We can support travel and associated costs for \$500. If it's more than that Ed will let us know.
- VIM scholarship transfers: Lyndy was contacted about the VIM Scholarships, VIM will not support people going to Puerto Rico but will refer to Lyndy for funds raised under that offering. There is also Haiti funds that were raised several years ago and are still available, Those VIM Haiti project supplies could then be funded through that. We can also offer some funds from 2019 MPT budget (around \$5000) for just the 2019 year. We will then include VIM Scholarships in future Love Offerings. The scholarships were ½ the costs up to \$400. MPT agreed to this plan.
- Conference Advance Special Consideration: Apparent Plan – Tracy Kiebler: Lyndy has met with her and has reviewed the criteria for specials. Lyndy has the application. MPT approved Apparent Plan as a Conference Advance Special.
- Coalition Updates: Laos, Vietnam, Haiti:
  - Laos: B & E Barte and Daniel Yang were here in MN for several weeks and met with several churches. They are also working with Hamline Univ. to develop a J-term trip (education, service and travel) for students. They also met with the Bishop. We may

want to consider supporting the Laos projects (new church starts, ect ) as part of our 2019 Love Offering.

- Vietnam: Lyndy and Karen have received an invitation to send someone to the Consultation in November in Vietnam. Coalition will determine who to send.
- Haiti: Pat went to the dinner at Hamline UMC to support the Haiti community church in St. Paul. OC Ministries team was in Haiti during the recent violence, but they were not able to go out in to the community. They did meet folks from other teams and had a great time meeting those other people. The nurse program in Ybon is moving forward.
- Puerto Rico: we currently have 4 teams with about 40 total people who are going. One is leaving next week, the October, April and then into the future. Lyndy is in touch with Wesley Foundations to also send trips. Some teams have space available. Funds from Love oFfering are supporting this.
- OC Ministries Gala: Sat. Oct 13 at Walker Art Center. There will be invitations to come. Judith Banya from Sierra Leone will be the speaker. All are welcome.
- Mission Summit update: we will meet after this. The Summit will be Sept. 29th at Oakwood UMC New Ulm.
- School/Church partnership grants: Jill and Beth had 15 applications. They would like to re-do the application process. We still have applications who simply want donations, rather than seed monies for relationship building. Beth and Jill have made recommendations for ones we would support, some programs will be awarded a smaller amount. Some programs were awarded larger amounts. (see attached) Of the \$5000 budget, about \$2500 is left. They will contact the ‘give-away’ category churches to see if they would like to-re-apply. Our goal is to move from transactional relationships to transformational relationships. Jill and Beth will work on it. They will send info to Lyndy and Karen to get checks out.
- Love Offering update ( Puerto Rico trip scholarships?) ~\$93,000. \$51000 has been sent to PR Scholarships already. Lyndy will have checks sent to Freedom Schools and NUMAS Haus programs shortly.
  - We have also had a request from Volunteer Lawyers Network (to be a Love Offering recipient) to help them in their work, especially with immigration communities.
  - We may want to continue support PR mission trips.
  - Laos projects.
  - Somehow to connect Health/children as part of the LO.
    - Possible connection with children and immigration and effects of separation.
  - We will all try to bring ideas to our next meeting.
- Filling MPT open positions ( North Star & Southern Prairie reps are still open)
  - Some have ideas of people to ask. They will ask and see.
- Budget status
  - Small Church VIM has \$5000 and wasn’t used last year. Lyndy is suggesting that is the line item to move to VIM.
  - Global Health monies are spent.
  - Minnesota Disaster Relief coordinator is now Gary-----
  - Other monies are being spent.
  - Budget process for 2020 will happen this fall. Lyndy will lobby for additional funds.

- Lyndy reported that Messiah UMC in Plymouth wants to go into the community on MLK Day to assemble health kits. Organize hubs? The point would be to get out into the community and be visible. We have a little extra monies to help with this. Lyndy would help to drive the kits. Cindy Ed, and Ruth will help Lyndy plan this.
- Ruth questioned who our focus is on-- and how do we get the local churches to know about what it is we do. HOw do we get the local church to be passionate about missions. How can we start providing mission education? THis is an important idea that we need to keep in mind. Mission Summits are one step. We need to contact people who are the first time VIM folks. We also need to also get Lyndy's emails out. Other possible ideas are to create a monthly suggestions for mission activities. The next step if we can find the information, how would we target those churches to learn more about missions; develop people to go out and talk to churches about mission. Also develop groups who would target specific ideas and topics (mission education). We came up with some ideas that Lyndy can communicate with the Cabinet.
- Wesley Foundations have a fundraising person on staff. There are more people who are competing for funds, Mary Gates reported.
- Future meeting dates:
  - Sat. **December 15 2018** at 10 am. Ruth's home in Faribault 10-3pm. **(note date change)**
  - Thur. March 21 at 9.30 am at the church center.

We closed with prayer.

Submitted by,  
Karen Thompson