

Present: Lyndy Zabel, Jill Michael, Ed Holland, Beth Holland, Oat Toschak, Gail Chalbi, Cindy Staufferer, Gary Bochman, Karen Thompson, Kevin Schill, Lori McBride.

We opened with prayer.

Karen reported that the minutes from our last meeting, May 30 2020 are missing. She will continue to look for them and will send them to the team when located.

VIM Scholarships funds are currently not being distributed. There are funds for Puerto Rico and Haiti which will remain until used.

School-Church Partnerships are on hold as conference funds are frozen until next year. There are budgeted funds for 2021.

Laos Partnership: D. Yang is utilizing Love Offering funds and making great progress in his ministry. Israel Paine is the new area director. B. Barte continues to work in Laos. A new video is coming about UM Ministry in Laos which will be available for churches. Lyndy is the contact for the video. Laos team members are also available for presentations to local churches.

Viet Nam: Kendra Miles Smith is the new chair of the team. (Karen will invite her to MPT). Jonathan Park is the new country director. Terah Park, (his wife) is working with children and women in Viet Nam as the previous missionary has retired.

Health ministries: Ed reported that much of their work has continued, but is all online. He will send information about an online series "Dementia and the Church" which he highly recommends. There are 2 live sessions left, and previous sessions have been recorded and are available. He will send the info to the team. Faith Community Nurses was working on developing their phone and Zoom skills to continue to support people.

Disaster Response: Gary reported they had a Zoom refresher training for about 15 people. Recently, he worked with Lyndy and Cindy Gregorson to publish guidelines for single day teams. They are reviewing if they will deploy teams to Iowa. He's been in contact with the Iowa disaster coordinator to see what help they need. There are still communities there without power. UMCOR Training is on hold as they determine if virtual training is effective. The UMCOR director is retiring and it's not clear who the replacement will be.

Lyndy reported that churches are wanting to collect supplies and kits. MMDC is ready to send supplies on request (to Iowa and other places). At this time, while others are working in Iowa, it doesn't seem there are UM teams there. Gary said that the Iowa Conference's site lists items they are looking for. Gary will coordinate with MN Conference to get info on MN Conference website.

As we have postponed the Mission Summit for this fall, we discussed if we want to have a collection of kits and supplies, as we did in June. That collection was 11,000 pounds of materials. We decided to have a pick up October 24-25. Lyndy is willing to drive, coordinate with drop off locations and with MMDC. The tem will call churches to let them know. Karen will get and send the list and talking points. Karen will, with Lyndy's help, contact the district administrative assistants to get info about the collection on district Facebook pages, the Conference Facebook page and website. Lyndy will let Karen know when he has locations set. Coon Rapids UMC is willing to be a pickup site.

Beth asked about the Metro area response to recent problems and UMC response. Kevin reported they have about \$24,000 available from a UMCOR grant and the Bishop's appeal. He is working with the churches in the impacted areas. Kevin believes that there will be some long term housing issues. They are planning to have a listening session to understand how best we as the Church can respond to housing issues and food distribution in these communities. Food pantry use has increased; not simply because of the damages to stores; mostly as a result of increased poverty and job losses. Kevin is helping to coordinate efforts within the connection. For example, donations are coming from the Big Sky Conference.

Lyndy reported that teams are thinking about scheduling trips to Puerto Rico. They have guidelines (smaller teams, physical distance ect.) On August 27 at 6 pm there is an online meeting for team leaders. Kevin will be attending and Lyndy is happy to share the meeting info.

The Sager Brown trip for January has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for January 2022.

The Family/Multi-generation Mission trip had about 70 people interested, and has been postponed until August 2021.

Kevin reported there is outdoor work going on at Emma's Place and may be an opportunity for the work in the fall. He will share information as it becomes available.

Gail reported that Church and Society is planning a virtual summit about Racism. Kevin and Cindy will connect with her about bringing other teams, (CORR, CONAM ect) as part of the summit.

Lori's contacts in Haiti say no teams are currently visiting and life continues under difficulty. Pat's contacts in Evon continue to have medical and dental clinics. They are supporting and offering micro-grants. She doesn't believe they have had any COVID cases in their area, but are wearing and distributing masks.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday December 5 2020 at 9 am via Zoom.

We shared prayer requests and closed with prayer.

Submitted by Karen Thompson.