

Global Missions Committee Minutes * First Lutheran Church – Fargo, ND January 11, 2018

Present: Tom Espel, Greg Erickson, Brad Keller, Marianna Malm, Ann Williams, Russ Wastweet, Missy Froeber and Pastor Laurie Neill

Meeting called to order by Tom Espel, Chair.

The mission statement and vision statement were recited.

Tom Espel opened with the devotional “Optimist Prayer” and read from Jesus Calling for 1-10-2018.

Russ Wastweet presented the financial report. Marianna Malm motioned to approve the finances. Brad Keller seconded. Motion passed.

The December minutes were reviewed. Marianna Malm motioned to approve. Brad Keller seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

1. TeachHaiti – Kathy Nelson and Sheila Welle presented on TeachHaiti which was started by Miquette Denie who was “adopted” by a family in Detroit Lakes and went to school at Oak Grove and Concordia. Teach Haiti has two schools; one in Port au Prince and one in St. Michel. They were started to bring children out of poverty through education as Miquette was. They run pre-K through 8th grade. The TeachHaiti organization is asking for \$10,000/year sponsors which covers the costs for 25-30 students/year in books & supplies, a daily hot meal, weekly chapel & Bible studies, 2 complete uniforms (including shoes), the salary of two teachers and medical supplies if needed. Or \$5,300 which buys 450 student uniforms each year. Or \$5,000 for multi-purpose chairs and Bibles for their new school in St. Michel. The initial request was for \$6,000. Russ Wastweet will call Kathy and speak to her about options for other organizations to team up with such as the Gideon’s for Bibles as well as what amount they are requesting. Global Missions is interested in this organization, but will table the request for the time being.
 - a. Missy sent the Committee the video of Miquette’s Commencement speech at Concordia to show how faith based she is and therefore the schools are.
2. Bihar, India update - Pastor Laurie spoke about what is entailed in the Bihar mission. First Lutheran has made a verbal agreement to provide Lutheran World Relief with \$33,000/year for three years for Bihar. This is our second year. A request was made for \$7500 as well as a request to the Foundation for \$7500. The congregation will be challenged to match the remaining \$15,000. Again discussion centered around the fact that it is difficult to raise the matching funds from the congregation and that the Committee does not feel a connection to Bihar. The Committee tasked Pastor Laurie with creating a plan to raise the remaining \$15,000-\$18,000 (because of the short fall last year) fully funded through the congregation. The Committee will wait until hearing from Pastor Laurie at the February meeting.
 - a. Pastor Laurie will send the powerpoint and other information on Bihar to the Committee.

3. Ordinary Hero update – was tabled as no decision has been made on a missions trip as of yet. It will be kept on the agenda until more information is forthcoming.

New Business:

1. Casa Gabriel – Brad Keller spoke on Casa Gabriel. They have a new house couple who will be a strong influence on the success of the school. However, they are \$9300 short in their fundraising and Brad requested \$3500 out of the Lee funds to help make this up. Marianna Malm motioned to approve the use of \$3500 from the Lee funds for Casa Gabriel operating costs. Russ Wastweet seconded. Motion passed.

Council Report – Marianna Malm reported that an All Task Force meeting update was scheduled for noon today.

Other Business:

The Committee will meet in February and further fundraising ideas will be discussed then. Prayer requests for Bill and Sharron Ahlfeldt and Eric Burgraaf. Devotions for the next meeting will be by Marianna Malm or Brad Keller. Pastor Laurie prayed us out.

The next meeting will be February 8th at 7:00 am in the Luther Room.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by

Missy Froeber

Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

GMC