

## **First Lutheran Church – Fargo, ND**

### **Global Missions Committee Minutes**

**September 14, 2017**

**Present:** Christine Bachmeier, ~~Corey Bjertness~~, Greg Erickson, ~~Kalah Erickson~~, Tom Espel, Brock Franke, Missy Froeber, Rollie Johnson, Brad Keller, Marianna Malm, ~~Donata Neller~~, Russ Westweet, Larry Wild, ~~Ann Williams~~

**Guests:** Becky Anderson

Meeting called to order by Chair, Tom Espel.

The mission statement and vision statement were recited.

Larry Wild lead the devotion from Romans 5: 3-5 which is referenced in a news article which he keeps. The article features Stephanie Tollefson. In it, she shares her thoughts on how it is in our suffering that we find our strength.

The August minutes were reviewed and Marianna made a motion to approve. Brad seconded and the motion passed.

Russ Westweet presented the financial report. A motion to approve the finances was made by Larry and seconded by Brad. The motion passed.

**Samaritan's Purse Shoebox (Operation Christmas Child) – Becky Anderson** – Becky discussed her passion for this project and the children it serves. In more than 40 countries where Samaritan's Purse Shoebox operates, children are in need of even the simplest items. These simple items, however can help to enable the children to attend schools, play outside, or just sleep more comfortably.

Some useful items that Becky suggested include the following.

- Notebooks and pencils – enables learning
- Bowls and spoons – needed for many feeding programs
- Socks – especially for comfort at night
- Brush and/or mirror – many children and even adults haven't seen themselves
- Tarps – multiple uses including shade or protection from the ground in wet seasons
- Flashlights (mechanically powered) – very few lights in villages
- Washcloths – so they don't have to share with several others
- Hand tools – practical uses
- T-shirts – some children need to share clothes just to leave their hut
- Toothbrush – however toothpaste can cause issues at Customs

Becky also expressed that items for boys are especially needed since historically, there has been lack of boy-specific items to share.

Becky requested \$3,000 to cover the costs of items which she and Kalah shop for with frugal tenacity. The items purchased will be packed by the confirmation students this year. Brad moved that \$3,000 from the Lee fund should be granted to the project and Rollie seconded. The motion passed. (The funding for this project runs through FLC.)

**Friends of Accion – Rollie Johnson** – Rollie presented a request for \$10,000 to fully support five students at Accion’s VIM for one year. VIM (Mayan Children’s Village) provides room and board for children of Mayan villages in Yucatan to attend school outside of their villages. Rollie presented a video detailing Accion’s programs and shared the story of Rollie Andres Dzib Caamal, his namesake, who happens to participate in the Accion program. Rollie is also working on getting Oscar Dorantes Jr. to Fargo before the next mission trip to Mexico. Oscar runs Accion Ministries’ Work Teams operations which Rollie has worked with since 2006 to arrange short term mission trips.

Given the lack of immediately available funds in any one fund source, Brad offered a solution and Marianna motioned for \$8,800 from Lee fund, \$1,000 from Scheel fund, and \$200 from Good Samaritan fund, assuming Pastor Corey approves the latter. Larry seconded and the motion passed with Rollie abstaining due to his relationship with the organization. Attending members still provided quorum without Rollie’s vote.

**Lee Family Meeting** – October 7<sup>th</sup> is confirmed as the date. The gathering will be in the Luther room at 9:00 a.m.

**Slovakia** – Marianna reported that the group in Slovakia would very much like us back next year. She is considering whether they have enough support to return that soon.

**Signature Resolution** – To resolve the issue of a signer for checks Brad proposed that Daniel Damico be added as the signer while Christie Schilling and Dave Rogness are removed. Marianna seconded and the motion passed.

**Committee Officers** – As Larry Wild’s term is finished at the end of this fiscal year, a new Vice Chair is needed and Brad volunteered. The committee reconfirmed that the officers for 2018 will be as follows.

- Tom Espel - Chair
- Brad Keller – Vice Chair
- Russ Wastweet - Treasurer
- Greg Erickson - Secretary

**ELCA** – The ELCA office has offered to send representatives from their Global Missions to present to our committee. It was discussed that it could be more beneficial to present to the congregation.

**Council Report** – Marianna reported that the first signature would be signed soon to begin the building project. On the project, Terry Yoney will represent the church at large, Dave Rogness will represent the Council, and Daniel Damico will represent the staff.

**Next Meeting Devotions** – Tom Espel

**Prayer Requests** – For Donatta Nellerhoe, who fell and broke her femur. She will be recovering at Rosewood for about a month. For Brad Williams, who has recurring back issues and for Ann as caregiver. For Pastor Corey and his travelling companions as well as for Pastor Marty with his group as they travel to Germany together to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.