Global Missions Committee Minutes & First Lutheran Church, Fargo  
January 10, 2018

Present: Tom Espell, Russ Wastweet, Brock Franke, Ann Williams, Marianna Malm, Brad Keller, Rollie Johnson, Pastor Corey Bjertness and Missy Froeber

Meeting called to order by Tom Espell, chair.

The mission and vision statements were recited.

Ann Williams read from Power of Praying through the Bible, “Let Time with god Take the Place of Worrying” based off of Luke 12:25

Ruyss Wastweet moved to approve the minutes from December. Marianna Malm seconded. Motion approved.

Russ Wastweet presented the financial report. We have approximately $2100 in the Good Samaritan fund and approximately $10,000 in the Lee fund, but this money is in reserve for the Ordinary Hero mission trip to Ethiopia. No other funds are available at this time. Russ spoke with Terri at First International and arranged for disbursements of the Lee fund to be in March and September moving forward. This year we will get a $30,000 disbursement in January instead of March and the second disbursement in September. Rollie suggested going to different sources within the congregation to boost the funds since the Scheel fund is depleted. Rollie and Pastor Corey will discuss outside of the Global Missions meeting. Tom Espell is willing to help solicit funds. Brock motioned to approve the financials. Marianna Malm seconded. Financials approved.

Old Business:

1. Amistad Wells – It was proposed that we give the money for wells on Giving Hearts Day to maximize on the matching function of Dakota Medical Foundation. Giving Hearts Day is Feb. 14th which is the day of the next Global Missions meeting. Tom Espel motioned to request Pastor Corey that $1,000 of the Good Samaritan fund be used for Amistad Wells. Pastor Corey agreed. Marianna Malm and Brad Keller seconded the motion. Motion to write a check dated Feb. 14th for $1,000 to be sent to Amistad wells was approved. Russ Wastweet will make sure this gets done. Rollie Johnson will see if Tracy can visit the Global Missions group in March.
2. China Services Ventures – Request for Board member is still in the works. We will need to move on this soon, but no action was taken at this time.
3. Giving Guidelines update – Brad Keller will scan our current guidelines and those of Woodbury Lutheran Church and send to committee members for comparison. Next meeting will include whether we want to make additions or changes to our guidelines. Discussion followed on covering travel costs which in the past has not been part of a Global Missions grant. It was felt that fundraising helped many people in the congregation be a part of the mission. The question
was raised about missionaries who travel here? We have covered some of those costs in the past. Tom Espel proposed that we take a look at language that would help cover travel, but have some limitations. Discussion on this topic will continue at our next meeting.

New Business:

1. **El Refugio** – A 20th Anniversary invite for the week of June 28th through the 1st was given to the Global Mission committee. Discussion was held on how to honor our partnership with them and help them celebrate 20 years. A suggestion was made to email all the previous mission groups who attended El Refugio. Brad and Sindy Keller will probably attend. Pastor Corey and Beverly expressed an interest in going. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

2. **Friends of Accion** – Oscar Jr. and Rohar will be here February 2nd and 3rd. Rollie Johnson will take them to FMSC on Saturday. They will speak on Sunday with a short video. Rollie will plan a brunch in the Adult Ed room on Sunday at 12:15 so that the Global Missions committee can meet them. Missy will send an email invite to the committee.

Other Business:

1. Top Espell suggested that Missy use some of the missionary stories for her “Fun Facts”.

2. Pastor Corey reported that the building project is projected to be back on schedule by the end of January barring inclement weather. The fulfillment is going very well, but the General Fund giving is now seeing that hit and we are behind for December. Pastor Corey is working to mitigate the shortage so that we do not need to lay off staff. Wendi, our receptionist, has given her notice as she wants to spend her time with her daughter. We are sponsoring 5 seminarians with two more in the wings. Katie Kringstad has just been accepted into the MDIVx fastrack program. Pastor Dave’s wife, Kim, is also going into this program. Matthew Engum, Alex Ohman and Meggie Bjertness are in Seminary at Luther and Erik Carlson and Shelly Erickson are discerning.

The next meeting will be February 14 at 7:00 am in the Luther Room.
(An email will go out soon to see if we have a quorum as many people will be gone.)

Brad Keller will do devotions
Meeting adjourned with a prayer from Pastor Corey

Respectfully submitted by
**Missy Froeber**