

Minutes
Mission Council
January 27, 2014

Kelly Junk opened us in prayer and introduced the new members.

Larry Voight gave an overview introduction to the Council, and asked the group to consider the path to missions throughout their weeks.

Minutes from October 2013 Approved

Finance Report: Approved.

December- Contributions - \$47,652.00 Disbursements – (\$15,772.11)

December was a great month. We are tracking to be on budget.

Standing Committee Reports

Screening and Appropriation recommendations were started by an introduction from Kelly on our Faith Promise Missionaries. January renewals were as follows, presented by Elissa Johnson:

1. Issam and Joumana Naser

The Nasers are continuing working in both Syria and Lebanon. Their work with refugees has increased. They note that their brother has accepted Christ after 17 years of the family praying for him. Issam is uniquely qualified as a Syrian to be able to go between countries and minister. Most people do not have the opportunity to do so. They ask for prayers for safety from terrorist harm as well as disease carried by the refugees.

Recommendation: \$5,000 in annual support plus \$500 missionary care. **Approved.**

2. Mathews and Rachel Chacko

The Chackos are sponsored by New Covenant, and the Tranbergs represent them here in the US. Rachel is having complications from the repair to her arm after her fall. Church planting has been their focus of late. They are working on 7 new churches in Malabar, and still involved in the television ministry. The money we send is used for the Academy and for some of their travel. Larry mentioned spending time in their home in 2002, and that people lined up in front of the Chackos door early in the morning to receive counsel from Mathews.

Recommendation: \$5,000 in annual support + \$500 in Missionary Care. **Approved.**

3. Vergheese and Hildegard Chandy

Larry visited the Chandys in 2002 to see a Bible college as well as for tsunami relief. The Chandys have recently celebrated the 13th anniversary of the ministry. The congregation has grown to 200. An area of growth they are working on is the sharing of responsibility. They request prayer for strength in the face of persecution, as they have recently felt a spiritual wall

against his efforts. They have also faced some challenges with funding, and Larry notes that his family is likely suffering due to that.

Recommendation: \$5,000 in annual support (Lump Sum) + \$500 in Missionary Care. **Approved.**

4. Bob and Teri Pennison

The Pennisons were recently in Clara's House, and are now on their way back to Spain. They have had several health challenges over the year, which have made an impact on their plans. The length of their stay will be determined by their insurance availability. They mention they've found that this experience has greatly increased their faith and reliance on God. They are hoping to go on the prayer trip to Tunisia and be involved in the visioning process there. They've also been glad to find that the groups that they started before they left have been continuing and doing well in their absence.

Recommendation: \$5,000 in annual support + \$500 missionary care. **Approved.**

5. Jack and Polly Wilson

The Wilsons are focusing on guarding their time well. The language barrier for them has been a challenge, as well as breaking through Islamic fear. They mention that support has waned a bit, and they are feeling the stresses of living in a tough environment. The internship program has been growing slowly, and they are beginning to partner more formally with other organizations. Their goals for this year include 24 Discovery Bible studies, with four becoming churches, as well as a language center. They ask for prayer specifically for a good friend for their daughter, as well as a continuation of a healthy marriage.

Recommendation: \$5,000 in annual support + \$500 in Missionary Care. **Approved.**

Other S & A Recommendations Presented by Kelly Junk

1. Andrew and Rebecca Loveall

The Lovealls were Faith Promise missionaries connected with FUMC for 12 years. They recently came back for support and counseling. They have since separated and are filing for divorce. They are both coming off of the field, as recommended by the LACES board. The board has arranged for a 3 month severance, and has asked us if we would consider supporting through that time. Three months is what we typically provide in this situation as well. Guatemala is our Near-Field Focus, and we would like to stay connected with the organization and its mission. The board is looking for a new director, and our future partnerships are still being determined. 30 FUMC members are sponsoring students' educations at Escuela Integrada.

Recommended: Support for January, February, and March. **Approved.**

2. Josh and Lexi Norell

The Norells are a new application, and are a young couple that are planning to go on the field in Switzerland at a YWAM base. They will be on staff at a Discipleship Training School, and working with young people who have expressed interested in a life of mission. They are expecting a baby in June, and have thought through community support with other young families while they are there. Lexi (nee Taylor) has grown up at FUMC, and she and Josh have

worked with the youth significantly. Brad Burkhalter mentioned that he has worked with both of them and been very impressed with their maturity. In this case, we would provide missionary care on the level of a sending church, as their home church. They have committed for two years. Recommended: \$5,000 in annual support + \$500 missionary care. **Approved.**

3. Robyn Coney

Robyn is a junior at OSU who is traveling to India this summer for seven weeks. She is a member of a sorority and acts as a witness there. She will be a member of the Student Mobilization India Summer Team. They will be meeting with young people in an urban area and praying with them. She is active in her church in Stillwater, and attended FUMC before moving there. Her parents are members of One Accord. The total cost is \$6000. She comes highly recommended, and there are funds available in Member Support.

Recommendation: \$2,000 from Member Support. **Approved.**

4. North Africa VIM - April 4-14, 2014- Team of 10

\$5750 from VIM Uncommitted:

Scholarship \$3500, Misc. Cash/Materials/\$1000, Team Leader \$1250. **Approved**

Focus Area Reports:

Local- Shelli Pleasant shared about the work that has been taking place at Eugene Field and with the Local Focus at Epworth and in West Tulsa.

Near Field- Miles Peterson shared that the Near Field team is in transition and walking out where to go from here. The school is still up and running, and we'd still like to be involved in the work there.

Far Field- Elizabeth Hughes shared about their interactions with the Wilsons. There is a Vim team going in April and a college team going in May. They've had snocones on the bridge to represent Marty's work there. Carrie Potter has orchestrated a prayer initiative for the Wilsons called NA31, and their team is praying for them every day of the month. They've also had more interaction with the international student community at TU, and will begin sponsoring lunches there once a month.

Far Field Recommendations

1. The Far Field would like to recommend for support Terry Ligon and his wife Mary with ICO. Terry can help the team to interact with the students in our own area, opening doors that we wouldn't have access to otherwise. He will be a good connection and resource in teaching us how to communicate with international students. This would be funded through the Far Field budget, would not be considered Faith Promise Missionaries, but a one-time gift with an option to revisit. One item mentioned was a possibility of partnering couples with students. Recommendation: \$5,000. **Approved.**
2. The Far Field would like to recommend scholarship of Bob and Teri Pennison to join with the April North Africa trip. They would like for the Pennisons to be a part of the prayer and visioning movement happening there. Trip Cost is \$2500 each Recommendation \$1500 total scholarship. **Approved.**

Larry spoke about how the things that we've been touched by tonight should continue to resonate in our hearts, and we should pray for them as we come back to them through the week.

VIM- Nancy Falling mentioned the following upcoming trips:

1. Honduras, led by Betty Hembree
2. North Africa, led by Eve O'Kelley
3. Guatemala, June Family Trip
4. Ghana, led by Terry White

WOW- Kelly spoke about World Outreach Week, which is approaching April 27- May 4. The theme this year will be "Dive-In". We will need help in many areas, so please let us know where you would like to be plugged in.

We closed with prayer for the Missionaries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elissa Johnson

ADDENDUM TO JANUARY 27 MINUTES

The following email was sent on March 24, 2014

Dear Mission Council:

The "Near Field Team" met on Tuesday, March 11. At that meeting, Kevin King, a member of First United Methodist, the mission council, and the Board of Directors for Escuela Integrada reported on his recent trip to Antigua, Guatemala. In spite of the Lovealls absence, the school is functioning well. The school has 175 students and 20 staff. The ministry's debt has been reduced to \$25,000. The ministry is currently being run by an interim director, Paula Boland. The Board of Directors is currently searching for a new director.

Following Kevin's report, we had a time for questions. One question was, "What, in your opinion, are the most urgent needs at Escuela Integrada". Most urgent needs are funding, feeding program for the children, three months past due rent on school building, and a new director.

Accordingly, the team unanimously voted to request \$6000.00 for back rent on the school building. **If approved, this will allow the building permit request to go forward so that our June VIM team will have the opportunity to construct a kitchen at the school for the feeding program.**

Thanks for your consideration of this request.

Miles Peterson

(On behalf of the Near Field Team)

This would be funded through the Near Field Appropriation. Please reply with a yes or no vote or any questions. Thank you.

Yes Votes Received: 17

No Votes Received: 0

No Response/Abstained: 7

The motion carries.