Cuba Partnership Team

Meeting Minutes May 16, 2023

Attendees: Mary Hoffman, Carol Ivey, Paul Jones, Ken Lasseter, Fran Morrisey, Martha Newhart, Randy Simpson, Pat Zinn

Opened with Prayer by Paul Jones at 12:08 p.m.

**Motion** to record the meeting - **M/S/P**

**Motion** to approve minutes of last meeting - **M/S/P**

Finance Report - Pat Zinn

**Motion** to send $1,000.00 from budget to support Caribbean Regional Liaisons - **M/S/P**

**Motion** to send $150.00 from budget to CPN for CFP partnership dues - **M/S/P**

Fund Raising for Transportation and Lay Leadership Training

We will plan a fund-raising campaign to start in late Aug-early Sept and highlight it at Sept. Presbytery Meeting. We’ll follow up with add’l info after Sept. Business Meeting.

Report on the March 2023 trip

Comments on the welcome received, but also on the major change in conditions; definitely saw impact of food shortages, medicine shortages; Cubans partners very grateful for the medicines we brought. Heard many reports of mental illness - anxiety, loneliness, depression - resulting both from COVID and the emigration situation.

Report on other Church to Church relationships

Winter Park is trying to reestablish connection with Santa Clara, but is not getting any response to their emails. Randy will reach out to Reile and encourage him to connect with them because they want to continue the relationship.

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Report on May 2 and 15 Virtual Meetings with El Centro Partners

We are trying to hold more regular meetings at the presbytery level with El Centro and the four US presbyteries in relationship - Central Florida, Baltimore, Southern Kansas, Mission (TX).

At May 2 meeting, Jesús raised the idea of a shipping container just for El Centro. We explored the idea with CPN Steering Committee and learned that General Council for Synod had already approached the CPN Steering Committee about another container at the Synod level. Total cost in 2021 was about $30K-$40K. Now it would come from Colombia and cost about $50K. Unrealistic for just our four presbyteries, esp. when CFP just sent $15K in bus parts in March.

After further discussion at the May 15 meeting, El Centro would like us to focus on financial support for the shipping container to the Synod as our first priority. (Synod sends the same amount of food from the shipment to each church, regardless of size. Therefore El Centro benefits greatly, more than some of the larger churches in Havana and Matanzas.) At the same time, there *are* other means of sending food by ordering online but they are expensive. We need to decide whether to take some funds from our Lemosy and Partnership funds to support this. We can also send email notice from CPN (expected to come out w/in 2 weeks) to our distribution lists.

Another item from the meeting last night: El Centro wants to send pastors and families away for a retreat, but doesn’t have the money to do so now. They are planning a day in Santa Clara. We asked them to give us the cost for an overnight, and we might be able to support that.

**Motion** to authorize $2,500 from Lemosy Fund to support CPN shipping container - **M/S/P**

**Motion** to approval up to $1000 from Partnership Fund to help with retreat for pastors’ families - **M/S/P**

Note: These funds are now authorized, but won’t be disbursed until later. Pat or Ken will notify Nancy when it is time to do so.

Plans for September Business Meeting with El Centro and U.S. partners

El Centro requests a maximum of 3 people per US presbytery. Pat and Randy are planning to go as representatives of CFP.

Report to Presbytery for June 6 meeting

Ken will make the report; he’ll cover the March trip, plans for the shipping container, the upcoming business meeting, and maybe the late summer campaign for Transportation and Lay Leadership Training.

Next trip

Randy will contact Baltimore about the dates for their planned 2024 Encuentro, then we can try to nail down a date. Our 2024 trip will be similar to 2023, i.e. spend time at the churches, meet with Council if possible, but no Encuentro.

Next meeting date - Tuesday Aug. 8, 2023 at noon

Adjourned at 1:33 p.m. with prayer by Ken Lasseter