

MISSIONS Agenda – September 2021  
7:00 PM - Zoom Mtg

Attending- Pastor Elizabeth Frey, Mary Ellen Hettinger, Karen Wright, Janet Kissinger, Carol Crowe, Patty Wilson, & Mary Haar. Joyce Roy & Janis Martinez was excused for this evening.

Pastor Liz Frey opened the meeting at 7:11 with a prayer.

Janet Kissinger moved to approve the minutes of the July 21 meeting. Karen Wright seconded, and the motion carried.

**Advisor Report – Pastor Liz Frey -**

**Facilitator Report – Mary Ellen Hettinger –**

Our team needs more members, and current members are encouraged to recruit for better involvement. If something interests a member of the congregation, encourage them to get involved. Keep the communication open to parishioners.

**Missions Guatemala/Tree 4 Hope -Janis Matinez was excused for the evening.**

Janis Martinez sent the following report:

Mission Team 9/29/21 Tree 4 Hope/Hope Academy update.

I was able to zoom with Jennifer today, and here are some of the latest highlights:

- The classes for this school year will finish on Oct. 11 for Hope Academy. The year has been almost totally virtual. The week after classes finish will be used for evaluations--the teachers will be meeting with the students (individually or 2 at a time) in person to evaluate their progress.
- Currently students 12 + are eligible to receive the vaccine and 7 students have done so. Barring any new Covid snafus, they will begin next school year (January) in person, along with others in their age group who receive the vaccine between now and then.
- In terms of the guidelines in Guatemala, students ages 5-12 will be able to receive the vaccine, but the challenge there lies in availability.
- Currently, Jenn is expecting there to be 54 girls starting the new year, with the youngest students remaining remote until comprehensive vaccination occurs. To make the curricular experience of the students more consistent, regardless of whether they are in person or virtual, Hope Academy is looking to equip each girl with an Apple iPad (older students) or Apple iPad mini (younger students). New or used is fine. If you know anyone who has one they don't need or who would like to donate one, please let me know. I would like to put this need out to

the whole congregation, but I know that can be tricky. Your thoughts are most welcome.

- Ongoing need: there are some new students who will need sponsors.
- From Jenn: Hugs to all of you, we love you and miss you. Many thanks for your support and ongoing interest.

The newsletter from Tree4Hope was sent to the Mission Team members via email. Things are looking promising, but there is still a lot of need to help. Mary Haar recommended Janis Martinez reach out to Staples to see if they could assist with getting refurbished computers for Tree 4 Hope. Janet Kissinger also recommended Best Buy.

**Missions Publicity** – Mary Ellen Hettinger thanked Joyce Roy for all of the publicity that was done for the Bread weekend the first weekend in August. Information will be given to Joyce Roy in due time for the Giving Tree this holiday season.

**Sewing Ministry-** Carol Crowe sent her report via email to the team.

**Funds for quilt shipping:** Costs to mail quilts is \$27.00.

Pastor Liz Frey mentioned it will be \$700 to mail the care packages that were created. Some of the money will be taken from Faith Formation. Mary Ellen Hettinger would like the Missions portion of the payment to be taken from the general budget for Missions. From line 67120 \$352 will be taken for the mailing from the Missions budget. Faith Formation will pay the balance.

**Missions Finance- Benevolence funds-plans:** A discussion was held about the Missions Expense Report that Mary Ellen Hettinger had sent noting what amounts will be needed to increased to the 2020 amounts. This will put back the 10% that was deducted from the budget in 2021. Karen Wright moved for \$3,010 to be taken from the Missions Designated Fund to make the line items reflect the 2020 budget amounts. Patty Wilson seconded, and the motion carried. Mary Ellen will send the information to Paul Hensel about taking the funding from our designated fund to get the 2020 amounts.

**YAGM update:** This program has been put on hold again for 2021. They are hoping the program can begin again in 2022 for 2022-2023. We hope to be able to support a specific person beginning in August 2022.

**Missionary/Mission Partner report** -Mary Ellen Hettinger reported the Dietrichs' missionary position will be ending this year. They are currently in Berlin, Germany. Mary Ellen them well, and offered help for future endeavors.

**World Hunger/Bread Sale** - This took place the first weekend in August. Mary Ellen thanked everyone who helped. It was a terrific success. The total raised for World Hunger was \$1,750.

**New Business:**

**ELCA Afghan Humanitarian effort:** Mary Ellen Hettinger read an email she received from the ELCA seeking donations for resettling the Afghans throughout the United States. Karen Wright moved for \$1,000 to be sent the ELCA for the Afghan Humanitarian Effort from our non-designated fund account for benevolence. Patty Wilson seconded, and the motion carried. Mary Ellen will contact Paul Hensel informing him of the decision.

**Giving Tree:** The donations will be sent to the United Seminary students at Gettysburg; Tree 4 Hope; Rocky Boy. Mary Ellen will meet with Mitzi Jones, Social Ministry Facilitator to get the Giving Tree ministry organized.

**2022 Budget:**

Mary Ellen Hettinger informed the Team of the guidance provided by the Finance Committee for time to be taken for reflections. She mentioned that she would like to see Tree 4 Hope & Hope Academy be added to our continual missions' effort. A discussion was held. This will be discussed in depth at the October 20 meeting.

**Other business/Comments for the Good of the Order**

Next meeting Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 7 pm at church.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer was at 8:30 PM.

Submitted respectfully,  
Mary E. Haar, Team Secretary