

MISSION COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2011

Committee members present on Conference call were Moderator Ken Siroky, George Goodrich, Joan Cunningham, Lanny Rounds and Bev Harbaugh.

Meeting started with discussion of areas of mission in our Presbytery.

- ✚ Presbytery wide Ski Retreat at White Sulphur Springs.
- ✚ Engage—Program designed to help Presbyterians “reach the community for Christ”
- ✚ Cluster meetings
- ✚ Lock in for Jr. Hi girls in Jordan
- ✚ Joan asked about any information on Denise England, missionary serving in Cairo. Hysham Church is sponsoring her but has not heard anything concerning her during the recent unrest there.

CALL TO ORDER--Ken called the meeting to order at 10AM. Bev agreed to take minutes. We studied Scriptures Matthew 28:19, 5:6, 4:4, 25:40, Psalm 145:15, and John 11:35. Then discussed personal stories pertaining to these. George opened with prayer. Minutes of last meeting were approved as sent. MMSC

ZIMBABWE PROJECT- St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Billings has been hosting this project. They would like to have a “Presbytery wide party” to complete it once the container has been sent in to be loaded. George brought us up to date on the status of this. Discussed this being a “financial share” on the cost of the party. This should be a Presbytery cost, not just St. Andrews. Much discussion finally came down to the fact that we need to know more about the “Party plans/completion days” then we can decide if it can come from program budget. We can ask this of council to help out. It was suggested that Paul Nishonwe and his wife (now living in Denver, after having to flee from Zimbabwe) might be contacted to come speak to us and share in our celebration of the ZMP. By acclamation we agreed to try to have him come for this.

2 other churches are considering taking on this project for the next round. We discussed ideas for encouraging more participation from outlying churches with one idea of possibly a “Pony Express” type program. Ken will look into getting an enclosed trailer that could travel from church to church gathering items. There is possibly money in our program budget to cover this cost.

RESERVATIONS MISSIONS-The Poplar Church is working on a youth mission program for Native American youth. About 1/3 of the Poplar church is Native American. We discussed the balanced approach and talking more with them to find out how we can help rather than just trying to give them solutions. Several spoke of experiences where it was proven we need to do this...”listen and not just give.” There are 7 reservations in Montana. We talked about partnering with Dakota Presbytery in this project. The question was raised concerning 2 Presbyterian Churches side by side in Poplar area. One is Yellowstone Presbytery and the other is Dakota Presbytery. The one in Dakota Presbytery uses the Lakota language in their services and is primarily Native American. It was suggested that we all put on our prayer lists for God to open up the possibilities for communication of this mission between God, the Mission Committee, the Presbyterian

Churches and the Native American people we want to help. George has been in contact with Jim Nesbitt and will update him on our discussions. George and Bev will work more on this. George will be returning to Poplar in April.

MSU-BILLINGS STUDENTS MISISON PROJECT—Kim Woeste-has requested \$500 total (to be taken from possibly 5 different mission funds) to buy supplies to make and distribute PB&J's (soup kitchen) to the homeless in Billings. Discussion followed. Question was asked if this was in cooperation with any other groups doing this type of mission. It appeared that it is. George is to forward a copy of the request from Kim to be included in these minutes. Lanny MM to explore funds and assuming "the way be clear" to approve this request. Joan 2nd MC

LOCAL MISSION PRIOR TO PRESBYTERY MEETINGS—It's been discussed in the past to have Presbytery wide participation by members attending Presbytery meetings to help with a mission project in the home city where meeting is being hosted. Brent and St. Andrews are coming up with a mission project in the Billings area for the Monday morning prior to convening of Presbytery on February 28. Participants will meet at the church and go to Family Services to help. More details will be sent out as received.

MISSION CONTACT PERSON—Lucy Ennis is to contact all churches to get a listing for Mission Contact person from each church. She was not available to report on her progress. Discussed starting out with 3 churches to build on Mission contact person to keep rest of Presbytery apprised on local mission to include 1) what's happening; 2) what's being dreamed of and 3) What can Presbytery do to help.

It was discussed to include on the Yellowstone Presbytery website an opportunity for each church to have a webpage where they can keep the rest of Presbytery updated on what is happening. In this way churches could share their ideas of how they are doing local mission, for example...Jordan...Lock-in. Hopefully, this could strengthen mission work between churches. This might work best if we have one person in the Presbytery who would contact the mission person and do an interview, thereby gathering all ideas and not missing out on ones that locals "take for granted because they've done them so long". Ken and Lanny will pursue this project.

WNLТ—George spoke on the WNLТ scheduled for Jackson Hole, WY on October 5-7, 2011. They have a good balance of speakers lined up. Mission committee gives \$2000 towards this program to include program help and scholarships. Attendance has been dropping thereby causing uncertainty of the future of this program. People who attend usually come from the Synod of the Rockies and Idaho. No action was needed on this report.

ENGAGE PROGRAM---Briefly talked about this with more information to come at Presbytery meeting.

NEXT MEETING—We discussed how to do meetings in the future. Conference calls are OK. Talked about Skype but agreed it was not the best way for several to be on the call. We also agreed that we need to meet "face to face" at least once a year. All mission members who are attending the next Presbytery meeting should try to have lunch together to get acquainted. No date was set for the next regular Mission Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT—Lanny closed with prayer.

