

Minutes  
Local Missions Committee  
March 19, 2008

In attendance: Priscilla Goodwin (chair), Cathy Smyles (vice-chair), Louise Anderson, Kathy Barsness, Jon Butterbaugh, Margie Carpenter, Rita Grazda, Peggy Thompson, Alison Watson, Eric Weiss, Sheila Weiss

Priscilla opened the meeting with prayer and then the February minutes were approved. Kathy Barsness and Rita Grazda, new members to the committee, were enthusiastically welcomed and introductions made all around.

**Rebuilding Together Alexandria:** This event is next month, April 26. Info on RTA was up for the Palm Sunday breakfast on the local missions bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Priscilla will schedule a meeting for volunteers after the 11am service on April 13 and will publicize this in the bulletins. Eric will contact groups such as Men of the Church and see if they're interested. Need to also get volunteers for lunch.

**Report from Intreat concerning Local Missions:** Sheila reported that the Envisioning Task Force and Karen Blomberg conducted the officer intreat on March 8. Elders, deacons and staff were divided into small groups and asked to review a list of 70 or so questions, then select 3 that best captured issues that Westminster should focus on in the next year. Each group chose at least one mission question. Cathy added that the consensus of the officers is that local missions could focus our programs and create a program or theme that will help tell our story and encourage more members to become involved in mission.

**Staff Member for Local Missions:** Priscilla announced that Larry told her that we would be getting a new staff person, to be announced at the session meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Evaluating our programs:** In order to really strategize for the future the local missions committee needs to evaluate its current programs. The committee reviewed the draft of the evaluation form. Each liaison is responsible for evaluating his or her program.

**Motion to replace easel for local missions signups:** Priscilla brought to the committee a request from Ruth Carlson that the women preparing the Carpenter's Shelter dinner really need the easel back in the education lobby. They are currently using a clipboard on a small table by the door but many people don't see it. The committee agreed unanimously and also added a request to the motion to replace the ALIVE food basket in the hallway as many people do not go down to the Fellowship Hall and our food collection is dropping. Motion is at end of minutes.

**ALIVE grant:** Margie Carpenter, our liaison with ALIVE and board member of ALIVE, requested assistance with raising money for the ALIVE food bank. ALIVE has been offered a \$1 million challenge grant to provide funds to purchase fresh vegetables and meat. They must raise as much as they can by the end of April and have asked each of the 36 churches to help. This motion is also at the end of the minutes.

**Fundraiser:** Nancy Hall Berens and the Congregational Life committee have offered to host a fundraiser for local mission on Saturday, September 27. Nancy has asked her friend Dave Werner to donate his services for another political comedy show and he has agreed. The dinner will be potluck. The committee was thrilled and thought that the date is fine. We will decide later what the money is to be used for.

**SOME budget issue:** Our spending for SOME is running over budget, due to the higher costs for food, especially eggs (which we use a lot of). We need to decide what to do about this as soon as we have finished evaluating our programs.

**Bag Lunch:** Peggy Thompson gave an excellent report on how the Bag Lunch program at Meade Memorial Church operates.

**Announcements/New Business:** Rita Grazda told the committee about the Carpenter's Shelter cookoff at the Birchmere on April 27<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to come. She plans to sell tickets in Fellowship Hall after church on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Closing Prayer** was given by Priscilla and the meeting adjourned at 9:15.

FROM LOCAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

FOR SESSION MEETING

3/26/08

Motion: To restore easels for Local Missions signups such as Carpenter's Shelter and Rebuilding Together Alexandria and an additional ALIVE food collection point in education wing lobby.

Motion: To place box to collect money in education wing lobby until April 27. This money is to help ALIVE match a \$1 million challenge grant to benefit the ALIVE food bank, allowing the purchase of fresh vegetables and meat. Westminster is one of the 36 congregations that support ALIVE and all of the congregations are raising money for this challenge grant.