

Westminster Presbyterian Church

National and International Missions Committee

Purpose

Promote national and international missions

- Plan, organize and promote national and international mission trips
 - Keep the congregation informed of national and international activities
 - Supervise the disposition of funds for mission activities provided by the Session
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Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2008

The meeting was held in Westminster Room with Karen Blomberg, Linc Cummings, Tom Geiger, Henri Rush, and Art Sauer in attendance. It was opened with a prayer at 7:32 PM. Minutes of the May 13, 2008 meeting were approved.

Henri Rush updated the Committee on the improving, yet unstable, situation in Kenya. He reported that Rev. Chege, the United Orphanage & Academy Director, has accosted and his car substantially destroyed in the uprising. Some of the funds recently sent to him was authorized to be used to provide needed transportation. Henri also reported that our missionary in Zambia, Rev. and Mrs. Ted Wright will be in our area this summer. Henri will organize a time for us to visit with them on or about September 26.

The new Westminster 2008 Mission Work Camp Opportunities flyer was approved for display in the church entrance ways and distribution in the pews on June 15.

Only four people have signed up for our Spirit Lake and one for Reynosa trips. Since it takes at least six participants to make a trip marginally viable, both trips had to be canceled.

With the retirement of the Faith Ministries founder, there was some concern over the procedures being used by his successor. Tom Geiger, who was going to lead our trip, volunteered to go to Reynosa with OPMH, represent WPC, perform due diligence on the Faith Ministries-Mexico operation, and recommend what involvement we should plan there in the future. The Ministry had scheduled our participation. The NIM Committee voted to allocate \$2,000 to Faith Ministry for construction, a check for which Tom will deliver.

Karen Blomberg introduced the concept of soliciting donations for future mission trips to help motivate greater participation. When the funding for at least six participants is pledged, the formal trip go-ahead would be announced and funds to substantially pay for additional participants would then be raised. Without the funding of at least six participants, the trip would be canceled.

The idea was unanimously supported. Linc Cummings was authorized to solicit Administration & Finance Committee support and Session approval to solicit donations from the congregation to help fund participation in WPC national and/or international missions trips.

The committee then approved the holding mission strategizing sessions this summer to revamp our approach and stimulate new interest in 2009 missions programs, carefully assessing the destinations, schedule and timing of each. The participants will be Karen, Paul, Linc, and selected young adults, parents and youth to assure we recognize and meet each group's needs and desires.

There will be no regular NIM Committee meetings during the summer. The next meeting will be on September 17 and continue on the 3rd Wednesday of each month thereafter, beginning at 7:00 PM with the Local Mission Committee to help coordinate all mission activities. The Local and NIM committees will separate at 7:30 PM to address their own agendas.

The meeting ended with enthusiasm, optimism, and a prayer at 9:14 PM