

Outreach Meeting, October 11, 2021, Minutes

Present: Donna Hess, Renee LaCombe, Georgeanne Hoover, Terri Silver, Megan Snyder, Martha Williams

Donna opened the meeting at 7:03 pm with a prayer. The minutes from the September meeting were approved. However, in writing these minutes, I discovered an error...the funds left for end of year distribution as of the September meeting should have read \$3,350 instead of \$4,850.

BUDGET

After polling us online in September, Donna submitted a budget request for next year of \$13,120, a 10-15% increase over 2021. Since then, however, some urgent needs have arisen and Donna has asked Sue if we can increase that request. In addition, Pastor Amy is working with Sue Otterson to move some things that have traditionally been in our budget to different committees...NAACP support and Kent Interfaith Alliance support to Social Justice. Also, the donation of \$100 to Kent Environmental Council that we approved last month, will not come from our budget, but rather from the Green Team, and in the future, KEC donations will come from Green Team.

COUNCIL REPORT

Council has decided to pause the change to a new governance structure, with no set date to restart. The committee will continue to meet but no changes will be proposed in the near future.

Pastor Kim will be going to part-time effective Jan. 1, 2022. She will still be in charge of youth faith formation...Confirmation and Middle School.

Heather is no longer working for us as Financial Secretary. Leah is assuming some of the Financial Secretary responsibilities. This change in her duties is probationary through the end of the year, and if everything works out, she will move to full time covering the responsibilities of both Financial Secretary and Administrative Assistant.

Covid Protocol Changes...singing by the congregation is now allowed, and church groups can now meet in the church building by reservation, if the group needs to meet in person for some reason. Only two spaces are permitted for groups to meet...Fellowship Hall and the chapel kitchen, and they must be reserved in advance. Regular committee meetings are still expected to occur via Zoom.

SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANT

Social Justice is no longer applying for a grant for a Middle School youth summer program, as was reported at the September meeting (a program which we expected would require our help). Instead, they will be applying for a grant to help cover the costs of renovations and equipment needed to establish the NAACP office in our building.

TAKE-OUT DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR KING-KENNEDY GYM

We're still considering a take-out meal fundraiser in conjunction with Social Justice, but given all that we have on our plates between now and the end of the year, it probably won't be until sometime next year. First Christian offers their monthly Spaghetti Dinner as take-out, and Donna will check with them about what they do, how much they bring in, etc.

AFGHAN REFUGEE HELP

There was much discussion about how to help Afghan Refugees.

Donna had shared with us via email a list of items being collected for Afghan Refugees in Cleveland by a group affiliated with Catholic Charities. Amy had asked that we consider working through UCC charities.

The info that Amy had sent didn't indicate that northeast Ohio is a primary destination for refugees, but Amy (and possibly Donna) is attending a webinar this week about the issue. Megan reported that she attended a neighborhood meeting with a representative from the International Institutes that suggested our area could receive anywhere between 200 and 500 refugees.

The committee decided to put the bigger question of how our church might respond to the question of helping Afghan refugees on hold until we have more information. We look forward to hearing any information from the webinar. (however...see Fair Trade Baskets below.)

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

To date, the NIN collection is \$2,183. This is the largest amount we've received for a 5 for 5 offering this year.

SAFER FUTURES HOPE IN A HANDBAG SPONSORSHIP

Our sponsorship tier gives us 6 "seats" at the virtual event. Terri will attend and she will see if anyone else is interested is going.

We have received donations of quite a few very nice bags. This week, Donna will deliver what we have so far. We will continue to collect bags next Sunday (Megan).

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

We decided to designate this year's Christmas Offering to The Haven, in the hopes that we can help them open before the winter weather hits. Donna will put something in the November 1 Messenger.

BOB CLARK TURKEY DRIVE

We'll plan on the collection being November 7, with an announcement from the pulpit on Oct. 31. We'll ask David to do the announcement from the pulpit. In addition, Donna will put something about it in the November 1 Messenger.

FAIR TRADE BASKETS

We'll sell Fair Trade Baskets again this year. They were a real hit when we sold them two years ago. Terri will take the lead. She'll make a list of things we'll need to gather (e.g. cellophane, ribbons, mugs, etc.) and bring the list to our next meeting. We authorized her to spend \$500-\$750 (max \$750) to order/buy Fair Trade products for the baskets.

We will assemble the baskets on Saturday, December 4 (Donna will reserve a space in the church for us to do this), and we will sell them before/after the service on December 5th, and also the 12th if needed.

We'll price them to make a small profit, and all proceeds (profits plus our initial investment of \$500-\$750) will go to Afghan Refugees.

Donna will mention the fundraiser in her Messenger article.

HABITAT FUNDRAISER

Habitat's Gala Fundraiser is Saturday, Nov. 13 at NEOMED. We will pay for a sponsorship at the \$500 level.

Our sponsorship will allow us some seats. Terri & Jim and Linnea & Pat will go, and probably also the Hannifords.

ROOTED, A NEW CHARITY IN KENT

This new charity was started by the project manager of the Apostles Build. After some discussion, we decided not to give them any money at this point. We will keep an eye on them.

COUNTY CLOTHING CENTER

We received a request for a donation from the County Clothing Center. We approved sending them \$500.

GIVING TREE

In the past we've had a Christmas Giving Tree where we have collected hats and mittens for Coleman. This year, we'd like to support The Haven. They will probably have lots of needs as they open (we expect they'll need things like sheets, towels, perhaps kitchen and bathroom items). We'll ask them for a list and use our Christmas Giving Tree to collect these needed items.

TONIGHT'S MONETARY DONATIONS...

As noted above, tonight we approved giving \$500 to the Habitat Gala Fundraiser, \$500 to the County Clothing Center, and spending \$500 for the Fair Trade baskets, for a total of \$1,500. In addition, we agreed by email poll a few weeks ago to give \$50 to the NAACP scholarship fund. So our total spending approved this month totals \$1,550. Adding back in the \$100 for KEC that ended up not coming from our budget, this leaves \$1,900 for our end of year distribution (a bit less if the Fair Trade baskets cost more than \$500).

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be November 8 at 7 pm, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Williams