

Outreach Meeting, November 8, 2021, Minutes

Present: Amy Gopp, Donna Hess, Georgeanne Hoover, Renee LaCombe, David Owen, Linnea Ray, Jeff Roeger, Terri Silver, Megan Snyder, Martha Williams

Donna opened the meeting at 6:03 pm with a prayer and thanked everyone for agreeing to the earlier time tonight. The minutes from the October meeting were approved. Amy informed us that contrary to what the minutes say, our Safer Futures fundraiser sponsorship did not, in fact, give us 6 seats at the virtual event. One had to register in order to get the link to go. As it turns out, not having understood this, no one on the committee attended.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Donna reported that our total collection for Neighbors In Need came to \$2,250. She has instructed Sally to send the check.

FAIR TRADE BASKETS

Terri reported that she has ordered Fair Trade items for the baskets and is expecting delivery soon. The total amount she has spent will come to between \$500 and \$550 (depending on whether things are in stock). The baskets will be themed...themes being Baking, Italian, Snack/family, Jalepeno, and Breakfast. We'll do about 20 baskets. Later this month, after the items have been delivered, Terri will email us and let us know what we need to collect to complete the baskets.

Donna has already spoken with Popped! for some popcorn, and Linnea will speak to Bent Tree for coffee/mugs.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall at noon on Saturday, Dec. 4 to assemble the baskets. We will sell them before/after church on Dec. 5 (and Dec. 12 if there are any left).

All proceeds will go to Afghan Refugees.

AFGHAN REFUGEES

Betsy Wooster is the Living Water Association contact person for Afghan Refugees and will be coordinating efforts by all churches in the association. We need to think about what our church can commit. Everyone on the committee is asked to read materials that Donna will send us in the coming weeks and think about things we think our church can do. We'll discuss our thoughts when we assemble baskets on December 4. Donna will take our ideas to the December Council meeting.

Amy noted that the need is both immediate (as they are starting to arrive now) and long term, as they get settled and make their lives here.

Our committee should designate one person to be the contact person for this issue. No one volunteered at the meeting.

GIVING TREE FOR HAVEN

Anne Marie Noble gave Donna a list of things The Haven would like to receive from our Giving Tree. Their biggest need is pajamas, in all sizes, along with things like gloves, socks, and toiletries. Georgeanne will make up the cards to put on the tree. We'll request that items be given by January 2. Linnea and Pat will put the tree up, it will be up for the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28.

PUBLICITY FOR FAIR TRADE BASKETS AND GIVING TREE

Donna will write something about our Fair Trade Baskets and the Giving Tree to be included in the Weekly Update beginning on Nov. 19 and continuing through the Christmas season. In addition, she'll put something in the Advent edition of the Messenger.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

We've received a request from the Children's Advocacy Center (which helps victims of child sexual abuse and human trafficking), as they have suffered a significant loss of funding. No one could remember ever giving to them in the past. They asked for a financial donation or for items from their wish list. Amy questioned their need, as she believes they are a part of UH Portage. We need to look into this more.

VETERANS OF THE CROSS

Collection will be on Dec. 19

Megan will do the request from the pulpit on December 5.

NEW MEMBERS FOR OUR COMMITTEE...IDEAS?

Megan asked that we think about who might be a good fit for our committee, and give names to either Megan or Jen Case.

REMAKING THE CHURCH

At the last Council meeting, Amy expressed many thoughts and questions about re-making/re-envisioning the church going forward after Covid and wants feedback from church members and committees. Some thoughts about the issues included trying to re-connect with one another via small group gatherings in peoples' homes, trying to find ways for those who don't attend church in person to participate in outreach efforts such as our Christmas Giving Tree, and acknowledgement of Amy's concerns about personal privacy in the age of "church on youtube".

MONETARY DONATIONS

As decided before, our Christmas Eve offering will go to The Haven.

Bob Clark Turkey Fund money is still coming in. (**Note...on Wednesday, 11/10, Donna emailed us that the total collection was \$840 and that she delivered the check. David noted that more funds might still come in.)

We didn't authorize any new donations at this meeting, but Donna encouraged us to think about where we want our remaining funds to go. To date, Miller House, Root House and the Akron-Canton Food Bank are the only places that we generally give to that we haven't given to yet this year. Amy encouraged us to remember our Global Mission partners and Church World Service. We have about \$1,900 to give.

Next Meeting:

In December, we'll meet while we assemble Fair Trade Baskets, in Fellowship Hall, Dec. 4, noon til 4:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Williams