

World Missions Committee Meeting

2/3/2022

2/4/2022

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February 3, 2022

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The World Missions Committee met on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 9:00 AM PST in Rancho Mirage, CA. Those present were Paul Handsaker, Wanda Jacobson, Steve Deysher, Earl Korhonen, Kent Sperry, Dave Nelson, Craig Johnson, & Bill Sheldon.

Craig called the meeting to order.

Steve Deysher gave devotions based on Psalm 46. We all have times of trial. But having an eternal focus lifts us from despair. He then opened our time in prayer.

Craig invited us into an extended time of prayer, in which we all participated.

Craig went on to invite us to use a relaxed policy of Robert's Rules of Order for our meetings, and presented to us ideas of what this means. Steve made a similar presentation, giving some thoughts regarding how to do so. He then called for unanimous consent regarding this policy. There were no objections, so this proposal was adopted.

Adoption of Agenda

Earl suggested expanding the time for a video call with the Uganda missionaries on the agenda.

Under administration, Craig would like to bring suggestions from Home Missions regarding how we might work together.

Steve would like to add discussion regarding the Blue Book, and some of the policies contained in it. Craig suggested doing so before our discussion of Visions and Goals.

202201 MSC DN/BS to adopt the agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes

202202 MSC SD/PH to approve the minutes as corrected.

Director's Report

Earl presented his recent, as well as his upcoming, activities and plans.

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Budget

We looked at the budget for 2023 that is to be presented to the Budget Analysis Committee.

Steve initiated a discussion of the ten percent administration fee, taken from the missionaries. He proposed making the fee variable, and against the practice of saving the money for future needs, or for returning some of the excess funds to the missionaries at the end of the year. Several committee members spoke to the fact that we do not consistently run in the black from year to year and that having this money protects our ministries in the lean years. Looking at the numbers from past years, it was agreed that the fee is not excessive nor are our savings.

202203 SD/PH the WMC, at the first meeting of each year, will review the excess funds, if any, received from the administration fee assessed from personal support of the prior year to determine if we're able to return a portion to our missionaries' personal support.

202204 MSC DN/KS to approve our budget for 2023, totaling \$471,000 for World Missions and \$775,000 for Personal Support.

Procedures Manual

It is under review by the lawyers and will be ready by spring.

Madi Greven

We met with Madi by video. She informed us about her new position with AFLC World Missions and what it has become. Paul closed our time with her in prayer.

Vision & Goals

Administration

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- **Conduct risk assessments on the next visit to each field.**
- **Set up a global visit with the missionaries by video.**

THREE-YEAR GOALS

- **Encourage every missionary and WMC members to read the book *Global Church Planting*.**
- **Investigate how to handle cross-cultural ministry opportunities in the U.S.**

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

- **Provide ongoing training for those called to church planting in their cultural context.**

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Brazil

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- To see the pastors of the AILLB compensated appropriately.
- Encourage a greater understanding of what is meant by the freedom of local Congregations.
- Encourage the AILLB to become a world mission sending body by supporting the work of Augusto Fiuri in Switzerland, as well as Matthew and Ednay Abel in Paraguay by prayer.
- Continue to work on unity with the missionaries and president visiting the Congregations.
- Encourage SETELL to continue working under the school board as set up in their documents.
- Pray that the Lord will raise up assistants to come alongside the staff and national workers at the Miriam Infant Home.

THREE-YEAR GOALS

- Encourage the AILLB to continue in the establishment of a mission department, Home and World.
- Encourage every congregation to prayerfully consider starting a daughter congregation.
- Encourage a connection between the local churches and the Miriam Infant Home.
- Prepare for the potential retirement of three missionaries.

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

- See missionaries partner with Brazilians in church planting.

Paraguay

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- See a membership class and a core group established.

THREE-YEAR GOALS

- Identifying leaders that can be disciplined.

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

- Have an established congregation in Paraguay.
- Have leaders in place to assume the ministry of the church.
- Encourage AILLB to send a missionary family to come alongside Matthew & Ednay Abel in Paraguay.
- Identify the location of a second church plant.

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Europe

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- The El Shaddai congregation should continue to be encouraged to begin the work of establishing a French-speaking sister congregation.

THREE-YEAR GOALS

- Pursue a Journey Missions trip to Switzerland in an effort to identify future missionary candidates.
- Pursue a tent-making pastor to Switzerland.

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

- Have a missionary or a missionary team in place.

India

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- Continue to encourage the AFLC-India to teach the pastors Luther's Small Catechism and the value of using it in their congregations.
- Continue to encourage the AFLC-I to pursue unreached people groups.
- Continue the work of Ambassador Institute in India.
- Continue promoting the sponsorship of the Horeb Home children.
- Find additional supporters for Bibles and literature.

THREE-YEAR GOALS

- Have all current pastors complete AI.
- Support Luther in providing training classes for the pastors.

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

- Have all AI materials translated into Telugu.
- Send pastors to teach two-week classes for pastors and church leaders.

Journey Missions

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- Missionary Assistant Program (MAP)
- Continue expanding the MAP program to give people an opportunity to serve internationally for extended periods of time.
- Continue to refine the training curriculum to prepare people for the country in which they are going to minister.
- Continued partnership with the schools.

Mission Trips

- Continue to develop volunteer trip leaders as needed.
- Continue to make short-term trips feasible for people within our congregations by having intergenerational trips and one student mission trip per year and by investigating the possibility of trips to other (non-AFLC) fields.

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THREE-YEAR GOALS

- **Coordinating Journey Missions trips to Puerto Rico.**
- **Have Jon visiting congregations four times/year.**
- **Investigate the possibility of a trip to France/Switzerland.**

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

- **Utilize Journey Missions to train pastors/teachers to minister in a cross-cultural setting.**

Mexico

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- **Pray for unity among the Central Mexican Lutheran Church.**
- **Encourage Milton Flores Sr. and the Central Mexican Lutheran Church to continue to reach out and start congregations in Queretaro, Irapuato, and other places.**
- **Pray for the open hearts of the Mexican people.**

THREE-YEAR GOALS

- **Pray for national leadership for the Jerez congregation.**

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

- **Pray for and pursue another missionary for Mexico.**

Tanzania

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- **Continue to encourage Andrew and Alexis in their new role with LBT.**

THREE-YEAR GOALS

- **Investigate Tanzania as a potential AFLC mission field.**

Uganda

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- **Continue to place a priority on starting Free and Living Lutheran congregations.**
- **Brent to take prayer walks through the central market in Gulu.**
- **Raans continue relationship building with the people of Gulu.**
- **Raans to continue language training in Gulu.**
- **Utilize Ambassador Institute as a tool to plant congregations in Uganda.**
- **Establish another congregation in Nabukosi.**
- **Michael to encourage Pastor Alex in Zonal AI leadership.**
- **Renewal of AI as an NGO.**
- **Drill wells in AI locations.**
- **Encourage the Paicho group.**

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THREE-YEAR GOALS

- **Brent to start a weekly time of Bible study and prayer with a group of young men.**
- **Have someone to come alongside the Raans in Gulu.**
- **Turn leadership of AI completely over to nationals.**
- **Micro-loans to sustain agricultural projects.**

FIVE-YEAR GOALS

- **Have an established congregation in Gulu.**
- **Have an established congregation in Paicho.**
- **Continue to build up the congregations in Nabukosi.**
- **Have an association of congregations that voluntarily work together for such things as training and evangelism.**

Ambassador Institute

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- **Using AI as a tool to plant free and living Lutheran congregations.**
- **Having AI run completely by nationals in both Uganda.**

MONGOLIA

ONE-YEAR GOALS

- **Establish consistent guest lecturers for the Bible School**

These goals are adopted by the WMC by unanimous consent.

We resumed our meeting on Friday, February 4th at 9:00 am PST.

Bill led devotions based on Revelation 7, starting in verse 9. He shared how the human race is one, and how peoples from all nation receive God's salvation and will be present in the Kingdom of God.

Uganda

We met with the Uganda missionaries by video call. We started by simply catching up with each of them in terms of family/personal life and also ministry. We shared with them the visions and goals for Uganda discussed prior, and invited their input. Nate reported on efforts to renew the NGO in Uganda. Although it's become more complicated, he feels like it's in a good place.

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Zack Ritland

We met, by video, with Zack, who worked with the Paul Abels down in Brazil. He greatly enjoyed his experience there. He shared also about his upcoming plans. We discussed with him about a second experience, a longer one, to feel out a potential call to missions. Jon Nelson closed our time in prayer.

Journey Missions

John has five trips scheduled for 2022. The first is a trip to Nogales, partnering with the church in Pipestone. A trip to Oaxaca is scheduled during FLBC spring break, April 10th-18th. Other upcoming trips are Brazil, Puerto Rico, and Israel.

He continues to work with the schools, particularly with SMF. He continues to teach at the schools.

He also updated us on those taking part in MAP. Craig closed our time in prayer.

Administration

We received an additional \$22,000 from the Bacon estate.

Personal support is doing well.

Earl and Steve have been working on the risk assessments for each field.

The photographic equipment has been purchased and is ready for use by Madi.

Paraguay

Land has been purchased for a church as well as for a home for the Abels. They have been conducting worship and meeting with individuals but, at this point, have no church leaders.

Switzerland

Earl hopes to visit when he goes to India later in the year.

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Brazil

Jonathan is looking for help to fix John and Ruby's former home. He estimates it will cost \$20,000.

202205 MSC KS/PH to use the recent money gained from the Bacon Trust, totaling \$22,008.48, to transfer ownership of the nine properties owned by the mission in Brazil to the AILLB, estimated at \$20,000.

202206 MSC PH/SD to approve travel expenses for this meeting.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 15th at Annual Conference at the mission house at the ARC.

202207 MSC SD/PH to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kent Sperry
Secretary