12/3/2021

# December 3, 2021

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The World Missions Committee met on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 8:00 AM CST in the World Missions office at AFLC headquarters. Those present were Paul Handsaker, Wanda Jacobson, Steve Deysher, Earl Korhonen, Ken Sletten, Kent Sperry, & Craig Johnson.

Craig led devotions from Ephesians 4:1-6 & Philippians 2:1-11. Humility and peace are connected. Pride causes conflict, and it is hard to have conflict with one who is humble.

## Agenda

Andrew Olson is available to join us at 2:30. We would add him to the agenda.

Steve would like to read a letter of apology to the committee.

Steve would like to share with the committee his analysis of the budget.

- 202141. MSC Ken Sletten/PH to approve the agenda as amended.
- 202142. MSC PH/Kent Sperry to approve the October 4, 2021 minutes as amended.

Steve read a letter of apology and requested that it be added to our minutes. This led to a discussion of our use of an administration fee, taken from the missionaries. He would like to see this fee lowered and is questioning the legality of this fee.

202143. MSC SD/PH to no longer send minutes of the WMC meetings to employees.

Discussion was had of whether minutes of the WMC meetings should be sent to the corporation. We decided to seek the input of the corporation.

Earl shared with the committee his director's report.

## Administration

It was reported that World Missions received a gift from the estate of Darrell A. Bacon (Janesville, WI) in the amount of \$160,171.54. As we have not yet decided how to use this money, we looked at putting money into a CIF to earn some interest in the meantime.

202144. MSC SD/Ken Sletten to invest the total amount of the estate gift into a 90-day CD, and discuss its use at our February meeting.

Personal support for our missionaries is in a good place. None of our missionaries are in the negative at this time.

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The kitchen work in the mission house is complete with new appliances and quartz countertops. The last remaining need for the project is \$656 and for a new (matching) refrigerator.

Risk assessments for the missionaries with specific plans and thresholds for action will soon be complete. We took time to discuss the Jores situation, in particular, and the emotional struggle of their recent break-ins. Earl will recommend to them that, as they are due for furlough, they take a lengthier time in the US to address them.

We discussed the purchase of equipment for promotions, as we would like to get Madi to the mission fields. This would provide her the ability to make updated promotional videos of the fields.

202145. MSC SD/Kent Sperry to allow Madi to purchase equipment with a limit of \$5000 for photographic equipment.

We looked at the numbers and set the budget for 2022.

- 202146. MSC SD/PH to authorize Wanda to spend up to \$5000 to purchase needed office equipment.
- 202147. MSC SD/PH to approve the 2022 budget as corrected.

# **Journey Missions**

Jon updated us on the January 2022 trip to Brazil that was canceled, as well as on upcoming trips to Nogales, Oaxaca, Brazil, Puerto Rico, and Israel.

He also updated us on his work with FLBC, particularly the Student Mission Fellowship and the Cross-Cultural Ministries Class.

He filled us in on his seminary studies and, finally, on the Missionary Assistants.

Ken Sletten ended our time with Jon in prayer.

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### **Andrew Olson**

Andrew has been having medical check-ups since his return from Tanzania. His spleen seems to be part of the issue, allowing for infection. They are also experiencing some questions, when it comes to LBT, especially as it involves vaccine mandates and theological drift. For this reason, he would like more of his funding to come through the AFLC.

Craig closed our time with Andrew in prayer.

### **Administration:**

#### 202148. MSC PH/Ken Sletten:

Whereas, ministers who own or rent their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and

Whereas, Pastor Earl Korhonen is compensated by AFLC World Missions exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, AFLC World Missions does not provide Pastor Earl Korhonen with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that for Pastor Earl Korhonen for calendar year 2022, \$50,000 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further resolved, that the designation of \$50,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

#### 202149. MSC PH/Ken Sletten:

Whereas, Pastor Paul Abel is compensated by AFLC World Missions exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, AFLC World Missions does not provide Pastor Paul Abel with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that for Pastor Paul Abel for calendar year 2022, \$5,250 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further resolved, that the designation of \$5,250 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

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#### 202150. MSC PH/Ken Sletten:

Whereas, ministers who own or rent their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and

Whereas, Pastor Jonathan Abel is compensated by AFLC World Missions exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, AFLC World Missions does not provide Pastor Jonathan Abel with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that for Pastor Jonathan Abel for calendar year 2022, \$12,000 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further resolved, that the designation of \$12,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

#### 202151. MSC PH/Ken Sletten:

Whereas, ministers who own or rent their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and

Whereas, Pastor Matthew Abel is compensated by AFLC World Missions exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, AFLC World Missions does not provide Pastor Matthew Abel with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that for Pastor Matthew Abel for calendar year 2022, \$6,600 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further resolved, that the designation of \$6,600 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

#### 202152. MSC PH/Ken Sletten:

Whereas, ministers who own or rent their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and

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Whereas, Pastor Nate Jore is compensated by AFLC World Missions exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, AFLC World Missions does not provide Pastor Nate Jore with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that for Pastor Nate Jore for calendar year 2022 \$12,000 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further resolved, that the designation of \$12,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

#### 202153. MSC PH/Ken Sletten:

Whereas, ministers who own or rent their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and

Whereas, Pastor John Lee is compensated by AFLC World Missions exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, AFLC World Missions does not provide Pastor John Lee with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that for Pastor John Lee for calendar year 2022, \$4,620 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further resolved, that the designation of \$4,620 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

#### 202154. MSC PH/Ken Sletten:

Whereas, ministers who own or rent their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and

Whereas, Pastor Brent Raan is compensated by AFLC World Missions exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, AFLC World Missions does not provide Pastor Brent Raan with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

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Resolved, that for Pastor Brent Raan for calendar year 2022 \$5,250 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further resolved, that the designation of \$5,250 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

#### 202155. MSC PH/Ken Sletten:

Whereas, ministers who own or rent their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and

Whereas, Pastor Todd Schierkolk is compensated by AFLC World Missions exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, AFLC World Missions does not provide Pastor Todd Schierkolk with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that for Pastor Todd Schierkolk for calendar year 2022 \$5,250 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further resolved, that the designation of \$5,250 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

- 202156. MSC SD/Ken Sletten to give employees of AFLC World Missions a \$500 Christmas bonus.
- 202157. MSC SD/PH to give a 6% across the board raise for employees of AFLC World Missions.
- 202158. MSC SD/PH to approve the presented copy of the Employee Handbook and to have the office manager distribute it next week to all employees and WMC members.

# Uganda

Brent had asked if the counseling classes that he and Emily desire to take could be reimbursed from their personal support. We feel that this is appropriate.

He also asked if we have any guidance regarding the Covid vaccine. We have no plans to address this.

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#### Brazil

We received a request from Jonathan Abel regarding assistance for the Brazilian pastors. While we want the pastors to be adequately supported, we also do not want to create dependency upon AFLC World Missions.

202159. MSC Ken Sletten/PH to give the AILLB \$20,000 to assist in providing salaries for their pastors for one year, and that accounting of the funds be provided to the WMC by the AILLB on a monthly basis, with funding coming from legacies.

He also requested funds for an elevator for the Vitoria church in the amount of \$15,000.

202160. MSC SD/Kent Sperry to create a special project for the elevator for the Vitoria church in the amount of \$15,000.

## **Miscellaneous**

202161. MSC PH/SD to approve travel expenses.

Our next meeting is February 3-4, 2022 in Palm Springs, CA.

202162. MSC Kent Sperry/PH to adjourn.

Steve ended our time with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kent Sperry Secretary To the World Missions Committee, Office Manager and Director of World Missions,

There has been misunderstanding about the questions I raise and the information I request in regards to my concerns for the care of the employees and volunteers working for the World Missions Department of the Missions Corporation.

I made a straightforward email request from our office manager for financial information to help us understand how to administer our administration fee. While it is legal to apply an administration fee against the designated specific financial donations given to missionaries in order to generate more revenue to pay for expenses not covered by undesignated financial gifts, a financial analysis must be done to ensure that we are not taking more money than necessary from our missionary's accounts. If we are taking more money than necessary, this is considered profit taking by a non-profit corporation and we are breaking the laws in the United States that apply against a non-profit corporation. This action is unethical and is mismanagement of funds. Why would we want to take more hard-earned money from the financial support our missionaries acquire on deputation from our AFLC congregations than necessary?

This was the reason for my request from our office manager for financial information in order to make an informed decision for the benefit and caring of our missionaries.

This was not a criticism of the work being done by our office manager. This was not questioning her work performance. This is not an attack on the World Missions Committee. It was an attempt by me to gather information to make sure we, the members of the World Missions Committee, are not taking advantage of our missionaries by taking more money than necessary from them. Our missionaries should not be forced to give us more money from their accounts if our expenses have already been paid.

My calling is to serve, care, protect and minister to the needs of all our employees and volunteers working for the World Missions Department of the Missions Corporation by performing the fiduciary and management responsibilities expected of a committee member.

I am so sorry that some of you did not understand the purpose of my words and the intent of my heart.

Respectfully presented.

Stephen Deysher