

Minutes Outreach Ministry Board Meeting September 26, 2022

Attending the meeting: Rick von Rueden, Ginny von Rueden, Paul Hare, Lynda Hare, Mike Bruce, Becky Burckmyer, Judy Conner

Not attending: Dale Carder, Missey Donohoe

Our new chairperson, Rick von Rueden, opened the meeting by welcoming our new member, Judy Conner, who is also now the Coordinator for the Lifebridge Meal Teams.

The Minutes of our last meeting were read and approved.

We welcomed our new interim pastor, Don Remick, who spoke with us by phone and was introduced to the committee members. Rick shared with him our concerns about the formula for “proportionate giving” to OCWM, which with a drop in tithe funding has greatly decreased the funds we have available to give to our organizations. Right now the amount ONC has been asked to provide is about 3/4 of what is available for our donations. We will have to work with the Leadership Board about this matter. Don also wants to schedule a meeting to bring together the committee chairs to help him set priorities with the church as he begins his interim role.

Mike presented the Treasurer’s Report. He suggested adding a line item for the Lifebridge Meal Team Reimbursements so we can track the yearly payments for that. He also said we might consider earmarking that amount as part of our Lifebridge funding.

Lynda reported on the Food Pantry for which we will be collecting financial donations in November. We usually keep some money in reserve so it’s available for shopping.

Reports were given on the current status of some of our organizations. Ginny noted that RAW Art Works in Lynn has a new Director and was able to hold their first fundraiser since COVID. Becky invited us to a breakfast sponsored by HAWC on October 6 and to which all of ONC is invited. She has four tickets which she can provide to ONC members interested in attending. Dale will submit a later report on Haven. Ginny sent the committee an email with a description and photos of the successful work of the One Pencil Project with the Tsimane in Bolivia.

Rick reported on the solicitations from Lynn organizations. The Lynn Shelter Association received \$500 from ONC as a bronze sponsor to support a new emergency Lynn Shelter. We received a request from the Lynn Family Resource Center to help provide support for a rapidly rising demand for diapers and infant formula in Lynn. We discussed posting an appeal to the congregation for donations to the Diaper Program. Lynda said she would contact her daughter and daughter-in-law who are involved in a young mothers’ group to ask for assistance. It was suggested we could ask the congregation to donate diapers as well. (In a later follow-up, Lynda reported that diapers are now already being donated through the mothers’ group.)

Lynda reported that the Welcome the Stranger program has no activity now due to the lack of affordable housing north of Boston. They will contact other organizations who might need the supply of furnishings we have stored at ONC.

Ginny reported that plans are underway for a trip to South Africa in August, 2023, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our ONC-Pholela Partnership and the first ONC trip to South Africa. Recent communication with the church leaders there reveals the situation is good after recovery from Covid difficulties and civil unrest. Families and church groups are meeting freely again, and they are eager to welcome us next summer.

We discussed our Disaster Relief fund (limited annually to \$1000) and the possibility of donating to organizations helping with recovery efforts after the hurricane damage in Puerto Rico and Florida. After more news next week, Rick will explore emergency funding options, write a notice for the church bulletin about this, and also ask for donations from the congregation.

Two future meetings are planned. One will be set up to include Don, Betsey Halbert, Stow Walker, Blair Lord, Paul , Mike and Rick to work out a resolution of the OCWM giving issues. Because Don is only available a few evenings during the week, a future zoom meeting with him and the full OMB will be scheduled later this fall.

Our next meeting to be held at Stacey Street will be Monday, October 17 at 5:30.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny von Rueden