

Missions Team Minutes
United Methodist Church of Evergreen
May 1, 2018

In Attendance: Michael Eaton, Marilyn Gildersleeve, Phil and Donna Schell, Jan Thurling, Janice Vickery, Tracy Atlas, Linda Schroeder, Pem and Dunn, Bill Graf, Nancy and Mac DeGuire

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Michael Eaton, who served as our leader.

Mountain Resource Center – Tracy Atlas reporting. The Mountain Community Veterans Rendezvous is scheduled for May 19th from 8am to 12pm at the Aspen Ridge Church. This year the spouses of Veterans are eligible for the free health screening services also.

Family Promise – Jo Ann Dunn reporting. The April rotation went well. The Schells did two jobs, dinner Friday night and as overnight hosts on Saturday. They felt that their first experience was enjoyable and a positive one. Jo Ann has new updated guidelines from Family Promise, for volunteers. She will get these to the volunteers. Our next weekend is Friday, July 6th and Saturday July 7th. At this time, no slots are filled. There is an upcoming fundraiser involving cycling. If you are interested, contact Jo Ann.

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless – Jan Thurling reporting. There is a tentative date of June 1st for the first occupants to move into the Downtown Lofts. It is expected that the Coalition will have a temporary certificate of occupancy around that time. Some clients could possibly move in after the permit is obtained. The Grand Opening date has not yet been set. Jan is grateful for the many household items donated by the congregations, to help the new residents. There is no news about the Federal Center, about building houses for the homeless at that site.

EChO – John was not in attendance. EChO continues to experience increased demand and fewer resources. It is thought that there have been staff reductions. Marilyn reported that when the food from the Giving Corner was delivered, Echo expressed an interest in having lunches consisting of salads and/or sandwiches provided for visiting clients over the summer. As previously reported, this would be Monday through Thursday. It is not clear how to sign up for this. Can individuals sign up for one day? Do they want congregations to sign up for an entire week? Is there a link where a person could sign up on line? Is there a contact at EChO that people can get in touch with if they are interested? It was decided that if someone is interested in participating, the best thing to do would be to contact EChO directly.

Budget – Michael Eaton reporting. Michael had not received the report from Jennifer yet. The church received another \$50 donation designated to “local missions”.

Because we had just heard the report on EChO and because it is very local, it was decided to donate the money to EChO.

Community Meal – Bill Graf reporting. Although Clyde initially said he would be able to take on the cooking duties for the Community Meal, Clyde then felt strongly that this should be put on hold as we have a new Pastor starting in July. He and others feel that Pastor Deb should be consulted before committing to a project of this size and get her input on the idea.

Blessing Bags – Bill Graf reporting. There are some bags made up. Some are partially made up. Sarah and Jan are working to complete the partially made up bags. Russell obtained 100 copies of the Book of John, in pamphlet form, to put in the bags. A business card sized contact and information card will be put in each bag. Children are working on coloring a craft sheet to be put in the bags. Nancy York would like to see socks included in the bags. Donna thought it would be a good idea to include toilet paper or moist wipes. It was then brought up that we should have a standardized list of what goes in the bags, as there may be an issue if everything would fit and that items should be prioritized. Everything should fit in a one-gallon bag. A sampling of what goes in a bag is: water, protein of some sort, granola bar, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, plastic poncho, comb, lip balm and sometimes mouthwash, gloves, and deodorant. Currently, people who pick up the blessing bags, to be given out to people on street corners, they are asked to pay \$3.00 for one bag or \$10.00 for four bags. However, it is an honor system and sometimes people take them and do not pay. If we add socks and wipes, this will raise the costs considerably. Also, the homeless persons who receive the bags may not have much more than a backpack, which may be already full. Donna, Jan and Phil will go to Denver with the Women's Bible Study group at the end of May, to a homeless facility and interview some of the clients there to see what they would find most useful if they were to receive a blessing bag. Donna, Phil and Jan will then create a list. There is also \$500 in the Blessing Bag fund, which is the money that is donated when people take bags to hand out. However, it's not clear if more receipts for items purchased will be turned in or who makes the decision about how that \$500 will be spent. Bill would like to see a church wide request go out, asking for members to please save unused shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc. from hotels, as they travel this summer.

Tennyson Center – Michael Eaton reporting. The Tennyson Center has greatly changed how they solicit items for the children at the residential center. They no longer want clothing but would rather people donate money or gift cards. As this does not fit the model of fundraising we had in the past (buying clothes, setting them out and people would donate the money to cover the cost of an item) and because it was felt that just asking for money wasn't going to be very successful, we have decided to change our approach with Tennyson. We will look to include Tennyson in the next Missions budget, if possible, and include it in our Alternative Christmas Giving event in December.

Mission Opportunities Information Sheet in Fellowship Hall – Nancy DeGuire reporting. After sending out the updated information sheet to the team and making changes, it was presented for approval. A few more tweaks were made. The final, approved version will be sent out with the minutes. It can be changed and updated as needed.

Missions Booklet – Jo Ann Dunn reporting. Jo Ann had a copy of a Missions booklet, which listed and explained a little more in depth about organizations that UMCE is currently involved with. It was written about 2004 and like the information sheet, is very out of date. Jo Ann would like to form a committee to rewrite this booklet. It was discussed that it should be available digitally as well as in paper form.

Next meeting – Tuesday, September 4th at 6:00pm. Bill Graf will be leading.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy DeGuire