

## VPC Mission Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 14, 2024,

**Time:** 8:45 AM

**Location:** Valley Presbyterian Church, Room 1

**Chair:** Doug Clark

**Co-Chair:** Ed Storey

**Recording Secretary:** Jan Schoeben

**Members Present:** Maureen Brealey, Kay Brouwer, Doug Clark, Lynn, Mary Horn, Kylene Joplin, Steve Larson, Pastor Craig Lindsey, Reed Olson, Jan Schoeben, Linda Walters, and Ed Storey

**Members Absent:** Judy Aguayo, Patti Bright, Jan Farrington, Deb Jones, and Lynn Conroy,

**Bible Study/Reflections:** Doug Clark

**Topic:** Law of Liberty

What laws do you live by? Laws abound in the Bible with 613 laws in the Old Testament and Jesus when asked, what the greatest law? answered with 2 laws\*. **Luke 10:27 and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He [Jesus] said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."** These are moral laws. In the Old Testament there are ceremonial laws, civil laws, and moral laws.

Ceremonial law was a part of everyday life for the ancient Israelites, a way to teach them the spiritual principles needed to keep the law. Therefore, sacrifices and washings, among many other ceremonial acts, centered on the tabernacle/temple.

Many civil laws were given to allow the proper functioning of a physical nation. These national laws and punishments can only be implemented or enforced inside of a nation under God's control. Today the ceremonial and civil laws are no longer specifically applicable because we do not have a nation ruled by God's law and because the temple and sacrificial system no longer exist.

Jesus fulfills the moral law and defines the relationship between the law of the Old Testament and the New Testament in **Matthew 5:18 Amplified Bible**). <sup>18</sup> **For I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke [of the pen] will pass from the Law until all things [which it foreshadows] are accomplished.** The amplified Bible's comment "which it foreshadows" reinforces the purpose of the Old Testament and its laws is Jesus.

Love fulfills the moral law. **Romans 13:8-10 (New International Version)** <sup>8</sup> **Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.** <sup>9</sup> **The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet,"<sup>[a]</sup> and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>10</sup> **Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.****

James adds another aspect of the New Testament law with the Law of liberty. **James 2:12(Amplified Bible)** <sup>12</sup>**Speak and act [consistently] as people who are going to be judged by the law of liberty [that moral law that frees obedient Christians from the bondage of sin].**

The law of liberty is the principle that God has given us freedom to make choices and that those choices should be based on what we know of God and His purpose for us. It is the law of grace and mercy, rather than the law of legalism and power.

The law of liberty is not an excuse to do whatever we want. **Galatians 5:13-14 (New International Version)**<sup>13</sup>**You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh<sup>[a]</sup>; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup>For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

The law of liberty is an important reminder to Christians that we are called to live according to God’s principles and not our own. We must strive to do what is right and to act in a way that honors God. Ultimately, the law of liberty is a reminder to live by faith and to trust that God will direct our paths.

QUESTION: What law guide your life?

PRAYER:

\*Jesus answered this Pharisee’s question by quoting a very important section of the Old Testament from the book of **Deuteronomy 6:4-5: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”**

He quoted the second great commandment from **Leviticus 19:18: “You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”**

**9:00 AM: Call to Order:** Doug Clark

**Prayer:** Maureen Brealey

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the March 19, 2024, meeting was approved and submitted to the Session.

#### **Financial Report:**

The March Mission Budget was presented, and the Contingency Funds were reported as \$3,539.20 in the January 1 through April 30, 2024, report.

#### **Agencies’ Proposals for Funding Report – May 2024**

- **Hands of a Friend** - Genesis House Repairs/ \$13,710 sent to Gifts and Memorials Committee - **Approved**
- **Papago United Presbyterian Church/** \$27,100 -Roof Repairs and sent to Gifts and Memorials Committee - **Approved**
- **Crossroads Nogales Mission/** \$55,000- Kitchen and Dining Room Remodel- For approval and send to Gifts and Memorials Committee - **Approved**
- **St Andrew Clinic** \$35,190- Supplies and Furniture send to Gifts and Memorials Committee – Ed Storey made the motion to accept proposal, seconded Kay Brouwer and **Approved**

- **YAVI \$1,400-** Bicycles etc.-Pending – Maureen Brealey made motion to accept proposal, seconded by Ed Storey and **Approved**
- **Compañeros en Misión Pazos-Seel** \$60,000- Community Center Building Fund – After discussion **Still Pending**
- **Juba Evangelical Bible School** \$158,000-needs more information and oversight procedures - **Pending**
- **Operation Mobilization** Lovett proposed 6 options, Mission Committee voted on the options and chose to help renovate a girls hostel and orphanage in North India that will provide education for 50 girls, and also a place to live. Doug will get back to Lovett to get more details and establish an amount for request. **Pending**
- **Request from Presbytery-** Leadership requests – Pastor Craig will research and get back to committee. **Pending**
  - Mexican Camp Scholarships \$5,000-
  - Korean presbyterian Church of Tucson. \$80,000 Repairs and 12-seater van-
  - Montlure Camp Up to \$400,000 various projects-
  - Middle Eastern Presbyterian Fellowship \$9,000- Technological equipment and revival worship gatherings
- **Native American Advancement Foundation (NAAF)** \$77,025 for the GuVo district of Tohono O’odham Nation After School Program (ASP) and Summer Adventure Program (SAP) - under review until determination where money is going and establish oversight procedures. **Pending**
- **Casa Vida Nueva para Niños** Updated proposal for solar system submitted to Gifts and Memorials Committee –Doug Clark made the motion to accept proposal, seconded by Reed Olson- **Approved**

#### **Mission Reports/Comments - Round Table:**

- **Amado-GV Food Bank:** Kylene Joplin reported - She delivered 17 lbs. of food and VPC sent \$293.37 to each of our Food Banks.
- **Casa Vida Nueva para Niños:** Reed Olson shared -  
A proposal for an updated Solar System has been submitted to the Gifts and Memorials Committee. This coming Friday, the Home has its first college graduation ceremony. Carolina - majoring in Nursing will graduate with a degree in Nursing. I met her in 2015 when she was still in junior HS. RISE has paid for her HS and College expenses. Plus for the past year RISE has given her \$250 USD per month for living expenses so she can focus on her studies. This is a very proud moment for the Home and for this lovely young woman.
- **Compañeros en Misión:** Judy Aguayo report by email. We met April 26, 2024, in Nogales, MX. We are working on amending the By-laws. They should be finalized at our next meeting to be held by ZOOM on May 23, 2024, at 10:30am.

Update on the train tunnel is dependent on the upcoming election in June. If the current party stays in office, it should be completed by September 2024. Currently, it does not impact the church; however, it could change.

Currently, the emphasis is on children. Work continues feeding the immigrants three times a week. Work continues with the children throughout the year, including Bible studies. They have received some additional funding from several non-profits and have applied for a grant but rely on VPC contributions to stay afloat.

- **Crossroads Nogales Mission, Arizona:** Linda Walters reported that they take donations down to the Mission every two weeks which include patio sale clothing, packaged bedding, and donations. A proposal for a Kitchen and Dining Room Remodel has been submitted to the Gifts and Memorials Committee.
- **General Mission Support:** Ed Storey reported the activity for the past month has been focused on the extraordinary opportunity we have to share some memorial money donated to our church.
- **Hands of a Friend:** Jan Farrington- Genesis House Repairs \$13,710 sent to Gifts and Memorials Committee -
- **Operation Christmas Child Box Mission:** Ann Ball resigned from committee but will be available to mentor a new leader.
- **Mission Quilts:** Patti Bright- No report
- **Operation Mobilization:** Doug Clark shared updates  
I am writing an update from my trip last to Asia and I head to Pakistan April 11-21. Yes, we would have projects for \$25-50,000. The committee voted to helping renovate a girl's hostel and orphanage in North India that will provide education for 50 girls, and also a place to live. Doug will get back to Lovett to get more details and establish an amount for request. **Pending**
- **Posada Life Community Services:** Fellowship lunch at Posada Community Life is showing improvement and working well. Last week 12 people attended including recent new members.
- **Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs):** Ed Storey reported The YAVs term of service runs from September to the end of August. The Presbytery is now recruiting YAVs for the next year. They receive about \$15k for living expenses, but they have to be innovative to make ends meet. Some housing is provided, and much transportation is via a bicycle. As we learn more about what the current YAVs will do next, this will be shared.

**Presbyterian Campus Ministry:** Judy Aguayo reported by email. - PCM has not been operational this school year; we paid the Lutheran Campus Ministry \$4500.00 per semester to send our students to them instead. We have not yet received a proposal from them for the upcoming year.

The lawsuit relating to the purchase of our interest in the building where PCM instructed students was ruled in our favor as to the value of the land; however, the dollar outcome is still in question. We would like to ensure that they wouldn't file bankruptcy in lieu of paying us.

**PCUSA missionaries - Bob and Kristi Rice** -Doug Clark reported

- The Rices provided information for a proposal to the Gifts and Memorial Committee which is under review.
- Pastor Idris & the Wedding of His Daughter is in the current blog. When Pastor Idris Nyalos Kida invited Kristi and I to the wedding of his daughter, along with a special invitation to a family luncheon the week before the wedding, I was thrilled! Pastor Idris is the center of my third case study of my PhD research, so any chance to spend time with him is a wonderful opportunity. At these types of events, one always feels extra special when the host spends time with you. Pastor Idris came and sat with the five of us; we enjoyed hearing stories from the other guests of the many and varied men and women whom Pastor Idris had led to Christ and disciplined over the course of three decades and more. One story highlighted a man who had come to faith through the ministry of Pastor Idris, but who had turned away from God and had turned back to alcohol after his wife died. While driving his motorcycle from Torit to Juba, this man heard an audible voice repeatedly saying to him, "If it was not for Idris, you would not be here," meaning, if not for Idris' influence in your life, you would not be alive. The man, his name Martin Elijah, was shaken to the core. He immediately turned his life back to God. Today, he plants and leads churches among the Lotuko people of Eastern Equatoria State in South Sudan. Many other fascinating stories were told that evening as we sat outside of the home of Idris and enjoyed the joy of the occasion.

- **St. Andrew's Children's Clinic:** Kay Brouwer reported

In April, Laura Romero sent VPC thanks for the generous Easter gift of \$11,300. The Clinic is most grateful for our help in making miracles happen for the handicapped children being served.

I attended the Clinic on May 2 when about 90 children with parents, were awaiting appointments. Staff and Volunteers start setting up the Clinic about 8:00 on the first Thursday of the month. Families cross the border and start arriving about 9:00. Professional volunteers begin seeing children at 10:00. All is busy with active children, concerned parents, staff and volunteers.

I had been given 6 collectible dolls from The Animal League to give to St. Andrews' Clinic. Laura found a perfect child, a doll collector, who was thrilled to receive these dolls.

Laura and I again discussed the Proposal for a grant from VPC. She assured me that the rent is being paid by donors. That will continue for the future. In the case that the facility would be sold away from the Clinic, Laura searched diligently for items to enhance the use of the current building and which, if necessary, could be moved to another location.

Future donations from VPC will be directed to specific projects and not be used for rent.

- **Valley Galley** – Maureen Brealey reported

The Valley Galley Lunch Program served its first lunch on Friday April 11, 2024

Reservations were received of about 50 people. I know we served 75 bowls of soup and then started serving the soup in large coffee cups. The lunch was very well received, and people seemed to really like it. Total cost of food \$163.40

The Valley Galley Lunch Program served its second lunch on Friday May 18, 2024, Unfortunately, it was a slow turn out on Friday. Reservations were for 60 and prepared for 70, but closer to 30 lunches were needed. No one was sure why there was such a poor turn out, but we were in high spirits as we packed the soup containers and prepared them to be stored at VAS to be handed out as needed over the next few days. Total expenses for the program in May \$116.91. A representative from the Green Valley Food Bank was in attendance and received lunch while she was there. She was very pleased and offered to distribute our flyers at the food bank. I will be ordering directional signs to be displayed enroute to VAS at the Springs entry.

Valley Galley is a permanent agency of the Mission Committee. During the discussion Maureen Brealey, who will be in charge of Valley Galley emphasized that the Friday Free Lunch Program needs to be a separate line item in the Valley Galley budget. A motion was made to approve the funding for this program, \$1,360 (\$170 for 8 months in 2024), from the Contingency Fund- **Motion Approved.**

- **Valley Assistance Services:** Steve Larson reported that they are spending time developing a plan where Chris would be able to spend more time fund raising and a staff person could take on administrative functions.

- **YOTO**

1) Mary Horn reported-MINI MALL COLLECTION: Sunday, May 19 We will collect boxes of cereals that the kids enjoy. The kids' favorites are: Reese's Puffs, Honey Nut Chex, Golden Grahams, Cocoa Puffs, Honey Nut Cheerios, and Lucky Charms.

2) YOTO CARD MAKING

On Friday, May 3, we delivered

donations for the mini-Mall and 75 cards of inspiration. We have two new ideas for our cards: A) We have decal stickers for water bottles, lap tops, notebooks, etc. that we are putting on our cards for the kids to use, and B) We are writing inspiration in English on one side and Spanish on the other side of our cards. We hope this will help kids expand their language skills. We try to generate new ideas to keep our cards FRESH!

3) 4 YOTO/Ben's bells are now hanging near our two entrances to church. Both Jim Luring from our Grounds and Maintenance Committee and Pastor Craig were very helpful the process. Pictures of the bells are in our May Valley Voice! Be sure to check them out as you come into church!!

- **Mission At Large** – Lynn Conroy -no report

**Old Business:**

**Mission Breakfast Schedule:**

November 16, 2024. Mission Quilts, Just Coffee, Creative Hands, Valley Galley

- January 18, 2025, Operation Mobilization (Pan and Dave Lovett)
- February 8, 2025, St. Andrews Children's Clinic
- March 29, 2025, Posada Community Life Services

**Noisy Offering 5th Sunday of the month for 2024-2025**

- April 7, 2024, YAV \$762 donated
- June 30, 2024, Hand of A Friend
- September 19, 2024 Crossroads Nogales Mission
- December 29, 2024 Pam and Dave Lovett
- March 30, 2025, Food Bank
- June 29, 2025 St. Andrews Clinic
- August 31, 2025, Casa Vida Nueva
- November 30, 2025, YOTO

**Macfarland's Thank You Luncheon:**

To show our appreciation to Tom and Lois we celebrated with a lunch on Sunday, April 28, 2024. It went well and Macfarlanes really appreciated all the cards.

**Communicating to the congregation-articles in Eblasts.** Mission information to Ed Storey for inclusion in the eblast is requested.

**Valley Voice articles** 8 or more /month April (11), May (11), June (12), July (9), August (11), September (15), October (12), November (11), December (9), January (11), February (8), March (9), April (9)

**New Business:**

**Macfarland's Breakfast Cook Book** was put on hold as a potential project to make money.

**Prayer/Adjournment:**

- The meeting concluded at 10:43am with a prayer by Doug Clark.
- Next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2024, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 1.  
Meetings will take place on the second Tuesday of the month: June 11, July 9, 2024 and PRN during summer to review and approve Agencies' Proposals.
- Doug kindly requests immediate response and comments to proposed projects by email.