

MISSIONS WIN TEAM MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, June 2, 2019
12:15 pm, MUMC Rm 221

Attendees: Moe Parisien, Autumn Dennis, Lisa Feters, and Cindy Wolk,
Absent Members: John Himpel, Liz Shurburte, & Cindy Steiner

The following is a summary of key points of discussion from our 6/2/19 meeting along with actions coming out of the meeting.

Literacy Project

Autumn Dennis reported on the work of the Literacy Project sub-committee. Over the past 2 months this sub-committee has been researching the needs of the local community, as well as the needs of the broader St. Louis community with respect to improving student readership skills at the elementary school level. Two sources of information that has aided in this sub-committee's work have included discussions with Brenda Stobbe of Living Word UMC along with conversations with Melissa Baum from The Gathering.

Living Word has engaged its sixteen (16) volunteers to work with children at Meramec Elementary in the city of St. Louis with reading skills development for the past two years. A second literacy program that has been quite effective has been the work of The Gathering at Peabody Elementary School. One hundred and twenty-five (125) volunteers from The Gathering have been working with Peabody Elementary students (grades K-2) for early reading skills development over the past few years. Coming out of these discussions coupled with the findings that the work of Oasis <https://www.oasisnet.org/St-Louis-MO/Tutoring> in west St. Louis county schools has been effective in meeting the needs of Parkway, Rockwood and Valley Park schools, members of MUMC's Literacy Project sub-committee (Autumn Dennis, Liz Shurburte, and Nicki Reinhardt-Swierk) have put together a recommendation to initiate a Literacy Project that would expand literacy skills development at Peabody Elementary School in the city. The MUMC program will recruit volunteers to meet with the students for an hour a week for one-on-one tutoring. Volunteers will be working with twelve 4th grade students and engage 20 MUMC volunteers. The MUMC Literacy sub-committee are going before the MUMC Leadership Board on 6/2/19 to present a proposal that would include the support of a part-time seasonal position of a volunteer coordinator that would manage the volunteer resources for this project.

ESL Program – Parkway School District

Another missions program activity that is supported by Manchester UMC that goes on throughout the year is the English as a Second Language (ESL) organized by the Parkway School District. Hundreds of individuals are impacted by this program every year and as the Missions WIN Team works to measure and track the impact of Manchester UMC on serving the greater community, the WIN Team believes it important that the ESL program be considered as yet one more program supported by MUMC that is making a difference in the lives of people within the geographic footprint of the Parkway, Rockwood and Valley Park school districts.

Missions Organizational Update

Autumn Dennis shared with the WIN team the plans for the reorganization of the Missions volunteer efforts at Manchester UMC. This reorganization will consist of a 9-person leadership team that will include 3 classes of 3-year terms. This team will oversee and make decisions related to programming and spending.

A second team of volunteers known as the Missions Working Group will consist of Missions ministry leaders and passionate individuals engaged in the work of Missions will gather on a quarterly basis to report back/share the happenings and progress within their Missions Ministries, learn more about what other groups are doing to collaborate, learn more about Missions, and form sub-committees in the areas of Volunteer Recruitment, Education, Data Reporting/Viability, and Publicity.

Coming out of this discussion, the Missions WIN Team believed it important that there be a conversation with MUMC staff to see where and how the WIN Team fits within the larger Missions organizational structure to ensure that work is not duplicated and the strategic direction of missions at Manchester be properly focused and executed.

Action Item:

Autumn will organize a meeting with Pastor Jim Peich and Moe Parisien to delve into the organizational and operational issues related to the changes that will be coming in the 3rd quarter of this year.

Personal Essentials

The Personal Essential ministry is continuing its work with Circle of Concern. The essentials provided by this MUMC ministry is presently impacting 625 families representing approximately 2,100 individuals that are seeking assistance from Circle of Concern.

Volunteers in Medicine

Moe has been working with Ash Mahmood, a Board Member with the Islamic Foundation's Volunteers in Medicine program. Moe recently met with Mr. Mahmood to further identify the financial needs of the most prevalent medical conditions/disease states that are being addressed by the clinic at Baxter and Manchester Rds. A preliminary analysis was completed to identify the most prevalent conditions. Once the cost of the pharmaceuticals and other treatment requirements have been assessed, we will be able to identify foundation/grant funding to pursue the needed funding requirements.

Action Item:

Once the analysis is complete, Moe will work with the team at VIM to prepare grant proposals to underwrite the costs of the top two patient medical conditions for the clinic. In addition, the WIN Team will work with VIM to better coordinate volunteer opportunities.

Missions WIN Team Participation

As we bring to a close the first full year of the work of the Missions WIN Team, Moe Parisien asked members for their continued participation in the work of this committee. Lisa Fetters indicated due to her work and other commitments of her time that she will be resigning her position with this being her final meeting. Lisa was thanked for her contributions to the committee and for her continued involvement in other facets of church life.

Moe asked that if the team members present had any thoughts of candidates that might be interested in serving on the Missions WIN Team that they would please bring those names forward.

Meeting was called to a close at 1:25 pm.

NEXT MEETING: July 14, 2019 at 12:15 pm, Rm 221

Respectfully submitted: Maurice "Moe" Parisien