

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Experience - Embrace - Engage

Team Cuba Meeting

January 25, 2018 – 7:00 pm

Attendees: John & Carol McGuire (Co-Chairs), Ray & Barbie Dunfee, John Furtado, Harold & Dee Grafe, Pat & Betty Hansell, Mary Hilton, Phillip Kolbe, Kathy Mortenson, Jeanne Shrout, and Rick & Linda Stark

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the Christ candle followed by a prayer by John McGuire.

John reviewed the transition in leadership and thanked Betty for her faithful service. Rick Stark reminded everyone that it was Betty who first brought Dan Christopherson to meet with the Crafty Ladies in 2014; to promote the SW District Mission Program, designed to aid our sister churches in Cuba.

John McGuire reviewed the responsibilities of the Team Cuba members as described in the initial resolution from the September 22, 2014 Church Council meeting.

Prayer: Encourage the congregation to participate in continual prayers for our sister churches, their members and communities.

Education: Create publicity to educate our membership and community of the missions supported by our church.

Budget: Prepare a budget to be presented to the Church Council for approval and oversee its implementation throughout the year.

Material: Prepare, maintain and publish a list of the material needs of our sister churches so that our members may contribute as the Spirit moves them.

Evaluation: Review the effectiveness of support programs making adjustments as needed.

Listen: Receive and consider input from church members making program adjustments as necessary.

The balance of funds designated for support of our sister churches is \$9,163.87 as of January 21, 2018.

A discussion of funding efforts followed in which Jeanne pointed out that several of our church members contribute regularly to the Cuba ministry, and the Team concluded that a fund-raising event was not needed at this time.

A discussion followed of Cuban church funding needs, both annual needs and special needs. Currently, the annual needs consist of Pastors' salaries, food for the weekly meal programs, and replacement water filters. Special needs cover a variety of items that have been identified by the church pastors that will further their outreach. The following is a summary over the last (3) full years of support.

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<u>Funds for:</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Average</u>
Annual Needs	\$1,650	\$2,550	\$1,790	\$1,997
Special Needs	<u>\$4,724</u>	<u>\$12,598</u>	<u>\$5,199</u>	<u>\$7,507</u>
Total	\$6,374	\$15,148	\$6,989	\$9,504
Annual Giving	\$12,212	\$10,993	\$8,254	\$10,486

Then the specific annual funds currently needed for each of our sister churches were identified:

For the Nicaro church:

Pastor's Salary	\$270
Weekly Meal Program	\$1,200
Replacement Filter Set	<u>\$320</u>
Total	\$1,790

Note: Nine months salary for Pastor Reinaldo will pay him through April, 2019 (which will synchronize the ending date with Pastor Siubel's support).

For the Frank Pais church:

Weekly Meal Program	\$1,200
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John McGuire indicated he will send e-mails to both pastors to identify any special needs. Possible special needs for the Nicaro church are funds for musical instruments (guitar and drums were mentioned on a previous visit). For the Frank Pais church, Pastor Siubel stated in a previous e-mail that he could use a laptop computer for seminary studies. An attempt will be made to verify these needs and associated costs.

In preparation for the upcoming trip to Cuba on February 20th, the Team agreed to send funds to Dan Christopherson in the amount of \$2,990 to meet annual needs (\$1,200 for Frank Pais and \$1,790 for Nicaro).

Dates were also set for inventorying supplies (Monday, 2/12/2018 at 2:30 pm) and packing suitcases (Saturday, 2/17/2018 at 10:00 am). Because many more supplies have been sent to the Nicaro church in the past, it was decided that two suitcases should be packed for Frank Pais and only one suitcase for Nicaro.

Another issue that was addressed was a letter of request, prepared by Ray Dunfee, to Abbott Labs for regular donations of Pedialyte to meet the needs of Cuban children for proper hydration especially when overcoming sickness.

No issues were identified that need to be addressed by the Church Council at this time.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer by Phill Kolbe at 7:55 pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by John McGuire