

**GULF COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
*Experience – Embrace – Engage*  
**Team Cuba Meeting**                      November 18, 2019

Attendees: Ray Dunfee, Barbara Dunfee, Mary Hilton, Charles Hilton, Jeanne Shrout, Becky Stephenson, Rick Starck, Linda Starck, John McGuire, Carol McGuire, Joan Priest, Ken Priest.

John McGuire opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the lighting of the Christ Candle and prayer.

Ray and Barbie Dunfee, who just returned from Cuba, gave a slide presentation along with a complete report of their trip.

They took two suitcases full of supplies to Frank Pais and one to Nicaro. A total of three suitcases were taken (we need to reimburse Ray and Barbie for the additional cost of their luggage).

**NICARO REPORT:**

The Nicaro church now has 54 members, with up to 65 in attendance on Sundays. It was indicated that they are losing their missionary and they are looking into a new location for a replacement. Ray and Barbie provided \$250.00 from our church and \$50 that they donated for the construction of an altar table, cross, and several additional pews. Money was given by Ray and Barbie for Pastor Reinaldo's seminar expenses, and for the purchase of 25 bibles.

Ray reported that they are holding worship services in the new sanctuary, however, Pastor Al (the District Superintendent) estimated that it would take about \$3,500 - \$5,000 to completely finish it. Ray thought it could be finished for about \$2,500. Interior and exterior plaster and painting still needs to be completed, doors need to be installed, the flooring needs to be tiled, electrical supply needs to be completed, and they need to have new steps built from the street level up to the church. Ray also felt they needed to add restrooms and a kitchen adjacent to the new sanctuary rather than continue to use the facilities in the parsonage.

It was suggested that we send basic electrical supplies with Joan and Becky in February. Music is important to the church, and all they have at this time is the keyboard that we sent with Rick and Linda. They could use more instruments and a sound system. It was also indicated that Eglis could use additional items of clothing.

The water system has been installed and a water faucet has been placed in the kitchen and on the front of the church. It was suggested that we send two paper filters with Joan and Becky in February; which are the least expensive, and used the most.

Pastor Reinaldo also indicated that his computer was not working well. It was suggested that Joan or Becky take a look at the computer when they go down in February before we decided what to do about this issue.

**FRANK PAIS REPORT:**

Ray and Barbie indicated that the Frank Pais church has 60 members and had 95 in attendance on the previous Sunday, however they have a wonderful youth/young adult program which has about 100 in attendance. They have three active missions. Pastor Siubel has also started a new program to feed and minister to the local handicapped.

The Church building is completed and is being used for services. Only a small amount of work needs to be done. Stairs need to be built from the raised ground level to allow better access. Ray gave Pastor Siubel \$700.00, of which \$500.00 was from our church to build more pews and stairs across the road. They have a new cistern on the roof for the water system, however it has not been completely installed and is not in use at this time. However, they now have access to city water. The gifts and medicine were delivered and Pastor Al was given money for 50 bibles by Ray and Barbie.

A house has become available for sale on adjacent property; however, the cost was from \$8,000 to \$10,000 to buy. At the moment, Pastor Siubel and his family are living in very small quarters.

The requests for support are as follows: Food Program on Sunday - \$150/month, Food Program for Children's - \$50.00/month, Food Program for Handicapped - \$50.00/month, a Communion set (wine tray w/cups) for \$100.00, Drum Skins (2-14in, 1-16in, 1-12in, 2-22in).

**OTHER DISCUSSION:**

Dan has been purchasing the cell phone minutes, on our behalf, for both pastors. The cost is \$22.00 month. The yearly cost for each pastor would be \$264.00. Jeanne will send additional funds to Dan for the phone minutes.

We need to touch base with Nicaaro to find out what size the alter table is going to be, as the Crafty Ladies may have cloth available that could be used for this purpose.

Ray and Barbie also visited two other Cuba churches that do not have sister churches. There is a significant difference in growth between the churches that have sister churches and the ones that don't.

Ray and Barbie will give a presentation to the congregation after the holidays.

Joan and Becky will be flying on a charter flight in February therefore we can send more donated items with them. It was suggested that we send the sewing machine to the Frank Pais church.

The church banner was not taken down by Ray and Barbie as there was a mistake with the wording. Joan and Becky can take it down with them in February.

Minutes prepared by Carol McGuire