

GULF COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Experience – Embrace – Engage

Team Cuba Meeting

January 21, 2021

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

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

John gave an update on our August shipment that went to Cuba. All items are being stored in a church in Havana until all items have been released from customs, because of delivery costs. The shipment costs have gone up from \$.80 to \$3.50 per lb.

Because of Cuba changing their monetary methods the cost of funding for the pastor's salaries, etc. have increased.

We have given Dan the monies for the Salaries, food programs, mission programs, plus the increases that have been incurred because of Cuba's new monetary methods.

Dan can only take \$10,000.00 at a time into Cuba, therefore, he has asked Becky to possibly go with him, as she would also be able to take another \$10,000.00. At this time, he is in the investigation stage of the trip.

Becky has been talking with Big AL (District Superintendent in Cuba) along with Lily regarding other ways of getting money into Cuba. She has also been speaking with Roberto, in Pompano Beach and he indicates to her that he sends money down all the time. The cost of sending money through other avenues would cost additional 15%. Maximum you can send to any one person (one transaction) is \$500.00. Dan is not in favor of using this method, however, Becky is going to send some money down just to see how it works. There was much discussion regarding this issue. Decision was made to wait and see how Becky's experiment goes before Team Cuba sends any.

John Updated us on the funds that are available which is around \$8,419.00. Which shows that the church has been very giving to Team Cuba.

Joan gave an update on the property at Frank Pais. The property now has a clear title and the cost has come down to \$8,000.00. Much discussion was held as to how and when we could possibly purchase or help with the purchase of this property.

Questions brought up:

- A. Do we want to purchase the property
 - B. Do we want to have a church wide campaign to raise the monies
 - C. How do we get the money down there.
 - D. Is this the best way to spend Team Cuba money
- Becky volunteered to talk with Big Al as to how we should proceed with this project.

Joan brought up the electric scooters or bikes for both pastors. Something we may want to explore at a later date.

Discussion was held regarding the recharging of their cell phones. Jeanne will check into reestablishing the funds for this project. Becky will verify the current phone numbers for each pastor with the District Superintendent.

Mary gave an update from Frank Pais and indicated that they are praying for our church as well.

John closed us in prayer at 8:00 pm.