

Mission Commission Minutes
Wednesday, August 31, 2016

Present: Bryson Dean, Marty Stoltzfus, Jim Brenneman, Jerry Partridge, Tim Krabill, Jim Grossnickle-Batterton

1. Jim G-B opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Minutes of the July 28 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th at 3:30 p.m.
4. Planning for January Interterm on Race Relations: Jerry has made contact with members of the police department and will continue with arrangements for others to be involved. We also discussed additional sessions possibly involving the Dream Center, discussion on affordable housing, disproportionate prison sentencing, and non-violence training.
5. We passed over a review of the local missions webpage. Note was made of our completion of the goal for this year to review and update our list of Mission Partners and advocates.
6. Iglesia Zoar update: The church is open for services again. Jose is carrying on with the nutrition program. There is a checkpoint at the entrance to the village. Jose has been given escorts who sometimes are present for worship services. Jose is pursuing a plan to purchase land at a safer location in Reynosa for housing, land for sustainable agriculture, and a church building that can receive official recognition of the Mexican government and perhaps funding through MCC Mexico.
The Portillos have safely settled into their home in West Liberty.
7. Tim reported that the Iglesia Zoar line item proposal for 2016-2017 was reduced from \$3600 to \$1000 by the Ad Cabinet. Mission Commission voted by email on August 23 to transfer the remaining balance of the Mission and Social Concerns and the Peace Forum line items, totaling \$697.00, to the Iglesia Zoar Fund to assist Pastor Jose Gutierrez with essential repairs on his pickup truck to provide him with transport to his difficult-to-access mission village of Flores de Mayo. Tim and Jim B. have discussed plans to promote fundraising activities for the Iglesia Zoar mission over the course of the next year.
8. R-1 visa update: On August 21, the congregation voted to approve and adopt the proposal from Mission Commission for the support of a paid half-time pastoral position for Torre Fuerte and a petition for an R-1 religious worker visa for Max Villatoro to resume his work as pastor. Tim is in the process of compiling the necessary information and documents required by Max's attorney to file the petition.
9. We will assemble MCC School kits on September 4th during sip and chat. Dennis and Melinda have gathered the school supplies. Tim has collected the drawstring bags and has received confirmation of help from the Jr. MYF. Our goal is for 100 kits.
10. Focus on Mission schedule:
 - June—Teresa Stecker, IC Compassion (26th)
 - July—Jim B., Miguel Portillo family (31st)
 - August—Michael Darby, MCC SALT, Bolivia (14th)
 - Sept.—Tim, Missions/Service Grant (18th)
 - Oct.—Gloria V., Honduras Playground Project (23rd)
 - Nov.—Advent Giving Project

11. We reviewed a few of our goals for this past year. Tim reported that Ashisha Lal of India was again denied a visa following her second interview earlier this month. There is a possibility she may have a third interview, however it appears as though we may not have an IVEP volunteer with us this year.

12. Other: None

13. The meeting was adjourned following a closing prayer.