

**Maury River Mission Community
Coordinating Team Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2009
Fairfield Presbyterian Church**

Convener Betty Dax opened the meeting at 2:30PM with prayer. Introductions and sharing followed. The following people attended from MRMC: Jerry Close, Lisa Hedrick, Doug Sensabaugh, Malcolm Brownlee, Carol Mish, Janet C. Mayo, Martin Stokes, Bonny Wilson, Wallace Bechner, Olivia Patton, Janet S. Scott, Betty Dax, and David Dax, Secretary ProTem. Mac Sterrett of the Living Waters Team also attended.

Minutes: In the absence of Secretary Rob Sherrard, reading of the minutes of the November 9th Mission Committee meeting was postponed.

Finances: Bonny Wilson gave a report of MRMC's finances. The current balance is \$5,400.00. It was moved, seconded, and passed to allocate \$2,000.00 to the Living Waters project in Guatemala for the first year phase. It was also approved to allocate \$2,000.00 for each of the following two years, with the commitment to raise \$7,000.00 from the various MRMC churches.

Old Business:

- **Living Waters:** Malcolm Brownlee and Mac Sterrett gave an update on the Living Waters project in Santiago, Guatemala. It will be a small-scale water purification system designed to serve about 500 people. The water is ozonated rather than treated with chemicals. The system will be installed in a local school building.

The relationship between MRMC and the school will be formalized through a covenant pursuant to which MRMC will be the initiating partner and the school will be the operating partner. MRMC will travel annually for three years to assure that the system is being maintained appropriately. It was moved, seconded, and approved that "Convener Betty Dax be authorized to review the contract with Living Waters for the World and sign it as the representative of MRMC."

The Living Waters Team will teach the women of the community the elements of sanitation and keeping their water clean. The women, in turn, will teach the children. Applications to travel will be accepted until January 31st. Travel requirements (passport, inoculations for tetanus, hep-A&B, etc.) will be posted on the ShenPres website. Contact should be made to local health departments. Malcolm will speak to the LexPres Outreach Committee on January 20th at 7:00PM about the project and at Bethesda Church on the 21st at 7:00PM.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that "A committee be formed to review the applications of those who wish to go on the Living Waters Mission trip to Guatemala and to choose the members of the team. This committee will be composed of Malcolm Brownlee, Chair, Skip Hastings, Rob Sherrard, Dan Woodworth, and Rhonda Ritchie."

It was also moved, seconded, and passed that "The team which goes on the Guatemala Living Waters Mission trip be authorized to organize an Applebee's pancake breakfast or some other appropriate fundraiser."

Mac Sterrett passed around flyers that describe Living Waters and the crisis for which it is designed to address. Mac will answer any questions about the program. His e-mail address is shown above.

- **Magnetic Church Conference:** Information was passed around to everyone concerning this program, which will occur Friday & Saturday, February 20th & 21st, at Tinkling Spring Church in Fishersville. It will be presented by Andrew Weeks, a lay evangelist and is intended to help people learn about new member ministry.

- **Baja California and Friends of Barnabas:** There was some discussion of these activities, but no decisions were made.

New Business:

- **Disaster Response:** There was some discussion of mobilizing a Disaster Response Team (DRT) for MRMC to work with the ShenPres DRT, but no decision was made.
- **Committee Activities:** Olivia presented a list of potential projects that the Nurture Team believes are worth pursuing, such as a youth rally and nature camp project, serving at Campus Kitchen at W&L and at the Presbyterian Home in Rockbridge County. Adult activities such as a mission fair, multimedia training, elder training, and spirituality seminars were also suggested.

A mission fair will be scheduled for sometime in October. Wallace, Bonny, Martin, Carol, and Janet have agreed to plan this event. It is intended that both youth and adults be participants. Martin also indicated his willingness to promote multimedia training. A workshop on that will be held by the Presbytery on February 28th. It is expected that this is an area that both youth and adults will be interested in.

Bonny of the Worship Team suggested that worship be incorporated into any and all such activities. It was also suggested by Betty and Malcolm that mission, nurture, and worship are all essential parts of these activities and should not be separated out from them.

It was also decided that a pulpit swap be scheduled for Sunday, April 26th. Martin has already begun to initiate that effort.

- **Local Mission Efforts:** There was discussion about the Mission Next Door program hosted by New Providence Church and participated in by Timber Ridge, Fairfield, Bethesda, Mount Carmel, and Asbury Methodist. The program could serve as a model for other congregations that would like to help their neighbors who need help repairing their houses.

Janet noted that Collierstown Church has looked into a program being undertaken in Texas called Backyard Mission, which is very much like Mission Next Door.

No decision was made on this subject, but these types of missions will be studied and promoted throughout MRMC.

- The next meeting is scheduled for 2:30PM, Sunday, April 26th, at New Providence Church. The meeting was closed with prayer at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,
David Dax, Secretary Pro tem
463-4930

January 13, 2009