

From the Missions Committee

2021 Annual Report to the Members of First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

Building Kinship in Christ During Challenging Times

In another year of social gathering restrictions, the Missions Committee met throughout 2021 via Zoom, and in December met in person at the church. The committee scheduled group conversations with eight mission coworkers, either supported by FPCP missions funding or seeking to be considered. Ongoing updates from other coworkers were received through email, phone calls, in person meetings or reports to the committee. In these ways, and in preparation of the annual missions budget, the committee provided good stewardship of relationships and resources through generous listening, review of guidelines and careful discernment.

The committee continued to focus on ways of deepening mission relationships through mutual accompaniment, as well as serving within the congregation as a catalyst for mission engagement and discipleship. With 250 years of gospel-sharing purpose, and the ongoing prayers and generosity of the FPCP community, the Missions Committee has been blessed to serve in these ways in 2021:

- Connected meaningfully with mission coworkers in transition or challenge – notably Rev. Michael and Rachel Weller in their new call and Michael’s difficult medical diagnosis; Rev. David, Emily, Mae, Wes and Miriam Shrader in their relocation from North Africa and wait for David’s acceptance as a USAF chaplain; and Rev. Bogdan and Inna Kulitskiy in stressful days of seeking medical testing and surgery for their son Timothy.
- Organized a fourth year of “Under the Tree,” a congregational opportunity to show holiday hospitality to internationals through PRISM [Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministries]. In December, gifts were delivered to PRISM’s Hospitality House. Sweet treats, coffee, tea strainers, gloves, scarves, hats and hand towels were given, along with a residual cash gift to help with the purchase of a new van. Total value was approximately \$1000.00.
- Received post-pandemic news of a third FPCP-sponsored well successfully drilled in Uganda through the work of CEED [Christian East African Economic Development].
- Met with Robert and Nina Bruneau in December. Robert and Nina share ministry in CCI [Christian Camping International], an organization with a long connection to FPCP through Lisa Anderson Umana. Robert and Nina visited Pittsburgh from Colombia to talk about the needs and benefits of expanding Christian camping experiences in Central and South America. They explained how they are cultivating new leaders through strong training and freshly created online resources.
- Introduced Rev. Shawn Harmon to the congregation as the first recipient of “Flip the Keys,” a mission initiative to find and fund new mission practitioners who need an infusion of support to get started. Shawn, serving in Rome among refugees and displaced peoples, has worked enthusiastically with the committee to form a mutuality

of intent, recognizing that all believers are called into mission and we enhance each other's efforts through connection. Shawn has made three videos for FPCP since he went to Italy in May.

- Accompanied Bread of Life Church in Kozelets, Ukraine through renovation of the newest men's rehab facility and dedication of the new worship center. The committee met with Rev. Bogdan and Inna via Zoom in January. This was followed by an invitation to record a special message for the dedication of the new space, and an opportunity for Judy Shipley to facilitate three summer teaching sessions for Bread of Life, using Zoom and an interpreter.
- Entered relationships with Refuge for Women Pittsburgh and Garden Home Ministries. With the invitation and encouragement of Rev. Dan Turis, church member Det. Joe Ryczaj and Rocco Magnelli, the committee met with Theresa Golden, Refuge for Women Pittsburgh, to learn about the need for emergency housing and care of women who have been victimized by human trafficking. Another series of conversations with Sharlene Dominick, Garden Home Ministries, informed the committee about Sunflower House, a "Spirit-filled home of excellence," where a continuum of care is offered for women who are rebuilding their lives after substance abuse and trafficking.
- Sponsored the 2021 FPCP Special Missions Offering for the benefit of co-recipients Refuge for Women Pittsburgh and Garden Home Ministries. The total offering was \$4700.00. The amount was divided evenly between the two organizations.

Gratefully submitted,
Judith Shipley
Chair, Missions Committee