



First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

2019 Annual Report MISSIONS TEAM

In 2019, the Missions Committee provided FPCP with opportunities for engagement with local and global mission groups. The committee sponsored conversations to help the congregation grow in theological understandings about mission relationships and explore mutually beneficial ways of accompaniment. The committee made concerted efforts to review its purpose and methods through a process of evaluation and alignment with perceived aspirations of FPCP ministries as a whole. With over two centuries of gospel-sharing intent, and the continued prayers and financial generosity of the present congregation, the committee has been blessed to serve in these ways:

- ❖ Coordinating with Susan Perkins, FPCP member and board member of **PRISM** [Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministries], the committee continued to foster connections with international students through hosting a women's luncheon at FPCP, volunteering with the annual Garage Giveaway, and welcoming a large group for Light Up Night. In December, more than two dozen FPCP members came together to purchase and wrap Christmas gifts chosen for the residents of PRISM's Hospitality House.
- ❖ From February to May, Committee members Susan Quam and Judy Shipley audited a class at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, called "Leading Congregations into Mission." It was taught by Dr. Hunter Farrell. The themes presented to the class of seminarians and church mission practitioners will be part of a book published by Intervarsity in early 2021.
- ❖ The committee entered a brief relationship with Dave Lettrich of **Bridge to the Mountains** and was able to receive session approval for critical early funding of Dave's ministry to street people.
- ❖ The committee organized the annual **FPCP Missions Weekend** on March 30-31. On Saturday, a group of adults and teens went to Sojourner House for a Work/Share Day of cleaning, gardening and enjoying a meal with some of the residents. Dr. Hunter Farrell was Sunday's keynote speaker, preaching on Isaiah 58 and Luke 19. The committee prepared interactive prayer stations for the Sunday School hour and hosted a hugely successful fiesta after worship.
- ❖ The special offering on Missions Sunday was designated to **Casa San Jose**, a group advocating for the rights of the Pittsburgh Latino community. The gift total was \$4,000.
- ❖ The committee sponsored 6 congregational gatherings on summer Sundays in June and July. The program was called "Missions 101: What goes into a good mission trip?" A theology of mission was formed through use of scripture.
- ❖ The committee wrote and administered a survey that was sent to each partner supported by the missions budget. The survey was used to create dialogue about support needs, history and quality of relationship. Survey findings and a series of face to face meetings with the committee were used to frame the 2020 missions budget proposal.

- ❖ The committee prepared a farewell celebration for long-time church members and mission advocates, **Rev. Louis and Elisabeth Long**. Special messages from missionary friends were read to them, and a gift to PRISM was arranged in their honor.
- ❖ The committee invited missions partner **Lisa Anderson-Umana** and her family for a Sunday visit with the congregation to talk about Lisa's work with **Christian Camping International**.
- ❖ As the winter season approached, the committee was able to arrange a one-time gift of \$2,500 to the **Bread of Life Church** in **Ukraine** to help with a much-needed heating system conversion in a women's rehab home.

Gratefully submitted,
Judith Shipley
Chair, Missions Committee

6/10/2020