

Mission and Outreach Committee  
Minutes of October 7, 2008 meeting

In attendance: Michael Barrett, Bill Cummings, Sue Gawler, Bobbie Mahler, Rev. Bill Meyer, Alane O'Connor and Kevin Wellenius.

Meeting began at 6:35 pm.

Item 1: Donations to Belgrade Central School

Bobbie Mahler reports that donations were made of snack items, consisting of a large box of animal crackers and a large box of pretzels, at a cost of approximately \$180. Donations were also made to the school Nurse's office of clothing to assist students who had a bathroom accident during the day, including sweatpants and sweatshirts of various sizes, at a cost of approximately \$205.

Bobbie also provided an update on the unused winter clothing that was donated last year, but apparently not distributed to students. Distribution of those items is now under a new staff member, and she was assured that situation would not be repeated. Bobbie will be talking to the school psychologist to identify needs for the coming winter. The Committee approved that Bobbie respond to the identify needs, with an estimated cost of approximately \$500.

Follow up: Bobbie Mahler to coordinate donation of winter clothing to students who need it.

Item 2: Winterization assistance

Michael Barrett reports that approximately 125 winterization kits are expected to be available for deployment in Kennebec County through the University of Maine extension program. *[update: these kits will be distributed on October 25, but only to organizations that have identified specific recipients for each kit.]*

Michael also informed us of United Way offering 4 additional \$1,000 mini grants for heating-related programs. Applications are due October 10, so it was agreed that we would submit for a grant on our own, though with reference made to our ability to work together with the Town of Belgrade and other local organizations.

Follow up: Michael Barrett to provide application form to Kevin Wellenius, who will submit to United Way.

Item 3: Support for mission trip to Zimbabwe

Kevin Wellenius reports on an appeal received from Kaitlyn Johnson, a student at Gardiner High School, for support for her participation in the 2009 Mission of Peace trip to Zimbabwe. The cost to her is \$4,500. Bill Meyer observed that supporting teens is something the UMC does not do as well as it could, and that support has been

inconsistent in the past. Kevin observed that Kaitlyn's trip offered an opportunity to support international mission work similar to the Haiti trip that had been contemplated by Bill Meyer, and which MOC had decided to support. On a motion by Micahel Barrett and second by Sue Gawler, the Committee voted to provide Kaitlyn \$500 in support, and request that she come talk to Union Church upon her return.

Follow up: Kevin Wellenius to request check from Dick Tripp, and will send letter of support to Kaitlyn.

Item 4: Support for Maine State Troopers Foundation

Bill Meyer reports that he was asked by the Foundation whether we would once again be purchasing a 1/4 page ad in their annual publication. The funds (approximatel \$400) were funded equally by Union Church's Good Samaritan fund and MOC last year. All proceeds support the Foundation's outreach efforts to children and to reduce domestic violence. MOC approved \$200 to support this effort.

Follow up: Kevin Wellenius will inform Dick Tripp that half of the contribution to the Maine State Troopers Foundation should come from the MOC budget.

Item 5: Reimbursement policy for Ernie Mercken's trips to Solon

Bill Meyer recommended, and all agreed, that we approve a standing reimbursement of \$50 to Ernie for each trip he makes to Solon, in recognition of the out of pocket costs for fuel for his truck and trailer.

Item 6: Workday project

Bill Meyer reports that the HealthReach social worker has identified a ramp project on Route 135, approximately 1 mile south of the Old South Church. He and Bill Cummings looked at the project, and they feel it is manageable and similar to the porch project we did in Mout Vernon earlier this year. Concern was raised that many of our work day participants had already left the area, reducing our ability to complete the project in a single day (this is critical since the ramp is the only exit for the home). Bill Meyer suggested we have a sign-up list to ensure we'll have sufficient labor to complete the project properly.

Follow up: Bill Meyer to announce workday project at worship service. Kevin Wellenius to prepare sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Michael Barrett reports that on a recent visit to Betty Grant, he notice the back steps "wobbled." All agree that we should help her fix this.

Follow up: Michael Barrett and Bill Cummings will examine the steps to evaluate what is needed.

Bill Meyer reports that Shelly Fitzgerald cut down a large white birch tree last year on her property. It is now seasoned, and not rotting, and could be used for firewood this year.

Follow up: will consider for November work day project.

Item 7: Miscellaneous

Bill Meyer ordered devotionals and collection boxes from the Society of St. Andrews, and will acknowledge MOC's initiative when distributing it.

Alane O'Connor will continue to investigate the creation of t-shirts for MOC activities.

Michael Barrett has volunteered us to help at a January 24 potluck event at the school, as part of a series of community public dinners for heating fuel assistance.

Kevin reports that Ernie Merckens was reimbursed \$50 for expenses related to our last Solon delivery in early September, and that Belgrade Lakes Self Storage was paid \$270 for our shed rental through December 2008.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 4 (election day) at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm with a prayer by Bill Meyer, who informed us of the passing of Jack Sheble the previous day.

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