

TNC Meeting Minutes
Feb 20, 2017
CUMC - Prime Time A

I. General

- A. 2018 is a Zimbabwe Presidential election year
- B. Good rains have brought major relief to the hunger concerns across the country
- C. From a video interview posted to the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area FB page - Bishop Nhiwatiwa will retire in Aug 2020 at which time 2 Bishops will be initiated in Zimbabwe. Also, the worldwide UMC general conference will be in Zimbabwe in 2028.

II. Fund Development - Debbie Little

- A. A first objective is to strengthen TNC's network of 7 churches so that each shares experiences, communicates extensively, educates each other, increases fundraising, raises the priority of international mission in the church, engages more of the congregation, etc. Meetings to present TNC to the Mission/Outreach committee of each church are being scheduled. Programs completed at Baldwin Community UMC and Dutilh UMC with next programs at First Bethel and Mt Lebanon UMC.
- B. Programs at both Baldwin and Dutilh were well received with numerous action items identified by each church. Dutilh proposes to develop 3 objectives for TNC a) Relationships, b) Education, c) Fundraising. Programs for each will be presented to the Dutilh leadership board followed by communication to the congregation.
- C. Programs are scheduled for First Bethel on 2/27 and Mt Lebanon on 3/7. CUMC, St. Paul's, and Liberty are yet to be scheduled.
- D. A "Friendraising Event" is planned as a social event intended to raise some funds, but primarily to introduce many new people to TNC. Target is 200 people. Initial plans are to have a reception and tour at Brother's Brother followed by the main event at Calvary UMC. Planning team is Debbie Little, Faith Geer, and Dave Sevick but more volunteers are needed! Planning phone call scheduled Mar 2

- E. TNC Month at Dutilh UMC is planned from April 16 - May 7. Two "passionate TNC speakers" are needed to address Dutilh's congregation for each date, at all 3 services. Activities will also include:
 - a) Brief presentations on 4/23 and 4/30 to promote TNC
 - b) Craft sales and other fund-raising activities.

III. Finances - R. Dickey

- A. As of 1/31/2017 unrestricted funds were \$22,233 and restricted funds were \$51,964. Preliminary reports for 2/20/2017 show unrestricted funds at \$16,491 and restricted at \$47,892.
- B. Fund Transfers on Feb 8 - \$3900 top up salaries for Jan, Feb, Mar; \$3000 to PCD for medicine purchase: \$4293 to HOH (\$2400 for irrigation; \$1474 for HOHO; \$419 education fees)
- C. Funds transfer on Feb 17 - \$4100 to HOH for O-Level exam fees.

IV. Promotions - T. Wesley

- A. Newsletter should be out next week
- B. Notice of Cultural Awareness Training (Feb. 13) distributed. Hearing Impaired Scholarship flyer distributed to Pgh. District churches.
- C. Articles on Jillian Schmidt and Tony LaRosa submitted to CUMC's "View" magazine, and available to any church. Contacted The Almanac to do a feature on Tony LaRosa.
- D. Barb Greway's Lenten Calendar featuring the Hearing Impaired program distributed to churches
- E. TNC will have a table at CUMC's Prime Time Spring Craft Fair Sat., March 25. Volunteers needed.

V. Relationships - Pat Cook (back on 2/23)

A. VIM Trips - Molly Michael / Rev L. Mukundu

1. The Cultural Awareness and General Planning Meeting on Feb. 13th was very successful. A big thank you to Kim Greway for sharing all of her

knowledge with regards to Zimbabwe culture. A survey/evaluation will be sent to everyone to see what we could add/eliminate/or do better with next time! Future programs will include an overview of TNC and Toxic Charity

2. July 20th Team Trip - confirmed are Team Leader Molly Micheal, MB Zollars, Jillian Schmidt, Seth & Heather McPherson & their 3 girls, & Steve McPherson. Four other returning team members & 3 new people have expressed interest. As the mission trips sponsored by Grove City College will not happen this summer, some of those students may consider joining a TNC team. Watching airline ticket prices to decide when to make team purchase.
3. Molly Michaels will check with Kelly Elders as Kelly expects to go in July with the objective of training operators of the two Ultrasound Machines recently sent to Old Mutare and Nyadire hospitals.
4. August Trip - Engineers without Borders. See description below.
5. Don Ziegler plans to travel in April or May and hopes to find someone to join his trip. See description below for his plans around conducting Eyeglass Clinics.
6. Please advise Molly Michael if anyone is interested in leading a team on any date!
7. Tendekai Mufunde is a former student at Nyadire and is now a videographer living in South Africa. He has contacted us and offered to produce promotional videos of Nyadire & TNC. M. Michael will communicate with T. Wesley and see if Mr T. Mufunde might join the July team in Nyadire.
8. Charlie Moore of Baltimore/Washington will be leading a team from the Crofton Community UMC in July & August back to Hanwa School. Charlie has been taking teams to Zimbabwe since 2001.

B. Pastor Partnership - Faith Geer / DS Rev Mutasa

1. No update

C. Christmas Connection - Pat Cook / ?

1. Considering the elimination of funds (\$20) in each card, and expanding card distribution to include all Nyadire. Signatures from TNC might be included on a sheet that is inserted in each card.

D. Rotary - Phil Himmler & ?

1. D. Harvey presented to the BP/USC Breakfast Rotary on Feb 14. Program updated this club on TNC, provided feedback on how TNC used the 2016 Rotary Award of \$4100, and introduced the plan to submit a grant request to international rotary.
2. MB Zollars submitted a \$4300 grant application to the BP/USC Rotary. Funds raised in the annual Rotary Chicken BBQ dinner will be announced and awarded in April at their annual "Night of Giving". Last year, TNC received \$4100.
3. We are working with the BP/USC Rotary on selection of a project that could be submitted to international as a Global Grant. Minimum Global Grant amounts are \$30,000.

VI. Education - Molly Michael

A. O Level Textbooks / Exams; Sandy McKnight & E. Chiimba

1. \$4100 for payment of exam fees was transferred on 2/17. 39 kids were supported for O-Level and 3 for A-Level exams.
2. Service work is completed for last purchase of O Level Books.
3. The next books to be purchased are Commerce books and we will need about \$3,000. Sandy will confirm how many books are needed.

B. Engineers Without Borders - D. Harvey / C. Kuwana

1. The CMU chapter of EWB has received approval from the national EWB for the Nyadire Solar Lighting Implementation Plan. The team is now free to purchase materials and commit to travel for the implementation team.
2. The team of 5 students and 2 mentors expects to be in Nyadire for 2 weeks in August.
3. After extensive reviews and discussion, the company "Sinet" has been selected to provide & install the Solar Lights. However, CMU has

recently advised they cannot send funds to Sinet because they are on the Sanctions List as administered by the US Treasury and OFAC. We are discussing with the finance people at CMU to understand the options.

4. The EWB student team meets each Wed evening. They have begun considering possibilities for the next project at Nyadire after implementation of the Solar Street Lighting. Mrs Violet Mutasa will meet with the team on 2/26 to discuss what types of projects are most needed at Nyadire that would also fit EWB's requirements. The formal assessment for the next project will be a part of the August trip.

C. Grove City College - Mark LaRosa

1. Grove City College has decided to postpone a Redbox trip for Summer of 2018 as more time is needed for preparation, including:
 - a) Identify faculty who would be willing to participate in such a mission trip. (ie., Dept of Education, Social Work, others)
 - b) Determine accommodation options
 - c) Be sure the strategy and purpose for travel is clear
 - d) Secure support from GCC to sponsor as Redbox
 - e) Determine possible role with Africa University
 - f) Both parties are sensitive to travel issues during an election year
2. Grove City is very enthusiastic and plans to continue relationship and develop options
3. Grove City Students are welcome to participate in TNC mission Trips this summer, and Prof Andrew Markley will communicate this to the school. Mark LaRosa will specifically check to see if GCC students might accompany Don Ziegler on his May/June trip to conduct eye clinics.
4. Ceramic Water Filter Training Center
 - a) Process to create safe drinking water filters with mostly natural resources at a low cost.
 - b) Drew and Andrew discussed "Ceramic Water Filter Training" for people in Zimbabwe to be trained in making water filters
 - c) The Concept is to develop a manufacturing company to make and sell the filters for a profit.
 - d) Company is located in Bridgeville and Drew provided contact information to Andrew Markley <https://ceramicwaterfilter.solutions>

D. Hearing Impaired - Molly Michael, Myra Mann / ?

1. The Hearing Impaired Project will be getting a lot of attention this spring:
 - a) Featured in St. Paul's UMC Lenten Calendar This has been shared with other churches. Baldwin Community is in the process of getting it approved to share as well!
 - b) CUMC Outreach will be dedicating Easter offerings to a few programs including the Hearing Impaired Project.
 - c) M. Michael has been researching the Hearing Impaired Unit in Nyadire to determine the best way to allocate any available funds. Possibilities might include vocational or equipment needs.
 - d) Elsa Z. is helping to place HI information on the website
 - e) A few people have asked for sponsorship registration forms.
 - f) M. Michael will contact Catarina Elkem of Finland to better understand their relationship & activities with the HI Unit. Bernt Klockars and Annina Rosenqvist of Finland will be visiting Nyadire Feb 27-March 3. M. Michael will contact them after their return to discuss HI program status.

E. Scholarships

1. No update - looking for a leader

F. General

1. Avonworth Middle School Project (Jillian Schmidt, EWB (Catherine + Tanvi), Elsa Zollars, Sarah Flowers)
 - a) Sarah Flowers is the organizing teacher at Avonworth. The project is based on the book "I Will Always Write Back".
 - b) Jillian Schmidt will present over her spring break, sharing her personal experiences of the mission and Zimbabwean culture.
 - c) EWB will present information regarding their solar lighting project and will lead the students in a "problem solving exercise" on March 3.
2. Hippo Water Rollers
 - a) Baldwin Community UMC will purchase 2 water rollers for evaluation at Nyadire, and if successful more can be ordered. In order to

qualify for duty free status thru ZACH, these first 2 evaluation rollers will be placed at Nyadire Hospital.

3. Nyadire School Hostel Renovation
 - a) Charity Horiro has asked if TNC might help with funds to renovate the primary school boarding hostels.
4. Nyadire Teachers College (Rosemary Nyarugwe)
 - a) No progress on identifying a partner university that might help NTC professors earn PHD's. This is required for degrees from NTC to be recognized by Africa University.

VII. Sustainability - Denny Hunt

- A. **Seeds of Hope** - no update
- B. **Micro Loans** - D. Hunt preparing a letter to Rev Mukundu with a proposal for the future of this program
- C. **Farm**
 1. 28 HA at Nyadire in cultivation by various departments.
- D. Denny Hunt, Don Ziegler, & D, Harvey met on 2/23 to discuss the concepts of Toxic Charity and how they should be implemented within TNC. Denny will be organizing meetings with each individual program leader.

VIII. Orphans - Mary Beth Zollars

- A. **HOH - Debbie Soles / E. Chiimba**
 1. Catarina Elkem has confirmed that Finland will fund solar power to the new HOH. They await the proposal.
 2. E. Chiimba expressed great appreciation for the \$2400 provided by TNC to install irrigation and enable planting of potatoes. They are now growing well and there is a lot of excitement. In addition, they planted a larger crop of maize than ever before and that is looking very promising.
 3. Change: Tsungirai and Tinashe will not be allowed to stay at the HOH until they finish their A-Levels at Nyadire High School. We are looking into the possibility of boarding.

4. Save the date & your rummage: HOH / HOHO Rummage Sale, May 20, 8-2, with pre-sale May 19, 5-9pm.
5. Interesting product possibly for HOH or HOHO kids - "Shoes that Grow":

<http://boisechristianliving.com/columns/147-shoe-that-grows.html>

[A new shoe that grows for children](#) or <http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/a-new-shoe-that-grows-for-children/>

B. HOHO - Marie Hunt

1. Marie Hunt and MB Zollars have been meeting to transition the leadership of HOHO.
2. Sister Rut's children - Kuda Lindgren is in his last term. Finland and TNC sponsors are splitting the costs. Febbie has been accepted at Midland States University in Gweru, scheduled to start Feb. 16. Finland can support her for one semester per year and is looking to TNC support for the other semester (approx. \$1550).
3. A meeting with all of the new HOHO sponsor coordinators is scheduled for Sunday, March 19, 2 pm at CUMC.
4. An "EVENING OF SERVICE" will be held at CUMC March 29th. One of the activities will be assembling health kits for backpacks and writing letters to the orphans.

IX. Health - Mark LaRosa

A. Medical & Doctor Support - Sue Bowers & Dr Larry Tanyanyiwa

1. 72 boxes of medical supplies arrived on the container, are secured in the hospital storeroom, and await distribution. In addition there is a large roll of vinyl for additional mattress covers, and furnishings for Dendera clinic. The container which will soon arrive Old Mutare includes an Ultrasound machine for Nyadire hospital.

B. Rural Health Clinic Renovation - R Duckworth / T Wesley & A. Chepiri / H. Mafunda

1. Progress with construction of Dendera Clinic continues. TNC has sent \$260,000 to date, against a final project cost estimate of \$308,000. The fourth progress report was received from Rev Austern Chepiri on

Feb 10 which shows a possible 1 month completion delay. Work stopped over the Christmas holidays, and recently heavy rains have caused some delays. Shortages of cash and material supply within Zimbabwe are a challenge but are being managed. A second borehole may be required as the first is not keeping up with water demand. The container of furnishings (donated by BBF and TNC) for Dendera have arrived and are now stored at Nyadire.

2. TNC has been working together with the Baltimore/Washington conference toward the objective of rebuilding all remaining health clinics managed by either Old Mutare or Nyadire hospitals. A visit to GBGM in Atlanta was made to discuss the possibility that Global Health might fund a major portion of these remaining clinics. All funding requests to Global Health must formally come from the Zimbabwe UMC Health Board and our understanding is that their funding limit has not been increased. The Health Board has included some support to Health Clinics in their grant application, but significant funds must yet be raised if we are to continue with Dinid, the next clinic to be rebuilt after completion of Dendera.

C. Medicine Supply - Irina Sheyko / Wilson Nhamoinesu

1. Although \$3000 was transferred on Feb 8 to company PCD for the purchase of medicines, Wilson advises the funds are not yet recognized by PCD.

D. Container Shipments - D. Harvey / Rev L Mukundu

1. The two containers scheduled for delivery directly to Nyadire have both arrived and the contents unloaded. Most items remain locked in the Nyadire Hospital lunchroom awaiting distribution. Rev Mukundu plans to distribute the items for Nyadire and the items for Dendera clinic at the same time.
2. The 1400 Bibles purchased by Jimmy VanderSchuur and transported in the container were distributed at the Nyadire Church Service on Feb 12, primarily to college students, other youth, and any adult that asked for one. Rev Mukundu reports that "99.9% of people at Nyadire now have a Bible"
3. The 3rd container shipped has arrived in Zimbabwe, but has not yet been delivered to Old Mutare. This container includes items that will be

distributed among all UMC Health Facilities. Included are two Ultrasound Machines - one for Nyadire and one for Old Mutare hospitals.

4. Each of these three containers has been extensively delayed thru customs as they awaited duty free permitting. BBF advises the first two containers incurred approximately \$5800 in demurrage fees. TNC agreed to pay \$2000 and BBF will pay the eventual total of remaining fees. D. Harvey will be discussing with BBF & ZACH to determine why these containers were so delayed, and how these charges can be avoided on future containers.
5. The Christmas offering at CUMC designated \$5000 for shipment of a next container to Nyadire. We will await clarification of all demurrage charges on the previous containers before initiating a next shipment. Expected shipping date is April or early May.
6. BBF has access to a number of "Personal Energy Transportation (PET)" carts which are designed for people with physical disabilities. <http://mobilityworldwide.org> We will check with Nyadire, the Zimbabwe Health Board, and also the "King George VI centre" (<http://ihussey.wixsite.com/king-george-6>) to determine if some should be sent with a next container.

E. Empowerment Pads - B. Lawson & Charity Horiro

1. Outreach
 - a) No response from KudakwaIshe Chisepo. Follow up planned. Carol Kessler of Shelbyville, IL requested information on the program. Information was sent via email and a package of samples was provided. (UMC.org article)
 - b) Information was provided to representatives of the Benedictine Sisters and Shushma of the University of Pittsburgh. This contact was made by Linda Ambrosso who attended the Interfaith Program at CUMC.
2. Communication with Nyadire
 - a) On-going communications with Charity and Crescencia. 112 boxes for either the HOHO or the Empowerment Pad programs arrived in the

container, are secured in the hospital storeroom, and await distribution.

3. Preparation for Upcoming Shipment

- a) A group email was sent to all the groups who work on this project and an enthusiastic response was received. The many groups are working on component and kit production. The emphasis for this shipment will be kits and any specific requests from Charity and Crescencia.
- b) To date at least 250 kits are ready for shipment. This total will increase after the upcoming workshop at CUMC UMW.

4. Workshops/Presentations/Sales:

- a) March 1st: Baldwin UMC UMW meeting: 10 am. (confirmation pending)
- b) March 14th: Workshop with CUMC UMW 10 am. Christian Life Center
- c) April 29th: Potential pottery sale at MLUMC UMW function.

F. Eyeglasses - Don Ziegler & ?

1. Plans are active to implement on-going Eyeglasses Clinics that are owned and run by the people of Nyadire and remote clinics. The goal is to train and certify an initial core group that will be identified on Don's next mission trip to Zimbabwe, perhaps in May or June.
2. Met with TNC leader for high level review of Eyeglasses Clinic plan, sent status update to Nyadire/Dendera team. Conference call planned with Dr Larry and core team.
3. Actively working every other week with Mission Vision team to develop training and certification processes.
4. Boxes of eyeglasses will be included with all future containers.
5. Initial PowerPoint presentation has been assembled and is available for future church and civic meetings to tell the TNC Eyeglasses Clinic story.

X. TNC Organization / Activities / Misc.

- A. Diane Welty will staff TNC's table at the Western Pa Annual Conference, Jun 8 - 11. R. Dickey has reserved the space.
- B. The Zimbabwe Partnership Meeting was held on Feb 22. Erik Hoeke is the newly appointed chairman. The structure of the program continues with the Immersion Program, Zim Camp for Youth (Jun 20 - Jul 5), Laity School at Africa U (Jul 6 - 11), and district to district projects. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and her husband will attend the Laity school. Warren UMC plans to send a 25 person team to Zimbabwe in 2019.
- C. Hunger Offering from CUMC to families in the Lake Kariba area - \$3000 is designated to purchase mealie meal which will be distributed to 300 families in this famine stricken region. However, we do not as yet have a method for effectively transferring the funds to the meal provider.
- D. D Harvey & D. Ziegler met on Feb 24 with the "Ceramic Water Filter Training Center", a non-profit organization. They provide a method for producing a fired clay "pot filter" which can be used by individual families to insure safe drinking water. They hope to identify organizations that can facilitate production of the pot filters as a sustainable business and make them available to large numbers of people. We will discuss the opportunity with possible candidates in Zimbabwe. <https://ceramicwaterfilter.solutions>

XI. Recent & Upcoming Events

- Sept 20 - Ocean Container via BBF departs Missouri with Dendera items
- Sept 20, 2016 BBF container departs Kansas City, arrives Beira, Mz Jan 2, and arrives Nyadire on Feb 13
- Nov 1, 2016 Container departs Pgh, arrives Beira, Mz Dec 14 and arrives Nyadire on Jan 28
- Dec 13, 2016 Container destined for Old Mutare departs Pgh, arrives Beira, Mz Jan 27. Currently awaiting customs clearance
- Jan 30 - TNC meeting
- Feb 2 - Meeting with Rotary to discuss international project opportunity
- Feb 7 - Fund Development program at Baldwin UMC
- Feb, 13 - "Cultural Awareness/General Planning" VIM trip meeting at Baldwin Community UMC
- Feb 14 - USC/BP Breakfast Rotary Presentation

- Feb 15 - Fund Development program at Dutilh UMC
- Feb 20 - TNC Meeting
- Feb 22 - Zimbabwe Partnership Meeting
- Feb 22 - EWB Meeting
- Feb 23 - "Toxic Charity" discussion
- Feb 24 - Meeting with "Ceramic Water Filter Training Center"
- Feb 26 - Violet Mutasa presentation to EWB at CMU
- Feb 27 - Fund Development program at First Bethel UMC
- Mar 1 - Empowerment Pad Program at Baldwin UMC UMW meeting
- Mar 2 - "Friendraising Event" planning conference call
- Mar 3 - EWB presentation at Avonworth Middle School
- Mar 7 - Fund Development program at Mt Lebanon UMC
- Mar 14 - Empowerment Pad program to UMW at CUMC
- Mar 19 - HOHO Sponsorship Meeting
- Mar 27 - TNC Meeting
- Mar 29 - "Evening of Service" at CUMC with TNC activities for the HOH
- April - BP/USC annual "Night of Giving"
- Apr 16 - May 7; TNC Month at Dutilh UMC
- Late April - target date for next BFF container shipment to Old Mutare
- Apr 25 - CUMC Prime Time Craft Fair. TNC crafts will be sold
- Apr 29th: Potential pottery sale at MLUMC UMW function.
- Apr 30 - Scheduled completion date for Dendera Clinic
- May 19 - Pre-sale for HOH/HOHO Rummage Sale at CUMC
- May 20 - HOH / HOHO Rummage Sale at CUMC
- Jun 8 - 11; Western Pa UMC Annual Conference
- Jun 20 - Jul 5; Zim Partnership Youth Zim Camp
- Jul 6 - 11; Zim Partnership Laity School at Africa University
- July 20 - Departure of VIM Team
- Aug 12-26; Probable dates for EWB trip to Nyadire

Next TNC Meeting - Monday, Mar 27; CUMC; Room to be announced