

World Relief Committee Report – BGM Meeting June 13th, 2022

The WRC has held two meetings, (Nov.11, 2021 & Dec. 14, 2021) since the last BGM Meeting.

During the November meeting, Lisa Rothenberger, World Relief Officer, updated the group on the year-to-date undesignated giving to OGHS. The figures indicated that donations were down about 9% from giving in 2019. Based on giving for the first nine months of the year, she expects undesignated income for 2021 to be approximately \$850,000.

The Committee's tasks at this meeting were to review the budget and to read and approve or deny development grant requests from IM and ABHMS. The Committee reviewed eleven grant requests that Rev. Jim Bell submitted for IM and eight grant requests submitted by Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte for ABHMS.

IM requests included development grants for four different hospitals in India, a solar project in Lebanon, a school project in Liberia, an education program in Myanmar, and a farm project in Togo.

ABHMS development grants included projects in creation justice, support for refugee women, a multicultural program for new immigrants, a domestic violence prevention program, and a program to engage a Black community in a COVID vaccine program. Emergency food and shelter programs were also supported by the undesignated funds.

As you can see, the undesignated giving is spread far and wide within the US and around the world.

The Committee also reviewed the results submitted by a World Relief sub-committee concerning the use of the \$500,000 estate gift from FBC, Palo Alto, CA. It was agreed that this was a legacy gift and should be treated differently than the standard distribution of undesignated funds. The Committee decided to make \$375,000 available to our ABC partners (IM, ABHMS) for development grants and emergency relief grants—including \$25,000 to ABHMS for specific support of ABWM initiatives. These initiatives will be submitted by ABWM to ABHMS for consideration through the regular World Relief Committee approval process. The remaining \$125,000 will be used to establish an endowment for One Great Hour of Sharing.

In response to concerns raised by ABWM representation concerning their inclusion as a partner to receive funding through OGHS, Rev. Zina Jacque will discuss the concerns raised by ABWM with Rev. Jeff Woods, General Secretary, and the Executive Committee of the BGM.

December 14, 2021

The Committee met to discuss the additional information submitted on two previous grant applications. Both were approved.

Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte, ABHMS, requested an exception to the policy limit \$25,000 for any one disaster situation. To date ABHMS has released a total of \$32,400 in response to Hurricane Ida. The exception will not require additional funding but will come from ABHMS' annual allocation for emergency relief grants. This was approved.

The Committee will meet again in October 2022 to review income and set the budget for 2022. They will then meet in December 2022 to consider development grant applications.

Janice Fletcher, Chair WRC