



**MISSION COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2007**

7:00 PM: The meeting commenced with devotion and prayer led by Elder John Alves.

Members present: John Alves, Rev. Henry Cade, Muriel Lovell, Rev. Al Johnson, Rev. Eric Spencer, Carmen Rodriguez, Ethelyn Fulton

Members excused: Doris Peterson, Bill Trafton

Ex-Officio present: Dr. Kevin Yoho, General Presbyter; Rev. Denise Kennedy, Moderator; Nailesh Bvashar, Accountant

Ex-Officio excused: Rev. MacMcArthur, Stated Clerk

The docket was approved and minutes of the January meeting were approved with the following addition: Muriel Lovell and John Alves were present at the January meeting.

Nil presented the financial report and responded to questions pertaining to distributed reports. Nil indicated that, if needed, additional monies are available from the reserve fund for funding of work teams.

Dr. Curtis Jones and Elder Desiree Barbara presented information on the Women's Empowerment Initiative proposal and entertained questions from the group.

MSP: That the Women's Empowerment Initiative work team proposal from Elmwood Church be approved and that the Mission Council allocate \$25,000 to be matched by Synod and GA funding.

(Forwarded to Presbytery for approval.)

MSP: That \$7,000 be allocated for the continuation of the work of the Middle East Work Team for 2007.

(Forwarded to Presbytery for approval.)

The liaison for the Women's Empowerment Initiative will be determined at the next Mission Council meeting, pending presbytery approval.

Dr. Yoho reported that an analysis of the Mission Design evaluation forms returned from the 2/3 meeting were still coming in and that overall, the responses were positive. Areas for improvement were noted.

John Alves, liaison for First Irvington/Sanford Heights reported that he had been in communication with Rev. Addo and the project is progressing.

Muriel Lovell reported that the Middle East Work Team had recently met with MRTI in New York where the video "Seeking Peace" was shown. The moderator was invited to meet with the Peacemaking Division in Louisville. A bi-monthly report was submitted.

There were no reports from other work teams.

MSP: That Peacemaking be allocated up to 5 minutes docket time during the Mission Council report at the 3/17 meeting of Presbytery.

Rev. Johnson requested permission to explore formation of a mission partnership with Jamaica. He was advised to form a work team and prepare an application.

Dr. Yoho indicated that there are plans for a Team Building Retreat for the Committee on Ministry and that the Mission Council might benefit from a similar undertaking. He responded to questions regarding the unavailability of someone to answer the office phone. He was asked to inform callers of the availability of someone via the voice mail message.

Rev. Kennedy expressed concern about persons who are still unable to access information via the computer. Rev. Yoho again stressed the need for a Technology Work Team that would address the concerns.

Next meeting date: March 13, 2007

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 with prayer by Rev. Spencer.