

Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting - **APPROVED**
January 21, 2021
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Members Present: Vicki Barb; David Boyce; Linda Boyce; Jeanne Carter; Jeanne Conley; Murdock Conley; Pat Crouse; Shirley Gibbs; Louise Jennings; Pappy Pless; Sandy Pless

Members Absent: Alvin Yoder

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

The meeting opened with prayer and a devotion from Dave Boyce. Scripture reference is from Job, chapters 38-40.

A **motion** was made by Pappy Pless, and seconded by Louise Jennings, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as presented. Motion passed.

2021 ELECTION

The election for the open position on the Board of Directors was held. Three candidates were nominated:

Todd Lilley

Dave Burke

Pam Presgrave

Following discussion on the candidates, votes were submitted to the Secretary via text message. By majority vote, Todd Lilley was elected to the Board.

REPORTS

- The 2021 proposed Budget was presented for review and discussed. A **motion** was made by Vicki Barb, and seconded by David Boyce, to accept the Budget as presented. Motion passed.
- The Financial Report was provided by Pat Crouse.
 - The report was emailed to the Board members prior to the meeting for review.
 - Most funds have been spent for help for families and with re-entry.
 - Increased re-entry needs, and the need for and ideas on followup procedures were discussed.
- The report on the Newsletter was provided by Pat Crouse.
 - The spring newsletter has not been started.
 - Pat C requests submissions of articles, testimonies, news, etc., for the newsletter from the Board members.
 - Pat C has been asked to provide an electronic copy of the Christmas newsletter from December to Pappy Pless to be posted on the website.
- The report on the Apple Tree Project was provided by Pat Crouse.
 - 210 children were expected to participate; the final number was approximately 250.
 - Approximately 20 churches were expected to participate (normal number is 46); more churches than expected, approximately 30, actually did participate.

- The churches that did participate provided more than requested in order to make up for the churches who declined to participate.
- Volunteers shared uplifting stories from their experiences.
- Sending gifts unwrapped, but with wrapping supplies provided, worked out well.
- The report on the Inmate Christmas Gift Project was provided by Louise Jennings and Vicki Barb.
 - Vicki B and Pam Presgrave were primarily in charge of this project.
 - Approximately 6000 gift bags were prepared.
 - Acquisition and packaging of items, and delivery to the facilities, went smoothly.
 - Gifts have not yet been delivered from storage to the inmates at Augusta and Coffeewood, due to the virus inside these facilities.
 - Louise J had been able to find a less expensive source for notepads this year.
- The report on Prison Inside/Outside Ministry was provided by Louise Jennings.
 - Louise J continues to write letters and send cards, as well as periodic devotionals written by Pappy Pless.
 - There is no update as to a date that the chaplains will be able to re-enter the prisons, due to the outbreak of the virus inside the facilities.
 - COVID-19 statistics continue to be updated by the DOC and by the chaplains:
 - 585 inmates; 29 staff; 5 deaths at Augusta
 - 674 inmates; 3 staff; 1 death at Coffeewood.

OLD BUSINESS

- A report on the status of the Yard Sale/Auction items was not available.

NEW BUSINESS

- David Boyce held a discussion regarding the future of the Kingsway ministry and the job of the Board of Directors.
 - The job of the Board is primarily to direct the future and “doings” of whatever is necessary to continue and stabilize the ministry, and to ensure that there is a procedure in place for followup.
 - The work of the Board is different than the “boots on the ground” volunteer activity inside the prisons; the Board should be regarded separately from the volunteers themselves.
 - A discussion was started regarding the future of the ministry for a time that Louise J may not still be the Director.
 - Donations: Many people donate to the ministry because of Louise J herself. How can donations be continued?
 - Budget and finance planning should be ahead a year in advance, not a year behind.
 - There should be someone “shadowing” Louise J to learn what she does and what resources she has.
 - Vicki Barb will be serving Kingsway full-time after her retirement in June, and will be working closely with Louise J.
 - Steps to formulate a purpose and plan for the future need to be taken.
 - The possibility of using this time before being able to return inside the prisons to reorganize, to form committees (i.e., fundraising and volunteers), to develop a plan for

succession, to familiarize Board members with each other's roles and responsibilities, etc., was discussed.

- Establishing an information network of resources, donor information, and financial information was discussed:
 - Information must be accessible to more than just one person for the roles of the ministry.
 - Access to and sharing information is vital to the continuation of the ministry.
 - This network would be accessible to Board members and committee members, possibly on an as-needed basis depending on their roles.
 - This network would not be accessible to the general public.
 - Pappy Pless can set up the network in the manner decided upon.
- Linda and David B will send a questionnaire to the Board to survey what Board members think about the ministry currently and about its future.
 - The status of and plan for vaccinating staff and inmates at Virginia facilities was discussed.
- A **motion** was made by Pappy Pless, and seconded by Jeanne Carter, for the Board to meet more often than quarterly. General discussion ensued, including the plan for newly-formed committees to meet monthly, resulting in the decision to meet again in February via Zoom. The motion was not voted upon.
- Kingsway will be the recipient of a \$2500 grant from the United Methodist Foundation.
- The possibility of reviewing and updating the By-Laws was mentioned. No further discussion was held.

An interim meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, at 6:30 pm, via Zoom video conference.

The next Kingsway PAFO Board of Directors quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, at 6:30 pm. The format of the meeting, either by Zoom video conference or by in-person gathering, will be determined at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Sandy Pless
Secretary, Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach