

## GEPC Outreach Team (OT)

### Minutes from Thursday, 2 January 2025

Present: Dale Anderson, Debbie Failing, Joyce Grady, Josiah Heshion, Mark Lancaster, Josh Lee, David Lefebvre, Judy Lefebvre, and Mark Johnson were present.

=====

Meeting was called to order by Mark J. at 6:57pm. Then, Mark led with an opening prayer. Welcome to Debbie Failing! This is her first OT meeting. The minutes from our last meeting (11/21) were approved with one minor correction.

(1) Then we discussed the "Link." The most recent printed issue of "Link" (12/29) had five OT-related items: --Collection Effort = the December Collection Effort was for Hillcrest Hope.

--Service opportunity = this announcement was about the PLARN project, that turns plastic bags into mats. Lucy's, Judy's and Josiah's phone numbers were listed, so that folks can call if interested.

--Thank you! Several elementary students had their lunchroom debt paid by GEPC. The Sunday School collection allowed us to give Gashland Elem. \$260 and Clardy Elem. \$400. Thank you Mark L. for coordinating this effort.

--Thank you! Operation Christmas Child was a big success. Shoeboxes were sent to 57 children. Thank you Marlene for coordinating this effort.

--Thank you! Operation Angel Tree was also a big success. We provided gifts for 48 kids in 17 families. Thank you to the Coopers and to Mark L. for coordinating this effort.

(2) Many thanks to Joyce and to Dale for sending us all some Ministry Updates by forwarding emails.

(3) Our current Outreach collection (in month of Jan) is for RH. Many thanks to Brittany for coordinating this effort. Our future upcoming Outreach Collection efforts will be:

Feb	City Union Mission (CUM)
Mar	Hillcrest Hope (HH)
Apr	Resource Health (RH)
May	City Union Mission (CUM)
June	Hillcrest Hope (HH)
July	City Union Mission (CUM)

(4) Josh brought up the fact that he was not familiar with some of our Ministry Partners (HH, CUM, RH, Eleos, GOP, etc.). Mark L. suggested that as a “Homework Assignment, we could each make a list with a brief description of each Ministry Partner, and all the other beneficiaries of the OT.

(5) Dale then gave us a Ministry Update on the Missions Team (MT). They did not meet in December. Their next meeting will be on Thursday, 23 January. Following every MT meeting, Dale will forward to us the Minutes after they have been prepared and reviewed. Dale brought up the point that we need to get missionary information to the congregation. We could put something in the “Link.” Or perhaps a bulletin insert. Or maybe a publication (like the “Porch”) that we could have printed and distributed. Mark J. said he would bring this to the Session.

(6) We then had a lengthy discussion about the PLARN Project. Judy has been experimenting with some different ways of making the mats, such as braiding. David and Judy would like to organize a Workshop, to get other people involved and teach them how to make the mats. Judy said she would make chili. David said he would move forward on this idea.

(7) The Men’s Ministry has announced that they plan to do a Service Project. We agreed that it would be ideal if that Service Project was tied in with one of our Ministry Partners. David will follow up.

(8) Pastor Michael wants an Annual Report. Mark J. will write an Annual Report for OT, and Dale will provide one for MT.

(9) Mark L. led with a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm. Next meeting will be Monday, 17 Feb at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Johnson, Interim Chair

**Note:**

***(these minutes have been approved by the Outreach Team)***