

Missions Meeting

June 11, 2026

Members Present:

Shannon Taylor Jodie Claes Sean Claes Marley Claes Harper Claes Dakotah Norton
Trudy Gove Martha Jo Young Marcy Puente Ruby Puente Barbara Ricks

Shannon thanked the Claes family for cleaning out the Missions closet. Due to a gnat and fly infestation, they cleaned pantry shelves and discarded damaged items. Jodie advised that any crumbs or damaged packages be cleaned and removed immediately to avoid another infestation. They also threw out a lot of soiled plastic shopping bags, and suggested everyone be careful when leaving bags.

Blessings Box:

Jodie expressed the need for more than the allotted \$500 per month for shopping for Blessing Box items. After reviewing the financials, Shannon said that \$750 could be used each month. In addition, Sean receives a \$100 monthly donation from the Masonic Lodge, as well as additional donations allowing for \$1,000 to be spent. Jodie will purchase items on the 1st and 15th of each month. She is trying to arrange a time, probably in the evening, when volunteers can help unload items at the church. Marcy suggested unloading could also take place on a food distribution day when there are plenty of helpers. Jodie will keep us posted.

Suggested food items include protein-rich foods, spaghetti, corn, green beans, black beans (other than turtle beans), pastas, pudding, Jell-O, Vienna sausage, and prepared snack bags.

Food Distribution:

Marcy stated that there will be a change in the posted distribution time for clients from 1:00-2:30 pm to 1:00-2:00 pm. Most clients have picked up food by 1:30, but volunteers will stay until 2:00 for any late comers. She also informed everyone that clients cannot hold spaces in line. The distribution is on a first come basis. The question was raised about whether there should be a distribution on July 16, since VBS is scheduled for that evening. Marcy said that the distribution might need to be held in the Fellowship Hall. Food volunteers should be able to move and replace any VBS decorations.

VBS Rally:

Shannon asked if there will be a VBS rally by the Blessings Box this year. We will wait for further information from Alyssa.

Backpack Drive:

The backpack giveaway will be held on August 2. Jodie has made a rough draft of a flyer to advertise the giveaway and is working on registration information that will be posted in English and Spanish. A supply list is also being formed. The cutoff date for registration is tentatively set for July 16. The distribution will be set at 75 backpacks with a few extra bags on hand. Barbara has 48 backpacks. Marcy suggested that there possibly be a backpack registration sign up time at 1:30 pm during the July 16 Food Distribution. A sign-up table could be set up separately from the food sign-in table.

Jodie will finalize the flyer and send it to Shannon and Sheila for review.

Life Together:

Dakotah reminded the group that the next Life Together ministry will be on Saturday, June 13, at The Southside Community Center in San Marcos. It has been a mission of THE Journey and is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Volunteers arrive at 3:30 pm and stay until 5:30 pm. Since Pastor KP is leaving, he wondered if this ministry would continue. \$865 is currently in the budget for this ministry, which could cover about 4-5 months. The Missions team will prepare the meal for July 11 at the church. Marcy will cook. Trudy will provide a dessert. Dakotah will leave at 3:00 to take the meal to the center. Meals for the following months will be discussed later.

Hays Free Fridge Program:

There is still an interest in having a refrigerator set up at KUMC. Communication from Dakotah's email contacts has stopped for a while but still exists. He and Pastor Kallie are still exploring the best place to set up the fridge. Pastor Kallie would like it to be close to the Blessings Box, which will require some sort of structure be built as well as electricity installed.

Additional:

Dakotah has set up a Wiki account (umc.wiki) for the Missions Team to make it easier to exchange information and ideas.

Jodie asked Dakotah for names of people from The Journey who might be interested in attending Missions meetings.

The meeting was closed in prayer led by Jodie.

The next Missions meeting will be at 6:00 pm on July 9, 2026.