

Executive Director Report

February 12, 2018

2017 was another remarkable year for the Dominican Development Group. We continue to successfully facilitate the mission and purpose of our organization by supporting the many ministries of the Dominican Episcopal Church. With the retirement of Bishop Holguín, I am working with Bishop Moisés Quezada as he evaluates initiatives and programs across the diocese and sets his priorities for the church. Missionaries and mission teams continue to be the primary source of the program and infrastructure support to the many initiatives underway across the Diocese. The DDG assisted every mission team in some capacity in 2017. I continue to be very thankful to the entire board for your support and for allowing me to participate in this ministry.

2018 is the 20th anniversary of the DDG. I will work with our communications team to show the remarkable achievements made by our organization over that span. The mid-year meeting is scheduled to be in the diocese of SW Florida which will also be celebrating its 50 anniversary. Ideas and assistance are welcome from the board about how to celebrate this occasion. I would suggest we have a special celebration dinner and invite former DDG board members and individuals who have been instrumental to our success. David Morrow has suggested forming an advisory board made up of these "friends of the DDG." The role of this group is to be determined.

Transition - The DDG and Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana (IED) have transitioned leadership over the past few years, and this year we will see Karen Carroll retire from her work as a missionary. We have been looking for several years for someone to replace her to work in the mission team office. Lydia Pendleton has expressed interest in replacing Karen and is here with us today and has spent the past week visiting the diocese as part of her discernment to see if this is where God is calling her to serve. The mission personnel office at the church center has said they are unwilling to support the appointed missionary position which Karen has currently. I traveled to New York last week to meet with Elizabeth Boe and David Copley. Their view is that the mission team office should be led by a Dominican. Currently, Karen and Patricia Martin share the responsibilities of the office. The mission personnel department has offered to place a YASC volunteer for this position which would be for 1 year with the possibility of a second and third year extension. This program would require Lydia to raise \$10,000 for the first year and \$8,000 for additional years. She would have to attend the YASC discernment retreat later this month and mission team orientation in late June prior to being assigned here in July. This is problematic as this timeline would not allow for an overlap with Karen. The work of the mission team office is vital to our organization's work in the Dominican Republic.

Executive Director Travel - For 2017 I was out of the office 76 days of interstate or international travel for DDG business. Additionally, I had 18 days where I had meetings within the Diocese of SW Florida that exceeded 4 hours including travel. In 2018 I currently have scheduled 63 days of interstate and international travel. Travel is a requirement to continue the development and expansion of projects and programs. I have reduced my work with mission teams and maximize my time in the Dominican Republic while with work teams by visiting sites of programs and projects for development, meetings and evaluations. To realign my priorities with family before work, for 2018 I am instituting a policy where I will designate "comp" days during the week to make up for the weekend days spent traveling and working for DDG business.

Dedications - Dios mediante we will see the dedication of 4 new buildings in 2018: Espiritu Santo in Azua, San Timoteo in Izaa, Espiritu Consolador in Dajabon, and Monte Sion in Andres Boca Chica. These dedications are the result of years of hard work.

Other Support - We shipped several containers of donations to the DR including equipment, tools, generators, clothing, playgrounds, and other goods. We also shipped an ambulance which was dedicated yesterday, February 11, 2018, in the community of Baní. We have a firetruck in process and a new vehicle for a member of the clergy. I have scheduled another shipment of donations for March 1st. We received donations that will help cover the cost of this shipping. We also launched a prayer book drive in late 2016 for the churches across the Dominican diocese. To date we have found support for all but 21 of the 200 prayer books. The books are \$20 each and as of this trip, I have successfully transported all of them into the DR.

We were also blessed by the donation of 70 small backpacks for schools from FedEx. Karen and I got the list of school supplies needed by the children attending the primary schools and promoted this in the diocese of SW Florida and were able to "fill the backpacks." With Charlie's help we distributed them to several schools.

Financially - The DDG received and transferred \$820,008.27 in designated support of the development and self-sustainability of the Dominican Episcopal Church. In total this represents thousands of individual donations in support the programs of the DDG and IED. It is important to note significant portions of the funds transferred to the IED are designated for mission team support. Additionally, the La Paloma campaign has raised more than \$290,000 and continues to receive funds designated for the fund for self-sufficiency. Ed Miller's report will provide additional information about the Endowment Campaign.

Budget Summary - The 2017 DDG approved budget was \$130,052.68. We received \$116,253.23 for 2017 DDG support including interest generated by the DDG investment account held in the Dominican Republic. This means we fell \$13,799.45 short of the organizational fundraising goals we set for the year. The 2017 expenditures totaled \$126,505.52 or approximately \$3,547.13 under the approved budget. Actual income minus expenditures totaled a negative \$10,252.29. We did receive funds designated for travel from 2017 in the amount of \$2,565.15 in Feb. of 2018. I try to keep expenses to a minimum, and it is very important to note that the Diocese of the Dominican Republic provides me with the use of an apartment at the seminary which not only saves money but also allow me to keep clothing and personal items in country so that I can use my luggage for donations and equipment.

Revenue is a significant concern. We as a board need to address the shortfall and how to increase support to keep our organization financially healthy. We continue to be very efficient as an organization and make every effort to balance program development and keep operating costs down. It is very difficult to facilitate programming that requires fundraising and then ask the groups to support the DDG as well. The system we have in place works well if we can meet the DDG financial needs. I ask the board to help in this area. I do solicit DDG support when possible and can shift more of my time to fundraising for our origination, however this would limit my time with my many other duties. There is little doubt of the DDG success. We are viewed by many in the wider church as the model to be used by developing dioceses.

Programs:

Mission Teams - I continue to work with the many mission teams from numerous dioceses to assist them with their programs and projects. Karen and I are developing a new "Mission Project Summary" which we hope will better define responsibilities, leadership, as well a timeframe both for facilitation and financial aspects of the individual projects and programs. We hope to use this form with a limited number of teams in 2018 while refining the forms for expanded use in 2019.

Solar energy projects

Consuelo: The solar equipment and battery system is currently generating power. The system at last report continues to be functioning as designed.

Jalanga: A team from Delaware installed the system in June 2017. The system was fully functioning in mid-summer 2017 for the community center. It is the hope that in the future the system can be extended to provide electricity to the bakery and church. The Diocese of Delaware submitted an international partnership UTO grant which partially funded this project. The final accounting and grant documentation is in process to close out this project.

San Simon: We have purchased solar panels for use at San Simon (a passive system). The panels are stored in Santo Domingo. We hope to install the panels in 2018. The cost for this installation is approximately \$8,000 including the inverter, panel mounting and associated wiring. We have identified a local solar professional who can install and insure proper function of the system.

Mosovi: We have purchased and installed solar panels for use at Divina Gracia (a passive system). The primary purpose for these panels is to power the community water well/system. The pumps and associated gear are also installed or on site in Mosovi. The cost to complete this system is approximately \$7,400. We hope to complete this system as well as the remaining water pumping and piping systems in 2018.

Exploration teams: These trips have been very popular and serve our mission. The 2018 Spring trip is April 19-May 25 and will travel north/south. The specific locations visited vary based on diocesan priorities. The 2018 Fall Exploration trip is scheduled for November 8-14. For 2019 I plan to redevelop these trips to be pilgrimages. We will still travel and visit the many sites and align these sites with the diocesan priorities, but we will be more intentionally relational with the clergy and promote congregational interaction.

Vocational schools: I have been promoting the new vocational school programs. The DDG is working with the IED, and companion dioceses to find resources to complete the school in Santa Fe and develop programs that meet the needs of the community. Currently there is no funding available for the Santa Fe program. The school in Consuelo continues with salon training and language programs and expanded to include electrical and nail salon service programs in 2017. I continue to seek resources for these programs.

Scholarships: The scholarship program has declined in recent years. One of the reasons is the lack of consistency. Bishop Moisés and I have discussed ways of improving this program. For the 2018-19 school year we hope to implement some changes to the program to increase support for this important program.

Income Generating Business Initiatives

Dominican Wave Soap Program – a program to provide job creation and provide funds for the church and community programs and for educational programs. This program has had moderate

success. The program is in jeopardy of failure if new funding sources are not found to fortify the program until it is fully operational. This program is operated solely by Dominicans from the San Marcos community and is designed with multiple revenue streams. The primary support is to be through local sales of the artisan soap to the more than 2 million tourists who visit the Puerto Plata area each year. The second method of program support is through an agreement with visiting Amber Cove Cruise Terminal excursion groups who come to make the soap and learn about the community. Each participant pays a fee of \$10 to the program and can purchase the soap products from the gift shop. There are other ideas for generating income in the gift shop including memorabilia and vending of prepackaged snacks and drinks. The third method of support is through sales of the soap in the US. It is my hope that we can develop a fundraising model where we package the soap products in display boxes and missionaries can sell the soap for \$10 with \$5 supporting their mission initiative and \$5 supporting the D-Wave program.

"Episco-pan" Bakery Program - The bakery in Jalonga with the support of a mission team from Georgia was able to set up the donated equipment and purchase additional equipment. Currently Fr. Vanel and diocesan staff are working on feasibility studies and business plan preparation as well as identifying community leadership and individuals the who can work at the bakery.

Grants -

2016 UTO Companion Dioceses Grant- The 2016 UTO Companion grant request was submitted by The Diocese of Delaware requesting the Diocesan grant to fund approximately 30% of the cost of the Solar Electric and water program in Jalonga. The grant was successful, and the work is completed. We are in the process of closing out the grant. This was a very complex project and required significant amounts of my time and that of Fr. Vicente, Digna, Karen, Charlie and the Diocesan staff.

2018 UTO Grant- In 2018 the UTO Diocesan grant is due in early March; Tom McGowan has agreed to help with the preparation of this grant. The project selected by Bishop Moisés for this grant is the construction of a new cultural and racial reconciliation center in Boca de Cachon.

GEMN - I have been the SW Florida representative to the Global Episcopal Mission Network for 8 years and currently serve on the board of directors. My trips to the annual conferences and board meetings are partially funded by the Diocese of SW Florida. Expenses more than what is covered by the Diocese of Southwest Florida are covered by the DDG. GEMN is an excellent organization and there are real benefits to being on their board. GEMN held its 2017 annual mission conference in Alabama last May and will hold the 2018 Conference at the Virginia Theological Seminary in April. These conferences include many leaders of the various ministries of the Episcopal Church and offer a great exposure of the DDG. We had good DDG representation at the conference with Sally Thompson and former DDG Executive Director Bob Stevens and myself sharing the good work we are part of in the DR through the DDG and IED. It is also a good way to learn about the many mission programs of the Episcopal church and network with their respective leaders. The 2019 GEMN Conference is slated be held in the Dominican Republic and may coincide with another Mission Encounter program like the one a few years ago. I will update the board as the details for this conference are solidified.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Kunkle