

College Mennonite Church
Minutes – Congregational Meeting
March 18, 2018, Fellowship Hall

1. **Opening:** Joe Springer opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.
2. **Review of Minutes:** Bill Clemens reviewed the minutes of the January 28, 2018 congregational meeting. Max Mertz moved approval of the minutes. Tim Lichti seconded. They were approved by voice vote.
3. **Corporate Prayer:** Becky Horst introduced a time of prayer. Each of the fourteen tables around which participants sat had a unique theme or topic related to areas of congregational life. They discussed these topics, and identified reasons for petition, gratitude, or lament in those areas. We sang the hymn “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”. Representatives from each table then led in prayers for their topic, and Becky then offered a concluding prayer.
4. Joe reviewed the schedule for the meeting and introduced the proposal to be acted upon at this meeting: **The CMC board recommends that the congregation invest \$250,000 in funds for New Ministries raised during our current Vision Campaign in community outreach with particular focus on our local Latino population.** He then gave some background on the proposal.
 - It grows out of our Strategic Priority # 1 (Hospitality and Welcoming)
 - The Vision Campaign proposed raising \$250,000 for new ministries but did not commit to any specific new ministry. This is the 4th congregational meeting in a row where we have discussed or presented options for new ministries.
 - Campaign pledges committed specifically for new ministries in the Vision Campaign have been modest, but over \$430,000 of the money pledged was done so for “where needed most.” Taking action this evening would be committing a total of \$250,000 for the proposed new ministry.
 - In the recent Spanish-language ministry survey, 97% affirmed some sort of Spanish language ministry, and 75% affirmed increasing current level of investment.
 - The prospect of financial resources from the Vision Campaign, a strong correlation between David and Madeline Maldonado’s pastoral gifts and the pastoral characteristics identified by the congregation for Spanish-language ministry, and a mutual sense of God’s timing (Maldonado’s/CMC leaders), all contributed to the Board’s development of this proposal.
 - This proposal does not call the Maldonados. If the congregation takes action this evening to use the \$250,000 for community outreach, Maldonados would come to CMC April 20-22 for a candidate visit. After that visit, the congregation would decide at the May 13 congregational meeting whether or not to call Maldonados to ministry here. If the congregation decides to call them, they could begin as early as July 1.
 - If the Maldonados are called, they would be hired for a three-year term, 11 months each year (David at .75 FTE and Madeline at .50 FTE). The focus in the first year would be on experimentation with viable ministry options, in the second year on implementation, and in the third year on evaluation. We would use the \$250,000 from New Ministries Campaign, as well as a total of \$50,000 from our General Fund over the three years for their support. In addition, we would commit \$4,000 annually to support work that

Maldonados would like to do among Argentinian Mennonite churches for one month each year. (This would be built into CMC's General Fund under Outreach Commission.)

5. **Preparing to Vote:** To assist the congregation in making this decision, additional information was provided:

- The Board played a ten-minute video featuring David and Madeline. In that video Maldonados greeted the congregation, gave background on their previous ministries in Florida, Guatemala and elsewhere, indicated that they see a lot of potential in our community, and assured us of their prayers for our discernment.
- Don Yost testified to the energy, courage, and vulnerability he has experienced in working with the Spanish-speaking people in our community. He noted that David and Madeline want to help us be ministers, and feels that they will help us become better ministers to the people in our community. He observed, "We will save this congregation by losing it, and by growing into something new."
- We sang the hymn, "Guide Our Feet".
- Tables then spent a half-hour discussing the proposal, identifying issues to be clarified, and possibilities the proposal had for strengthening or weakening CMC. Table groups had opportunity to list pros and cons regarding the proposal as well as questions of clarification on charts at the front.

6. **Feedback from table groups (on charts at meeting):**

Pros:

- David & Madeline's knowledge & experience will aid in church and spiritual growth
- The friendly people at CMC will have many more opportunities to reach out to others

Cons:

- Are we afraid that so many Latino people will be attracted to our church that we will not know what to do?
- Many of are not good risk takers

Questions of clarification: [Answers provided by Joe during the meeting]

- 11-month or 12-month contracts? **Answer:** 11-month contracts.
- If this \$250,000 is spent on this proposal, will there be no money available for other forms of outreach? **Answer:** The total \$250,000 goal for new ministries under the Vision Campaign would go to this particular ministry. CMC is providing some support to other new ministries, such as reentry ministry, through other general fund resources, including allocation of some staff time.
- How many Spanish-language ministry surveys were completed? **Answer:** Of the 400 surveys distributed, 80 were returned.
- What is the vision of the Hispanics in our congregation? **Answer** (based on impromptu consultation with Los Embajadores members present): They want to be one congregation worshipping in one place, not two congregations.
- Why has it taken since December to bring the congregation into this discussion? **Answer:** Phil had floated the idea of calling a pastor for Spanish-speaking ministry in the Nov. congregational meeting. Mid-December was the first inkling of the idea of potentially calling Maldonados. The weeks between then and the Jan. 28 congregational

meeting was spent in preliminary conversations to confirm the potential availability of Maldonados for ministry here. The Board and pastors had opportunity to meet with Maldonados just prior to the Jan. 28 congregational meeting.

From the time the Maldonados met with the Board until the congregation heard about it was about five weeks. Congregational discussions at the Jan. 28 meeting and results of the Spanish-language ministry survey informed the board decision at its Feb. meeting to develop the current proposal for congregational consideration. The Board then worked to assemble details necessary to inform the congregation of the proposal's parameters.

7. Joe made a **motion** for the congregation to approve the proposal (See 4 above). Max Mertz **seconded** it.

Discussion of the proposed motion:

- Del Good - If we are to serve our community, this is a specific concrete way to do it.
- Max Mertz - I strongly support it. I am by nature not a risk taker, but this will encourage us.
- Kent Beck – I am very supportive of it.
- Joe Springer [*in answer to a question from the floor about the general wisdom/dynamics of calling a couple to joint ministry at CMC*] – Having both spouses serve together in ministry always creates potential layers of complication. Throughout their nearly quarter century of ministry, David and Madeline have always shared pastoral responsibilities. We believe the strengths of their complementary expertise will provide clear benefits to their proposed ministry here.
- June Yoder - What do our Spanish-speakers think of this proposal? Felipe Merino – They believe it is a breath of fresh air and strongly support it.
- Sue Neeb – How will approving his proposal impact calling someone for a music position at this congregation? Joe Springer – The Board is still working on that, but that position would be funded out of the General Fund.
- Weldon Troyer –David and Madeline coming here is the activity of the Holy Spirit.
- John Lederach – The Maldonados are a delightful couple. Part of our gift to them would be to help them with their education.
- Russ Liechty - If we go ahead with this, then we need a truly integrated congregation-not two congregations under one roof.

8. **Action:** The proposal was unanimously approved by a hand vote. (There were no dissenting votes although about 5 members present abstained from voting.)

9. **Other Business:** No other business was brought to the meeting.

10. **Adjournment:** After offering a closing prayer for the congregation and for David and Madeline Maldonado, Joe adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Attendance: 92

Recorder: Bill Clemens