

## Notes on the Congregational Meeting June 19, 2016

Del Miller moderated the meeting and approximately 75 people were present.

1. Gifts Discernment. The meeting opened with two proposals from Gift Discernment (presented by Doug Hornick who was substituting for Diane Funk): the slate of positions and the nominees for elders (Kevin Kummer & Marilyn Rose). **Both passed unanimously** without further discussion.
2. Torre Fuerte Partnership 2016-2017. Tim Krabill presented an overview of the partnership agreement between First Mennonite (FMC) and Torre Fuerte congregations, which started in 2012 with a 3-year commitment. It was renewed x 1 year in 2015 and Tim proposed a one year continuation. Tim described in detail the ongoing commitment by members of FMC, the continued commitment by other Mennonite congregations and the stress of Max's department on the Torre Fuerte congregation. **The proposal passed unanimously**.
3. Half time position for Max Villatoro at FMC and the R-1 Visa Proposal. This was a non-voting presentation/discussion. On behalf of the Mission Commission Tim Krabill presented more details about this proposal and asked that the Ad Cabinet and Elders along with Stewardship Commission analyze the financial impact of supporting the Max as a half time pastor. Tim proposed a congregational meeting July 17 to review the financial information, answer additional questions, and set a date to vote on the proposal. Tim reiterated the uncertainty that Max will get an R-1 visa, and that it remains the best and possibly only path for Max to return to his family in Iowa. Furthermore, if the R-1 visa is to have a chance, it requires that FMC prove the legitimacy of the new position created for Max by demonstrating an airtight, unwavering support for the process, producing a detailed job description for the position, following the generally accepted search/hire method for the position, establishing a commitment to long-term financial support, and providing a detailed and explicit covenant of understanding between the two congregations which defines clearly how the position relates to both congregations and how the two congregations are related to each other. The subsequent discussion period overall was supportive and included the following questions/comments: the necessity of Elders and/or Ad Cabinet to give explicit guidelines to Stewardship Commission about how to add/fund the half-time position, recommendation to use football parking money, requests to explore additional resources from the community (Mennonite and also other denominations), how will the establishment of the position affect the FMC & others support of the Torre Fuerte Partnership (#2 above), and impact of the Torre Fuerte position on LGBT acceptance.
4. Report from Bill Hochstetler and Marian Schwabbauer synthesizing what they heard through the LGBT Listening Process. Both read verbatim and directly from their previously prepared report. This report was circulated into members' mailboxes. Their comprehensive effort and report was received with genuine openness and appreciation. The presentation finished with members applauding enthusiastically.

*Submitted by Douglas Hornick*