

## **Executive Board Assembly Report**

**June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023**

### **The Executive Board met on the following dates via Zoom:**

August 25, 2022; October 29, 2022; December 15, 2022; February 25, 2023; April 20, 2023; May 31, 2023.

**Executive Board members:** Delon Martens (Moderator), Lee Lever (Interim Assistant Moderator), Dave Wiebe, Willmar Harder, Vicki Penner, Aurora Parchmont, Lesther Caceros, Ben Woodward-Breckbill, Wendy Funk Schrag (Secretary)

### **Highlights of these meetings include:**

1. Received the anti-racism audit report, discussion of the report at the board meetings, and a communication to WDC constituents asking for volunteers to serve on a new group focusing on the recommended actions from the report. The executive summary and full report (in English and Spanish) are posted on the WDC website and their availability has been communicated to WDC constituents.
2. Discussed table group feedback from 2022 Delegate Assembly on ideas for the 2500 Main Place building, received regular reports from the Facilities Assessment Team, and approved a negotiation team to pursue sale of the 2500 Main Place building with interested buyers.
3. Received and approved Heidi Regier Kreider's proposal to enter into a time of listening to WDC congregations and establishing closer relationships by making in person visits to as many congregations as agree to receive the visits. A listening team planning group was appointed (Doug Penner, Heidi Regier Kreider, Wendy Funk Schrag) to establish a consistent process. Two pilot visits were held at Buhler Mennonite Church and Grace Hill Mennonite Church. Volunteers are being recruited and will be trained in June 2022 to begin going out in groups of 3 to do in person listening visits. Invitation letters were sent out to all WDC congregations and so far three congregations have responded to set up a time for a listening team to visit.
4. Discussed the future and purpose of WDC Reference Council meetings as the fall 2022 meeting was canceled due to lack of registrations.
5. Approved a request from the Church Planting Commission to certify Casa de Restauracion (Houston, TX) as a church plant.
6. Heard a report from Sandra Montes-Martinez on her attendance representing WDC at the Hope for the Future conference, an annual gathering of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) leaders who are connected to Mennonite Church USA. The conference provides a safe setting to assess the experiences of BIPOC leaders, and address ways to grow in solidarity across cultural, racial and intergenerational lines for systemic transformation. This year included a celebratory focus on recognizing elders.

7. Approved a recommendation from the Stewardship Commission to transfer 20% from bequest (just over \$122k) toward the budget deficit for FY February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023.
8. Appointed WDC delegates to attend Mennonite USA Convention in July 2023.
9. At a special board meeting on May 31, 2023, the executive board took the following actions:
  - a. Approved the sale of 2500 Place Building to G5 Investments, LLC, a Kansas Limited Liability Company, for \$465,000. Joel Gaeddert and Greg Gaeddert are the representatives of G5 Investments, LLC.
  - b. Approved leasing a portion of the 2500 Place building and in 2025, the endowment subsidy plan for the cost of leasing will be reviewed.
  - c. Approved the use of proceeds from the sale of 2500 Place and any remaining funds in the 2500 Place Fund, including establishing a ¼ time staff position for fundraising.
  - d. Approved an annual review of the future needs of physical office space for carrying out the mission of WDC over the next 7 ½ years (the initial lease term).

Report submitted by Wendy Funk Schrag, secretary