



Thomas Merton Center
Board of Directors Meeting
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 7:00 P.M., 2022
ZOOM MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Gerard McGuire, Bob Capriles, Diane Marie Herte, Larry Lopez, Mike McMahon, Mary Seabury, Ann Akey

Guest: Anna Jaklitsch

Meeting leader: Gerard McGuire

Meeting prayer leader: Ann Akey (March - Mike, April - Mary)

Meeting secretary: Ann

OPENING BUSINESS:

1. Review/Approval Minutes of the December 2021 TMC Board meeting

ACTION: The minutes had been approved via email in January 2022 but one oversight had been noted since then. The December minutes had referred to approval of Oct. rather than Nov. minutes. Correction was made and the minutes as amended were formally approved again.

2. Board liaison with TMC committees update

Msgr. Sandersfeld is probably not coming back as a presider due to ill health.

3. Kay's boxes - scanning and storage

No update

4. TMC Town Hall Meeting - Jan/Feb 2022

Everyone had agreed via email that it was best to postpone it due to the prevalence of the omicron variant. The Board will revisit at their March meeting.

5. TMC Fundraising letter

It was not sent out last year as planned and seems unnecessary at this point.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1. Finance Committee (Mike McMahon)** Mike sent out the 2021 Year End Financial Report via email Feb.. 9. TMC's revenues were approx. \$44,800 and expenses were approx. \$54,600. Therefore, there was a net loss of (\$9,800) for the year which was in line with the 2021 approved budget. At the end of the year there was approx. \$13,000 in the Jane Bahr account at Stanley Morgan and \$63,700 in the Wells Fargo account. Mike going forward will break out the monthly donation to the East Palo Alto Ecumenical Hunger Project as a separate line item. Mike sent a financial report for January 2022 which was also discussed at the meeting. Mike did not have time yet to put together a budget for 2022 and is also waiting for input from TMC committees re: their projected expenses for 2022. **ACTION:** The Financial Reports were accepted as presented.

2. **Spiritual Education** (See Sr. Marilyn Wilson event under New Business)
3. **Liturgy** No report
4. **Hospitality (Larry Lopez and Anna)** Helen thinks we ought to start hospitality up again in March when it is warm enough. Not everyone is comfortable with sharing food while the pandemic is still active or cleaning the coffeepot.
5. **Seeking action for Justice** (Anna Jaklitsch) The committee is trying to decide how to best support black students during Black History month. Possibilities include a donation to a black student at St. Francis, Mitty, or the EPA group "Rise Up for Education". Anna discussed the merits and limitations of each of these possibilities and answered some questions about them. Board members weighed in on their preferences. Anna will bring what she heard back to the committee.
6. **Website (Jim Davis)** (See new business below.)
7. **Site Committee** (Anna Jaklitsch) There are some maintenance issues at STA especially the door to the basement in the Thomas House which is in bad shape and may need a metal cover. The inside crèche is not in good shape and needs attention.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Plans for membership renewal

Anna is putting a lot of work into membership and is preparing a membership letter. One challenge she encountered was how to know whether people who made a donation intended to have part of the donation count as membership. She has figured out a way to make this clear in the future. The Annual Membership meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2022. Anna raised the question of whether or not the Membership Directory could/should contain "friends" who are not actually official members, Board members also expressed their opinions about this.

2. Email to TMC community on Website

Jim Davis keeps current events listed on TMC main page. Anna has been trying to update information about webinars and other events on another page; it is a bit different than the ebuletin. Anna has decided to have Jim post the email ebuletin information onto the web page rather than work on two forms of communication.

3. SEC Event Sr. Marilyn Wilson on Synodality

There has been a lot of interest in the synod. This talk had been planned for the 12th March but this conflicted with the STA parish Lenten retreat. Therefore the date was changed to Saturday March 5th from 10:00am to 12 noon.

Anna talked with Fr. Dinh from SJ Diocese about the process. Local groups can hold a listening session to answer a few questions. There is particular interest in the voices of "people on the fringe" (minority opinions-including people not heavily involved in the Church). Fr. Dinh thought it would be best to organize groups before Lent. There was concern that peoples' opinions might not make their way up through the hierarchy. Sr. Marilyn's talk should help us understand the process better.

4. **Funding for Northern CA Innocence Project** This had been discussed over email in January 2022 and a donation made. This was now formally approved at the meeting

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting ended at 8:32 PM.