

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center



Plans are moving forward with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's mediation process here at First Presbyterian Church. The second week of May we will be sending packets to all members, and others who attend the church, with information and questionnaires regarding our church. This will lead to our "Healthy Congregations" Workshop beginning at 7:00pm on Friday June 24th and all day on Saturday, June 25th. There are materials that we need to purchase for the workshop. Therefore, you will need to pre-register for the event prior to June 13th. A table will be set up in the narthex for registration. Other methods of registration will be available, also. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Our second workshop event will be "Conflict in the Church: Entrusted with the Message of Reconciliation." This workshop will take place Friday evening July 8th beginning at 7:00pm, and then on Saturday, July 9th from 9:00am until 4:00pm. Preregistration needs to be completed by June 27th for this event.

Some have asked about the fees and expenses of this process, particularly how we will pay for this process. At present we are seeking individuals to pledge to help offset the costs of the process. At this time, we have over \$3,000 collected, and over \$10,000 pledged. We are also looking at other funding resources. The money goes to cover the fees for having LMPC staff work with us and facilitate our process. In short we pay \$160 / hour for on-site time and \$80 / hour for off-site time. There are other charges, particularly when staff need to stay overnight and also for materials. Our estimate is based on experiences of similar sized congregations and is in excess of \$30,000, though it could be as high as \$50,000. Part of the motivation from Session, to pursue the mediation process, is in recognizing that each time additional issues flare up, our contributions drop significantly and we lose the energy and creativity of the church. In financial terms, we anticipate a very significant return on this investment.

It is our greatest hope that everyone will take part in this training and process. Please keep in mind that we are engaging in an experience that will lead to a great deal of growth and to renewal within our congregation. We are excited to see the possibilities that a healthy, compassionate First Presbyterian Church brings to a community that experiences a great deal of stress and conflict on a daily basis. This is our opportunity to take what has been a liability and turn it into one of our strongest assets together. Please mark your calendars for these events.

Pastor Jack

Moderator of Session

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."