



Minutes for Board Meeting  
December 14, 2020, 6:00 PM, via Zoom

Those in attendance:

Michael Armstrong, Jane Neff, Doug Yoder, Herb Zook, Ethel Zook, Bob Zook

1. Scripture Focus and Prayer Point-- Michael Armstrong  
Isaiah 9:2 - God is the light that shines brightly in darkness. Seven Acres Ministry's mission is to bring God's light into the darkness in the hearts of the clients.
2. Approval of the September 14, 2020 Minutes was expressed. Soul Refiner, a web based sexual integrity resource, was again mentioned and an email was sent to board members to view the first video of the War Path series. Board was invited to offer their response by the end of December.
3. Herb Zook presented the Quarterly Financial Report. An idea was presented to set up automatic online contributions for those desiring to contribute on a regular basis. Suggestion was made that those with Everence Accounts can set up automatic transfers to Seven Acres Ministry. Seven Acres Ministry is registered as a charitable organization through Amazon Smile for those who make Amazon purchases. Everence credit card holders can also designate a percentage of their credit card purchases through Everence's Good Neighbor program.
4. Ken Byler from Higher Ground Consulting Groups, LLC, joined via Zoom at 6:30 to introduce himself and share what he offers to nonprofit ministries. Ken worked at APM with Karl Westover in the 70's and 80's. In 1986 he moved to the Souderton area as Youth Minister at Salford Mennonite Church and assumed Development Director at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School. He transitioned to corporate marketing for Rosenberger Cold Storage and then to Detweiler Accounting. He gradually transitioned to business consulting of which he has been doing for the past 18 years. Currently he focuses on board development, strategic planning, and vision development using various assessment tools including DISC. Ken offers his services on a fixed rate and is willing to send us a proposal. Ken asked us two questions: What are the strengths? What are the challenges? In response to these questions and other discussion, the following was shared.

One point shared was regarding income stream and how we can offer a donation based service and still be credible. Ken asked if there are good testimonials. Ken said that as

we make a decision to acquire his services, we need to feel comfortable with him. Ken's approach is to frame really good questions to help boards to think in a different way. Ken asked, "Are you open to being challenged?"

In a discussion following our time with Ken, we talked about the pace of developing Seven Acres Ministry; a slow path vs. a fast path. What kind of path have we been on and what kind of path should we be on? In the past we have been on a slow path. But this path, for example, will postpone the acquisition of office space. A word of caution was given for slow path development, that an organization may never grow. A key question that needs to be answered is - What is our desired pace? Some on the board indicated that they have more of a jump-in and make things happen approach to ministry development.

It was also expressed that it is necessary to clearly answer the questions: What are the goals? Target audience? The board invited Ethel and Bob to be sensitive to God's leading in clarifying goals for Seven Acres Ministry. This discernment process also includes "pumping the brakes" and allowing God to lead.

It was noted that there is a gradual increase in clients and donations but it will be a long time to reach the point where the need for office space is met.

It was acknowledged that when Board members were invited they were not asked to give time beyond the board meeting. No decision was made regarding the acquiring of Ken's services, although there seemed to be a favorable response to what Ken would be able to provide to Seven Acres Ministry. Follow up with Ken will be made by Ethel and Bob with the issue to work on.

5. In the Ministry Report the following was shared:

- Ethel had positive interaction with Big Valley Ministerium on October 13 when she shared about Seven Acres Ministry.
- On October 16, Ethel met with Karen Peachey for mutual encouragement and prayer. They exchanged brochures. Karen mentioned that in the Lancaster area someone provided instruction and small group discussions for single girls/ladies, using the book Sex and the Single Girl by Julie Slattery. Karen wondered if we might provide something similar. Ethel shared her excitement about the possibility of collaborating with others to provide something similar.
- In addition to Allensville Mennonite, brochures and rack cards have been distributed to the following churches:
  - i. Locust Grove Mennonite
  - ii. Barrville Mennonite
  - iii. Maple Grove Mennonite
  - iv. Rockville Fellowship (via Big Valley Ministerium meeting)
- Caring for the Heart Online Assessment Program

Benoit Lavergne from a Caring for the Heart office in Canada has developed and offered free access to an online tool using CFTH pain words and healing words. He has set up an account for Seven Acres Ministry.

- Moms in Armor Group--a potential group for moms concerned about children dealing with sexual integrity issues. Confidentiality and Disclaimer Statements were included with the Agenda in the Board Members Only section of the website.
  - Work continues on Board Members' Bios added to the website.
6. Prayer for God's Will for Seven Acres Ministry was offered by Jane Neff.
  7. Office space is not feasible with the current caseload and level of donations.
  8. Next Meeting : Monday, March 8, 2020, 6:00 pm at AMC
  9. There was no other business
  10. Meeting was adjourned.