The Executive Council Economic Justice Loan Committee

September 19, 2019

Minutes from the Teleconference

Attending the call: Will Mebane, Timothy Gee, Andrew Walter, Warren Wong; from the staff, Kurt Barnes, Margareth Crosnier de Bellaistre, Nancy Caparulo, and Tanie Oconer; Khalid Sarwary and Lisa Wright from OFN. Regrets: Casey Clark, Paula Jackson, and Anne Hodges-Copple.

Acting chair, Will Mebane, called the meeting to order with prayer at 1:02 PM EDT.

Roll was called and self-introductions were made.

Lisa and Khalid discussed the relationship between the DFMS and OFN, giving a thorough background of the organization and its activities with the church through EJLC. The nature of CDFIs was reviewed, especially the nature of those organizations.

The agenda was reviewed, no changes were made, and it was adopted by consensus.

Margareth gave the loan status report. There are 17 borrowers. All interest payments are timely. Since the December 2018 meeting, two borrowers (New Roots and Community Loan Fund) did not pay their loan interest. An exception was made for them since they work with the refugee population. Two pay-offs are coming up this month – ACE and NCALL. From the $7 million in the loan portfolio, $6.1 million is invested. There is $600K for new loans. Next year, 8 loans will mature, bringing back over $3 million to the portfolio. All borrowers are solvent and generally ask for new loans. MEDA is a small-business lender in Minnesota.

The minutes from the December 4, 2018 meeting were moved (Warren), seconded (Andrew), and approved as presented.

Renewal analysis of Northeast Entrepreneur Fund was made by Khalid. This is an NFP/CDFI that partners with entrepreneurs to make micro-loans. Geography is 10 counties in Minnesota and one in Northern Wisconsin. The fund targets diverse communities. The analysis that was posted on the Extranet was thoroughly reviewed. OFN recommends renewal of the $250K loan made over three years at a 3% interest. Theirs is a very strong portfolio. OFN has a loan with the fund. Kurt asked whether there were Native American borrowers. Khalid said they would obtain that information. OFN will provide such information on all entities recommended in the future. The DFMS loans’ interests run from 2.5% to 3.75%. Motion was made (Warren) to renew the loan, seconded (Andrew), and carried unanimously.

New Business
Lisa discussed Vermont Community Loan Fund. They are in OFN’s portfolio and they are very supportive of them. Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs’ (ACE) loan will mature at the end of
this month. National Council on Agricultural Life and Labor has also applied. OFN recommends that they be brought to the next meeting for consideration. Margareth gave an overview of the two entities. Geographical areas were looked at – rural Georgia, Maryland, and Vermont. All three organizations will be considered at the next meeting.

Future meeting dates: Thursday, December 12 at 1:00 PM EST. Will is going to propose a 2020 calendar of dates.

Will adjourned the meeting with thanks and prayer at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee