

PNMC Board Meeting
Peace Mennonite Church
September 8, 2007
8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Board Members Present: Charlotte Hardt, Dave Hockman-Wert, Diane Isaak, Don Bacher, Mary Stutzman, Sheldon Burkhalter, Terry Rediger, Simon Rendon, Audrey Lowen, Angela Nissly, Duncan Smith

Transition Team Members Present: Ed Miller, Harold Nussbaum, Cleon Classen

Absent: Jeryl Hollinger, Linda Dibble, Pedro Olvera

Diane Isaak led the group in singing and Don Bacher shared the devotions, reading from Haggai 1.

The agenda was reviewed and approved with no additions or comments.

Annual Meeting Report

Dave thanked those who had a part in planning annual conference. The local arrangements committee felt the food preparation was a big job, especially by a small church/group. It can be overwhelming and would be easier for a group this big to use a caterer. There were concerns heard during Dave's seminar regarding the Conference Executive position and passion-based ministries.

Don reviewed the expense report.

Discussion followed on providing documentation/material to pass on to the next host church/group. It was decided that it should be the Board's responsibility to make sure the information gets passed along to the next planning group. Suggested we consider putting together a centralized planning "group"/site. Other comments included participation by young adults and Hispanics.

Transition Team Report

Members of the Transition Team include Dave Hockman-Wert, Audrey Lowen, Ed Miller, Harold Nussbaum, Duncan Smith, Cleon Classen, Don Bacher, Linda Dibble, and Pedro Olvera. Their main task right now is to prioritize what needs to be done by next June, including get the new Board appointed, get the Gift Discernment Team up and running, get a Finance Team appointed, and staff transition. They hope to have by-laws by June. Discussion was held on how to make the transition from the present Board to the new transition board. The Transition Team presented a proposal to the Board for consideration. The proposal outlines the steps for the transition from the PNMC current Board of Directors to the new Board of Directors structure. The goal is to get the new board up and running this year.

Legally, the current Board cannot disband until the delegates vote next year on the new proposed Board. The current Board can give approval for the new Board to start now to proceed with governance issues, under the eye of the current Board. The proposal does not clarify the role of the present moderator. What is the current moderator's role on the new Board? After discussion, it was decided that the moderator would act as a liaison or ex-officio member on the newly formed Board. *A motion was made to accept the transition plan/proposal as presented – motion carried.*

Further discussion followed on how to refer to new board – Operational Team was the consensus. The Transition Team will revise the proposal with the appropriate terminology and add that Charlotte will continue in her role

and act as chair of the Operational Team. May need to add a statement that the Operational Team, accept for the chair, will become the new Board of Directors, upon approval of delegates.

It was stated that it is important to have good communication with the delegates regarding the transition. Dave should reword the proposal to be an external communication piece to go out to the delegates.

A suggested slate of board members and other team members was reviewed and discussed. After discussion, *the Board is in favor of having the Transition Team proceed with contacting those listed on the slate and appointing an Operational Team.*

The Transition Team would like to have the Board help them come up with names for the Capacity Building Team. Members should have desires, hopes, etc. for capacity building (vision, and ability to articulate in addition to fund raising). The idea draft document from Phil Bergy was reviewed and the Board suggested a list of people who could either chair the team or be members.

Discussion continued on what capacity building is and its function. Cleon will make contact with those individuals discussed about chairing the team.

Passion-based ministries – there seems to be some anxiety out among the conference on this topic. We need to have some type of guidelines of what passion-based ministries are. It is a critical component for capacity building.

It was felt that there is a need for better communication to congregations and delegates – something in addition to the Evangel to keep people informed. It was suggested updates be sent to churches for weekly newsletters, emails, bulletins, etc. (by email, hard copies in regular mail). Audrey and Don are willing to help put a format together, translate to Spanish, and send out to the congregations. Suggestions were given of individuals in the area that might be able to help with translation.

Future Meeting Dates

After reviewing calendars, it was decided that the next joint Board/Operational Team meeting will be held Saturday, November 3.

Financial Report

Don Bacher reviewed the final FY07 budget report and preliminary FY08 reports. The congregational giving and total income are behind of where we should be this time of year (should be at approximately 20-25%) The question was asked as to Don's contact with the churches regarding their pledges. Don currently sends something out after conference, then again in December with information of where they're at in their giving, then again in the spring if necessary.

Annual Conference Expense Report

In the last several years, there has been discussion on what should be done with the funds left over after the expenses are paid out. Does it go back in the budget? Should it be used for something else? Don would like to suggest we transfer some of the overage to the assistance fund so there is a nest egg for the next year (hold in a reserve account). The balance could be saved away and any income left over from next year to help fund and offset expenses for conference in Alaska. (2010). Or the funds can all go to the budget to go towards deficit balance. Discussion followed and it was felt the offering funds should be put back in the budget to help with the

deficit. This discussion will be tabled until the next Board meeting. Members are encouraged to be thinking about it and talk to their congregations for input.

Health Insurance Update

Don briefed the new members present on the history of the Sharing Fund. Currently there is about \$19,000 in the account. Don is working with Samuel Moran and Victor Vargas and their churches to get a MMA representative for matching funds. He has been in correspondence with the church treasurers and will be sending each of them a check for \$1,000 from the Sharing Fund. The questions was asked if anything is being done for catastrophe insurance for pastors. Don has looked into it, but has been met with a lot of questions. The easiest way is to let the pastors get their own insurance, then PNMC can reimburse. This is not being pursued at this time. The Board is encouraging the Insurance Committee to look into it and have something to present to the Board in the future.

Don also reported that at San Jose he attended a conference treasurer's meeting where they talked about the fact that members in congregations can make contributions electronically through MMA. (There is a \$50 one time sign up fee for each organization.) PNMC is currently registered on MMA's website. It was suggested we put a link on our website as soon as possible and a notice should be sent out to the congregations.

Committee Reports

Pastoral Leadership Committee – In the absence of a conference teacher, the Pastoral Leadership Committee is requesting financial assistance. They continue to have ongoing expenses related to requiring people to take biblical history and biblical theology courses to be ordained. They could bring seminary teachers here, and could send pastors to the seminary. They don't have enough funds in the Theological education line item to cover this (William Higgins did most of it when he was here). PLC would like funds for the Conference Teacher to be released to be used for educational purposes mentioned above. Charlotte suggested that it would be helpful if PLC could think through how much it may cost and have an idea of what is needed. It was thought that PLC could cover half of the education and travel costs. *The motion was made that the Board approve the use of the Conference Teacher position funds for on-going educational expenses – motion approved.*

PLC also requested permission to recruit an additional member to the committee in order to have a female (better gender representation) on the committee. It was suggested that PLC coordinate with Dave Hockman-Wert because this person may also be considered for a Board position. *The motion was made that the PNMC Board gives PLC the option of choosing an additional female member to finish out the year – motion approved.*

The Pastoral Leadership Committee has identified several people to encourage dialog with Weldon Nisly. There has not been any real dialog with Weldon after the task force several years ago. Names were identified. The purpose of dialog is to understand each other and learn from each other – to work at discernment. The goal is to try to understand each other better.

Peace and Justice Committee – Committee chair Angela Nissly reported that the Peace Pavilion use has slowed down. The committee will be working at keeping it current with church-wide needs and continue make it available.

Congregation Nurture Committee – Sheldon reported that her has been giving some time communicating with the CNC and has encouraged and is expecting quarterly reports from staff members Jill Swiers and Judy Stutzman of their time and activities.

Outreach Development Committee – no report.

CIHAN – Simon reviewed Samuel’s submitted report, highlighting several items, including an immigration training seminar in Pennsylvania that Wendall Amstutz and Nelly Moran will be attending.

Mexico Transition Committee – Simon distributed and reviewed his written report and gave a brief update on the committee activity. He also shared a report of the Mexico work project. Simon also submitted CIEMNM’s budget report. Sheldon prayed a prayer of blessing on Simon as he prepares to travel to Mexico.

Conference Minister Report – Duncan Smith

Duncan highlighted several items on his written report, adding that Amy Epp had a baby. Gilberto Flores will be here this coming week and will be spending time with Sheldon, Victor, Duncan and Dave. Duncan also reported that Jack Knox and Jeryl Hollinger are currently on sabbatical. He also thanked the Board for his sabbatical. Duncan plans to continue to work thru June 2008 (contract was extended for 1 year). One additional item is that background checks are up and running. Doing a national criminal file search costs \$6.50 each.

Conference Minister Report – Sheldon Burkhalter

Sheldon highlighted some of the items on his written report – Aberdeen, Eugene, Filer, Portland.

Conference Minister Report – Victor Vargas

Victor was not present to review his written report.

Terry Rediger led in a prayer of blessing for Duncan and Sheldon.

Reports from San Jose

Those that attended the MCUSA conference in San Jose this last summer shared their experience and general impressions.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm with a closing song.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Isaak, PNMC Secretary