

PNMC Board Meeting
Portland Mennonite Church
Portland, Oregon
Saturday, September 20, 2008
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Attending: David Hockman-Wert, Linda Dibble, Jeanne Rempel, Brad Roth, Edward Miller, Charlotte Derksen, Sheldon Burkhalter, Guest: Steve Kimes
Absent: Wendell Amstutz, Pedro Olvera, and Audrey Lowen.

Devotions

Devotions were led by Brad Roth and centered on Haggai 2:1-7. Key thoughts were to “Take courage, do not fear, rebuild, God’s promise and Spirit is with us.” Brad drew parallels between Zerubbabel’s situation of starting out afresh and that of David and the new PNMC board after the implementation of restructuring.

Report from Simon Rendon

Dave reported for Simon Rendon that there is serious flooding in the area of the Northwest Mexico Mennonite Churches and noted that financial assistance would be greatly appreciated..

Board minutes of April, approved as written

Proposal for New Recognized Ministry

Steve Kimes presented a proposal for a passion-based ministry entitled **Outreach Development Ministry**. The board agreed that this work should become a passion-based ministry, continuing the work of the previous Outreach Development Committee, with members: Jeryl Hollinger, Colleen Kagele, Steve Kimes, and Karla Morton. A motion was made (by Linda) and seconded (Jeanne) to approve the Outreach Development Ministry as a passion-based ministry. It passed unanimously. Some of the members of the previous committee will probably continue as members of the new Outreach Development Ministry.

Proposal for a New Functional Team

Steve Kimes also presented a proposal for a **New Congregations Team**, to work with new congregations as they set up congregational structure and process paper work to become official members of PNMC. The work this team would do was formerly part of the work of the Outreach Development Committee. The proposed work of this new ministry is very complicated. If this group is not approved the work would devolve onto District Pastors, who would find these tasks very difficult and time consuming to do. Formal PNMC policy and procedures need to be followed. Steve Kimes would definitely opt to work on the New Congregations Team. Linda moved and Jeanne seconded that whereas the [former] Outreach Development Committee has recommended that the work of developing new congregations requires special attention, the board authorizes the formation of the New Congregations Team and directs its members to develop the processes of how they function in coordination with the Executive Conference Minister. The motion was passed.

The former Outreach Development Committee was composed of four people, who will probably continue with one of the two newly formed ministries. With the formation of two groups (ministry and team), more people are needed. The New Congregations Team should be geographically based to facilitate working with new congregations, wherever they are located within PNMC; the suggestion was made that there be one representative from each state, at least Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The New Congregations Team will need financial support for travel and for conference calls. Also, new congregations may well need “seed” money from the Venture Fund. The constitution of the Outreach Development Ministry would be broader (not geographically based). It would be good to have members of CIHAN congregations as part of both groups.

New Structure Updates

District Pastors Linda

There are two District Pastors now in place: David Morrow (Western Washington) and Wendell Amstutz (CIHAN-related congregations), who have been appointed for seven month terms, i.e., until the expected hire of the Executive Conference Minister. Realistically the time a district pastor should be expected to spend per month should be about 3 hours per church supervised. This amount would vary with size of church, travel time, difficulties that arise. All clusters now have reports regarding district pastor selections. The goal is to have enough District Pastors named to cover all current churches and in place ready to start beginning in February.

Search Committee for Executive Conference Minister Dave

There is an ad up on the PNMC web site. Ads will also be coming out in the *Mennonite Weekly Review* and *The Mennonite*. Search Committee members are David Hockman-Wert (chair), Linda Dibble, Charlotte Derksen, Pedro Olvera, Brent Kauffman, and Gilberto Flores (MC-USA). The committee welcomes suggestions as to names of possible candidates.

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

It was moved, seconded and passed that Don Bacher be approved as interim Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. After the Executive Conference Minister has been hired, he/she will hire the permanent Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper.

Capacity Building Campaign – Update and Next Steps

- Questions asked by the group included:
 - How does this campaign increase funds in the general fund?
 - Will it reduce giving for general budget?
 - What happens after end of the campaign?
- Distribution of funds should include “Building Technology Capacity” i.e. increase ability to communicate and connect
- Change “Spanish translation” to “increased connection and connectivity – including multi-lingual translations”
- The Board and delegates must set priorities on how to spend money.
- How to raise money – need to have goals – but should also meet needs.
- We recognize and celebrate the many avenues in which PNMC members participate in God’s kingdom giving – PNMC schools, camps, MCC, MDS, monies sent to families in Mexico, etc.

- “Nurturing Healthy Congregations” is a very important priority, but concept is very nebulous, might include funding conference ministers, consultants, congregational care teams, even stewardship nurturing, other?
- Concern: how to name / pinpoint “Campaign Distributions“ (pg 6 of Campaign Plan) or incentives for gifts that bring in the needed gifts, but aren’t too confining?
- What is the role of the Executive Conference Minister regarding the campaign? Chair or co-chair?
- What is the timing for the next steps? What should the process be for naming steering committee? Timing? [Note – ECM to be in place in Feb.?? but Step 1 timing implies ECM in place in January] Process should start this fall.

Treasurer’s Report Ed

Ed is still learning what’s required, learning about nonprofit regulations, fiduciary responsibility. New this year is the need to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities between Don (Bookkeeper) and Ed (Treasurer). Ed needs to have access to the financial records; he is investigating remote access software. He wants to simplify and clarify financial reports. He’d like direction from the board members on how can he facilitate work of Board? What is the frequency of reports needed?

Ed has made some changes to the reports in how income and expenses are displayed to make them more understandable. However, major changes are delayed until the Executive Conference Minister is on board. Ed plans to work on documentation as to where funds come from, what they are to be used for. Fund 34003 Reserve Fund has now been fully spent out. Some liabilities still need investigating. Remaining liabilities are all payroll.

Ed will work on how to interact with the Finance Team. He hopes that the Finance Team can advise on investments of funds and perhaps give guidance on the fund raising part of the Capacity Building Campaign. He’s hoping for account, investment and legal advice from them.

NOTE: Some members of congregations think that moving from 2.5 Conference Ministers to an Executive Conference Minister plus District Pastors was driven by restructuring rather than by the delegates directing that PNMC needed to live within its income. We need to clarify how the budget-balancing differs from restructuring work.

Annual Meeting Reviews

Review of Canby Grove 2008

- Financial report: Offerings plus Registration minus Expenses yielded a net gain greater than \$2000.
- The Pastoral Leadership Committee sent a letter of thanks to the Board for financially supporting the pastor appreciation dinner.
- Delegate sessions: The number of delegate sessions and time spent in the sessions was substantially reduced from those of previous years. Some/many delegates thought that the delegate sessions were too few, too short, and too rushed. Was this due to the heaviness of the agenda? The table sessions were good. The method of “passing the baton” worked well.
- CIHAN had worked hard to facilitate integration of Hispanic delegates.

- There was a lot of affirmation for the worship services, Samuel Moran's presentation on a multicultural church, and the Kingdom Happenings presentations.
- A disappointingly small percentage of registrants stayed at the facilities.
- Kudos to planners of the conference for the hard work on short notice.

Preview of Treasure Valley 2009: Theme, Speaker, Committee Chairs

The Speaker will be April Yamasaki of Emmanuel Mennonite Church of Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Suggested Committee Co-Chairs are Craig Morton (Emmaus) and Duane Oesch (Evergreen Heights) for the Local Arrangements Committee.

Theme: Suggestions from the board include: a Missional emphasis, as seen in Idaho, local Hispanic ministries. Planning committee will work directly with April on Theme.

A forum is needed for Faith and Practice Forum Team to present their work to pastors and to PNMC members. Would it be possible for the group to do some plenary sessions? It is very important that we as a conference and that churches within the conference learn better "how to deal with polarizing issues, within the principles of faith." Another possibility would be one or more practical sessions by the Outreach Development Ministry (evangelism outreach).

The Board will ask the Nampa/Boise-area pastors whether they want to identify the theme and committee chairs (which is typically a Board responsibility), or whether they want the Board to do this. They will be asked to respond by the Board's November meeting.

The Board discussed the possibility of a pastor/spouse retreat/conference specifically for an in depth time spent with the Faith and Practice Forum Team. An effort should be made to attract all conference pastors, including chaplains. Pastors' retreats, in the recent past, have not been an ideal venue in reality. Plan for a whole day, including time for discussion, utilizing work of Faith and Practice Forum Team. Other possible avenues include presentations/sessions at the annual meeting and/or regional sessions. The widespread geography of PNMC is a problem in presenting sessions to local congregations and/or local groups of pastors.

Conference Minister/Executive's Report Sheldon

Sheldon included a chart of how he, Victor, and the two current District Pastors had spent the past two/three months. Some concern was expressed over the large number of hours Sheldon has worked.

There are currently eight pastoral searches ongoing within PNMC, more than at any other time within recent history.

There are a number of ordinations in process.

Conference Communication Council – where to from here?

The idea for the Conference Communication Council arose from discussions within the Structure and Vision Task Force about a need to increase communication within PNMC. Although the concept of the larger council (as proposed in the Structure Vision Task Force proposal) might be hard to pull off (one more meeting, cost of travel, etc.), there may be a role for a small group looking at how to improve communication within the conference. Jeanne Rempel agreed to explore the formation of such a team.

Related to this need, with the end of the conference minister positions, how will the District Pastors communicate, become trained, and get support? Will there be an annual District Pastors' retreat? A higher priority than a Conference Communications Council would be a group to support the Capacity Building Campaign.

Policy Development Update Brad

Brad reported that work is going slowly. Wendell now has new District Pastor responsibilities so won't be able to do much on this. David's and Brad's parts are also going slowly. Brad may try to pull in other members to assist the committee.

Plainview Property Discussions Update

PlainView Church's rural building has had a leaky roof, so the congregation has been meeting in downtown Albany at the Venetian Theater, which they own. They recently voted to continue meeting at the Venetian, and to explore selling the rural building. Pat and Warde Hershberger have been working on behalf of the Board to determine how PNMC is affected by deed restrictions on PlainView Church's rural church building and whether our approval is required for any possible sale. Attention is being focused on having a reconciling and flexible process, maintaining relationships, and being sensitive to the continuing need for reconciliation. Sheldon Burkhalter is also working closely with the pastoral couple.

Bylaws Update

There is a need for text regarding constituency groups in the organizational structure supplement to the bylaws, because CIHAN would like to be recognized as a constituency group. Dave has been searching MC-USA documentation for same, so far unsuccessfully.

What is the process for final approval? We plan to encourage discussion of the provisional bylaws within congregations in the coming months, so that delegates are prepared to vote on approval of the bylaws at the 2009 annual meeting.

CIHAN Update

Jesus Munoz is new moderator of CIHAN. They are thankful for theological education support from PNMC of \$1000. Hispanic women were invited to quilting and scrap booking weekend at Drift Creek Camp. Enthusiasm and appreciation was expressed on all sides.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 20, 2008; 7 to 9 p.m. conference phone call

NOTE for calendars: April phone call is now cancelled.

Draft version

Submitted by Charlotte Derksen, PNMC Secretary