

## **PNMC Board Meeting**

Portland Mennonite Church, Portland, Oregon  
Saturday, April 18, 2009  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

**Attending:** Board members: Dave Hockman-Wert, Linda Dibble, Audrey Lowen, Brad Roth, Isaac Hooley, Jeanne Rempel, Pedro Olvera, Wendell Amstutz, Ed Miller, Charlotte Derksen, and Sheldon Burkhalter

**Devotions:** Wendell led the devotions on “*being in the middle.*” The Church of Acts was on the margin of society – called to be separate. The Hellenists were examples of those who lived in Greek society yet retained the Jewish faith. Paul was a Hellenist, yet fully Jewish. The new church included all, Hellenistic Jews and Greeks, even those from pagan culture, called out to be “different.” The Mennonite church is also called to be a group different. The Church is called to be a people of God and to be a bridge to the people of the world. Each member of the board then prayed for the work ahead of us.

### **Consent agenda and approval of minutes**

The February 2009 board minutes were approved as written. In answer to a question that had arisen on the CIHAN report, Wendell and Pedro explained that there is a concerted effort to get American born children documented. Undocumented members are encouraged to prepare a family emergency plan (who takes care of children, etc) and to know what are one’s rights. Churches can provide financial help in the documentation effort – it costs \$120 per person for papers. It was suggested that information on how to help should be sent to Don for distribution. The PNMC Peace and Justice website and listserv (<http://pjc.pnmc.mennonite.net/>) can be a source of information.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

PNMC Annual Meeting

Delegate sessions agenda should include:

- Introduction of Executive Conference Minister-to-be Iris De Leon-Hartshorn
- Introduction of official guests,
- Pastoral introductions: Pastoral Leadership Team members; District pastors,  
New pastors that have been called to positions within the conference;
- NW Mexico introductions and report,
- Introduction of new board members,
- Roll call,
- Reception of International Bethel City Church,
- Bylaws approval,
- Report from MCUSA,
- PNMC financial report,
- Report on the state of the conference,
- Question regarding associate groups (e.g. schools, camps, etc.)

***Note: Board members will be assigned as table group leaders for the delegate sessions.***

Other sessions: Faith and Practice Forum  
Youth – working on it – service project in planning, group building/recreational.  
Budget session – on Sat (for treasurers and other interested members)  
Passion Based Ministry sessions  
Common ground session

**Question regarding expense reimbursement for Board members/District Pastors for conference attendance.**

It was agreed that Board members and District Pastors are expected to attend; travel expenses will be reimbursed as needed.

**Board affirmed registration fees to be waived for planning committee members.**

**CIHAN attendance will probably be smaller than usual due to the greater distance** for many and the inability to take off work at this time of year.

**COLUMBUS '09 MENNONITE CONVENTION**

PNMC can send up to four delegates, including Dave, Linda, one from CIHAN,

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**ED**

Budget:

Comparisons with previous years financial reports are not helpful this year because there are so many changes: this fiscal year includes costs for extenuating circumstances: investment income is down; current economic situation is unknown territory; the additional interim ECM costs were not budgeted for due to extended term lengths.-

Don Bacher has not turned in as much time as was budgeted.

The Travel Pool expense total is potentially too small for true expenses (1<sup>st</sup> time all pooled).

Working out the split between bookkeeping and treasurer is new and changing.

As best as can be determined the budget is okay, due in part to the extension of Executive Conference Minister search, as long as congregations keep up contributions.

Investments:

We may need to more closely monitor investments by MMA, our advisor/handler. This could be a role for the Finance Team, to review portfolio on a regular basis. New members were proposed for the Finance Team.

Reporting:

Ed is working on making reporting as clear and effective as possible.

There is value in having each congregation's contribution listed, as well as some itemized expenses. He will remind each congregation to complete its annual contribution.

**Peace and Justice Team Application to become a Passion Based Ministry**

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the proposal to establish the Peace and Justice Passion Based Ministry as proposed, with the exception that the word “Team” in the name **Peace and Justice Coordinating Team** be changed to “Ministry” as in the name **Peace and Justice Coordinating Ministry**.

### **Plainview Mennonite Church proposal**

Pat and Warde Hershberger (appointed representatives of the PNMC board) recommended board approval of the Plainview Mennonite Church proposal, which asks PNMC to release any interest in the PMC Plainview Drive church building in exchange for reimbursement of expenses and a title of the sale proceeds (see Appendix B). Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously in hearty support of the Plainview Mennonite Church proposal as written.

### **Interns/Leadership Development at Board meetings** **Linda**

Linda proposed having a young person or persons attend board meetings as an intern, with the goal towards mentoring interns towards conference leadership at some point in life.

### **Capacity Building Campaign Update**

Board members continued to contact people *vis a vis* serving on the Capacity Building Campaign.

### **Request for International Bethel City Church to become official PNMC member congregation** – Report from visit in February **Audrey**

The Bethel City Church group is still working on a constitution and needs to get all the paperwork done.

Dave and Audrey have made the official visit to the congregation. They reported an amazingly active congregation, with wonderful music. The service was invigorating, grounded in scriptures and prayer. Preaching is in French/translated into English.

The church has set up a computer center in the old conference office, for training for members. The members of the church carry on an online ministry all over the world, with an estimated 3000 “members.”

A core group of Peace Mennonite Church continues to meet in the building on Sunday mornings.

### **Discussion with Western Mennonite School Board on relationship with PNMC** **Linda**

Cheeri Barnhart of WMS Board gave a presentation on the board/school’s relationship with PNMC.

In the past, most board members have been nominated and affirmed by PNMC at conference. The policy currently states that all board members have to be from a Mennonite church, but not necessarily a PNMC member church.

PNMC’s current position is that it is up to WMS to set their bylaws and constitute their board as they see appropriate. WMS is its own legal entity.

However, the WMS Board is guided by the mandate of the PNMC, in cooperation with Northwest Mennonite Conference (Canada) and the Mennonite Schools Council.

What does “associate status with PNMC” mean? “Affiliate ministry” perhaps is better term. School board does not want to break with PNMC, nor PNMC with WMS.

There are some other ministries that fit the “associate” category, such as the camps, and Mennonite Village.

Currently the WMS policies prescribe that the Principal and the Bible teacher must be Mennonite.

Benefits of the WMS / PNMC associate status include mutual prayer support, availability for advice, other support as needed.

PNMC Board members are highly supportive of the work of the school and vested in the continuance of same. It would be a grave loss to PNMC if the school stopped being a Mennonite school.

The PNMC Board supported the continuation of the Principal and Bible teacher being Mennonites, but some PNMC Board members thought that allowing a few non-Mennonite Board members might make sense given the present makeup of the student body.

### **Executive Committee discussion/Policy Governance reminder – postponed until next meeting (in the Fall).**

Brad will continue to work on this issue, even though he’s ending his term on the board this conference.

### **Dialogue on Difficult Issues**

Faith and Practice Forum Team (FPFT) is taking the lead on working with Seattle Mennonite Church (SMC) in a prototype way. The Board will meet with FPFT members at the upcoming annual meeting

### **Conference Minister report**

Sheldon

The Bend area has major economic problems; the Bend congregation is experiencing challenges as part of that.

Jana Gingerich will be representing PNMC at youth ministers’ meeting.

District Pastors Wendell Amstutz and David Morrow’s first term is ending; after a thorough review, the relevant congregations are now doing their approval process.

Within a month we may have most district pastors in place. Several of them are already full time pastors, which will be difficult for them.

There have been ten pastoral searches this year. Five new pastors are now in place, five searches are still in process.

There will have been seven ordinations by the end of year and six to eight licensings. The Polity class had 21 people coming to the class – sixteen ministers in that class are in the process of ordination/licensing.

### **In Brief: CIHAN Report/CLC Report/MC USA Health Insurance plan**

Immigration issues are many. Upcoming CIHAN meeting on Saturday will deal with many issues; it will be a packed session.

Some MC USA board meetings may be cancelled in order to free up funds for broader leadership meetings, perhaps including conference boards.

MC USA is trying to get many congregations to sign up for the health plan before Columbus – the goal for MC USA (and PNMC) is 80%.

### **Board Members**

This was the final meeting for Brad and Wendell. The Board thanked both Brad and Wendell for their work.

Moderator Dave had asked Audrey to agree to another term. This she has prayerfully considered. Many encouraged her to continue, given her experience with the Structure Vision Task Force.

Charlotte Derksen – PNMC Secretary