

PNMC Board Conference Call
January 22, 2009
Minutes

Attending: Dave, Linda, Audrey, Brad, Isaac, Pedro, Wendell, Ed, Sheldon, Charlotte; Absent: Jeanne. Sheldon opened the meeting with prayer. Isaac was welcomed to the board; members of the board gave brief introductions for Isaac.

1) Annual meeting

- a) Program Planning Committee chairperson: Harold and Gloria Nussbaum and Bill and Artie Alberts both declined to act as PPC chairpersons. Suggestions include Jeryl Hollinger, Kathy Bilderback, Linda Dalke, and Jennifer Gingerich. (Linda Nafziger-Meiser's name was suggested but she will be on sabbatical.) Last year we had co-chairs, which worked pretty well. Pedro will contact Jennifer Gingerich and/or Linda Dalke. Linda will contact Jeryl and/or Kathy. Pedro and Linda will let the board know what they hear from Jeryl and Jennifer. Audrey (co-chair, last year) has volunteered to serve as a resource to the Program Planning Committee. Local arrangement chairs are Duane Oesch and Craig Morton.
- b) Theme: Name of the 2009 conference will be Treasure Valley 2009, Luke 10:1-12 is the scriptural basis; (Indiana-Michigan Conference is also using this scripture for its year long theme). A goal for theme is to engage the younger group – something that will make them think “that sounds interesting.” The suggestion was that a handful of these be sent to April Yamasaki to see what resonates with what she is working on. First, some of these will be sent to Brad, who was nominated to refine the theme, and he will then check with April and also the local committee.
- c) Suggestions for the PNMC theme:
 - The kingdom of God has come near
 - Harvest,
 - Peace to this house,
 - Risk taking (missional focus, population growth in area but why Mennonite Church not growing?)
 - The laborers are few – is the harvest plentiful?
 - A sense of urgency,
 - Teamwork,
 - Prayer,
 - Mission – engaging with Jesus,
 - Making Jesus known,
 - Making the kingdom of God known,
 - Jesus the center,
 - It all depends on Jesus,
 - Laborers into His harvest,
 - Working with Jesus, the Harvest depends on Jesus.
 - Forerunners for Jesus (based on He sent them ahead of Him),
 - Setting the course.
 - “Go now! How? I am sending you”
 - “Sent into the harvest”

2) Conference Minister extension: Victor Vargas' term ends at the end of January. However, not all of the district pastors are yet in place. It was moved, seconded, and passed to extend Victor's contract for another two months.

It was noted that there are now 8-10 candidates for the Executive Conference Minister position.

3) Pastoral Insurance Fund -- policy

Wendell reported on a survey of pastors on the proposed policy and also the MC-USA plan. The CIHAN pastors said that this latter plan would be workable for their congregations. Many of the pastors are bi-vocational, some of whom have minimal or partial coverage from their outside job. They want to know how this partial, outside coverage would work with the MC-USA plan? The PNMC plan currently covers only those not otherwise covered.

Proposed amendment to the draft plan, under "I. Eligibility": "Pastors currently serving a congregation within the PNMC with no or inadequate insurance coverage." (What is meant by "inadequate" has not been defined as yet.)

The PNMC plan is not "insurance" but a bridge, a reimbursement available until the MC-USA plan is up and running (projected to be 2010). The PNMC bookkeeper will have forms available as needed. (The form still needs to be created.) Ed and Don were delegated to create the form. Rod Stafford, Sheldon Burkhalter, Ann Stites and Don Bacher were members of the original committee. (All but Ann continue in those roles.) It is expected that elaborate rules are not needed for this interim measure, as the reimbursement limit is so small. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the guidelines as amended.

4) NW Mexico Passion Based Ministry

This discussion included a request to reinstate the Leadership Exchange line item in the PNMC budget, which provides monetary support to send a representative from CIEMNM (NW Mexico Conference) to the PNMC annual meeting.

PNMC continues to be committed to working with and maintaining the relationship with the Northwest Mexico Conference, including monetary support. PNMC will continue the funding for the NW Mexico Conference and PBM as outlined in the covenant. The budget also covers certain incidental expenses. In discussions with Simon Rendon, the \$2500 now in the budget is used for Educational Exchange (trips of PNMC members to NW Mexico). A motion was made and passed to approve the formation of the NW Mexico passion based ministry:

- 1) We re-affirm the ongoing covenant of PNMC with CIEMNM;
- 2) We support the past and present work of the Mexico Transition Committee;
- 3) We acknowledge that spending reductions shared by all PNMC activities and programs have had an impact on the NW Mexico work as well, reducing the amount we are able to budget for that work.
- 4) We approve the transformation of the MTC into a recognized Passion-Based Ministry, and encourage the new, yet ongoing, ministry to be the hands and feet of PNMC in our relationship with the Mennonite churches of NW Mexico.

Dave also brought to the board the need to reinstate the leadership exchange budget line item for \$1500 for 2009-10; motion to do this was made, seconded and passed.

5) Next item was the review of the District Pastor draft slate (sent in a previous email). The slate is structured so that no proposed district pastor names are listed for a group where they currently attend or have recently pastored.

After the slate has been passed, the next steps include:

- a) asking district pastor nominees if they are willing to serve with churches selected for them
- b) presenting the name of the suggested district pastor to the congregations within the group, who will be asked if they have any concerns of district pastor assigned to their area?

Concerns were raised for district pastors who would need to attend more than one cluster meeting or for district pastors who were assigned to a different cluster than that attended by the district pastor.

District Pastors would be first line of resource for congregations searching for pastors.

In cases of conflict between congregation and pastor and/or pastor and district pastor, then the Executive Conference Minister would be the first point of resource. Next line for conflict resolution would be a Congregational Care Team. Available resources should be clear to District pastors and to congregations. This may be a major source of need for the Executive Conference Minister. Sheldon expects that this will be one of the most important duties of the ECM. Counseling when concerns with Pastors arise will be another.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the slate of district pastors. Prayer was requested for this process as it is implemented.

6) Capacity Building update

- a) Chairperson: Bruce Harder has declined to serve as chair. Hershberger's have also said no previously. Cecil Miller is a possibility.
- b) Janet Buschert has expressed willingness to be on the committee.

7) International Bethel City Church (they meet at Peace Mennonite)

- a) IBCC has requested to join PNMC.
- b) Audrey has volunteered to represent the Board on a visit to the congregation.

8) New Budget process

The Fiscal year is scheduled to change to Feb. 1 – January 31, starting with Feb. 1, 2009.

- a) With this calendar who approves the budget? Waiting until the delegate session in June would not be effective (nor would passing it a half year early). Original Structure / Vision intent was (Art. 4, sec. 2 and Art 5, sect 1, sub paragraph f) to have Board pass the next year's budget.
- b) When? If the board is to do this, then budget will need to be prepared in time to be put on the agenda for the Board's February meeting.
- c) What is the role of delegates? Dave suggested that delegates could be asked to give input on what the budget priorities should be for the next year.

Brad closed the meeting in prayer.