

PNMC Board Retreat

January 22-23, 2010

Portland, OR

Agenda

Friday, January 22, 2010

Attendance: Dave Hockman-Wert, Linda Dibble, Audrey Lowen, Isaac Hooley, Jeanne Rempel, Pat Senner, Pedro Olvera, Iris DeLeon-Hartshorn, Charlotte Derksen, Ed Miller. Absent: Victor Vargas

6:00 p.m. – Worship Service – Iris

After supper, Iris led the Worship service, which included four songs: *Here in this Place, You are all we have; I wait for God, and I bind my heart to thee*. We read, reflected, and shared on Acts 17:16-32, concluding with prayer led by Jeanne Rempel.

7:00 p.m. – Introduction to the weekend – Dave

Review where PNMC is at, how we got here over the past five years

Clarify terminology, set goals for Saturday and set priorities for next five years.

How do we build on the framework that the Structure Vision Task Force set out for us?

We don't want to redo the work done by the Structure Vision Task Force.

Review of PNMC, where is the conference at now, how did we get here:

1994 – beginning of merger; first PNMC conference was held at Nampa, Idaho in 1995.

1998 – CIHAN began (or perhaps in 1997)

2002 – Duncan Smith changed from Mission minister to second Conference Minister.

Conference was held in Salem, Oregon.

2003 – Conference minister Larry Hauder ended his time with PNMC. Conference was held at Moses Lake, Washington.

2004 – PNMC Conference was held in Seattle, Washington. Sheldon Burkhalter was already on board as a Conference Minister

2005 – Conference was held in Lebanon, Oregon. Round table delegate sessions were introduced. The Structure Vision Task Force [SVTF] members were announced and began working. PNMC moved ahead with the NW Mexico covenant.

2006 – Conference was held in Kalispell, Montana. The Faith & Practice Team started, the SVTF presented a new mission, vision, and core values for PNMC, which were approved by the delegates, and the practice of round table delegate sessions became the norm. Roca de Salvacion (Aurora) became a full member of PNMC.

2007 – The Structure Vision Task Force held regional meetings around the conference, later there was a vote to accept the structural proposal of the task force. A Transition Team was appointed, followed a short time later by the appointment of the Operations Team, which became the new Board.

2008 – CIHAN celebrated its ten-year anniversary

2009 – Iris DeLeon-Hartshorn, the new Executive Conference Minister, came on board

The merger of General Conference Mennonite Church and (Old) Mennonite Church was difficult—but PNMC has now moved on. In addition to these two groups, the CIHAN churches and now the Congolese church are a part of PNMC. We next need to expand out to other groups.

The key question now is how do we work together, while not agreeing on some things?

8:00 p.m. – Sharing and Relaxation – Linda

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Attendance: Dave Hockman-Wert, Linda Dibble, Audrey Lowen, Isaac Hooley, Jeanne Rempel, Pat Senner, Pedro Olvera, Iris DeLeon-Hartshorn, Charlotte Derksen, Ed Miller. Absent: Victor Vargas

8:00 a.m. – MC USA conference call –

LaVern Yutzy presented his recently completed report on MC USA churchwide operations and alignment. His presentation was followed by a question and answer period, with questions being phoned in from across the MCUSA denomination. The report is now available to anyone and can be found at: <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/Home/News/tabid/65/EntryID/225/Default.aspx> or http://www.mennoniteusa.org/Portals/0/YutzyReport_2010Jan12.pdf

9:00 a.m. – Policy Governance 101, a review – Dave

There are ten principles of Policy Governance (summarized from CarverGuide1: Basic Principles of Policy Governance):

1. The Board represents the interests of the owners. This is its primary relationship.
2. The Board speaks with one voice or not at all.
3. Board decisions should predominantly be policy decisions.
4. Boards should formulate policy by determining the broadest values before progressing to more narrow ones.
5. A Board should define and delegate, rather than react and ratify.
6. Ends determination is the pivotal duty of governance.
7. The Board's best control over staff means is to limit, not prescribe.
8. A Board must explicitly design its own products and process.
9. A Board must forge a linkage with management that is both empowering and safe.
10. Performance of the Executive Director must be monitored rigorously, but only against policy criteria.

The group discussed training examples, as well as the suitability of this type of governance for PNMC.

Policy Governance is a holistic, comprehensive set of integrated principles that allows governing boards to realize an owner-accountable organization.

Teams (but not Passion Based Ministries) work under the Executive Conference Minister; they are “staff teams” – e.g. the Theological Education & Pastoral Development Team, Pastoral Leadership Team, Finance Team, etc. – rather than Board committees.

10:30 a.m. – Future thinking; setting priorities for PNMC – Facilitator: Ron Litwiller
(President/CEO - Mennonite Village)

Goals should be achievable, time bound, ends driven, and measurable.

A stretch goal might not be achievable (wouldn't it be great if we could...) anytime soon, but it can be useful to push us beyond our usual boundaries.

Goals should center on PNMC becoming a Christ-centered community, with Christ-like supporting behavior; focusing on service, stewardship, and self-determination.

Our goals must have a clear objective, be inspiring, and have a realistic time frame.

There could be three types of PNMC goals: conference level goals, board goals and congregational goals.

What is PNMC Board's vision for PNMC for this decade? What do we want to see PNMC accomplish or focus on?

BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS

The Board then brainstormed potential goals and spent some work sessions putting flesh on the initial ideas.

Goals summary: (numbers and dates are illustrative only)

- 1. COMMUNICATION – Technology** All PNMC congregations will have access to appropriate communication technology as follows:
 - a. Email by 12/31/2010
 - b. High speed internet access by 12/31/2011 and
 - c. Video conferencing by 12/31/2011
- 2. BUILD UPON PNMC's DIVERSITY/MUTUAL RESPECT and SUPPORT** To establish 10 congregational partnership relationships by 12/31/2010 ("sister" congregations); plan to share stories at each annual conference and in issues of the Evangel. Build upon and encourage Iris' strength and experience in these areas.
- 3. FINANCES** To carry out the capacity campaign (put a steering committee in place by March 2010, set first meeting date for May, 2010, start implementation of campaign by July 2010) as well as to strengthen ongoing contributions to the general fund ("to increase general fund contributions in 2010 by 5% over 2009"). Include stories connecting PNMC contributions/finances and conference activities in each Evangel.
- 4. ANABAPTIST IDENTITY** To develop a Congregational/Conference covenant by 6/30/2010 and obtain 10 commitments by 12/31/2010. To develop Leadership training for pastors and to provide resources to pastors/congregations.
- 5. YOUTH** To integrate youth into the Anabaptist Faith community via non-violence training, Provide Conference events appealing to youth, scholarships and a Conference sponsored Youth Activities Coordinator.
- 6. MISSIONAL** To cultivate a Missional framework, provide an annual Missional scripture text to be used by congregations and conference throughout the year. (Publish stories; conduct workshops designed for mission skill building. This could have a date for implementation i.e. 1/1/2011)

7. **SERVICE** To highlight ongoing service activities of PNMC congregants and to increase participation of PNMC members in service opportunities. (This would require record keeping of short and long term participation. It is sort of a yes or no goal, but you could also suggest a % increase.) Also mentioned was the need to coordinate opportunities, tell stories via the Evangel, and support current service programs.

8. **COMMUNICATION** To communicate regularly with Delegates along with the congregation pastors. (*This would require congregations to identify delegates a year prior to the Conference.*) Some communication should also go to all constituents. The issue of the Task Force recommendation about Communication Council seems to be something that needs some response. Maybe feedback to the Task Force or an explanation to supporters is needed.

9. **Help congregations value each other** (*This was added at the very end and we did not address it via a goal*)

3:00 p.m. – Break

3:30 p.m. – Business, wrap-up

Financial Investment Signers for PNMC

Resolved that the PNMC Treasurer, the Executive Conference Minister, and the Administrative Assistant are authorized as signers for the various financial investments that PNMC may make. This Resolution is perpetual and can be updated as needed. Pedro so moved and Audrey seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Mileage reimbursement policy

Linda moved that we accept the draft PNMC Reimbursement for Use of Personal Vehicles policy. Audrey seconded, and all approved the motion.

Conference updates

Denali backpack, learning tour will be June 27 – Jul 2. There will be a mailing from Dave.

Budget Ed Miller

There are still a few bills and a few contributions to come in for FY 2009.

The Capacity building campaign advisor has been paid in full. We do not need to pay him extra even though it has taken us longer to get started than we anticipated.

Expenses for 2009 are less than expected; therefore there is a balanced budget for FY 2009. Next year's budget will not be a balanced budget; income is projected as promised by congregations. Individuals and congregations are/will be encouraged to make additional contributions, in order to bring the budget into balance.

Budget reflects the new organizational structure. As this is the first budget of the new structure, there may be some needs for funds that have not surfaced yet.

There was a payment for the Mexico work that never went through for 2008. It will be added to the last payments for this year, and will be sent this week.

Pat moved that we pass FY 2010 budget and Pedro seconded it. Motion passed.

Faith and Practice Team

PNMC Board members meeting with the Faith and Practice Team is scheduled for Saturday, January 30 from 10:30 to 5 at Portland Mennonite. Lunch will be \$5.

Capacity Building Campaign:

Names supposed to be finalized by March. Iris will put something in the new Evangel, requesting that people who are interested in more information about participating in the CBC should contact her.

Annual Meeting:

Are there Alaska Airline miles that can be donated for the use of the district pastors to go to conference?

Pat, John David and Dave will talk regarding planning for the upcoming annual meeting. Audrey also will be talking to the program folks. Travel arrangements, accommodation information and meal costs etc. need to be out soon. Can we put the registration on line?

Submitted by
Charlotte Derksen
Secretary