

PNMC Fall Board Retreat

FRIDAY September 17, 2010

Present: Linda Dibble, Moderator; Jeryl Hollinger, Moderator-Elect; Board Members: Mario Bautista, Isaac Hooley, Joseph Penner, Jeanne Rempel, Pat Senner, Iris DeLeon-Hartshorn, Executive Conference Minister; Ed Miller, Treasurer; and Charlotte Derksen, Secretary, Absent: Jennifer Sottolano

Objectives for the weekend

Linda, Iris

- Increased communication and understanding between Board members
- Develop set of objectives that we can use now and to help us grow into the future

Dwelling in the Word:

Iris

Prayer of abandonment, reading and meditating on Luke 4:16-30, and singing together “Come and fill our hearts,” and “I bind my heart this tide”

Current Business:

Linda, Charlotte, Ed

Review April meeting minutes

- Review pending Minutes
 - April 2010 Board Meeting **Linda, Charlotte** Approved by Board members
 - Anchorage 2010 PNMC Conference Approved by Board members
 - July 2010 Board Meeting Approved by Board members
- Board members agreed that it would be helpful if the minutes were easier to find on the PNMC web site.

Treasurer’s Report

Ed

Annual Review – difference in this report – breakdown of annual meeting expenses and income, as well as expenses for Peace Mennonite. We are currently 7/12 through the fiscal year.

- Annual meeting finances are still not completely tabulated yet by Prince of Peace. They will probably come in with their expenses exceeding their income by about \$757 dollars. PNMC will reimburse them; total annual meeting deficits for this year’s conference then will be about \$8000 (less attendees meant less income and smaller offerings; plus, travel costs for staff were higher than for the average PNMC conference. This is the largest annual meeting deficit by far.
- There are a couple of big, one-time-only, expenses related to Peace Mennonite property.
- So far church contributions are coming in per budget; Ed is concerned about only a couple of congregations. The income is pretty close to what was budgeted. Most expenses have been coming in at or under budget. The exception is the “contracted services” [communications]; mostly due to translation costs at the Anchorage

meeting. The board members suggested that Ed should breakout translation expenses: annual meeting, e-bulletin, and Evangel.

- This is the first full year under the new organization, with the conference minister on board; therefore, there is no appropriate budget year with which to compare this year's expenses.
- Balance sheet: includes, new this year, a separate line for Peace Mennonite property (Income from rental and funds transferred from Peace Mennonite Church. The total for this line now in hand is \$12,000.
- Title insurance coverage for Peace Mennonite property is set at \$1,200,000 value; this is higher than the current real value, but the value is forced to this amount, due to the 2009 property valuation.

Travel Reimbursement:

Board members were reminded that travel reimbursement forms are on the PNMC website. Board members are categorized as "volunteer".

2010-2011 Meeting Dates The remaining 2010-2011 Board meeting dates were agreed upon:

- Nov 13, 2010 in Seattle at SMC; the board will be meeting with Mark Vincent on Friday, Nov 12
- Jan 22, 2011 - Portland
- Mar 26, 2011 – Portland
- May 21, 2011 - Portland

The board regretfully accepted the resignation of Pat Senner. Pat and her husband are moving to Austin Texas at the end of this month.

Report from Peace Mennonite Property Task Force

Jeryl

Oversight of Peace Mennonite church property is a new venture for PNMC. The challenges include how best to oversee the property and to support all appropriately interested groups. The task force met with both the Bethel and Anawim leaders. They heard their vision and excitement.

The taskforce is considering recommending the formation of a Property Management Committee who would have a separate budget within PNMC's system and would temporarily oversee the vision and property. PNMC, Anawim and Bethel would have representation on this committee. Perhaps it would also be appropriate to include a committee member from a third church which is currently renting space in the facility. In 2-3 years this system would need to be reviewed. Questions include:

- Who would approve members for the Property Management Committee?
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The Property Task Force is trying to estimate what it would cost to operate the facility; the current estimate is \$2000 per month. The property will also likely need a manager at additional cost. There may be additional maintenance costs; a fire marshal and contractor are scheduled to review the property.

The taskforce will soon be ready to share their recommendations with Anawim and Bethel leaders for additional feedback and is hoping to soon bring a formal motion to the board.

Review of governance polices

Linda, Iris

The Board members each received copies of the current PNMC Policy & Procedures. These should be reviewed, revised and then put on PNMC's web site. Linda reminded us that we are under the Holy Spirit, acting under God. PNMC is God's church.

Review vision statement of PNMC and MCUSA

Linda

- Review mission statement of PNMC:
 - Promote personal spiritual development
 - Nurture healthy congregations
 - Make strong connections
 - Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world

- How are we encouraging PNMC congregations to live this out?
 - Jeryl suggested a focus of, "Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world."
 - "Celebrate our similarities and differences."
 - Does "nurturing healthy congregations" need to be proactive? Congregations usually call whenever there is already problem. Iris tries to help congregations to solve problems themselves, to empower themselves.
 - How can PNMC nurture congregations? Spiritual development, dwelling in the Word, discipling individuals can be keys.

- For congregation members, the PNMC connection is most visible when there are searches, or when there is a problem, e.g. sexual misconduct. General ideas and thoughts:
 - Congregations need ways to learn how to fix their own problems. Congregations need to learn how to create a budget, keep members, and just learn how to do church.
 - Each should recognize that it is those close to us with whom we struggle and argue.
 - What about setting up sister congregations?
 - The squeaky wheel within conference gets the grease. Working with individual congregations takes a lot of time.

- Much of what PNMC does isn't visible: e.g. making sure pastors have needed classes, are given sound doctrine, other appropriate classes.

- Do the vision and mission statements still reflect who we wish to be? (see above)

Isaac closed this session in prayer

Break for dinner at local establishment

Review of January Goals

Linda, Iris

I Communication – Technology

Someone in most (but not all) churches have email access (Brenda has identified someone in each congregation who receives the electronic news letter). The Anchorage Conference sessions were videotaped and are on the web for anyone to view. It is unknown how many different churches have had someone view it.

II Build Upon PNMC's Diversity

III Finances (This goal is a bit behind; the campaign is now set to start yet later this year)

- MMN knows the big givers in our area. It feels like church agencies are competing with other church agencies for funds instead of sharing information.
- There used to be a “database” [list] of PNMC big donors; this needs to be built up again.
- We need to demonstrate the value awareness of PNMC. The Capacity Campaign is intended to build that up again. Possible benefits of the campaign could include:
 - Travel grants for attending a conference.
 - Fund youth wanting to serve with MVS.
 - We should not forget to provide some funds to maintain PNMC.
- The training session for the new Campaign is set for November 12.
 - Don Bacher, Jerry Kaiser, Rick Bollman, Iris deLéon Hartshorn and Mark **Vincent, *Design for Ministry***, are the confirmed members as of now.
 - Two more members would be good: perhaps a CIHAN member and/or a member of the board.
 - It would also useful for Ed Miller, as PNMC treasurer, to meet Mark Vincent, Ed should perhaps “participate” as a PNMC onlooker.
- The next step is to choose the next four goals to work on for the coming year: Iris' first choices:
 - Training lay leaders for the capacity building campaign;
 - Working with Youth (starting with the youth pastors and with representative from churches without youth pastors)
 - By the next board meeting, Ed will be in the throes of budget setting; choosing goals to fund will be very important.
 - There had been little training available for lay leaders at the national level, now there is a new lay leader position. The national lay leader may develop resource persons for regional conference in the next 4-5 years.

IV ANABAPTIST IDENTITY: PNMC used the Canadian covenant.

V YOUTH: PNMC has added three younger members to the PNMC board this year

VI MISSIONAL

- We are practicing “Dwelling in the Word” at conference meetings
- Iris is encouraging congregations to do so as well.

VII SERVICE: Have not yet done much with this one

VIII COMMUNICATION

- E-bulletin goes out to all who would like to have it, as well as the quarterly Evangel.
- Both the E-bulletin and Evangel are available in both Spanish and English

IX CONGREGATIONS ARE HELPED TO VALUE EACH OTHER

Review goals statements from Anchorage 2010 Delegate Sessions
Iris

Linda,

(Available on the website)

Continuation of Goal Development

Ron Litwiller

- What does PNMC need/get from MCUSA?
 - Publications: Advocate brings back publications information
 - MCUSA Directory
 - Resources for hiring pastors (MLI)
 - MEA / Seminaries and church schools We can't do these things alone
 - PNMC Board Representatives (currently Linda, Isaac, and Iris) attend MCUSA meetings
 - Youth conference, youth pastors are part of church-wide youth council
 - National Convention and the Youth Convention
- What are we trying to accomplish?
 - Congregations on fringes/on fence re: being Mennonite would be encouraged to join our vision of being Mennonite together; perhaps establish a sister care relationship.
 - Give a peaceful farewell to a departing congregation
 - Should all of the youth go to the same camp, e.g. Drift Creek camp?
 - PNMC could plan young adult/youth gatherings to discuss what it means to be a Mennonite / conscious objector / their personal relationship with Jesus Christ
 - Is a youth communications/blog needed?
 - Training/courses for lay leaders (for elders/Anabaptist identity)
 - Congregational covenants
- Where are we trying to go?
 - Joyful affirmation and celebration that we are Mennonites together

- Celebrating who we are. / add such a celebration to the annual conference schedule
- Call each other to be God's church in this place – affirm each other – affirm our desire to be community, e.g. we are church together
- Mutual support
- Put youth music on the conference website
- PNMC Youth face book page (there already is a PNMC face book page)?

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Dwelling in the Word

Iris.

Luke 4: 16-30 What is God calling us to do?

Vision of Anawim / Bethel: is it "owned" / in partnership with, and/or enabled by PNMC? What is our relationship?

Anawim's hope – to provide a day place for homeless to get off of the street, to find shower and food,

Bethel's Vision: A place for children's ministry...

It's not always easy to combine all hopes and goals...

"Come and fill our hearts" "I bind my heart this tide"

Salem 2011, June 24-26 Annual Meeting Planning

Linda, Iris

- General ideas/concepts for conference planning:
 - How should the work / vision of Anawim and Bethel get presented to the conference? How is conference involved in this?
 - How is the ECM involved in conference planning? How can we have continuity? ECM could be coordinator of annual planning (not the chair).
 - How are our conference goals / objectives brought into the conference planning?
 - Business sessions should begin by dwelling in the word.
 - It is important to keep involving local people, new to conference planning, but it is important also to have one or two planning members continuing on for another year (or two) for continuity.
 - Important for the conference to have continuity, local flavor, and real teaching from the Word.
 - It was suggested to have one central committee that oversees the local arrangements and program planning teams

- Specifics for next year's conference:
 - Iris has already asked people to consider taking on program or local roles.
 - It was proposed that some of the people asked to serve would be asked to serve for two years, 50% to be continuing for next year; in light of this need Iris will ask Nan Gascho to continue for one more year as mentor for the program chair and also to make available last year's planning manual.
 - It is planned to ask last year's local committee chair, John David Thacker, to remain on as mentor (or, since Alaska is so far away, someone more local, who has already served on local arrangements).

- There is room for fluidity in the local arrangements membership, but good to have someone who has experience to serve on local arrangements committee.
- Translations
 - Iris and/or committee chair should go to CIHAN to request conference translators, rather than burdening one or two translators or paying a professional translator.
 - PNMC needs to recognize the skill required and the amount of work involved in translating.
 - Translators need to be arranged for ahead of time.
 - The conference needs to own translation equipment.
 - PNMC needs now to plan for French translation as well.
- Offerings at annual meeting needed to be clearly identified to cover conference expenses
- Theme ideas for 2011 (the theme should be in line with scripture and with PNMC's goals):
 - (4) Immigration – Biblical, One community – many parts;
 - (2) Knowing each other,
 - (3) Call to fulfill God's purpose in this world,
 - (2) Anabaptism Today, Does God care about social issues,
 - A discerning community; identity development (a multi-year theme?), God's call, this time, this place, Dwelling in the world, one community, many parts; A discerning community – possible speakers for this topic: Jack Suderman, speakers from Quaker community/George Fox, Faith & Practice Team
 - (3) Luke 4 passage,
- Speaker suggestions: Sarah Wenger Shenk, Ervin Stutzman (available on years not leading MCUSA Convention), Hispanic speaker, (Hugo Salcuedo or others?); David Hiebert (CMU), our local pastors, Shane Hipps, Jack Sudermann, Stuart Murray, Elizabeth Soto Albrecht, Faith & Practice Team
- Location for the year after next (2012) (2) Seattle: (3) Eastern WA,
- Board decided to proceed with a Central committee that will include: one to two member(s) of local arrangements committee, one to two member(s) of the program planning committee, staff, plus Iris as coordinator.
 - Barb Buxman, as PNMC AA, to be included on the local arrangements committee
 - Jack Knox will inform the local arrangements committee
- Resolutions – Review policy. Are resolutions a thing of the past?
- Anawim and Bethel Mennonite Church Mission and Vision
 - These projects are aligned with PNMC's mission, they are part of the conference, part of us.
 - There are natural tensions between the Anawim mission and the Bethel mission.
 - In the past both Anawim and Bethel have been "renters" answerable to a landlord, Peace Mennonite Church; they will now be in a different category.

- Steve Kimes is already putting in twelve-hour days, drawing up proposal of how it would work, approaching donors, etc. Decisions currently depend on Steve. Steve says he's not an administrator.
- If the Anawim/Bethel proposals are successful, in addition to the property concerns and the financial questions PNMC will need to contribute more personnel and other kinds of help.
- What if some of the property is sold. Does PNMC have enough resources remaining?
- What if an intern took over more ministry?

New Business

- Associate Membership with Western Mennonite. "A memorandum of relationship between PNMC and Western Mennonite School" was given to a section of the board to review: Jeryl (Moderator-Elect), Isaac, Jeanne, Joseph, Mario, and Charlotte. The group's general reaction to the memorandum was positive, although we were not sure how much use the process would be. They had the following questions and comments:
 - The group questioned when a yearly meeting would take place, who would be present and why such a frequent review would be needed.
 - The conference has an "Executive Conference Minister", not a "Conference Minister", with whom consultations would/could take place.
 - The group questioned the use of the regular reports and minutes.
 - It was suggested to change "Promote in the PNMC Evangel" to "Promote in the PNMC publications, as space allows"
 - Providing an opportunities for Western Mennonite staff to offer seminars at the annual meeting seemed okay, although of somewhat dubious value, considering who comes to annual meeting.
 - Group questioned the appropriateness of the access to congregation mailboxes and mailing lists.
 - While the group agreed that periodic meetings between PNMC leaders and leaders of Western Mennonite School would be appropriate, the necessity for annual meetings was questioned.
 - The group strongly affirmed the value of Western Mennonite School and its continued connection with the conference.
- Appointment to Bethel College Board of Directors. Bethel College needs the names and number of Bethel graduates within PNMC congregations in a hurry. Delegates were to get back to Linda with information as soon as possible.

Update on November 12-13 Board Meeting @ Seattle Mennonite Church Iris

Linda,

The meeting will include the following parts:

- Capacity Campaign team meeting
- PNMC Board meets with SMC leadership
- PNMC Board meeting

- The following housing will be needed 1 family, 1 couple, 2 women, 2 men. Iris and sister

Catch up new board members on SMC meeting issues:

- At the conference meeting in Kalispell, Weldon Nisly agreed not to perform another same sex marriage. Weldon used his credentials (granted by PNMC) to do something contra PNMC's guidelines. Conference staff were supposed to follow up with him, but this didn't happen in the given timeframe; our meetings with SMC are one way that the current Board is working to resolve this.
- How do we have church/conference together and still agree to disagree - and still be church together or is there time to part ways? Discernment doesn't always mean agreement.
- The unity proposal, as used by several other conferences, utilizes four essential affirmations: Jesus is Lord; Scripture is authoritative; Confession of Faith guides us; We prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit's guidance.
 - The first step is to try out the process with district pastors
 - The second step is to have a two day all pastor conference.
 - The third step may be to try out the process at conference
 - The next step will be to bring the process into congregations
- Discernment is spiritual exercise, listening to God together (not a debate, not proof texting) only way to get better at this is to keep practicing this. Keep dwelling in the Word of God.
- Congregations and groups should give a heads up to Executive Conference Minister and to the Board before taking action.

Introduction to "Being a Faithful Church" – Jack Suderman white paper & MC Canada document – no action to be taken

Resolution on Supporting Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ Most Impacted by the Arizona

Immigration Law The Jack Knox Resolution was reviewed by the following members of the board: Linda, Iris, and Jeryl. Due to timing issues, this resolution was not processed by the Board prior to the annual meeting. Thus the current Board now carefully deliberated the resolution, affirming the work that the Peace and Justice Committee (PJC) had done toward this effort. The Board would like to meet with the Peace and Justice Committee and they also ask that CIHAN be involved in further discussions.

- PNMC needs to practice being a discerning community.
- The Board will work with PJC to keep this issue in front of us. We all need to understand the Biblical basis for our choices in this matter.
- Thanks were to be sent to the Peace and Justice group for carefully preparing and bringing this resolution to the board.
- It is hoped that CIHAN will also look at and address this document, giving feedback to the Board.
- It was recognized that many (most) in PNMC would not go to the conference if the final decision is still to go to Arizona, and the situation there does not change.
- After careful deliberation, the board passed the following resolution: "The board unanimously moved that Iris, Linda, and Isaac carry to the national body that PNMC

does not support a conference location where not all of our members feel comfortable attending.” (The discussion on the resolution served as a background resource for Iris, Linda, and Isaac as they prepared to go to the Leader’s Forum the following week.)

Linda closed the meeting with blessings on our worship tomorrow, on our work and our fellowship. Group closed in prayer.

TO DO

Iris: web site modification to make board minutes easier to find

Iris, Isaac, and Linda: carry to the national body that PNMC does not support a conference location where not all of our members feel comfortable attending.”

Jeryl and other committee members: continue work on Peace Mennonite Property Task Force

Ed breakout translation expenses: annual meeting, e-bulletin, and Evangel.

Iris / Linda – talk with Nan Gascho and John David Thacker regarding serving on Program and Local Arrangement committees as mentors.

All: Prepare for the next meeting.