

PNMC Board Meeting

Portland Mennonite Church

April 16, 2011

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

Probable board meeting dates for summer: July 16, Aug 20. Sept 16-17 (board retreat).

- 1) Dwelling in the word – Iris Prayer of abandonment; singing together *“Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us”*, reading Philippians 1:27-30; singing together SJ #59 *“Come and fill our hearts;”* and reflections on how these inform our work for PNMC? Closing hymn: *“You are all we have,”* SJ #29
- 2) Peace Property Committee – Jeryl & Joseph
Jim Wanger has been asked to serve as chair of the PPC, but his answer is still pending; questions and responses going back forth between Jim and Jeryl. The committee has only met once since the initial time. Reports are that things are going well. The property looks like its being kept up well.
- 3) Rental house and Peace Property updates – Iris
 - a) There has been one major plumbing problem, which has been fixed. There is now a problem of delinquent sewage bills; the tenant has been on vacation, and she has promised to pay when she returns.
 - b) We need to wait for the market to improve to put the rental property on the market; if we do put it up for sale there will still be a number of problems. The board thought it would be useful to ask Tim Manickam to come back to the board for a discussion on the possibilities and problems of trying to sell the property in the current market. Due to its location, the property would be subject to vandalism if it is put on the market, and the renter leaves, thus leaving house vacant. The housing market in the Gresham area is still not recovering.
 - c) What, if anything, regarding the Rental house issues should be put in the financial report to conference? The board members responded that a full report on both (?) properties should be included in the delegate report.
 - d) A question was raised about the board’s decision to use the Peace property resources the way that it is currently being used. Might it now be the moment to look at the timeline for the next steps? What is really needed for the “renters?”

- e) It was decided to invite Steve and Simon plus the committee members to the following board meeting (July) or possibly the next meeting after that (Aug) to provide the board with an update on their thinking and to report to the board on steps they are taking respectively. There are many issues to take into account. Full discussion upcoming. The board is not looking at getting into a long-term commitment to managing the property.
- 4) ECM report – Iris
- Iris has been focusing on the upcoming annual meeting, working with three congregations, and working with CIHAN, during the last two and half months. CIHAN is currently revising their bylaws so that the CIHAN pastors have the same credentialing process, as do the ANGLO pastors. Prince of Peace and Hyde Park congregations have been visioning for their respective futures. Zion Mennonite has been working on their congregational and pastoral review. Other activities include fund raising discussions with Spring Valley and assisting Bend in a candidate review process.
- 5) Break
- a. MCUSA & PNMC sharing Iris' time. Where do we go from here? – Linda
Iris did not want to leave PNMC; she prayed and prayed about the issues. Iris and her family are planning to remain in Portland and members of PNMC. Linda has made a draft notice to congregations; the notice will go out to PNMC congregations on Monday. Mountain states board members each has 2-4 congregations that they “care for”, visit 2-3 times per year.
 - b. From May 15-Sept MCUSA will cover ½ of Iris' salary, including ½ of the cost of benefits, PNMC will cover the other half of her salary and benefits. MCUSA will reimburse PNMC for travel costs on behalf of MCUSA. Linda asked those going off the board to consider being one of those looking at the job description of the Conference Minister and the district pastors. She also asked “retiring” board members to consider being on the search committee.
 - c. The Board will talk in depth in May about needs of the position and of the conference.
 - d. Board members should send to Linda and Jeryl the names of those who might be on search committee. Mario may represent CIHAN.
 - e. Things that the board needs to do now:
 - I. Establish a Personnel Team
 - II. Provide care for District Pastors
 - III. Care for Congregations - if things go as usual, congregations in flux/difficulties will be more “calming”. Summers are usually “slower”.
 - IV. Evaluate past and visioning for the future of the conference. Linda and Iris will work on time line of possibilities. Barbara will be asked if she can [temporarily] pick up more hours.

6) Annual budget - Ed

PNMC is now only a month and half into the current year's budget. The only addition to the proposed budget was an additional \$750 is expected from one congregation, Jeryl moved, Isaac second to accept the revised budget; motion passed. At this point there is an expected deficit of \$13,381.

The 2010 year came in \$2,301.12 over budget. More than half of this short fall was due to the closure of Peace Mennonite in May.

The Peace property finances/budget are about \$4000 in the hole. The Peace property is now just about stable on financial matters, as its financial state is stabilizing and improving; this includes \$1100 coming in on a loan being repaid to Peace from an individual.

Inactive accounts can be reactivated for the upcoming search expenses.

Lunch

7) Annual meeting reports – All

- a) Delegate / discernment sessions – Iris has written “The Changing Role of Delegates” for delegates to ponder. Roberts Rule of Order and the democratic model should not be the mode of PNMC, but rather the discernment mode should be. It is important for us to hear God' voice. Dwelling the in the Word, prayer, meditation and listening are important tools for discernment.
- b) Theme for the annual meeting: Discerning in Community
- c) Speaker – Jack Suderman, who is planning a basic study of the book of Philippians, a letter that deals with the realities of being a discerning community. He's tentatively planning a pastors' session, plus three sessions for all.
- d) Tentative schedule – Iris As usual there will be a Pastors' dinner on Thursday evening. There will be two Business/Discernment sessions, some seminars or workshops, plus four training events: Pastoral Reviews (Nancy Kaufmann), Preaching 101 (Leo Hartshorn), Team Ministry (Duncan Smith) and BaFa – Intercultural Dynamics (Barb Buxman, Brenda Zook Friesen (?), Bob Buxman and Iris DeLeon Hartshorn).
- e) Estimated costs – Linda PNMC has been given a very generous gift from Western School, so lowering the cost of the conference.
- f) Membership – Linda ??
- g) Simon Rendon's church has asked to be formally recognized as a PNMC congregation. Two board members are needed to visit a service of the congregation and indicate approval; Linda is willing to be one and Mario is willing to be the second. They will coordinate the visit(s).

- h) Financial: Registration should cover cost of conference, as general rule. Costs have increased, particularly during the years when we use rented facilities. Ed suggested a separate “budget” for conference finances, with its own income and expenses; Isaac so moved, Jeryl seconded; it was passed unanimously. It was also suggested that two offerings be taken at the conference, one for annual meeting expenses (any funds will carry forward to future meetings) and one for the PNMC general fund; information regarding the two offering opportunities will go out with general distribution of delegate books and will also be written up in the Evangel. It was agreed to at least do that this year.
- 8) Capacity Campaign – Iris, Linda With Iris leaving, Linda suggested that this might not be the right time to do the capacity campaign; there are not the personnel to do this, especially due to the planned key role for the Conference Minister, Iris, in the campaign. Also it seems that finances might be okay for the time being. Iris, however, is concerned that the economy and mindset of the congregants is not providing sufficient funds for PNMC and those deficits will be the outcome of not having the campaign. Cecil Miller has a slightly different idea that he is willing to present to the Board. Can we get more from churches? What about young interns? Could he/she work with the capacity team, do brochures, etc.? Will the capacity campaign be in the new executive conference minister’s position? Currently the consultant’s attitude is that PNMC has paid upfront for the campaign and he will step forward to provide assistance whenever the campaign begins. Board members suggested that Cecil present a white paper to the board, outlining his suggestion. It was also planned to ask the others that attended the Capacity Campaign “team” meeting in Seattle to meet together, before further plans are made.
- 9) Gifts Discernment Team Report – Linda
- a. Pastoral Leadership Team – 4 year term
 - b. Secretary – 3 year term
 - c. Treasurer – 3 year term
 - d. At large, elected – 4 year term (appointment to complete Pat Senner’s term; 2 years remaining on this term, expiring in June 2013)
 - e. At Large, elected – 4 year term (2 term limit – Jeanne Rempel currently)
 - f. There could be another appointed at large member.
- In May, the board will be presented with the slate of those to be elected. Board can vote on the slate of those to be appointed before the May meeting, via email.
- 10) Other business
- a. Report from Constituency Leadership Council:
 - I. Both Isaac and Linda were encouraged from what they heard at the most recent meeting, particularly after hearing the tone of the last couple meetings.

- II. Many Hispanics were very hurt by the MCC decisions; after much prayer, the Hispanic group shows signs of hope, healing, and grace, and is not walking away from MCUSA.
 - III. The Past Moderator draft position (originally proposed by Jeryl) document was well received. Linda will amend draft for MCCUSA; PNMC will plan to implement this proposal.
- b. Mario and his wife plan to be remarried, this time in church (on May 21); God has also provided a duplex for them.

Closing prayer – Mario Bautisita

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 21; the meeting will be held at Portland Mennonite.

To do list:

Names of possible members of search committee are to be sent to Linda within two weeks

District Pastor Position and Executive Conference Minister job descriptions need to be updated.

Two board members (Linda and Mario) need to visit Centro Cristiano Pentecostes de McMinville for approval before May Board meeting

Invite Tim Manickam to the May board meeting

Request from Cecil Miller a white paper to present to the board, outlining his suggestion.

Charlotte Derksen
PNMC Secretary