

PNMC Board Meeting

Portland Mennonite Church

January 22, 2011

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

1) Dwelling in the Word - Iris

2) Peace Property Committee – Jeryl & Joseph

Duncan has completed his work at Peace Mennonite. Jeryl and Joseph are working with Iris on finding a temporary “caretaker,” the Peace Property Committee [PPC] chair. They have asked several people, but so far have been turned down by everyone. The Chair of the PPC is not supposed to be responsible for the day-to-day oversight. Those being contacted regarding the chairmanship should be reassured about this.

Costs of upgrading work needing to be done have been estimated; maintenance work continues as needed. So far the work is coming in under-budget.

The building has been opened during freezing nights for shelter. However, the Fire department shut down the shelter; regulations in Gresham require 200 sq. ft. per person in any overnight facility. Steve is now working on trying to get a waiver. The city of Portland provides shelters, but only after it has been freezing three days in a row. The Gresham area is higher in elevation than is downtown Portland, thus usually freezes sooner and more frequently than Portland.

Anawim wants to build a community garden.

Bethel is meeting as planned on Sunday; the church is growing, since the service has been moved to Sunday morning.

The mix of Anawim and Bethel cultures will require continued adjustment on both sides. Steve wants to start a peace center in the house; Bethel wants to use it for a 24-hour prayer ministry, for example.

3) Rental house update – Iris

Bob Buxman has been doing some work on the rental property. He found that the wiring is very bad; he has located a local electrician to do the needed work. PNMC would like to sell it.

Unfortunately, selling it right now is a bad idea; the area has too many short sale houses available. There is still a mortgage of \$30,000 on the rental house.

4) ECM report – Iris

Iris and the District Pastors had a productive meeting in Portland earlier in the week.

Some District Pastors thought perhaps the number of district pastors PNMC needs could be reduced; the others in the group wanted to stay at the same number. David Morrow has resigned as District Pastor; Gary Jewel has now been appointed as the new district pastor for the Washington and Montana congregations.

The Prince of Peace Community Church, with Scott Dryer as pastor, has left our conference. Some of the members are struggling with this decision.

There are several struggling congregations (some are greying) in the conference. Some will have to make changes to meet their mission.

District Pastors are a dedicated group. Sticky situations can arise that they must deal with.

5) Break

6) Annual budget – Iris, Ed

Ed briefly reviewed the actual year-to-date income and expenses for the current year compared to the total year budget. He noted that a few expenses have not yet been recorded, including the January payroll for Iris and Barb. Not all expenses for the District Pastors meeting have been recorded. Iris pointed out that Barbara and Brenda's expenses are under and over budget respectively, therefore largely offsetting each other.

So far this fiscal year no passion based ministry costs have been turned in to the treasurer. Iris noted that Peace and Justice will do an immigration issues session in Albany and will ask for approximately \$200 to cover costs.

Ed summarized Peace Properties finances: Peace Mennonite Campus expenses including Duncan's salary, insurance, upkeep, etc. are in one column. Taxes, etc. and loan payment are in another column and income in another column. Iris indicated that rents will be going up in February. Anawim and Bethel each will be paying \$1000 per month, the other congregation will be paying \$500.

After reviewing the 2010 finances, Ed presented the proposed budget for 2011. He pointed out that he prepared the income portion of the budget, while Iris determined most of the expense items.

Next year's proposed budget deficit is projected to be \$14,000. The Board discussed various ways to trim costs, but realized that this would cut into programs that are viewed by many to be valued (ie: communications, pastoral care via the District Pastors, etc.). There is a reserve and the question was posed as to how much is needed in the reserve?

What are we saving the reserves for? The suggestion was made to match [individual] donations with monies from the reserves.

Board members were encouraged to let congregants know that there are needs that won't be met, without sufficient funds. We are still in transition period (the second full year with a conference minister) and also in economic downturn. Ed urged the board members to let people know what will need to be cut out, and to suggest that they can give extra in order to keep things that will otherwise be cut out. Jeryl moved that the board accept the presented budget as it stands, with the understanding that the board as an entity will find ways to eliminate the deficient. Jeanne seconded the motion. It was unanimously carried.

7) CIEMNM report – Iris, Linda

Iris and Linda met with Simon Rendon, Curt Dorsing, and Bob Buxman on January 13, 2011. CIEMNM now has an oversight committee, including Bob Buxman, Curt Dorsing, Simon Rendon, plus, hopefully, one or two more members. The group would like to implement a Sister church exchange between CIEMNM and PNMC congregations. One campaign goal would be to establish a support fund for CIEMNM. The oversight committee will have supervision of any funds raised. It is also important to provide education for those CIHAN pastors who need more education. It would be good to have CIHAN representative meeting with CIEMNM. The current CIEMNM/PNMC agreement ends during 2013.

Lunch

1) Phoenix 2013 – Iris, Linda

Iris attended a MCUSA meeting to discuss the decision about whether or not to go to Phoenix for the MCUSA biannual meeting in 2013. It was a frustrating meeting; they kept being told the decision was not about the money per se. The decision has now been made for the biannual meeting to be held in Phoenix.

Iglesia Mennonita will have a project workday instead. Western District has already made a decision that no one from that conference will be going to the conference in Arizona. Now PNMC will need to decide what we'll do and clearly state the reasons. Iris will not go to Arizona. This issue will not go away. Iris hopes that Mennonite Church USA et al will learn more about how to cope with difficult issues. The board affirmed Iris' position and we seek ways to affirm each other as we face difficult issues.

2) Annual meeting reports - All

- a. Local Arrangements Chair – Bonnie Lehman, Salem Mennonite Church
 - b. Program Chair – Judy Stutzman, Albany Mennonite Church, Shawna Yoder from Menno as program chair elect. Nan Gascho remains on the committee for another year.
 - c. Delegate / discernment sessions
 - d. Theme – Discerning Together
 - e. Speaker – Jack Suderman
 - f. Tentative schedule – Breaks will be 30 minutes each; the training events will be held on Saturday.
 - g. Note: board members should send contributions for the Pastor/Spouse dinner to Ed.
 - h. This year there will be some “Teaching” Events on Saturday [all] afternoon. Preregistration will be required; probably an additional registration.
- 3) Upcoming CLC meetings and changes – Linda The CLC will meet right after the next scheduled PNMC board meeting; CLC will be asked to approve a document that provides for the concept of a Post Moderator position; this proposal was originally made by Jeryl. The PNMC board is entitled to have nine members; the current board has one vacant position and plus one which is not now filled, due to Pat Senner’s move out of the PNMC district.
- 4) Covenant between pastors & conferences Sharing Fund – Iris This fund was set up for pastors without any insurance; it was put in place before the Corinthian plan. It was suggested that we continue this fund for mental health insurance; It also could fund a premium for a pastor for one year in cases of extreme need. There are steps that can be taken if the church still can’t pay to provide coverage. For some pastors it is very hard to afford the deductible and often can’t afford the premium in the first place. Iris has delegated funds from the Sharing Fund for those pastors in need of assistance, for Insurance premiums, for catastrophic situations. The board members affirmed Iris’ work on the Sharing Fund Guidelines and the changes made.
- 5) Linda requested suggestions from the Board to the Gifts Discernment Team for nominations. Linda and Jeryl listed what skills are needed: for board members – one or two with board history; someone with business background; nonprofit experience; as well as pastoral experience. Linda is tasking board members with thinking of names of those who might be useful/good board members – send names to Linda within 3 weeks, e.g. Feb. 14. Ed has declined to serve as treasurer for another term. The terms of board members Joseph Penner and Jeanne Rempel end this year. Slots to fill and the respective term lengths are as follows:
- a. Pastoral Leadership Team – 4-year term
 - b. Secretary – 3-year term
 - c. Treasurer – 3-year term
 - d. At Large, elected – 2-year term (replaces Pat Senner) through 2013
 - e. At large, elected – 4-year term (2-term limit)

f. At large, appointed – 1-year term (2-term limit)

Pastor Jeanne Rempel closed the meeting in prayer.

The next two board meetings are scheduled for March 26 and May 21; both meetings will be held at Portland Mennonite.