

PNMC Board Meeting  
Portland Mennonite Church  
May 21, 2011

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

1) Dwelling in the Word – Iris

We began with the Prayer of Abandonment and sang together *Gentle Shepherd Come and Lead Us*; this was followed by reading and meditating on Philippians 2:1-5, interspersed with singing *Oyenos, mi Dios* and *I Bind Myself to Thee*. The group then closed in prayer, including prayer for Jennifer's very ill co-worker.

2) Consent agenda & minutes – Linda

There was one correction to the April minutes – the spelling of Jim Wenger's name (not Wanger).

3) ECM report – Iris

Iris attended the Mennonite World Conference Executive Committee meeting in Taiwan. There were nine days of meetings and two days for visiting Taiwanese congregations and the local Mennonite endeavors. Iris was impressed with what this small denomination (smaller than PNMC) can do and the impact that they are making.

On May 16, 2011, she began her part-time work for PNMC and Mennonite Church USA. She does PNMC work in the afternoons.

Iris is/will be working with two congregations during pastoral transitions. Warden Mennonite Church is working to discern their future as a congregation. They are meeting the weekend of June 12 to discern the future of the congregation. She has also met with Lynn Miller to go over all pastoral transitions and review what now needs to be done.

4) Recommendation to Board from Mario & Linda

On May 15<sup>th</sup> Mario and Linda attended a worship service at Centro Cristiano Pentecostes de McMinnville Church; at least 50-60 people were there, including about 15 young people. It was a lively service. The congregation is learning to be a congregation together.

Mario & Linda recommended to the Board that the board pass the recommendation on to the Delegates at annual meeting. Jeryl moved that the Board recommend to the delegate body to accept Centro Cristiano Pentecostes de McMinnville Church into the conference, Jeanne seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

5) Break

6) Sanctuary Property & Rental House – Iris

- a. Guest: Tim Manickam - Churches currently are sitting on the market. Buyers from Asia are sometimes available. Tim recommends keeping what we have but being open to the changing circumstances and the changing markets. The Parsonage is in a somewhat similar situation; prices in the area have gone down during the year. Selling a home with a renter in the property is nearly impossible; if the property is cleaned up and empty the parsonage property probably could be posted at \$149,000? The parsonage has an advantage in that it is off of the main road. There is a pending sale for a similar home in the area for \$136,000 as well as a pending sale of a bank owned home for \$132,000. Tim did not suggest replacing the furnace, but did recommend cleaning and painting the inside of the house.
- b. Jeryl moved that we do what is necessary to get the house ready for sale and put it up for sale. Jennifer seconded the motion, which received unanimous approval. It was decided that the Renter would be given notice to vacate property – to be received by June 1; she is to evacuate property by June 30.. The suggestion was made to let people know soon that there will a week in July when volunteers will be needed to clean and paint. It may be necessary to hire someone to finish what volunteers can't get done. Jerry Friessen, Harley Brenneman, Bob Buxman, Lee Leahman, and Dennis Remple were named as possible work coordinators. Linda will talk with contact with those, other than Dennis, with whom Jeanne will talk. This project will be limited to thirty days in July. Tim suggested a list price of \$149,000. Any money left from sale (after the 30,000 loan is paid off, plus taxes) is to be held in reserve until the Sanctuary property is "sold".
- c. Anawim and Bethel are wondering whether the board is ready for a formal purchase proposal of the Sanctuary church- small house property? Tim volunteered to provide to the board an appropriate price range. PNMC wants to come up with an appropriate price with which to start a discussion with Anawim and Bethel. The board needs to hear from Anawim and Bethel as to what they have in mind as a proposal regarding the property. Then the board can react to their proposal. It should be made clear to them that PNMC does not want to own the property indefinitely. The Board may need to have property parameters in place. The board should plan to meet at annual meeting to work on possibilities. Then the framework of any restrictions should be set before Steve and Simon, for their reaction.
- d. Report from Joseph –Steve has had a fundraiser. There was a prayer meeting with Simon, Luci, Linda, and several others, in part cleansing the house, committing it to be a house of prayer. Steve is planning a small library with Mennonite materials, particularly on peace. EMU has put out a small set of books meant for Congregations and small groups. Jim Wenger is still thinking about chairing the coordinating group

## 7) Annual Budget – Ed

- a. 501(c)3 Ed has acquired the necessary language from MCUSA for PNMC to be 501(c) compliant. Linda will undertake to have the PNMC language made compliant with that of 501(c)3; she will then send it out to board members the non-profit exempt status statement for approval. Then the next step will be to present the appropriate 501(c)3 language to delegates for approval at conference. When that

has been done, PNMC will be able to join the MCUSA's official filing for 501(c)3. It is only at this point that PNMC will be legally exempt.

- b. At this early part of the fiscal year, PNMC is currently exactly on target, however, Ed reminded the group that the budget is currently projected to come in over budget. Jeryl expressed concern about the planned deficit. Looking at the budget, however, it is not easy to find non-required expenses.
- c. The rental property income is currently about \$2000 short, but as the rent is paid through the course of the year that should balance out by the year's end. There are concerns about the furnace in the house. It is about 30 years old; Bob did some furnace repairs, including installing carbon monoxide alarms. It may be necessary to replace it before sale. Iris hopes that her replacement is here by then.
- d. Iris suggested Dave Stutzman as interim conference pastor. She has also asked Dave to represent PNMC at the Conference ministers meeting in Toronto. It was also suggested that Dave begin picking up some of Iris' other responsibilities in / by August.
- e. An all pastors worship/ retreat session on several important matters in being planned to be held possibly in February.
- f. PNMC will receive reimbursement from MCUSA for half of Iris's salary, during the short term. There will also be costs for searching for Iris' replacement.
- g. Delegates representing PNMC at National Conference, who are expecting reimbursement, are required to purchase tickets far enough ahead of time to take advantage of low fares.

#### 8) Annual Meeting reports – Iris & Linda

- a. Delegate/discernment sessions
  - i. Discuss white paper created by Iris
  - ii. Discuss NW Mexico Covenant which is set to expire 2012

This year's commitment is \$1250. In 2012 this commitment is \$550. Iris suggested proposal for the delegate body to set up a committee to look at relationship. Bob Buxman, Curt Dorsing, Linda, Iris, and Simon Rendon are the current committee. There will be continual relationship as things currently stand. Budget Line 403 is now scheduled to go to 0 in 2013. Pastor Rodolfo Garcia, is a new pastor in the Mexican conference. There will be a leadership exchange representative at the PNMC meeting again this year.

- b. Theme – Discerning in Community
- c. Speaker – Jack Suderman
- d. Tentative schedule – Iris
- e. The Board will plan to meet on Thursday afternoon with Nancy Kauffmann, as per her request. What do we need from her as far as moving forward with the transition?

f. Peace and Justice resolution (sent to all PNMC pastors and board members during the night before the board meeting)

The group did not have a problem with the issue being raised, but with the timing of the receipt of the suggested resolution, and with the fact that it was sent to PNMC pastors/staff before sending it to the board. The conference meeting agenda is already full; would there be time in the faith and justice time slot to discuss the topic in full? Any proposed resolutions should be sent to board/Executive conference minister 60 –90 days before the delegate session. The board was sympathetic to the issue but did not find any urgent reason for hurriedly taking up this proposed resolution. The board members suggested that Peace & Justice develop a study guide on the topic to be sent out to all PNMC congregations. The suggestion was also made that Peace and Justice members could present the topic in a J & P workshop at conference.

#### 9) Capacity Campaign - Iris & Linda

a. White paper presentation – from Cecil Miller

Cecil felt that there was a need for a more ground-level approach, a personalized approach. PNMC's real need is for sustainable funding. It was suggested that the CPC prepare a white paper on PNMC promotion including, for example, brochures, and a display set. District pastors could pass out materials when visiting congregations. Iris thinks that Mark understands his fees were a consulting fee, and thus are already spent.

b. How much are we letting people know what all we are doing with PNMC funds? How do we ask members where/what PNMC should cut? Include what is Iris doing with her time? What are district pastors doing? Iris (our Conference minister) provides information on how to make use of / find resources.

c. One thing PNMC needs is a finance committee.

#### 10) Gifts Discernment Team Report – Linda (Iris, Ann Hagy, Bob B. and Jeryl)

a. Pastoral Leadership Team – 4-year term waiting for a response

b. Secretary – 2-year term

c. Treasurer – 2-year term

d. At Large, elected – 2-year term (replaces Pat Senner)

e. At Large, elected – 4-year term

f. At Large, appointed – 2-term limit, Joseph Penner currently). Suggested reappointing Joseph Penner

11) Search Committee duties and who – Linda

a. Persons who have volunteered at this point: Linda Dibble, Jeryl Hollinger, Charlotte Derksen, Don Bacher, Jeanne Remple, Lynn Miller – Board will meet with Nancy Kauffmann on 2 pm Thurs; agenda is the Peace Property. Linda will then send memo to Simon and Steve. The Search committee will then meet from 3-4:30 with Nancy Kauffmann.

b. Can the Search Committee meet before conference and/or during conference with Nancy Kauffmann?

Closing Prayer – Jennifer Sotolano