

PNMC Board
November 12, 2011
Portland Mennonite Church

Members present: Mario Bautista, Charlotte Derksen, Linda Dibble, Jeryl Hollinger, Isaac Hooley, Harold Nussbaum, Joseph Penner, Jennifer Sottolano, Jack Swaim
Absent: Jerry Barkman
Staff: Barb Buxman, Dave Stutzman

1. Dwelling in the Word – Ephesians 3:14 – 21 – Dave led the group – “Lord Listen to your children praying” “Spirit of the Living God”
2. Consent agenda and minutes additions
 - a. Report from Jim Wenger
 - b. Joseph more time to talk about Property Management team
 - c. Harold more time to talk about finances and budget
3. Minutes –
 - a. August minutes approved
 - b. September minutes - Barb will send out via e-mail for updates and board approval.
4. Storyboard – board members were given opportunity to add to their storyboard, bringing along board members who were not at the retreat.

BREAK –

5. “Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership” – discussion of the book followed regarding how people are finding the book – how it relates to us as a board
 - a. The book tends to put a lot of emphasis on solitude. The board shared other ideas of how centering can happen.
 - b. If we don’t discover who we are as a group and work toward that – we become maintainers of the system. We need to step back and find out who we are and what we want to do. Then we can move the conference forward.
 - c. Linda, Jeryl, and Dave shared from their CLC experience how they were impacted by the many people across the national church who truly care about the church and the vision for the future. Linda suggested that all **go to the MCUSA.org web site and read the Purposeful Plan before our next board meeting.**
 - d. It was suggested that the board do the storyboard for PNMC. In addition a seminar at conference could allow the constituency to do it. This would be a start to build a shared vision with congregations. **Assignment for Linda and Charlotte – find minutes from retreat at Audrey’s 2 years ago.**
 - e. Many congregations are not aware of PNMC and its purpose. Congregations don’t see the need for conference until they have problems.

Congregations don't seem to be aware of the resources that PNMC can direct them to.

- f. Mario shared that the Hispanic congregations are aware of CIHAN. They know Mario or Dave, but need to know other faces.
- g. What is our purpose for our annual gathering? What if our seminars are a gathering of treasurers – of worship teams – in place of another seminar where you get told something. Healthy congregations – how do we foster/help congregations? Help each other connect with each other.
- h. Contributions – maybe this year we can send a thank you to churches who have contributed with a note, “this is what you get for your contribution.”

6. The Property Management Team – Joseph

- a. First meeting with Jim Wenger as leader of the PMT - Oct 29. It was productive, slow moving, with difficulty understanding each other but we made progress. Jim is going to move things along in ways the group hasn't been able to yet.
- b. Work through things compiled by the board
 - i. We talked about vision. What does it mean to have two separate visions and yet a unified vision.
 - ii. It will be important for board to give the PMT time to do its work. We are starting one year later than planned, so we need to give them time to do their work.
 - iii. Technical issues – team authorized Steve to rent a machine to clean the carpets. Hope to be able to replace the carpet eventually.
 - iv. Jim thinks it important to have professional inspector come in to get an idea of what needs to be done. Barb reported that Steve Ediger did such a review and will be sure Jim gets a copy of the report.
 - v. Basically we are not renting this facility – we are giving the property to them to maintain. The “rent” they pay is for maintenance of the property.
 - vi. The two groups are sharing the property well. They have different goals, but it is working o.k.
 - vii. When the property becomes a liability to conference it is no longer feasible to keep it.
 - viii. Jeryl referred to the proposal from the property task force (10/28/2010) that laid out clearly how the committee would function. He will send copies to the board members and to Jim Wenger. It is clear in this document that this vision must support itself financially.
 - ix. Original proposal was for PNMC to hold on to the ownership for 2-3 years. In that time, the two groups expect to be able to purchase the property. Our goal was to help the two groups succeed. The document says we will evaluate in -2-3 years. Board has obligation to fulfill our responsibility to the timeframe. Refer to 11/13/10 minutes.

7. Financial Report – Harold reviewed financial reports as printed
 - a. NW Mexico \$\$\$ was discussed as a Passion Based Team. Board has no input in dispersing this fund. The board may want to look at that again.
 - b. Search committee for the ECM – can we really afford it?
 - c. Sent out annual letter to treasurers about what they estimate giving for next fiscal year. Most are consistent, one is reduction. We need to be creative in asking for additional amounts.
 - d. Passion based ministry funding was discussed
 - e. Jack, Jeryl and Isaac agreed to create a value proposition paper that we could start looking at to put out to congregations. Not just a money issue, more why are we here? **This will be put on March meeting agenda.**

LUNCH

8. Charlotte reported that the Mennonite Publishing Network is asking for input/response regarding the interest in and need for a new hymnal. The quick response from the board members was positive.
9. CLC Report – Jeryl shared his written report. It was his and Dave’s first time to go. It’s a different context being among conference leaders.
 - a. Anti-racism audit – MC USA continues to talk about how to relate across all people groups.
 - b. Membership guidelines – how conferences relate with one another in the integration process.
10. Interim Conference Minister Report – Dave
 - a. Reviewed his written report – talked about the Pastor/Spouse retreat. He felt it was very successful, well attended, and a great time for pastors and spouses to be together. Positive responses from attendees.
 - b. Congregational and pastoral visits.
 - i. Two churches having similar concerns, whether to continue or not.
 - ii. District pastors helping make the ICM position possible.
 1. Variety of resources within the DP’s. Some have history with PNMC. Those congregations are in good hands. Also at a distance. Others have many gifts but don’t have experience in calling pastors or congregational reviews.
 2. We need to find ways to resource DP’s – encourage them and walk along side, to sit with them and listen.
 3. Talk of including DP to board meetings. **Linda and Dave will think about that a little more.** Or a board member could attend a DP meeting. There needs to be a sense of how to work together.
 4. Membership Guidelines has raised an issue. Where do issues conversations take place. This was to be the forum for the faith and practice team. Need to be thoughtful about

- appropriate ways to talk about issues. We are wide apart on the issues. Need a place to talk about it.
5. A concern for Dave is pastors and spouses who are now former pastors and spouses. He has several situations where they seem to have been dropped by both congregations and the conference. Who cares for them? I have some work to do.
 6. Linda asked **Dave to bring a proposal to the board about a type of care team for those pastors**, how you might envision that happening.
- iii. MEA (Mennonite Education Agency) meeting was here in Oct – PNMC leaders were invited to participate.
- c. Board response to Dave’s report.
- i. Are you guarding your time?
 1. When I took the job, I knew it could not be done in ½ time. I’m not good at guarding my time when the demands are so great.
 2. I’m enjoying most of what I’m doing but I’m concerned about the many demands there will be on the full time conference minister who will come.
 - ii. What can we do to help?
 1. If I can stay out of some administrative things that would be helpful. Barb and Harold agreed to work on the financial and copy Dave.
 - iii. Board agreed Dave needs to say no at times. He will let things go or pass on what he is unable to process. The board also suggested that Dave ask for board help if there are other resources to help make these things happen.
 1. Dave’s work with DP’s was affirmed.
 2. The question was raised that when we get a ECM – do we still need someone with a DP focus. Means more money – but this is the connection person to the churches.

11. Annual Meeting

- a. **Program chair.** Responsibilities: plan the worship services, the communion. Plan the events for children, seminars, music, worship leading, ushers. Doesn’t have to be someone from the local area. Would be helpful to have someone who has attended conference before. Names were suggested and board members will follow up as assigned.
- b. **Training events.** It was suggested to be clear in the explanation about who is it for and what is the purpose.
 - i. Anti-racism audit
 - ii. Beryl Jantzi – Everence – Ministry and Money

- iii. Ervin Stutzman has agreed to do a 4 hour training on Wholistic Witness. This focus would be for leadership
- iv. Marlene Kropf will be in the NW area – variety of things she could do
 - v. Conflict Transformation – handling conflict in the congregation.
 - vi. Bienvenido training – IRIS – would do Iris a favor if we could help recruit several people from each church. It was suggested that this be a seminar instead of training.
 - vii. Discussion followed about seminars versus training events and length of time of each. No decision was made.

c. Charlotte – will get books

d. Dave will contact Marlene about her availability

e. Linda will contact Beryl and tell him to come. Barb will send to the board members the listing of topics Beryl suggested.

f. One training to be done in Spanish in consultation with Wendell Amstutz

g. Fees will be discussed with local committee and try to take into consideration the cost of the training session.

12. Possibilities for Value Based Leadership training West Coast was presented. There is interest but it would need to be at a lower cost than in the East.

13. Search Committee for ECM - Jeryl –

- a. Collecting MLI's - Will be advertising through January. We're only dealing with ones that have completed an MLI. Would like to have a call in the next couple of weeks.
- b. We need a person who has gifts with DP's and on the front line – also need the Administrative skills. Would like Spanish language. This is a big role to fill. Nancy Kauffmann has been a big help.

Next meeting – January 14, 2012

Next meeting agenda items:

- 1. Review PNMC By-laws and work through possible changes – led by Jerry and Linda
- 2. Meeting with Simon Rendon to discuss NW Mexico relationship with PNMC – Linda
- 3. Deadline meeting for 2012 budget – Harold
- 4. Discuss goals for the coming year – 2012 through 2013
- 5. Read chapters 5-6 from *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*

Submitted by Barb Buxman