

PNMC Board Retreat **Hyatt Place - Portland**

September 16-17, 2011

Board Members Present: Linda Dibble, Jeryl Hollinger, Harold Nussbaum, Jack Swaim, Joseph Penner, Isaac Hooley, Jennifer Sottolano.

Those Absent: Jerry Barkman, Mario Bautista, Charlotte Derksen

Staff Present: Dave Stutzman, Barb Buxman

Resource Person: Nancy Kauffmann – Denominational Minister, Mennonite Church USA

Sep. 16, Friday, 1:00 pm

Linda welcomed the group and reminded us of our commitment to the ongoing work of PNMC and that we all keep confidential the issues discussed here today.

1. Dwelling in the Word – Dave, Jack and Barb read Ephesians 3:14-21 and the group spent 45 minutes Dwelling in the Word
Linda suggested a special prayer time for the following:
-- Mountain States leadership, Charlotte, Jerry, Mario, Dave's family, Jack's family
2. Consent Agenda and Minutes – Linda Dibble
 - a. Add treasurer's report to the agenda at #5
3. Purpose of the weekend – Linda
 - a. Review goals set by previous boards – how our results are accomplished
 - b. Spend time together in worship, prayer, learning, relaxation, and fun
 - c. Discuss possibilities for Values Based Leadership Training on West Coast
 - d. Develop general 5-year goals, realizing that these will likely change when a new ECM is hired
4. Update from Property Management Team – Joseph
 - a. Anawim under the leadership of Steve Kimes is taking care of minor maintenance issues on the property. Termites were found and Steve is dealing with it in a less expensive manner first. If that doesn't work, then the Property Management Team (PMT) will decide about next steps. The board agreed that the issue needs to be taken care of. Jim Wenger will schedule a meeting in the next month. Linda repeated that one goal for the PNMC board is that Anawim and Bethel take over the paying of their utility bills.
 - b. Rental has been sold – Linda signed papers, should be finalized next week.
 - c. From the May minutes – the board agreed that money left from the sale of the property will go into a reserve account for maintenance on the Sanctuary property. Maintenance costs on the Sanctuary Campus were discussed and it was agreed the board wants to be responsible in how much actually goes to maintenance.

5. Treasurer's report – Harold shared his written report. Appreciation was expressed for the narrative. Suggestions to the treasurer:
- Sanctuary and Rental property should show on balance sheet
 - Report sale of parsonage – should have ownership showing – used property tax roles for assessed value.

6. Review goals set by previous boards – Linda
- This is the Third board retreat. Last 2 retreats Ron Litwiller from Mennonite Village facilitated and we developed goals – January 2010 - Sept. 2010
 - How do we feel about these goals
 - Are they still applicable
 - We need to remember our vision and mission statements – and core values processes

Read the sheet together:

- Lay Leadership – have done it – except Anabaptist Identity – need to work on that.
- E-bulletin – some churches are printing it and distributing it. Some are not. Dave will be working with District Pastors to ask pastors to be sure it is distributed where it is needed.
- Delegates – it was expressed that there should be a stronger on-going connection with Annual Meeting delegates. We could be more direct in our Evangel on what are the goals of conference, what we are about.
- Some conferences include a monthly account in their newsletter of what the conference minister or District Pastors are doing.

7. *Break – 3:15 PM*

8. Worship, prayer, learning, and fun – Nancy

- Using the book, Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership, and other resources

The discussion began with baggage we bring along to the board meeting. Richness we all bring – we're not just a one dimension cardboard figure that comes here. We bring all of who we are and where we've been to the table.

On this journey – let's think about our life and put it into picture form

- your life span – yellow one thing per yellow sticky note
- some things not positive or painful – pink – can be ½ and ½
- leave space top and bottom for one row of post it's
- arrange post it's by decades
- put titles to your rows -top– symbolizes what that column is for you – blue
- green on the bottom – titles – what you have learned out of that list of things.
- God calls us to participate in this board – why this combination of people – using what we have. Being in the presence of God. What is God wanting to teach us as individuals and as a board, what does God want to accomplish in and through us for PNMC. Firmly believe even if we wander off the path. You can only offer as much to others as you've got in here. Are you on a full tank of gas or on vapors?
- Herm Weaver – 1-God never abandons us; 2-it's what you spend most of your time fretting about or griping about that consumes you; 3-expect something new from God-anticipate!!
- Prayer – Page 71 from the book

9. **Read next 2 chapters for next board meeting.**

10. *Dinner – 5-6:30 pm*

11. Relaxation and Continued Learning – Linda & Nancy

- a. Name a book you have read that really meant something to you.
- b. Say something briefly about your first paying job.
- c. Talk about a difficult time in one of your recent jobs.
- d. Name a very recent joy in the Lord or a pain in relationship with God
- e. A scar on your body – tell us how you got your scar.
- f. Hold each other's hands and hold each other up to God.

Documented by Barb Buxman

Sep. 17, Saturday, 8 am – 3:30pm

1. Dwelling in the Word – Dave, Ephesians 3:14-21
2. Report from Interim CM – Dave
 - a. General areas reported on were:
 - Contacts with District Pastors – summarized written reports are being received
 - Pastor/Spouse Retreat – taking place October 3-5 with 40 participants expected
 - Pastoral and Congregational Changes have taken place at Hyde Park Mennonite, Zion Mennonite, and The River Mennonite Churches. There may be as many as three other congregations undergoing pastoral change in the near future.
 - Other items: multiple phone consultations have taken place and Dave will be attending the Constituency Leadership Council (CLC) meetings late October in Pennsylvania.
3. Discuss possibilities for VBL Training West Coast – Linda, Jeryl
 - a. Board discussion took place. No decision will take place unless adequate research and funding possibilities are secured.
4. *Break*
5. Develop general 5-year goals including review of budget, capacity campaign, mission outlook/projects, and Board development. General brainstorming thoughts in several areas produced:

MISSION

- a. Healthy Congregations? (self evaluation?)
- b. Description and goals of a healthy pastoral transition (org. environmental health)
 - Trust/safety
 - Distribution of power
 - Distribution of financial support
 - Outward focus
 - Be true to ourselves
 - Able to communicate/review well
 - Continuity in leadership – education
 - Appreciative inquiry process

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- Board members trained to lead Appreciative Inquire exercise in congregations with DP assistance
- Encourage/facilitate peer-to-peer connections (lay leaders, worship leaders, etc)

- Training process for new board members
- Best practice sharing with other conference boards
 - Identify one thing we do well and share with other conferences
- Willingness to change the process as needed
- Past Moderator serve on board as ex-officio member after term completion
- Create an 'is/is not' listing of job descriptions for board members and officers

BUDGET PROCESS

- Develop a 5-year goals, value proposition statement
- Develop an alignment between constituents and conference that matches our vision with a commitment to give
- That congregational giving be aligned with values proposition
- Develop additional revenue streams
- Create an endowment funding for special projects
- Are grants a possibility?
- To have sufficient funds to support constituency vision and mission
 - Parking Lot: Does PNMC have a support focus to assist congregations with financial planning structures??



OTHER

- To keep reporting on Sanctuary property and ECM Search Committee to the Board, but limit reporting time so the Board can work on philosophical understandings surrounding each area.
- Seek Board input for Gifts Discernment process – be aware that we have multi-cultural voices in our conference.
- Review of 2011 goals:
 - Lay leadership development
 - Communication
 - Mutual respect and support
 - Youth gathering
 - Finances

6. *Lunch – 11:30 – 1:00*

7. Final learning component – Nancy

8. Where do we go from here? – Jeryl

9. Wrap-up

a. It was decided to allow time at the next board meeting to bring absent board members up to date:

- story board
- Use the same Dwelling in the Word
- Review 2011 goals?
 - Invite DP's and Brenda K to future meetings for a time of sharing their perspectives with Board