

PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE BOARD MEETING
January 14, 2012 – PMC - Portland

Board Members Present: Linda Dibble, moderator; Jeryl Hollinger, moderator elect; Charlotte Derksen, secretary; Harold Nussbaum, treasurer; Joseph Penner; Isaac Hooley; Jerry Barkman; Jack Swaim; Jennifer Sottolano.

Staff Present: Dave Stutzman, Barb Buxman

Absent: Mario Bautista

1. Dave led the board in **Dwelling in the Word** – Mathew 14:22 – 33
2. **Agenda review** – rearranged the agenda to make more space for the budget discussion.
3. **“Strengthening the Soul of your Leadership”** – Charlotte
 - a. Today’s lifestyles seem to be hurry, hurry. Moses spent 40 years preparing and then another 40 years in the desert before he was ready.
 - b. How does the 80 years speak to us? Taking time with God is much more important than all the other things we do.
 - c. How have you been called to do something unusual, surprising or unexpected and how did you respond to it?
4. **Break**
5. **Relationship with NW Mexico** – Curt Dorsing, Simón Rendón, and Rick Troyer joined the board to report on Simón and Rick’s recent trip to NW Mexico and discussion of the future relationship of PNMC with CIEMNM
 - a. Simón shared his written report.
 - b. Rick shared with enthusiasm his experience. People were gracious and kind. God was working in ways I hadn’t seen in a long time.
 - c. Curt shared about his upcoming trip to help build a church – Feb. 4 – 20, 2012. Curt was encouraged by enthusiasm from Rick. Each time someone visits NW Mexico they come back enthused for the work.
 - d. Question was asked about the mechanics of how the building projects work. The local group sends a building list. Curt looks it over. Helps me know they are ready. They buy the materials, I bring the labor. They have a professional mason who has it laid out. Some prep work has been done. This time the walls are up. Do folks work along with you? Some do, but its planting season and they need to plant. It’s a good time for us, but not a good time for them to work with us.
 - e. You urged us to continue the support. The relationship began in 1945 with PNMC. Linda’s question to the 3 of you – we are facing a budget shortfall for the next year. How do we help continue this project and what else can we do to get the word out about what you are doing? The current project is the biggest we’ve ever had. It took 3 years to raise the funds for this one. It’s been hard to get the enthusiasm to keep going because of the gap

in time. Lose momentum and the funds don't come when there's a gap. Curt expects that what happens in Feb. will boost response for future projects.

- f. Isaac asked – if there is not financial support does it feel like there is support or not? Need support for new generation of pastors. Doesn't need to be a big huge thing – we need training for those new pastors. Needs to be a tie from conference to conference. Leadership development would be the most needed.
- g. Discussion followed about what happens when Simón is no longer able to be the connection. Simón has been in conversation with Samuel Moran who would go for a month of teaching. Would need to raise funds to make it happen. Thank you for allowing us the time this morning.
- h. Simón gave a proposal for future consideration (attached)
- i. History - 1973/74 – missionaries contemplating leaving the field, Simón applied as a family to go to NW Mexico. Our application was denied. NW Mexico group invited me to come for evangelistic services. They started inviting me every year for evangelism meetings. Passion has not died.
- j. Present covenant with PNMC ends in Dec. 2012.
- k. The board agreed this needs to be a passion based team that finds funds for this ministry. John and Doris Miller letter was presented. They are willing to designate funds for Leadership Training. There has been some friction or suspicion over the years between several groups
- l. Jeryl asked about MEDA, MMN, other groups. Simón seemed reluctant. Simón will follow up with Samuel Moran.

6. The board suggested that the current NW Mexico Team under leadership of Simón bring a proposal to the April 28 board meeting for forming a passion based team to move this relationship forward, but with a different structure than previously.

7. Property Management Team – Sanctuary

- a. Joseph – the group has met, will meet again and are working on the suggestions from the last board meeting.

8. ECM Report - Dave's presented his written report.

- a. Jeryl asked about what PNMC does with inactive credentials? Dave's response – we have work to do on this.
- b. Is there a possibility of the small church near Grand Ronde becoming a part of PNMC? I don't know, but I will stay in contact with them.

9. Search committee – Linda, Jeryl, Charlotte, Lynn Miller, Don Bacher,

- a. Still collecting applicants through January. Have received 7 or 8 applicants. We have 2 or 3 that we're interested in. Schedule is that we want a phone interview by mid Feb with top 2 - 3. We would meet top candidate by March Board meeting.

10. **Financial Report** – Harold – no questions on Treasurer’s report.

11. **Budget preparation** – Harold – we don’t have a cash problem, but we have a problem with being sustainable for the future. We have reduced the budget as much as is possible. Discussion followed about reducing the ECM position to $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{7}{8}$ time. It was agreed that the new ECM would work more than full time anyway, so reducing the salary would not be advisable. The search committee asks for advice from board in what to present as salary. The board agreed to stick with the MC USA guidelines for salaries.

- a. Jack – If the 39 churches we represent were aware of our need, I think they would step up and give more. First, how do we maintain and strengthen PNMC churches/congregations? Second is about our missional work within the same geographical footprint. Some of our churches are on the edge. Third is outside our geographic boundry. How do we strike a balance to get to our mission which is to strengthen PNMC congregations.
- b. Budget discussion followed – suggestions made – talk about PNMC priorities and how our budget lines up with the priorities.
- c. Jeryl noted a relaxed sense of our financial situation. We take what the churches give and use it. We do have a cash balance so there is no urgency at the moment. He suggested that the board take a more pro active approach to giving. A good model would be to build balances that can be fed into passion based ministries. We have two financial groups – capacity building committee – financial committee. **At our Nov. 2011 meeting Jack, Isaac, Jeryl agreed to create a value proposition paper. They will work on it for our March meeting.**

Board members agreed that we could possibly ask for/suggest a 10% increase in church giving.

- d. We heard similar issues from Bethel, Anawim and from the NW Mexico mission. How do we honor the spirit’s work with individuals without a line in the budget?
- e. Our mission is to nurture congregations, within the PNMC. We work with congregations so they can support passion ministries.
- f. We can be vehicle to pass the money through to specific passion based ministries. The board agreed that we want to work together with the other groups supporting the NW Mexico work to help in the development of leaders.
- g. Within PNMC many could benefit from leadership development.
- h. **Can provide opportunity at Annual Assembly to share passion based ministries.**

12. Can we afford to hire a full time ECM – if we cut, we have to cut somewhere else.

13. Our communication has to communicate our vision and our need. We need to communicate what we do – before we ask for more money.

14. Congregations are seeing the DP – if congregations see that this is part of the PNMC mission they may see the connection that PNMC is supporting this connection to the congregations.

15. **BUDGET** – Jeryl – moved to adopt this budget – and give some time at each board meeting this year addressing the \$10,000 question – Jerry second – and affirmed by the board.

16. **Annual Meeting** –

- a. Still need Program Chair – names were suggested, Board members were given assignments
- b. Iris will do training event
- c. Ervin will do wholistic care
- d. Charlotte will contact Beryl Jantzi and confirm the date. It was suggested that the finance team and capacity campaign team meet together at annual meeting and ask Beryl Jantzi from Everence to focus his presentation on generating funds for conference as well as for passion based ministries. Harold will talk with Beryl about what the board would like included in his seminar
- e. Training events – state in info. who it's for and what we're training for. Distinction between training events and seminars.
- f. Will let the program chair grapple with the training events and seminars.
- g. Charlotte will set up book display.

17. **Gifts discernment team report** – Linda

- a. The team is making progress toward reaching a full list of nominees.

18. **By-Laws** – Jerry –

- a. 2 docs – articles of incorporation and by-laws
- b. Jerry is still working with the 2 documents.

19. **Changes in dates for future meetings**

- a. March 17 – change to March 10
- b. April 14 – change to April 28
- c. June 2

20. Jennifer closed in prayer

Minutes submitted by Barb Buxman