

**PNMC Board Meeting
Sanctuary, Portland, OR
June 2, 2012**

Members present: Linda Dibble, moderator; Jeryl Hollinger, moderator-elect; Harold Nussbaum, Treasurer; Charlotte Derksen, Secretary; Isaac Hooley, Joseph Penner, Jack Swaim, Jennifer Sottolano

Staff present: Katherine Jameson Pitts, Executive Conference Minister; Barb Buxman, Administrative Assistant.

1. **Dwelling in the Word** – Katherine led the group in concentration of the I Corinthians 12 passage. One body many members.
2. **Consent Agenda & Minutes** – Linda
 - Minutes approved as posted
3. ***Strengthening The Soul of Your Leadership*** – Jack led discussion on chapters 11-13
 - How do we practice spiritual leadership?
 - i. Listening
 - ii. Speaking honestly – say what you mean, not what you think we want to hear. Balance between being sensitive and being honest.
 - iii. All leadership is spiritual. Is the spirit good or bad?
 - iv. At the core is trust. Until a leader has the trust of the people, it is difficult to take other steps.
 1. How to build trust, be a person who is trustworthy.
 2. Safe place – verbalize that it is safe
 - v. Fits with all the parts of the body having special gifts. Decision making and discernment.
 1. What are elements that make discernment possible?
 2. Help people self discover.
 - How do we help congregations and pastors practice spiritual leadership?
 - i. One example of a board member meeting every week with the pastor to read aloud the scripture passages for that week. Reading aloud helped both to hear it together.
 - ii. Listening with the ear of your heart. Benedictine
 - c. Linda encouraged the board to continue with another book study –
4. **Executive Conference Minister Report** – Katherine
 - Grateful for overlap with Dave, didn't know the questions to ask yet and freed me up to visit in the region.

- Sustainability is a huge issue, with social, cultural and economic change. What is the role of the clergy in the future? I value theological education and it scares me to lose the last century of Biblical scholarship.
 - Huge – for clergy to be paying off college/seminary loans and health insurance.
- Has met in some way with 23 of the churches/leadership groups.
- Mennonite identity is evident in the Northwest. The work with DP's is a great system. There are some mis-matches. I am pleased with reports from DP's and from congregations that the system is working. What the DP's are doing now is not what they agreed to do. There is work to do on the job description, remuneration and terms.
- Salt Lake City – Jerry and Allene Kaiser and I met with a small group of people who gather weekly for worship, prayer, and food. Their group is about 12 people. They don't have energy to grow a church. They engage with the *MCC Villages* store, have a web site and like many urban small groups, have gone up and down over the years. This is hard on the people who have been there a long time. They were not aware that there was a Mennonite church in Aberdeen which is only 3 hours away.

5. **Treasurer's report** – Harold Nussbaum

- We are on track for what we projected, still with a \$15 K deficit. The deficit is larger since hiring the ECM earlier than we had planned. We can fund this with our current balances, but would like to move toward a self sufficient model. The recurring question, how do we communicate with congregations in the next several months before planning for next year? Do we ask for increased congregational giving, or scale back? This is always a tension.
- b. At conference do we try to get feedback? Typically it's been state of the conference report. Have not had time in delegate session in the past to help congregations know of our reality.
 - Harold will not be at Annual meeting, but he will provide what is needed for someone to present the report.
 - Jeryl thinks we need a multi-propositional approach of our \$15,000 projected shortfall. It has long term ramifications.
- c. Isaac will create a template document for folks to take notes to take back to congregations
 - i. Value proposition
 - ii. Treasurer's report and state of PNMC finances
 - iii. Chance for us to say what the most important thing we want them to know and share with their congregations.

6. **Value Proposition** – Jack, Jeryl, Isaac

- a. Have had good response from some congregations and a few DP's where needs of congregations have been identified
 - i. Pastoral transition
 - ii. Plan for the future

- iii. Fresh ideas for lay leaders
- iv. Strengthening the ministry of our pastors
- v. Fellowship/belonging

- b. Conference time (40 minutes)
 - i. Background (10 min) handout and visual/powerpoint
 - 1. Why do we ask the question? Include the ten goals from board retreat from 2010. Refining the process. Refer to the goals so there is continuity. Delegates never approved them but may remember.
 - 2. Always healthy to verbalize who we are, what we are about, what do we care about and why?
 - 3. PNMC resources come from congregations. Because you are the providers, we want to check in with you.
 - ii. Table discussion – (20 min) 13 tables – Board members will be leaders at different tables to listen/guide.
 - iii. Feedback (10 min) What is the value of conference to you? One minute limit to reporting. Beneficial for people to hear one another.
 - iv. Color Cards (1 min) Will use red/green/yellow cards to get a sense of what the mood is.

7. NW Mexico Relationship & Covenant – ongoing relationship discussion

- Covenant ends in June
- Proposal was developed by a small group of interested persons
 - i. How does the board feel about this direction?
 - ii. It was agreed that this is not really a delegate decision. The decision was to report to the delegates that the current covenant has expired and the board is working on a proposal to define the ongoing relationship.
 - iii. Linda, Jeryl and Katherine will meet with Simon and Curt to talk about next steps.
 - iv. The Mexico Oversight Committee (MOC) will be encouraged to send someone to the Mexico conference in August as well as encourage attendance from the Mexico churches.

8. Property Management Team –

- Fire marshall did a review. All suggestions have been accommodated.
- Non profit status – still working on it. Steve & Pascal to meet.
- Anxiety about wanting to know about paying the bills. Barb affirmed that she would continue to pay the bills as the property owner is ultimately responsible that utilities are paid. At a time when transition happens, Barb will work closely with the person who will pay the bills to be sure there is thorough understanding of the process of bookkeeping.

9. Annual Meeting Update – Linda, Barb
 - Portland Mennonite, Anawim Christian Community, Ministerios de Restauracion, and International Bethel City Church will host the 2013 annual event in Portland.
 - Gifts discernment – full ballot was presented.
10. Linda expressed thanks to all the board members as she moves away from PNMC board as leader.
11. Katherine closed the meeting in prayer.

*Minutes submitted by
Barb Buxman*