

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Board Meeting
September 21 & 22, 2012
Hyatt, Portland, OR

Members Present: Jeryl Hollinger, moderator; Harold Nussbaum, treasurer; Eva Mendez, Joseph Penner, Jerry Barkman, Jennifer Sottolano, Isaac Hooley, Jack Swaim, Jennifer Delanty, moderator elect; Wanda Dorsing, secretary

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

Guest: Linda Dibble, past moderator

Day One

GATHERING

1. Opening Group Building – Isaac Hooley
Isaac led the group in a light-hearted game to get to get better acquainted.
2. Dwelling in the Word – Jennifer Sottolano
Jennifer led the group in hearing and reflecting on I Peter 5:1-10.

INFORMATION RECEIVING

1. Executive Conference Minister Report Katherine Pitts
Katherine summarized her activities of the past three months, highlighting the areas of personal spiritual development, nurturing healthy congregations, and making connections with conference churches.
 - The following transitions were noted:
 - Marc Schlegel starting at Hyde Park October 1st
 - Jeff Smith started with New Life Fellowship (Royal City, WA) September 1stThe following congregations are in various stages of a pastor search: Zion, Evergreen, Salem, River of Life
 - Katherine shared stories of hope from her visits to PNMC congregations for a Sunday morning service, concluding “God is at work and God surprises us!”
 - Katherine is planning to give attention to understanding the financial status of the conference.
2. Property Management Committee Joseph Penner
Nothing to report. Will be meeting in the next few weeks.
3. Treasurer’s Report Harold Nussbaum
 - Currently half way through the current fiscal year, with no surprises so far. The General Fund shows a loss as expected.
 - Financial reports were reviewed in detail for the benefit of new board members.

- Discussed acknowledging churches who give over budget.
 - Clarified the use of funds in account #300101 MC USA Assembly Delegate Funds These funds are intended for covering costs of sending the ECM and moderator to the MC USA Assembly because they are PNMC's delegates.
4. Historical Society Report Jerry Barkman
- Outlined history of the Oregon Mennonite Historical & Genealogical Society which collects and archives Mennonite historical information in the Northwest.
 - The Ivan and Pearl Kropf Heritage Center was dedicated April 16, 2012 to house the archives. The scope of the organization is to serve the entire Pacific Northwest.
 - Current activities of the organization include looking for ways to fund the organization going forward and creating a speakers bureau as a resource to help in historical documentation and genealogical work for people from all PNMC churches.
 - Brief discussion of formalizing the relationship between the PNMC board and the historical society.

INFORMATION PROCESSING

1. Governance Issues Jeryl Hollinger
- Jeryl reviewed the Policy Governance document which guides the new way of operating for PNMC with the shift from three conference ministers at one point, to only one now. The goal is to create boundaries and clarify roles so that the ECM does programming work and the board will set direction and do policy work.
 - Jeryl asked the board what the next steps are for the document. It still needs work to be useful, for example, category I needs to be developed and there are some consistency issues. Comments included:
 - We don't need a perfect document, but it should reflect how the board works with our ECM.
 - The goal of the document is to ensure that the board accomplishes something, setting goals and evaluating outcomes.
 - What are the goals conference is trying to achieve and measure? What are the roles of the ECM, the board and committees? What is our process capability to get outcomes with our current resources?
 - How does the document become finalized and who approves it?
 - Without a document, it's easy to drift since the moderator term is only two years.
 - Suggestions for how to proceed included forming a sub-committee and spending 20 minutes at each board meeting working on a specific section.
 - This item was tabled until the next meeting.

2. PNMC Committees and Teams Katherine Pitts, Jeryl Hollinger

- Reviewed the 3 types of teams within PNMC:
 - a) Standing teams called for by PNMC's documents (Gift Discernment, Finance, Pastoral Leadership, Theological Education)
 - b) Teams set up by the board (Faith and Practice, Technology and Communications)
 - c) Passion-based Ministries (Peace & Justice, New Congregations Team, Mexico)
- Not all teams are active. Discussed which should be reinvigorated and which should be abandoned.
- Information about teams on the website does not match our governing documents. Who should be in charge of making sure these match? Linda, Jennifer D and Wanda will work on synthesizing the various documents relating to committees.
- Jeryl noted that the four standing teams in PNMC's documents were deemed essential and we should make them work.

• Motion: The Faith and Practice Team and the Technology and Communications Team, set up by past boards to address specific situations, are no longer functioning and should be disbanded. MSC: Jack Swaim, Joseph Penner

- In the future, board appointed teams need to have specific tasks and time frames.

3. Annual Conference Assembly Katherine Pitts

Moses Lake 2012

- Katherine summarized the evaluations, highlighting the need to increase communication in areas such as advance information about seminars, information about board appointees on the ballot, and communication with delegates.
- Communicate using technology and paper.
- Might be helpful to have some continuity of people on planning committee from one year to another.

Portland 2013

- Planning is in process for the June 21 - 22, 2013 meetings hosted by the Portland churches, to be held at Warner Pacific College and Portland Mennonite Church.
- Katherine will work closely with the Program Committee. Delegate sessions will be planned for both mornings that will be inclusive for everyone. Workshops will be in the afternoon so that delegates are able to attend.
- Discussed the role of delegates: What are we asking them to do? What do we want to get out of the delegate sessions? How can we encourage young people to be delegates? Jennifer D. will look into the role of delegates.

4. Conference Communications Council (CCC) Plans Katherine Pitts
- Saturday, January 19, 2013 at Warner Pacific College, 8:30 – 3:30
 - Reviewed the purpose of the CCC and possible agenda items; Isaac and Jennifer D will help Katherine with agenda planning
 - Discussed publicity including the Evangel, e-bulletin, district pastors, and delegates

Day Two

Members Present: Jeryl Hollinger, moderator; Harold Nussbaum, treasurer; Eva Mendez, Joseph Penner, Jennifer Sottolano, Isaac Hooley, Jack Swaim, Jennifer Delanty, moderator elect; Wanda Dorsing, secretary

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

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Opening Worship Jeryl Hollinger

Jeryl read Matthew 28:18-20 and reminded us that Jesus presence is with us as we try do the work of helping our conference.

5. Value Proposition Next Steps Jack Swaim
- Value Proposition is a way to guide our work to help ensure that conference is doing things people value. Jack reviewed the value proposition process that has taken place so far for the benefit of new board members. (Created draft, tested in congregations for feedback, revised, presentation in Moses Lake)
- Jack proposed allowing our value propositions to be pervasive in all we do, specifically to
- a. Shape our board goals and objectives (will relate to “ends” in policy governance)
 - b. Shape our board meeting agendas
 - c. Guide our conversations with congregations, including budget discussions

The board agreed to accept the proposal as stated. MSC: Isaac/Jennifer S.

6. Financial Deficit Jeryl Hollinger
- Jeryl presented the need to address the current budget deficit (this year’s budget was written with a \$10,000 deficit) and the long-term issue of how we can write balanced budgets. Programming has been cut to bare-bones and congregations are our primary source of funding.
 - The issue needs to be kept in front of constituents. Delegates have asked for a balanced budget & we need their help. We will attempt to do this by:
 - Use the e-bulletin & evangel. Harold will give specific information about the need and where individuals can send a check. Jeryl and Linda will do a note to delegates.

- Harold will ask treasurers to increase congregational giving by 7% in their next budgets. Harold will also collect benchmark data on giving from other conferences.

7. 2013-2014 Budget Planning Jeryl Hollinger

The ECM and treasurer will propose a budget to the board which the board will adopt. They are encouraged to work at using our four value propositions to structure the budget.

8. Thinking Ahead Jeryl Hollinger

The board suggested tasks the board could work on this year:

- Value Proposition work (ie starting with #1- Are pastor credential current?)
- Get policy documents in order
- Give clarity to future vision (being clear about what we would do if we had more funding)
- Get the CCC operating the way it was meant to as a viable means of communication

9. Next Meeting Jeryl Hollinger

Dec 3 @ 7:00pm (Pacific Standard Time) - Tentative conference call to review budget Jan 19-21 for CCC and board meeting, location to be determined

Looking at April for spring meeting

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Dorsing, secretary

Summary of To Do List:

- 1) Governing document synthesis – Linda, Jennifer D, Wanda
- 2) Look into role of delegates – Jennifer D
- 3) Help Katherine with CCC agenda planning – Issac, Jennifer D
- 4) Provide financial deficit info for Evangel & e-Bulletin – Harold
- 5) Letter to delegates – Jeryl, Linda
- 6) Request 7% giving increase from congregations in annual budgeting letter – Harold
- 7) Collect benchmark data on giving in other conferences – Harold