

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Board Meeting
January 20 & 21, 2013
Pony Soldier Best Western, OR

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

Members Absent: Eva Mendez

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

Guests: Linda Dibble, past moderator; Nancy Kauffman, MC USA Denominational Minister; Steve Wiebe-Johnson, Mennonite Mission Network

Day One

GATHERING

Jeryl lead Dwelling in the Word using Ephesians 2:14-22.

INFORMATION RECEIVING

1. Executive Conference Minister Katherine Jameson Pitts

Katherine reported on her work of encouraging and enabling healthy congregations.

Guiding through pastoral transition: Updated the board on congregations experiencing pastoral transitions

Supporting congregations in planning for the future: Updated the board on congregations in transition with relation to conference

Facilitating the sharing of fresh ideas among lay leader of congregations: Affinity groups at yesterday's Conference Communications Council (CCC) meeting, preaching at Filer's Renewal services, planning trainings for annual meeting

Strengthening the ministry of our pastors: Updated the board on credentialing activities, pastor-congregational reviews and other pastor-supporting activities

Other reporting

- June Annual Meeting planning: Theme from Acts 2 "In our own languages we hear them speaking about God's power;" Board affirmed the idea of using local speakers. Planning & local arrangement committees will be established in the next few weeks.
- Reported on Northwest Mexico Ministry activities & shared a letter from the NW Mexico churches expressing appreciation for our relationship.
- District pastors – one position open; need to work on defining term lengths.
- Brenda was moved from independent contractor status to employee status.
- No progress on teams/ committees.
- Connected with broader church by attending CLC & bi-national Conference Ministers Meeting
- Reflected on the CCC meeting held yesterday and solicited feedback from the board.
- The board spent time praying for Katherine and her work.

2. Property Management Joseph Penner

- Maintenance issues for the near future include sidewalk repairs mandated by the city and carpet replacement in the sanctuary.
- The overnight shelter has been busy during the recent cold weather.
- Steve expressed appreciation to PNMC for enabling Anawim and Bethel to share possession of the property.

3. Treasurers Report Harold Nussbaum

2012 Budget

- Revenue: First 11 months show \$90,000 surplus due to the unbudgeted sale of the Eugene property, masking the budgeted deficit of \$10,000. Member contributions were 91% of budget.
- Expenses: Most General Fund expense categories came in under budget resulting in overall expenses being \$13,121 under budget.
- Total Assets for PNMC are \$403,477 as of December 31, 2012 compared to \$317,219 on January 31, 2012.

2013 Budget Draft Presentation

- Member contributions will make up 97% of the budget. Nine congregations have responded to our request to increase giving by 7%. Many congregations will maintain giving levels; a couple have decreased giving.
- The proposed budget projects a \$19,000 deficit, compared to a \$10,000 deficit budgeted for 2012.

Balance Sheet Account Recommendations

Harold presented three recommendations for the board to consider. Action will be taken in tomorrow's board meeting.

1. Move Eugene property sale income from checking account to interest-bearing accounts until plans are made to use these funds.
2. Clean up balance sheet by dissolving several unused funds and putting the money into the General Fund.
3. Make a plan to use the money from the Eugene property sale in one of two ways, one being an endowment option, the other designating this money for specific use in the next 5-10 years.

4. Governing Document Synthesis Jennifer Delanty

Examined how the felt needs identified by our conference match-up with board policies, PNMC structure and bylaws, and MC USA's Purposeful Plan. The conclusion is that our conference work is well integrated with where MC USA is going.

5. Defining Role of Delegates Jennifer Delanty

- The decision-making process used by delegates at conference has been moving from voting to a discernment model. The board intends to be clear about the role of delegates which includes: showing up and being willing to collectively listen to what God is saying, engaging scripture, absorbing information, and sharing best-practices.

- Discussed if delegates additionally have a responsibility to be a mouthpiece for conference in their congregations.
- Decisions to be made at tomorrow's meeting.

6. **Constituency Leadership Council Reports** Jennifer S., Katherine, Jeryl
 All enjoyed hearing what is going on in congregations around the country. A major topic was Biblical and communal discernment: who does it and how should it look. MC USA has an amazing amount of resources that can be accessed on the web or by contacting denominational offices.

Evening Session

Board members divided up to work on three issues and reported back to the group.

1. *Governance Policy* Isaac Hooley, Jerry Barkman, Linda Dibble, Barb Buxman
 Wording was added to complete the "ends" portion of this document. Several more small changes are needed to complete the document. The group will finalize this document and bring it to the next meeting for board approval.
2. *PNMC Goals* Jack Swaim, Katherine Jameson Pitts, Wanda Dorsing
 Named five elements of approach: 1) Should we have measurable goals? Yes, including activity and outcome goals with objective and subjective measures 2) Purpose is for improvement and support of healthy congregations 3) Measures are seen through the eyes of the congregation 4) Process should be energy-giving, not burdensome 5) Must be synchronized with "ends" document
 The group recommended getting baseline information; perhaps getting feedback at delegate meetings.
3. *Delegate time at Annual Conference*
 Jeryl, Jennifer S, Joseph, Jennifer D, Nancy Kauffman
 Delegate time can be used to gain feed back on felt needs and to prepare for Phoenix. Discussed how to help delegates to listen deeply, interact and participate in spite of language differences.

Day Two

INFORMATION PROCESSING

1. Opening: Jeryl led a reflection on our "unique understanding of the gospel."
2. Nancy Kauffman, Denominational Minister, shared encouraging observations about our conference based on her time at the District Pastors meeting, CCC, and board meeting.
3. Delegates for Phoenix Jeryl Hollinger

<p>Motion: The board will send three delegates and an alternate to the MC USA Convention in Phoenix. MSC: Isaac, Jennifer D.</p>

A Sub-group to select candidates was named: Joseph, Katherine, Jennifer D. The board agrees that Katherine will be a delegate, Jeryl will be alternate.

The CCC meeting was discussed. Katherine will compose a reflection on the day and send it to participants and all PNMC pastors.

4. 2013/14 Budget Harold Nussbaum

Motion: The board accepts the budget as proposed with the understanding that the \$20,600 deficit will be funded by revenue from past years. MSC: Jack, Isaac

The board discussed the non-sustainability of a deficit budget.

5. Fund Recommendations Harold Nussbaum

a. Shifting funds from Bank Account to CES Certificates

Motion: The board accepts Harold's recommendation to shift funds from the bank account to CES Certificates as outlined in his "Recommendation to PNMC Board" document. MSC: Jerry, Jack

b. Historical Reserved Funds

Motion: The board accepts Harold's recommendation that the balances of the following reserved funds will be moved into the General Fund: 300101 Assembly Delegate Fund, 320803 PNMC Ministries, 320901 Church Building. The board is satisfied that due diligence was performed with these categories to ensure that original donors' wishes were respected. MSC: Jerry, Jack

c. Property Sale Income Options

Harold presented two options for handling the \$95,000 received from the sale of the Eugene Mennonite Church property. One is an endowment option; the other would distribute funds within a specific time frame to eligible groups. After lengthy discussion of the proposals, the issue was tabled. Isaac, Joseph & Harold will do further work on the proposals.

6. Clarifying role of delegates Jeryl Hollinger

The board sees a need for a concise statement on the role of delegates. This item was tabled until a future meeting.

7. Value Proposition Jack Swaim

We are using it in some ways; what are the next steps?

We want it to shape our time and dialogue, and to integrate it with our goals, "ends," and budget.

Possible next steps: Link this conversation with what delegates do at conference.

Use value proposition language in the ebulletin and Evangel.

Post felt needs on the website.

Create a video for congregations to thank them for giving, share the state of the conference and/or educate about what a delegate is.

8. 2014 Annual Meetings

Jeryl will talk with Mountain View about hosting PNMC in 2014.
Theme and focus will be on the next board agenda.

Wrap up from evening groups

- Policy Documents – Jerry, Linda, Isaac, Barb will bring a document to the next board meeting for approval.
- Goals – The delegate agenda will drive goals.
- Delegate agenda – Jeryl, Jack, and Katherine will work on this.

Afternoon Meeting

1. Relating to non-traditional forms of church Katherine Jameson Pitts
Katherine will work on how we might relate to congregations who do not qualify for formal membership, but have a relationship with PNMC.
2. Re-visit document synthesis Jennifer Delanty
Jennifer D. walked us through the “Synthesis of Felt Needs” document, highlighting how our felt needs relate to board policies and Our Purposeful Plan.
3. Next meeting times Jeryl Hollinger
 - The next proposed meeting is in Nampa, Idaho on Friday, April 19, 2013. Jeryl will work on details.
 - Discussed options for meeting during the June conference meetings.
4. Jeryl solicited feedback from the board on effectiveness of board meetings.

The meeting was closed with group prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Dorsing, secretary

Summary of To Do List:

- 1) Complete and present a proposed governance document to the board. Isaac, Jerry, Linda, Barb
- 2) Develop a recommendation for how we use the \$95,000 donation. Harold, Joseph, Isaac
- 3) Explore with Mountain View Mennonite Church, Kalispell the possibility of them hosting the annual meeting in 2014. Jeryl
- 4) Work on the delegate agenda for the 2013 Portland annual meeting. Jeryl, Katherine, Jack
- 5) Bring a proposal to the board on who our PNMC delegates should be to Phoenix. Joseph, Katherine, Jennifer D.
- 6) Compose a reflection on the CCC meeting to be sent to participants and all PNMC pastors. Katherine
- 7) Provide ideas on how PNMC might relate to/involve/join with non-traditional church groups. Katherine
- 8) Develop Idaho board meeting logistics. Jeryl

