

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

BOARD MEETING

September 13 & 14, 2013

At the Pony Soldier in Portland, OR

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

Members Absent: Jack Swaim

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

Friday, September 13

1:00 pm Welcome - Jeryl led the group in Dwelling in the Word with Acts 4:13-31 and a prayer.

REPORTING/UPDATES

Executive Conference Minister Report - Katherine J. P.

Katherine highlighted a few items from her report to the board:

- As she starts into her second year as ECM, she sees herself working to build relationships of trust
- Gave an update on District Pastor transitions
- Named areas of hope including positive growth and change in several congregations
- Concerns include scheduling and holding meetings for our geographically spread out congregations while keeping expenses down and the challenge of helping congregations plan for the future
- Conference Resource Advocate – position open

Sanctuary Property - Joseph P.

- Grace Muange from the Bethel congregation is attending property management meetings.
- The carpet has been replaced as planned.
- An Hispanic church is using the facility several days a week.

PNMC Finances - Harold N.

- Harold summarized the first seven months of the fiscal year:
Income was lower than expenses by \$180
Congregational giving was 102% of budget for period.
Individual contributions were higher than budgeted due to a \$27,786 estate gift
Total General Fund expenses were \$3316 under budget (96%).

- It is not clear how the \$27,786 estate gift is to be used. Harold will contact Mennonite Foundation to see if there are more specifics. The money is currently in the General Fund.
- PNMC has an opportunity to obtain its own 501-C3 status instead of operating under MC USA's 501-C3 designation.

Motion: PNMC will proceed with obtaining 501c3 status. MSC: Eva, Joseph

- 2014 Budget Planning – Congregations will be contacted in October to find out what they plan to contribute to the 2014 budget. Last year congregations were asked to increase giving from 5 to 7 percent of their budget in order to help address the budgeted deficits of recent years. A budgeted deficit is not an immediate issue because of reserve funds, but will eventually need to be addressed. Budgeted expenditures have not increased in recent years. Harold and Katherine will work on the new budget.
- Seed Northwest Update - Harold N., Joseph P.
At the June delegate gathering we introduced a plan to use a donation to PNMC by the Eugene congregation to give matching grants for church development projects. Website development is underway. The committee to receive, refine and publicize projects is being formed and currently includes Katherine, Rick Troyer, Angela Boss, and Joseph Penner.

ECM One-Year review - Jennifer D.

Katherine completed one year of ministry with PNMC at the end of April 2013. Moderator-elect Jennifer Delanty is working with Nancy Kauffman, MC USA Denominational Minister, to complete this process.

CIHAN Update Eva Mendez, CIHAN Moderator-elect

Reported on recent CIHAN meetings and an upcoming youth event. A new pastor, Miguel Castillo, was installed at Warden.

REVIEW

Policies - Jeryl H.

Jeryl gave each board member a binder containing the following collection of official PNMC documents. These documents were briefly reviewed.

- Updated "Policies for the Board"
- "Policy and Procedure" packet
- Bylaws
- Articles of incorporation
- Organizational Structure
- The Guiding document on the Peace/Sanctuary property

Portland 2013 Delegate Feedback - Jennifer D.

Jennifer summarized delegate feedback about Annual Meeting, highlighting positive comments and other suggestions to be considered in planning for the next Annual Meeting.

Summary of table group conversations:

- There was strong affirmation for a year-long delegate role.
- Increased communication is needed about what Conference is doing for congregations.
- Many ideas were generated concerning how to address the budgeted deficits of recent year.

5:00 pm **Supper break**

Discussion of board goals for the 2013-2014 board year

The board divided into small groups to discuss what the board would like to accomplish this year. Themes that emerged included: pastor nurture and training, a plan for finances, a forum/safe place to talk at length about things we differ on, facilitating church to church contact, and using national resources to help congregations plan for the future.

Saturday, September 13, 2013

8:30 am Jeryl led opening sharing and prayer.

DISCUSSIONS & SEEKING DIRECTION

PNMC historian - Jerry B.

- Our PNMC historian, Ray Kauffman, is asking about being replaced. There is no record or recollection of how the historian was appointed in the past and no job description.

The board will provide a job description and reference the PNMC historian in the policy & procedure manual. The board will appoint a new historian with guidance from the Historical Society. MSC: Jerry, Joseph

- Jeryl will follow up

2014 Conference Communication Council

- The board discussed possible topics for discussion at the Communication Council scheduled for Feb 8, 2014 at Zion.
- Technological connections will be provided for Idaho churches and possibly Alaska.

Kalispell 2014

The board brainstormed possible themes and speakers for the Annual Meeting.

Phoenix delegates & immigration discussion

- The board discussed how to share information from the Phoenix gathering with congregations. It was decided to contact delegate Jennifer Carreto about sharing at the Conference Communication Council or in other ways.
- Resources will be offered for congregations who want to explore immigration more.

Communicating with delegates

At Annual Meeting, delegates affirmed their role as being a continuous one throughout the year with regular participation in PNMC conversations. The board discussed how communication between the board and delegates can best take place. Jeryl agreed to write a letter to delegates following each board meeting, disseminated via email and possibly a blog.

Value proposition - next steps

- Our value proposition “Helping congregations plan for the future” is a possible theme for the Annual Meeting.
- CLC representatives (Katherine, Jennifer D., Jennifer S.) will look into the idea of producing a video for distribution explaining the value of PNMC to congregations.

Minute addition

The board approved suggested names for the West Coast MCC board: Angela Boss (Bend), Pedro Olvera (Salem), Mark Schlegel (Hyde Park), Samuel Moran (Ministerios Restauracion) , and Mike Oesch (Evergreen Heights) via email on September 3, 2014.

The board affirms the email vote approving these people.

MSC: Jerry, Joseph

Next board meeting plans - December 13 & 14, 2014 in Portland

Jeryl closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Dorsing, PNMC Secretary

The To Do List

Budget - Harold & Katherine

Seed NW next steps - Katherine, Joseph, Rick Troyer, Angela Boss

PNMC Historian follow-up - Jeryl

Contact Jennifer Carreto about Phoenix sharing - ??

Letter to delegates - Jeryl

Look into a video about conference - Katherine, Jennifer D, Jennifer S