

**Lebanon '99**  
**PNMC Delegate Annual Session Minutes**  
**June 18-19, 1999**  
**Lebanon Mennonite Church**  
**Lebanon, Oregon**

**Friday Morning Session, June 18, 1999**

**Welcome and Prayer**

Pat Hershberger, Moderator, opened the first delegate session with prayer at 9:40 AM and welcomed the delegates. She noted that this is our sixth meeting as a conference.

**Roll Call**

Secretary Charlotte Hardt read the list of congregations and had the delegates from each congregation stand.

**Special Guests**

Special Guests were welcomed and introduced:

Vyron and Evanna Schmidt -- Mennonite Mutual Aid

Dennis Good -- Commission On Education

Ken Hawkley -- Commission On Education

Miriam Book -- Mennonite Church

Jake Elias -- Associate Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Jerry Lenscheid -- Mennonite Central Committee

Greg Rake -- Mennonite Board of Missions

Dale Schrag -- Bethel College

Gilberto Flores -- Commission on Home Missions

George Brunk III -- Speaker, Dean, Eastern Mennonite Seminary

Palmer and Ardis Becker -- Hesston College

Shirley Showalter-Yoder -- Mennonite Mutual Aid

Andy and Sue Wade -- Hong Kong missionaries, Commission on Mission

**Acceptance of Faith Mennonite Church, Culver, Oregon**

Pastor Dan Rehwalt gave a brief overview of the congregation, which has been meeting over the past year. Sunday attendance is varying between 11 and 12. Motion made, seconded and passed to accept Faith Mennonite Church as a member congregation of PNMC.

**Introduction of Prince Of Peace, Anchorage, Alaska**

Pat introduced Jim Carpenter, pastor of Prince of Peace Church in Anchorage, Alaska. They are members of the Northwest Mennonite Conference, Canada and are seeking to transfer their membership to the closes US conference. There are four members of the congregation present. They will be meeting with the Board at Noon to continue the dialogue.

**Minutes:**

The Delegate Minutes of June 19-20, 1998 in Aberdeen, Idaho were approved as printed in the delegate book.

**Bylaws**

Pat introduced Cleon Claassen and John Willems, previous moderators, who have worked on the revision of the PNMCM by-laws. Cleon and John led a discussion of the proposed changes with the delegates.

Suggestions: Add a membership category for affiliated ministries; look at Section 3:06 – clarify the language about “without cause”; Termination policy needs to have a statement declaring a percentage of delegates needed to ratify termination.

Explanations: Section 3:03 Exhibit A is the Nominations Policy; Section 1:02 will be added “U.S. after Mennonite Church – therefore Mennonite Church U.S.

Moved and seconded to adopt the changes to the Bylaws as proposed with the specific addition of “ratification by 2/3 of the delegates voting at the next meeting”.

The amendments passed. The motion to accept the revisions was adopted without a negative vote.

**Nominating Committee Report and Elections**

George Leppert gave the report of the Nominating Committee. The tellers passed out copies of the ballot. George commented that in the past there has been about a fifty percent response for nominee names from the delegates – this year there was only 10%. He stated that this made the work of the Nominating Committee very difficult.

Point of Order – Monty Ledford raised a ‘point of order’ about clarification from the Nominating Committee re the nomination of Nancy Nelson for the Peace and Justice Committee as her statement comments on her activism re ‘homophobia’.  
The completed ballots were collected for counting.

**Mennonite Mutual Aid Report:**

Vyron Schmidt gave an update on their theme of ‘Stewardship Solutions’. They are developing holistic solutions to assist congregations and members in stewardship, such as support for the Giving Project. MMA is a unique combination of business and church. Fraternal benefit programs are subsidized by the dollars that in a for-profit entity would go for taxes as well as from contributions.

### Afternoon Session – June 18, 1999

Dan Rehwalt opened the afternoon session with prayer.

#### **Inter-Congregational Relationship Guidelines:**

Assistant Moderator Duane Oesch introduced the discussion about the Inter-Congregational Relationship Guidelines for the PNMC. Floyd Lapp, Chair of the committee, who drafted the document, reviewed the call for the paper that came from the annual meeting at Aberdeen last year. The Board appointed the committee of Floyd Lapp, Paul Versluis, Linda Graber, David Hockman-Wert, Larry Hauder, Marguerite Kenagy and Duane Oesch to develop the document before us.

Floyd walked the delegates through the document. A motion was made and seconded to accept the guidelines.

The motion passed.

#### **Pastoral Leadership Committee**

Cecil Miller, Chair of the Committee gave the report. He stated that Larry Hauder is the eyes and ears of the PNMC.

Conference Minister Larry Hauder remarked that Cecil Miller is the first lay person to chair the Pastoral Leadership Committee. This year licenses were granted to Beverly Cook Rupp, Scott Henderson, Karla Morton, Marty Troyer, Juel Yoder and Charlene Schrag. Larry recognized pastors transferring from another conference, Craig Morton and Terry Rediger. Cecil recognized pastors David Morrow and Dan Rehwalt who were ordained this year. Larry led a prayer for these pastors. Larry recognized Pastor Ralph Lind's leaving the conference and presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

Cecil talked about the evolution of the new PNMC Theological Education Center. He introduced Bill Higgins, Ph.D., pastor of Peace Mennonite Church in Portland, who will be leading the program. Bill referred to the reports in the Delegate Book that describe the Theological Education Center.

Larry recognized Floyd Lapp as Chair of the RRT. He also reported that Sunrise Mennonite Church chose to close after a little less than twenty years.

Cecil thanked Larry for his work with the conference.

#### **Peace and Justice Committee:**

Cole Hull gave the report for the Peace and Justice Committee referring to the report in the Delegate Book. He introduced the other committee members and announced that David Hockman-Wert has moved to Pennsylvania. Ed Good presented a peace mug to Gard Hanks for his work with Death Penalty issues and his work with death row inmates. Rick Bellman read a written response from Gard Hanks.

**Commission on Education:**

Dennis Good introduced the staff and members of COE. He reported on the programs and products of the Commission on Education.

**Congregational Nurture Committee:**

Chair Anne Hege referred to the committee report in the Delegate Book. She introduced Ken Hawkey who dramatically spoke to why we need to nurture our children.

BREAK

**Election Results:**

The following persons were affirmed to serve in our conference:

Secretary – Charlotte Hardt  
Treasurer – Stan Wyse  
Chair, Peace and Justice Committee – Harold Nussbaum  
Chair, Congregational Nurture – Anne Hege  
Board Representative, E&M Committee – Brent Kauffman  
Western Mennonite School Board – Dale Moyer, Roberta Egli, Byron Shenk

**Evangelism and Mission Committee:**

David Morrow, Co-chair, referred to their report in the Delegate Book. He said that the E & M Committee has gone through more transitions than any other committee. He indicated the goals of the committee in the Delegate Book and talked of assisting our sister conference in Mexico. David introduced Greg Rake who spoke on relationships with Mexico which is moving into a new era of what it means to be a group of churches in Mexico.

David mentioned the draft of a new covenant with the Mexican conference which has been distributed to the delegates and requested feedback during tomorrow's session.

David introduced Mission Minister Duncan Smith who gave his report and talked about his activities through the year. He introduced a new Bible Study produced by our denomination regarding the Mission of the Church.

Duncan introduced Mark Chen and his daughter (as interpreter) who talked about his work in Seattle. Duncan then introduced Craig Morton who spoke of his church planting work in Meridian, Idaho.

**General Board Report:**

Mim Book brought greetings for the MC/GC General Boards. She affirmed the spirit of PNMC meetings and how we work. Mim spoke of the "Confession of Faith" referring to page 8. She spoke of the Spirit of God or Hope evidenced in the Pacific Northwest Conference.

1. Prayer

2. Peace and Justice
3. Leadership – Roma Eicher's work on the General Board, Pat Hershberger and Cleon Claassen nominated for the new integrated Board, and the new Moderator Lee Snyder having roots in the Pacific Northwest
4. Missions
5. Integration

**Mennonite Central Committee:**

Gale Gingrich, MCC Board representative referred to the MCC Report in the Delegate Book. He said there had been personnel changes with Barb and Bob Buxman becoming West Coast Directors. Gale introduced Jerry Lenscheid, Resource Development Director, who gave an update on the refugee kits.

Randy Eisele gave the closing prayer.

Adjournment was at five PM.

**Saturday Morning Session – June 19, 1999**

**Church Schools:**

Lynn Miller introduced Darrel White, Development Director and Acting Principal (during Eric Martin's sabbatical) of Western Mennonite School. Darrel reported on the activities of the school during the past year. He reminded delegates that there is a \$1000 tuition discount for students from PNMC member congregations. Mike O'Conner, first year parent of a Western Mennonite School student, talked about the impact of the school on their daughter and his family.

Linwood Rush reviewed the Vision for Excellence 2000 – 2005, the strategic planning document for Western Mennonite School. He asked the delegates to fill out the form attached to the plan giving their input.

Palmer Becker reported on Hesston College. They have fifty more students enrolled this year than last year. They have recently received the largest gift in their history that was matched by parent gifts. There are currently 17 students enrolled from the Pacific Northwest.

Bethel College Report – Dale Schrag spoke about Education Integration, stating that the five Mennonite colleges are becoming the stepping-stones to integration, calling it 'grace upon grace.' Bethel College has recently received five-year accreditation; its capital building campaign is going well.

Jacob Elias reported on the work of AMBS. Thirty-five students graduated from the seminary this spring.

George Brunk III reported on Eastern Mennonite University and Seminary. He mentioned that there is a growing shortage of Mennonite men attending seminar programs.

**Financial Report of 1998-1999:**

Assistant Moderator, Duane Oesch reminded Delegates that the new Financial Policies for PNMC were on pages 84-95 of the Delegate Book.

Loren Hartman presented the budget for 1999-2000 at this time. He commented that budget contributions from congregations in this budget reflect a \$5000 increase.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the budget as presented.

**NOON BREAK**

**Saturday Afternoon Session – June 19, 1999**

Harold Hochstetler opened the afternoon session with prayer.

**Financial Report:**

Loren Hartman presented eleven month financial figures for 1998-1999.

**Historian Report:**

Historian Margaret Shetler reminded the delegates to date ALL documents; to make hard copies of e-mail discussions; to number drafts of documents and to save all of them; and to remember to return materials to your congregation when you leave office. She reviewed several books that she thought should be in all church libraries.

**Other Business:**

David Morrow reviewed the draft “Covenant of Relationship between La Convencion de Iglesias Evangelicas Menonitas del Noroestes de Mexico and The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference.” This document will go back to the Mexico churches for further discussions.

Pat Hershberger called Loren Hartman forward to recognize his twelve years of service to the conference and the previous Pacific District Conference. John Willems, Floyd Lapp and Cleon Claassen, all previous moderators also recognized his services.

It was moved and seconded and passed to accept the reports given at these delegate sessions.

**Open Mic**

Floyd Lapp came forward to conduct the Open Mic session with Paul Versluis as the listener.

John Miller – At a seminar on immigration, he became aware of the large numbers of undocumented persons (50-90%) within our congregations and wonders if this is an area that the Peace and Justice Committee should become involved in order to assist.

David Morrow and Terry Rediger came forward to remind us that next year's conference will be next year the fourth week-end in June (22-25) in Moses Lake, Washington.

Lynn Miller spoke about the combining of the Albany and Bethany congregations which have both ceased to exist and have combined to become a new congregation that will be called Albany Mennonite Church.

Cliff Kenagy spoke about the need for the church to recognize God's homosexual children and the need for compassion for them and their families.

Roma Eicher spoke about how the churches that are growing are the ones that seem to be giving the most back to the conference and to the overall Mennonite Church.

Dan Lais gave his opinion that we should not be guilty of aiding the evil one in the guise of being righteous.

John Zook said that there are five new projects being supported by Mennonite Men through the 10<sup>th</sup> Man Project. \$35,000 has been returned to the PNMC.

Charlotte Hardt publicly thanked the Albany and Bethany congregations for their gift of a copier to PNMC for the use of the secretary.

**Installation of Commissioning of Newly Elected Persons**

Larry Hauder performed a service of "commissioning" for newly elected PNMC officers and committee members.

**Appointments**

Pat Hershberger announced the following appointments: Bethel College Board – Warren Gering; Commission on Education – Anne Hege; and Duncan Smith to the Commission on Home Ministries.

Adjournment was at 3:00 PM

## **WORSHIP SERVICES**

Worship services were held each evening of the conference. The worship services followed the conference theme, “Communities of Grace.” Larry Hauder gave the sermon on Thursday evening and George Brunk III, Dean of Eastern Mennonite Seminary, spoke Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning. During each worship service, two different persons spoke of how grace had affected their lives. The children as part of the Friday night worship service presented a Hebrew dance. Communion was served during the Sunday morning service.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Hardt  
PNMC Secretary