

## **2002 PNMC Delegate Sessions**

God's Healing and Hope, Building Healthy Communities  
Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
Western Mennonite Church  
Salem, Oregon

*Morning Session One – June 21, 2002*

### *Welcome*

The first Delegate Session of 2002 was opened at 9:05 AM by Moderator Marion Schrock with a welcome for delegates and guests.

### *Roll Call of Congregations*

Secretary Charlotte Hardt called the roll of member congregations asking delegates from each congregation to stand.

### *Reception of Mountain View Mennonite Church*

Moderator Schrock asked for delegates to stand to signify the acceptance of Mountain View Mennonite Church, Kalispell, Montana as a member of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. He then welcomed this church as a new member of the Conference. In response, Pastor Jeryl Hollinger introduced members of his congregation who were here. He commented that they were seeking a United States conference home. They have been long-time members of a conference that is mainly in Alberta, Canada and wish to maintain their ties there, but with the transformation to Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA, they also need to be linked with the United States.

### *Moderator's Report*

Moderator Schrock gave a report on the activities of the Executive Committee, the PNMC Board and himself during the past year. He discussed the relationship of PNMC with the new Mennonite Church USA and said that the Executive Committee had met with Mark Vincent.

Fund-raising – Larry Hauder, Kathy Bilderback and Janet Buschert organized a “Pedaling for PNMC” bike ride by Conference Pastor Larry Hauder as a ride across the Willamette Valley to Conference. An anonymous donor has pledged to match every dollar raised up to \$15,000. The ability to pledge to this will be open until mid-July. The Executive Committee has agreed to split the money raised giving 1/3 to the current PNMC budget, 1/3 to the Hispanic Ministry Vision Budget and 1/3 to the Theological Education Vision Budget. The matching dollars will be split 50% to the Hispanic Ministry Vision Budget and 50% to the Theological Education Vision Budget.

Moderator Schrock and some members of the Executive Committee have been in dialogue with the leadership of the Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference around fund-raising issues. Leaders of the two conferences will be jointly meeting with Jim Schrag of Mennonite Church USA later this year.

Schrock commented that when he became Moderator two years ago, he also became an administrator with almost one-third of his time devoted to PNMC affairs. He is retired and has the time, but is concerned that leadership of the conference cannot just be those who are retired. The Executive Committee and the PNMC Board had agreed in April to see if one half of the time of one of the two full-time employees (Conference Pastors) could be devoted to PNMC administration.

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### *Mennonite Church USA Report*

Jorge Vallejos, Director of Convention Planning, brought greetings from the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA. One of the directors of the Executive Board will be attending every conference assembly this year.

A question was asked about the availability of materials in Spanish from MC USA. The Office of Cultural Diversity is looking at the fact that 20% of our churches are people of color and trying to decide which languages should be translated.

An inquiry was made about where the Peace and Justice entity fits into the new church structure. Vallejos said that a Peace and Justice person was represented at all Board Meetings.

Moderator Schrock reported that Marty Freeburne had been called home to Idaho due to her husband's illness. Linda Nafziger-Meiser led the group in prayer for Jerry. Conference Pastor Larry Hauder also requested group prayer for other leaders and elders of the churches who are ill.

#### *Small Group Discussion*

Moderator Schrock asked the delegates to divide into groups to discuss their perceptions of the proposed staff restructuring and the allocation of administrative time.

Each group of six to eight persons spent a half-hour in discussion, then reported back to the group as a whole.

Moderator Schrock thanked the group for their input. These are issues and questions that the Board has been struggling with. He stated that delegates should be prepared for a possible Delegate Meeting in the fall – perhaps in the clusters – for further discussion.

Board Member Cecil Miller stated that what we need is the money to have two Conference Ministers, a Hispanic Supervisor and a half-time administrative staff person. We have to decide how best to do both the Conference Ministers' work and also keep everything hanging together. Money is not that big an issue – if the 3000 members of PNMC would each send the amount they spend on newspapers, we'd have enough.

Report on Northwest Mexico and Evangelism and Mission – Simon Rendon, Chak Ng and Duncan Smith

PNMC's relationship with NW Mexico is over forty years old. Our present covenant with them will be up next year. Simon Rendon of McMinnville works with NW Mexico on a regular basis. Pedro Olvera represents the financial affairs. Curt Dorsing of Warden is in charge of Mexico Sister Congregations.

Brother Rendon brought greetings from the churches in NW Mexico. Their desire is for fellowship with us.

Chak Ng reported on the work of the Evangelism and Missions Committee. They are presently re-writing job descriptions for committee members.

#### *Presentation to Charlene Schrag*

Anne Hege and members of the Congregational Nurture Committee came forward to present a gift of a rose bush to Charlene Schrag who has recently resigned as PNMC Youth Pastor. The Committee thanked her for her eight years of service to the youth of the conference.

#### *Missions and Evangelism Committee Continued*

Simon Rendon reported that his congregation requested one of the Mission Service Small grants available for five days of evangelistic services and a concert.

Moderator Schrock publicly thanked Simon for his work on the PNMC Board as the representative of the Concilio and for his work connecting us with NW Mexico.

#### *Delegate Session # 2 – Afternoon June 21, 2002*

Moderator Schrock opened the afternoon session at 1:20.

#### *Financial Report*

Treasurer Stan Wyse opened his financial report by reporting that so far \$6625.00 has been donated and \$700 has been pledged towards Larry Hauder's bike ride. With the matching pledge, \$14, 650 has been raised so far.

Stan reviewed the financials in the Delegate Book along with an initial budget proposal for 2002-2003.

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*Proposed Resolution – Member Church Financial Support*

Stan reviewed the Proposed Resolution on Member Church Financial Support that will be presented to the delegates for approval tomorrow.

*'Open Mic' Period*

Lois Kenagy – I come on behalf of the Mennonite Publishing House. My father worked there as an editor, I worked there as a young woman. People in Scottdale, Pennsylvania, are hurting due to the debt of MPH. I urge people in each congregation to have a fund-raiser and raise at least \$1,000 to retire the debt.

Ray Kauffman – I affirm what Lois has said about the Mennonite Publishing House. Allegheny Conference did pass a resolution of support – I think it should be on PNMC's agenda as well. As Historian for the PNMC I am asking each church to compile a "Church Service Record" of their membership. I would also encourage each church that doesn't already have an archivist/historian to appoint one and let me know who they are. Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> will be a PAX Day sponsored by the Oregon Mennonite Historical Society.

Rod Stafford – Portland Mennonite Church will be hosting a "Worship Workshop Weekend" January 24-26 to which all are invited.

Craig Morton – We at First Mennonite of Nampa encourage you to make use of the Reconciliation Resource Team of the Conference. Under Pastoral Leadership there is a plea for a director for this committee. Conflict resolution skills are needed in congregations

Jeanne Zook – I would like to encourage congregations to begin to think about sending a member to the Mennonite World Conference in Zimbabwe next year, August 11-17, 2003. The Courier is the magazine put out free by Mennonite World Conference. Jeanne will take names if you would like to subscribe.

Tim Myers – As we gathered in our small groups this morning, the question came up "Why Conference?" Perhaps more needs to be done to explain why the conference is here, and what the conference does.

Virgil Peters -- Why aren't we planting churches?

Duncan Smith – We are going through a period of change with church planting. We are looking at more natural relationships with contacts we each have with others. We are planting Hispanic churches.

Craig Morton – Now I am representing Emmaus. I am convinced that God brought us to Meridian, Idaho to plant a church. The dollars are not there, but it is probably healthier. We have to work more at being bi-vocational.

John Zook – We were in Congo in January and February of this year. Last time we were there, there was one church. This trip there were two new ones with fifty-five churches in the area. Church plants are important. We must use every talent we have. I am a member of Mennonite Men. I would like to encourage you to become a member of the Tenth Man program. Ten percent of those dollars go to overseas church plants.

Ike Kauffman – My concern is there are three churches in the Lebanon, Oregon who are not part of this conference. Is there a way we can reach out, bring them back in?

Marion invited the designated listener, John Willems to reflect back what he had heard as a listener.

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Gene Stoltzfus gave a presentation to the delegates about Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Carl Hansen, President of Meserate Kristos College in Ethiopia gave a presentation about the church and work in Ethiopia.

The afternoon session was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

*Delegate Session #3, Morning, June 22, 2002*

Moderator Marion Schrock opened the third Delegate Session with prayer at 10:45 AM.

Marion introduced the following church-wide guests attending conference:

Jorge Vallejos, Mennonite Church USA  
John Duerksen, AMBS  
Elam Peachey from Hesston College  
John Sharif, Bethel College  
Joanne Quintanilla, West Coast MCC

*Reception of Ministerios Restauracion*

Ministerios Restauracion, the Hispanic congregation which meets at the Portland Mennonite Church, and which is pastored by Samuel Moran, has completed the necessary paperwork for admission to the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Moderator Schrock asked the delegates to stand in affirmation and acceptance of Ministerios Restauracion as the newest member congregation.

Samuel Moran, with translation by Samuel Rendon, responded for his congregation. He spoke of the two-year process that his congregation has been through to get to this point of application. Pastor Moran is also the Chairman of the Hispanic Concilio.

*Conference Minister Report -- Larry Hauder*

Pastor Hauder reviewed the "now famous bike ride" with which he began the week. In spite of rain, an over-loaded trailer, and a body "no longer thirty years old", he felt it was a delightful experience.

He reviewed some items in his written report, then addressed the delegate discussions of yesterday about the re-allocation of conference pastors' time. He spoke of the need for a "core" to the work we are doing as a conference.

Pastor Hauder displayed the brochures for the three courses that will be offered by Bill Higgins in Portland this coming year. The courses are "Mennonite Roots, A Course in Mennonite History" to be offered Fall

2002; "Mennonite Leadership Structures, A Course in Mennonite Polity" to be offered January 2003; and "Mennonite Distinctives, A Course in Mennonite Doctrine" which will be offered Spring of 2003. These are courses required for ordination in PNMC, but anyone in the conference is welcome to attend.

*Conference Minister Report -- Duncan Smith*

Pastor Smith talked about his transition from being Missions Minister to being Conference Minister. He spoke of the transition period we are going through and how this has affected mission work in the conference in a positive manner.

*Hispanic Pastor Report -- Victor Vargas*

Pastor Vargas shared his work with visitation of Hispanic congregations, coordination with CIHAN and with PNMC.

Moderator Schrock publicly thanked the Iglesia Menonita Pentecostes of Woodburn congregation for the patience they have had and their generosity in allowing Pastor Vargas to give part of his time without compensation to minister to the PNMC Hispanic congregations.

The PNMC is unique in that the Hispanic Concilio has developed within the Anglo conference instead of as a separate conference which is the usual pattern. Pastor Vargas stated that they have developed a pamphlet about Hispanic outreach that could be used by Anglos to reach out to Hispanic neighbors. There is room on the pamphlet for your church's name.

*Pastoral Leadership Report – Cecil Miller*

The Pastoral Leadership Committee has extended or renewed Licensing Credentials to Bev Cook Rupp, Charlene Schrag, Marty Troyer (who was married today in Kansas), Martha Hernandez, Steve Kimes, Jon Yoder, John David Thacker and Larry Bardell.

Ordination credentials were issued to Simon Rendon, Frank Woelk, Linda Nafziger-Meiser and Sisay Desalegn.

The death of Bev Cook Rupp on May 21, 2002 and the deaths during the past year of Clifford Slatter, ordained deacon, and Max Yoder, retired pastor were noted.

Pastor Smith led the delegates in prayer of thankfulness and support for these new leaders.

*Peace and Justice Committee Award – Harold Nussbaum*

The presentation of the new Gardner Hanks Peace Award was presented to Rusty Nelson of Spokane. The award included a peace mug and a copy of Hanks' new book, Capital Punishment and the Bible. Pastor Gary Jewell of Spokane's Shalom Church accepted the award on behalf of Rusty and read the remarks prepared by Rusty.

NOON BREAK

Delegate Session #4 – Afternoon, June 22, 2002

Moderator Schrock opened the afternoon session by asking Treasurer Stan Wyse to update the delegates on the fund-raising. There have been many donations and pledges over the past twenty-four hours. We are within \$2,500 of meeting the \$15,000 matched pledge and then \$4-5,000 dollars short of being able to fund the Hispanic pastor for two years.

*Covenant Mutual Benefits Plan (COMB)*

Pastor Hauder introduced the new Mennonite Church USA health insurance plan, Covenant Mutual Benefits Plan (COMB) which will be administered by Mennonite Mutual Aid (MMA).

John and Beulah Hess-Yoder of MMA explained the origin of the plan and the background of how health insurance works. 75% of the congregations in the PNMC must commit to participation in the plan in order for us to participate. Our conference may be able to "partner" with another similar-sized conference such as Central District Conference to increase the size of the pool and lower the premium cost. For PNMC, the 75% of eligible congregations would be 10 churches. The window for PNMC to make a decision to participate is September 1 to December 1, 2002.

Denise Henke is the PNMC contact at [denise.henke@mma/online.org](mailto:denise.henke@mma/online.org). A congregation needs to request a sign-on (preserve the option) now even if health insurance is currently available through a spouse so that they can be eligible if circumstances change (waived congregation). PNMC may be able to participate in the existing preferred provider organization (PPO) that has been established in Oregon for the Quaker group.

Pastor Hauder asked for a straw vote of people who wanted the Conference to proceed with the process of the COMB plan. There were no hands raised in dissent.

*Presentation/Affirmation of the Ballot*

The slate of candidates as proposed by the Nominations Committee was affirmed by a standing vote of the

delegates:

Board of Directors

Treasurer: Don Bacher

Secretary: Harold Nussbaum

Chair, Peace and Justice Committee: Rob Hanson

Chair, Congregational Nurture Committee: Anne Hege

Standing Committees

Western Mennonite School Board: Cheeri Barnhart, Donna BreMiller, Dale Moyer, Byron Shenk

Finance Committee: Harold Snyder

Chair, Nominating Committee: Leonard Nolt

Congregational Nurture Committee: Jon Yoder

*Evangelism and Missions Committee: Mary Elliott, Jeryl Hollinger, Pedro Olvera, Jim Schweitzer*

Pastoral Leadership Committee: Pat Hershberger

Peace and Justice Committee: Matt Friesen, Jeffrey Long

*Resolution – Member Church Financial Support*

Floyd Lapp moved and Jon Snyder seconded the following resolution for adoption by the Delegates as recommended by the Board of Directors:

Each Member Church will be asked each year to contribute at least 6% of their Total Anticipated Income (excluding income received for distribution to other organizations, and excluding funds received for future capital development) to the Core Budget of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC).

An interactive process will be utilized each year to develop the planned financial contribution of each Member Church to PNMC.

Planned financial contributions of Member Churches to PNMC will be referred to as Member Church Pledges in PNMC Budgets.

The resolution was passed by a hand vote.

*Budget Discussion*

Treasurer Stan Wyse reported that we now have raised \$15,001 by Larry Hauder's bike ride so we will also receive the matching pledge offer of \$15,000.

Wyse announced that with what has been pledged and donated today, we are \$3,064 short of being able to fund the Hispanic Minister position for two years. The board had previously stated that it would not proceed with any New Vision items until two years worth of funding were pledged or in hand. John Zook stood and announced that he would contribute \$3,000 toward this need. He said the price of cedar that he had to sell just went up \$3,000 this week! An empty flower pot was also passed around and garnered \$394.

Cecil Miller moved and Audrey Lowen seconded that the necessary amount (approximately \$17,000) be added to the 2002-2003 budget line item to fund the Hispanic Minister position at one-quarter time. Motion passed.

Moderator Schrock asked Simon Rendon to lead the group in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Treasurer Wyse asked if there were other budget items of concern. Several delegates expressed concern about the projected budget deficit. The delegates asked to caucus as congregations.

Following the caucus, several congregations came forward and agreed to increase their pledge for fiscal year 2002-2003. Two personal pledges totaling \$1,600 have also been received. Delegates are asked to go back to their congregations and discuss how they might make up the difference. Peace, Portland and River of Life increased their pledges during the meeting. Delegates from some other churches suggested that they will consider increasing their

pledges. Member Church Pledge Changes and Other Additional Pledges which may be received will be reflected in the Final Budget by decreasing the Additional Need line.

Cecil Miller made a motion to accept the budget with the expectation that we will make it and also re-titling the "fund-raising" column as "additional need." Floyd Lapp seconded. After discussion the question was called and the motion was passed by a standing vote of the delegates. There was a real sense of God's presence in the meeting and jubilation with the fundraising results, and the decision to proceed with adding the one-quarter time Hispanic Conference Minister.

#### *Mennonite Publishing House Debt*

Marion repeated the concerns expressed yesterday about retirement of the Mennonite Publishing House debt and asked delegates to discuss this issue with their home congregations.

#### *Commissioning of Board and Committees*

Moderator Schrock asked all newly elected and returning committee and Board members to come to the front of the room. Pastor Smith led the delegates in a prayer of commissioning.

The delegate session was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte L. Hardt  
PNMC Secretary