

**Friday – June 19, 2009**

**Session I, 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm**

Pastor Duane Roth from Logsdan Neighborhood Church opened the session with prayer. Russell Adrian, choir director at Western Mennonite School, led singing.

### **Welcome and Moderator's Comments**

Moderator David Hockman-Wert welcomed the delegates and non-delegates to the 2009 sessions and thanked those who were involved in planning this year's conference. He pointed out that it had been 11 years since PNMC had last met in Idaho, introduced Isaac Hooley, board member from Idaho who was appointed after Canby Grove 2008, and outlined the conference goals for the next year. These include setting up a policy governance system to help guide the relationship of the Board and Executive Conference Minister, putting together an energetic team to launch the Capacity Building Campaign with the help of Mark Vincent and Design Group International, supporting the Faith and Practice Team as they gear up to do more conference-wide events this year, and developing and launching new teams: Theological Education and Pastoral Development Team, Technical/Communication Support Team, and Congregational Care Team – to help with the tough stuff (conflict resolution, legal assistance, missional development).

### **Reception of International Bethel City Church as a PNMC Member Church**

Conference Minister Sheldon Burkhalter introduced the members of International Bethel City Church in Portland, Oregon (meeting in Peace Mennonite Church) and Jeanne Zook shared background of the formation of the group. Pastors Simon and Lucy Muange shared more of their own background and about the church. Thousands of people from all over the world access the church website: [www.bethelcitychurch.org](http://www.bethelcitychurch.org). Sheldon led in a prayer of blessing for the new congregation. *The delegates signified their vote/affirmation by standing.*

### **Prayers Requested**

Sheldon Burkhalter shared a prayer request and prayed for Teresa Moser, her husband and small daughter.

### **Approval of 2008 Minutes**

Dave asked for any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the 2008 Delegate Sessions. *Motion was made by Todd Lehman and seconded by Gary Jewell to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.*

### **Recognition of Church-wide Guests**

Marlene Kroeker – Mennonite Mission Network  
Nancy Kauffmann– MCUSA  
John Hess Yoder – Mennonite Mutual Aid  
Dale Schrag – Bethel College

Russ Eanes – Mennonite Publishing Network

Anne Hege – Mennonite Education Agency (representing Director Carlos Romero)

Ken Hawkley – AMBS

Larry Martin – Hesston College

Bill and Esther McCoy– Mennonite Disaster Service. Bill invited others to join him on an MDS project in Alaska, leaving Sunday.

Charlotte Derksen – PNMC Resource Advocate to MPN

### **Introduction of the Corinthian Plan seminar**

Keith Harder gave a brief introduction to the Corinthian Plan. The PNMC goal is for 80% participation by PNMC congregations, which parallels the MCUSA goal of 80% participation by all MCUSA congregations.

### **Greetings from Northwest Mexico (CIEMNM)**

Agustin Suarez brought the greetings, translated by Simon Rendon

### **Table Group Discussions**

Introductions: Table group members took time to introduce themselves to each other and covenant to work together faithfully.

Preparation/questions for By-laws:

Table 1 – Expressed the same concerns as Table 5 (see below).

Table 2 – They presented a concern from CIHAN: the same request was brought last year regarding the position of CIHAN within PNMC, working for designation as constituency group. Currently (see page 5 Treasure Valley Delegate book [2008 PNMC Delegate session minutes]) there is a mention in the bylaws that a proposal, regarding the constituency groups' position/designation, needs to be made. Now CIHAN functions on the margins.

The moderator responded that assignment for writing such a proposal had been made, but the assignment was not yet completed. Unfortunately MCUSA currently has not itself written any constituency group guidelines/position papers, even though the need exists, so PNMC is without any precedent for such a document, making the task harder.

Table 3 – Same concerns as those expressed by Table 5, but affirms the bylaws.

Table 4 – Affirms the bylaws.

Table 5 – Raised the question: how do district pastors relate to conference and to the Executive Conference Minister? The suggestion was made to amend the bylaws to define relationship of conference ministers/district pastors.

Table 6 – Had a question regarding the timing of the budget with the new fiscal year and how delegates will be able to give input.

Moderator Dave’s response was that delegates would be involved by setting priorities at the conference budget session e.g. the next day.

Table 7 – Affirms the bylaws, but had two questions – how will the Passion Based Ministries be accountable to conference? How will a person connect with those who have similar passions?

Table 8 – Affirms the bylaws.

Table 9 – gave no report.

Table 10 – Affirms the bylaws; won’t delegates be losing voice as a result of the by laws?

*A motion was made by John Hess-Yoder, seconded by Jack Knox and passed that the delegates are instructing the board to return next year with a specific proposal on how CIHAN will be integrated into the PNMC structure. The motion was passed.*

*A motion was made by Sue Palmer, seconded by Jon Dilbone, and passed to change lines 388, 389, and 392 in section 3 of the Bylaws to include “District Pastors.”*

### **Affirmation of By-laws**

*The motion was made by Charlotte Hardt, seconded by Victor Vargas, and passed to affirm the by-laws as amended.*

### **Affirmation of PNMC Teams**

The ballot for the PNMC Teams was presented.

*A motion was made Terry Rediger, seconded by Jeanne Zook, and passed to accept the ballot as presented.*

*Motion was made by Sue Palmer, seconded by Jon Dilbone, and passed that the board fill missing slots in the PNMC Teams.*

### **Greetings**

Greetings were brought to Conference from Duncan Smith and John Willems (neither of whom could be in attendance).

### **Prayer & Adjournment**

David Morrow, district pastor of the Seattle area churches, closed the meeting with prayer. Dave Hockman-Wert adjourned the meeting until the morrow.

### **Saturday – June 2, 2009**

#### **Session II, 10:15 pm – 12:00 noon**

*[The time for this session was severely curtailed, due to the length of the previous session.]*

Rachel Ringenberg-Miller, associate pastor at Portland Mennonite Church, opened the session with prayer. Russell Adrian led singing.

### **Roll Call of Congregations**

Conference Secretary Charlotte Derksen called the roll of member churches, with delegates from each congregation standing to be recognized. The MIP congregations present were also recognized. There were delegates from 35 congregations present; six congregations were not present, [at least two of which represented congregations hard hit by the economic crisis.]

### **State of the Conference**

Conference Minister report: Sheldon Burkhalter shared that change is the state of the conference. Worship of congregations is the heart of our conference, worship is an evidence of health and vitality; he looks for prayer and relationships between generations. There is a generational shift within the conference, younger pastors are being called. There is a desire for justice within, and between congregations. Pastors are committing to be a real part of cluster groups. There is no such thing as an independent congregation. Pastor Sheldon sees evidence of a church's health and vitality in its participation in conference. There is support of missions, MCC, etc., as well as ecumenical outreach. Polarization and fragmentation work against the community of the church.

Financial report: Ed Miller – the current economic climate, the changes in conference structure and the change in fiscal year all work to cloud the fiscal year report this year. He pointed out that the budget process will change this year, congregations and members will need to give input into fiscal priorities for conference. Two expenses are higher than budgeted – hiring and moving

expenses for the new Executive Conference Minister and the Capacity Building Campaign expenses. All are invited to a seminar to give input into budget priorities.

### **Prayers Requested**

Sheldon Burkhalter shared a good report he received regarding Teresa Moser. He also shared that Pastor Sam Adams' father is having health issues, hence Sam was not able to come to conference.

### **State of the Denomination**

Nancy Kauffmann – MCUSA: Three other conferences are also meeting this week. PNMC is a very creative conference: schedule, sense of humor, inspired by stories of how God has been working in our midst. She was impressed by the richness of our diversity. The conference is faithful. Nancy promises to pray for the board and for the new Executive Conference Minister. MCUSA works with district conferences. See <http://MennoniteUSA.org> for resources.

Anne Hege – Mennonite Education Agency: Anne brought greetings from Director Carlos Romero, and board. Western Mennonite High School continues to be a special place where students experience academic excellence, in a Christ-centered environment. . Another program we celebrate is the Instituto Biblico Anabautista located in Woodburn, which provides theological-biblical training of Spanish-speaking leaders. Many students from this conference receive generous congregational student aid grants available on a \$1 to \$1 match, up to \$1000 and a further \$1 to \$4 match, up to full tuition in any of our 5 colleges/universities. Bethel College has a new initiative providing free tuition to qualifying racial/ethnic students. Given the distance to access our five colleges/universities and our 2 seminaries, MEA is leading a project to find the best and most efficient ways to make education available through technology.

Marlene Kroeker – Mennonite Mission Network: Marlene brought the thanks of MMN to our conference for its support. She recommended a book by Palmer Becker: *What it means to be an Anabaptist Christian*.

John Hess Yoder – Mennonite Mutual Aid: Work at MMA is impacted by the current economic situation. However MMA's reserves are strong. MMA is reorganizing : however, financial service/planning and the grant/matching funds will be in the same place. This is a good time for a Christian financial organization to plan for its financial future.

Russ Eanes – Mennonite Publishing Network: MPN is lowering its overhead and increasing its marketing. A number of new publications have recently been released. The online store is finally available at [www.mpn.net](http://www.mpn.net).

### **Table Group Discussions**

*(Due to an extremely late start to this session, severe time constraints intervened and the table discussions were not held.)*

The question for discussion was: Role of delegates and delegate sessions in the new structure? Dave asked delegates to jot down comments and turn them in and/or to email comments on the question to the board members. See below for email responses.\*

Moderator Dave Hockman-Wert thanked the table group leaders and interpreters. He also thanked the board members who were finishing their terms: Brad Roth and Wendell Amstutz.

### **Invitation from Prince of Peace Mennonite**

The conference received an invitation from John David Thacker, pastor of Prince of Peace Mennonite Church in Alaska, to hold our 2010 annual meeting in Anchorage. The moderator acknowledged that expense will be an issue for many prospective delegates. An MDS project will be planned around conference.

### **Prayer & Adjournment**

Pastor George Leppert, district pastor of Hyde Park and First Mennonite, Aberdeen, closed in prayer.