

Friday – June 25, 2010, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Delegate Session I

Prayer & Singing

Don Bacher led singing

Pastor Tim Gascho of Caldwell led opening Prayer

Welcome & Moderator's Comments

Moderator, Dave Hockman-Wert, reviewed the past year past year.

Approval of 2009 Minutes - Brent Kaufmann moved that the minutes be approved; Lynn Miller seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

State of the Conference:

Executive Conference Minister report - Iris de León-Hartshorn

For Iris's thoughts on the soul of the conference see her written report in the Delegate handbook. Iris emphasized that Jesus is our center and that peace is the heart of the gospel. She asked: "are these are at the center of PNMC?"

Jesus is our example, teacher, friend, and Lord. We need to follow all of who Jesus is; we need to extend grace to each other. Congregations should be committed to minister to those in need (poor, powerless and needy). We want to be a community, accountable to each other. However, it's hard to be community, in a society that values individuality. Iris plans to introduce "Dwelling in the Word" as a way to build our Christian community.

Financial report - Ed Miller

The fiscal year 2009 was a year in transition (in budget and staff). Ed gave thanks that our income came in a bit over budget, primarily due to recovery in market value of the Mennonite Foundation Stock & Bond Fund. PNMC has now recovered about 40% of what was lost in the stock market decrease. Annual Conferences where we have to rent facilities usually come in at a deficit. For 2009 expenses, many things did not occur as planned, therefore many expense items were quite different from the budget.

This year (2010) will be the first full year (income and expenses) reflecting the new organization. It is expected that there will be a bit less coming from congregations this year. Income from investments will be significantly less since we moved some funds from the Mennonite Foundation Stock & Bond Fund to the MMA Money Market Fund to reduce volatility and risk during this financial climate.

He reviewed income versus expense history from 2003-2010. During this period expenses continued to climb, and reserves were being used to meet expenses.

The PNMC Board has been striving for a balanced budget.

The current budget is minimal for meeting the needs of the conference; finances will be a constraint on accomplishing conference goals. Seminar tomorrow includes setting fiscal priorities for next year.

Greetings from Northwest Mexico (CIEMNM)

Dina Ruiz Valdez brought greetings from the churches in Mexico. She brought a video of some of the activities, including each year a convention, as well as activities of youth and of kids. She

requested prayers for the violence recently experienced there. Prayers also were requested for the whole world. She is pleased to be here – thank you. Conference goers could meet with Dina after worship that evening.

Presentation of Constituency Group document (page 23 in delegate book).

Jesus Munoz and Brad Roth presented the CIHAN Proposal for Constituency Groups. . The document has been in the works for several years. CIHAN is blessed to be a part of PNMC [and PNMC is blessed to have CIHAN as a part of the whole]. The constituency group document on table has been approved by the PNMC board.

Currently CIHAN is the only constituency group – hopefully other ethnic groups will come forward. The Pacific Northwest is a multicultural environment; we need to stimulate and encourage the development of new ethnic congregations. Three or more congregations would constitute a constituency group. If other constituency groups followed the CIHAN model, each group would have a moderator, a moderator elect, a secretary, a treasurer and an ex-officio member. The constituency group mission is to encourage expression of the gospel, in a culturally appropriate way, in accordance with the mission and vision of PNMC, Bylaws article 5 2 d. Constituency groups can recommend members to fill PNMC positions.

Table Group Discussions:

Introductions – members of each table group introduced to each other, then discussed the Constituency Group proposal as presented and the PNMC Organizational Structure (pgs 21-24).

Affirmation of full PNMC Organizational Structure document, page 21-22 of the delegate handbook:

Table 1 – affirm work of CIHAN and proposal;

Table 2 – affirm both proposals; they are not sure how a constituency council would work;

Table 3 – affirm the document even though not sure how it will work. Pastoral council – it works differently – probably belongs elsewhere; also wondering how the Conference Communications Council would work. Passion Based Ministries better fleshed out other places.

Table 4 – Question re: constituency councils being solely ethnic, but finally comfortable as passion based ministries fill the other gaps. Question 3 raised more questions. How would it work? They suggested commissioning board members to host regional meetings.

Table group 5 – gave its affirmation to the proposal. They want to celebrate how CIHAN works.

Table 6 – appreciate how CIHAN has worked. Document on Page 23 Exec Conf minister/ Conference ministers needs clarifying. Where do district ministers fit in? Iris should probably add district pastors to the Organizational Flowchart.

Table 7 – affirm proposal by CIHAN. Appreciated involvement of CIHAN within PNMC, connected/integrated relationship. Fine with 3rd document – a work in progress – see where the Organizational Structure takes us.

Table 8 – affirm constituency group proposal and Conference Communications Council. Questioned the requirement of 3 or more; would 2 or more not work as appropriate? Response (nationally among CIHAN requirement is 5 or more for group to be recognized).

Affirmation of PNMC Ballot; there was a call for the vote. Don Bacher moved to affirm the Constituency Group proposal. Motion was seconded Jeanne Rempel. The question was called and affirmed; two dissented. Audrey moved that we affirm the Organizational Structure document as a working document; JoAnn Miller seconded the motion. The question was called and affirmed; two dissented.

Ballot Nominations Affirmed:

Moderator elect: – 2 year term /moderator – 2 year term: Jeryl Hollinger

One Member – 4 year term: Jennifer Sottolano

One Member – 1 year term: Joseph Penner, Salem Mennonite

One member – 2 year term: still to be filled; moderator is in conversation with CIHAN. (Note: this position was filled July 1st by Mario Bautista).

Marty Lowen moved to approve the ballot; Rod Stafford seconded, the affirmation was unanimous.

Pastor Meghan Good, of Albany Mennonite, closed the session in prayer.

Saturday – June 26, 2010, 1:00 – 2:45 p.m. Delegate Session II

Dave brought greetings from a church in the Chaco, which they visited.

Opening singing was led by Don Bacher.

Chaplain Nan Gascho opened the second delegate session in Prayer.

Table Group Discussions: Discussion about PNMC Goals

Blue-Sky session / Dreaming about what PNMC could be and do

Report of January (1st ever) PNMC Board retreat during which three goals were developed for conference. The goals selected for PNMC: Communication, Identity, and Diversity.

Blue Sky Table Questions:

1. Identify and write belief/value/characteristic of being an Anabaptist/Mennonite in the Pacific Northwest on a POST IT. Summarized responses are:
 - a: hospitality, welcoming
 - b: peace and justice – including creation care
 - c: discipleship, following Jesus, servant-hood
 - d: counter culture – peace and justice, questioning
2. If you moved away from the Pacific Northwest and came back five years later, what would you hope our congregations/conference would be doing that reflect our Anabaptist identity.
3. Give concrete examples of how to communicate our identity in a way that welcomes diversity within our congregations/conference. Blue Sky ideas...

Blue Sky ideas from table discussions:

Table 8 – Do we have a unified identity to communicate? We are prevented from doing so because we are white, upper/middle class congregations.

We need to stop waiting for people to just “show up” but need to go out to them:

ESL class at the churches

Gather stories from churches about they are trying and share

Plug into homeless ministries

Kid-based activities: eg. Day care, lunches, etc.

Table 7 – Use websites and other technology to communicate effectively with community :
Identity and vision

Including providing access to technology for people who don't have it

Use media to communicate within community

Table 6 – Mennonite diversity celebration[s]: Ethnic food

Quilting, /Cultural Crafts and Demonstrations

Games, fun, food, movie night)

Accepting of All – Welcoming

Newsletter: Community Mailing

Advertisements

Community Hymn Sings: “Gospel on the Grass”

Children's Choir competition

Musical Groups

Wonderful worship services: Celebration

Table 5 – Concrete communication to welcome diversity: e.g. peace and justice group partnerships, centrality of Jesus, discipleship, counter-cultural, advertising to community, billboards on buses, local city paper. – what we stand for/who we are – participate in community events

Questions: Is this feasible for the conference?

Resolutions – but how *[do?]* we live it out?

To legislate autonomy even possible?

Core values communicated to neighborhoods

Just do it- not just talk

Grace-filled – not how we do it, but trust that it is faithful in your context.

Come one, come all – for different reasons we gather a common goal outside ourselves.

Table 4 – communication theme – being a grace-filled body; ways to think with/about brother/sister body; telling stories about our diversity, with appreciation; community ministry, volunteers from all over (collaboration with Jewish, Unitarians as well as Mennonites, openness); – living out our faith; showing by example by what we do, not say.

Table 3 – Provide churches with assistance on uses of technology, e.g. Iris’ weekly blog; resource for technology; service MDS and other similar projects

Table 2 – Dialogue with marginalized groups about peace/justice issue

Plan community information series about different churches/religious organizations in the community,

Hospitality meals where intimate dialogue can happen

Billboards on buses – promotional material

Use strengths that we have: ie. Relief sale (the Ritzville sale has a worship about “what it means to be Mennonite” open to the community

Create/market personality of the congregation

Table 1 – Innovative uses of technology, e.g. internet, face book ad, as well as growth in technology, e.g. radio spots, in Spanish, as well as Central American and Mexican dialects;

Transition in words and life style; communicate who we are through visual signs, words, lifestyle (there needs to be a transition from classic visual (dress, bumpers, etc) toward word and lifestyle

We need to become more intentional about sharing the Gospel story – who we are as people of Jesus, e.g. perhaps CIHAN and Bethel Church could sponsor 1-day “school for mission, listen/hear from leaders, brainstorm outreach and evangelism, go out and do, then come back to share what we have learned (a school of mission).

Blue Sky Postings [incorporated into table items above]

Counsel to MC USA on Phoenix 2013 Convention

Lee Lever (MCUSA Denominational Minister) Phoenix 2013, Kansas City 2015.

Due to the Immigration law going into effect in Arizona in 2010, should MCUSA continue to plan to meet in Phoenix for our Convention in 2013? Decision will be made by MCUSA by December 2010 in order to avoid additional cancellation penalties.

The timing has been pushed back, MCUSA now has until April to finalize the planning – loss of 1/2 million dollars if we back out of contract now. At the Leaders Forum in September, this will be a major point of conversation. MCUSA wants to get local conference input.

Table groups discussed the following questions. [**Summarized responses added to the end of the minutes.]

1. How does our decision to go or not affect us as a faith community?
2. What are the implications for us, as a faith community, to not have a significant number of Hispanic brothers and sisters be part of our Phoenix 2013 Convention?
3. What might be some alternatives that stay faithful to who we are in following Jesus?

Peace and Justice Coordinating Ministry resolution that has been presented at these meetings will be processed by the PNMC board. The board is encouraged to act on the document and then send it out to the congregations to consider adopting.

Blessing for District Pastors, prayer led by Executive conference minister, Iris DeLeón Hartshorn. Those present: Cecil Miller (WA, MT: Spring Valley, Shalom, Mtn View), Lynn Miller (OR, Mid-Valley: Western, Salem, McMinnville), Brent Kauffman (OR, SE Valley: Albany, River of Life, The River), Jeryl Hollinger (E WA: Menno, Warden), Dave Stutzman (OR SW Valley: Corvallis, Lebanon, Logsdon, Prince of Peace, PlainView), Rod Stafford (OR E Portland: Bethel, Peace, Springwater), Iris de León Hartshorn (OR Portland, AK Anchorage, Anawim, Prince of Peace)

Those absent: David Morrow (W WA: Seattle, Evergreen), George Leppert (ID: Hyde Park, First Aberdeen), Duane Oesch (ID: Emmaus), Larry Hauder (ID, UT: Filer, Evergreen Hts, SLC), Wendell Amstutz (OR CIHAN, Oregon Valley), Al Lind (OR NE Valley: Calvary, Eugene, Pacific Covenant, Zion), Byron Gingrich (OR Portland)

Blessing for Conference Minister Iris de León Hartshorn, prayer led by District Pastor, Lynn Miller

Commissioning Service for Continuing and New Board Members, prayer led by Iris de León Hartshorn

Thanks to local church: Pastor John David Thatcher gave to the credit to the whole Prince of Peace church. The local arrangements committee chair, John David Thacker, and committee members: Krestia DeGeorge, Meggan Judge, Eric Judge, Joe Buckwalter, Heather Potsander, Fred Killeffer, were given thanks for the work they did on our behalf.

Grateful thanks were expressed also to Conference Administrative Assistant Barbara Buxman; to Program Chairperson, Nan Gascho; to interpreters Grace Anderson and Brad Roth; and to audiovisual expert Patrick Buller.

Pastors Jack Knox, representing Salem Mennonite Church and Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva, and Rick Troyer, from Western Mennonite Church, invited us to the Salem Oregon area for the 2011 PNMC Conference. The conference is to be held on the campus of Western Mennonite School.

Moderator Dave Hockman-Wert closed the session with these words from Hebrews 10: 24, “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds...”

The Question: Due to the Immigration law going into affect in Arizona 2010, should MC USA continue to plan to meet in Phoenix for our Convention in 2013? Decision will be made by MC USA by April 2011 in order to avoid additional cancellation penalties.

1. How does our decision to go or not affect us as a faith community? *(1 table no response to this question)*

- Hospitality
- Stewardship of money - how many states will have laws? How much money spent - will law still be in place?
- Are we called to be law abiding or witness against an injustice?

To not go...find a way to cover costs

To go...alienate people within MC USA

To not go...Send protest message to city and state of Arizona

To go...protest/public action required

To not go...is running/quiet in the land

1. Reinforcing our tendency to withdraw/abandon
2. Easier way out to go and "let Hispanic decide to go or not"
3. Hispanic church members/group decision should trump. They say no, and we say no.

Go - it will not only be Hispanic individuals who don't go; other people will boycott in solidarity - this will divide us more if we go.

Not go - loose money

Shouldn't be about money!

- Challenges our commitment to our principles and identity.
- Forces us to discern with wisdom the relatively best course.
- **Ties that bind us**
- **Public identity**
- **Money - (though not so important)**
- How do the Arizona congregations feel about us not coming? They deal with this issue on a daily basis. Should we experience what they are going through?
- We need to be at the table. Should we avoid the conflict? Is confronting one way to be at the table (not going)? Should we give them our business?
- Should we go and be visible in our confrontation?

2. What are the implications for us, as a faith community, to not have a significant number of Hispanic brothers and sisters be part of our Phoenix 2013 Convention? *(Two tables no response to this question)*

We would miss the voices on the issues of immigration. How many Hispanic people/delegates would attend?

Phoenix needs our income and their economic situation - people who clean rooms won't have a job, need to have a good answer to request from Hispanic group regardless of which way we choose.

- We are saying to our Hispanic friends that they have no place at the table.
- We are putting more allegiance in money and the law of our nation than in Jesus Christ.

Undermine the oneness of the Church (Eph 1-3)

- We are going to demonstrate our truest feeling of our Hispanic brother and sister by what we do here.
- As a church we must shelter and protect our Hispanic brothers and sisters. If we go, we will be turning our backs on them at the moment of testing.

- **We can't come. Our perceptions of the law are actually less than how bad it is. People who look Hispanic will not be safe. (Rapid?) We can not support that system.**
- **Arizona testing ground for discrimination. Apartheid started this way in South Africa.**
- **Want to talk with people experiencing this first hand.**
- **Most Mennonites in Arizona are Anglo.**
- **Symbolic statement or actions**
- **By going will we be saying this is fine?**

3. What might be some alternatives that stay faithful to who we are in following Jesus?

- Not going would make a statement, but we could make an even bigger statement while in Arizona.
- Engage in conversation, learn about the issue, make immigration/global poverty the theme of the convention
- Do convention in a different way, on a border town
- **Help people in order to get paperwork in order**
- **Need to include/admit our own immigrant past and the way we took land from people**
- **Immigration issues theme of conference**
- **Go to Phoenix and have visible statements or witness**
- **Work with Phoenix law enforcement**
- **Use money we would "have lost" to help provide scholarships**
- We need to put ourselves on the line, walking with and surrounding people who come to Phoenix (CPT style of getting in the way)
- Political/Public action - are we willing to step up?
- Truly make a statement about "what would Jesus do"? How would you walk into the situation as Jesus should?
- Only go to Arizona with support of Hispanic people, do they feel/trust MC USA to surround and care?
- **Change location and send small contingent to make a statement**
- **Consider not having a conference or just a youth conference in a different location - let youth conference has a focus on the issue.**
- **When we decide not to attend in Phoenix we need to do so publicly and vocally**
- **If we go we need to be very vocal in support of immigrants (but our table is not in support of this idea)**
- Donate back to Phoenix/Hispanic Churches if we leave
- Move to another border location
- **If we stay, we will potentially be breaking the law in carrying out daily conference activities (transporting, feeding, serving immigrants)**
- **Massive demonstration**
- Economic impact only thing that will protest law.
- If we don't go - Press conference and state why decision is made.
- HEADLINE: Mennonites decide not to come to Arizona
- Are we hurting hotel employees.
- Rich less affected by these decisions
- If there is one of our own who feels at risk can we go? If we have a family with a member who can not go, would we go?
- From here on out we should have a contingency clause in our contracts regarding discrimination.

Additional Comments/Questions:

- What are the costs?
- Hear from Hispanics from Arizona Churches
- Local determination
- What is really at stake? Is it just because we dislike the law or would it restrict participation?