

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
Warner Pacific University, Portland, OR  
DELEGATE SESSIONS - JUNE 21-22, 2013

**Session #1 – Friday, June 21**

**1. Gathering**                      Jeryl Hollinger

Steve Kimes welcomed the group to Portland.

Otoniel Soto, a guest from Mexico, shared a meditation on Acts 2:1-11.

Table Discussion: *“What is God saying through this scripture to our witness, and how is this happening in your congregation?”*

Rick Troyer shared about the Mexico passion-based ministry.

Jeryl led guided prayer.

**2. Roll call of congregations**                      Jennifer Delanty (see attached document)

As the names of congregations were called, the delegates from that congregation stood shared three sentences:

(1) – One example of a “God-sighting” in your congregation.

(2) – One challenge you are facing in your congregation

(3) – How you are addressing the challenge.

**Absent:** Vida Nueva, Filer, First Mennonite Church-Aberdeen, Fusion Faith Center, Peace Community, Springwater,

**3. Welcome of visitors**                      Nancy Kauffman, Denominational Minister

Iris de León-Hartshorn; Mark Regier-Everence; Carlos Romero – MEA; Tim Lichti-Hesston; Stanley Green- MMN; Steve Wiebe-Johnson and Marlene Kroeker-MMN; Ken Hawkley – AMBS; Charlotte Derksen – MennoMedia and Resource Advocate for PNMC

Joe Blowers – Brethren Mennonite Council; Nindy Sasongko – Indonesian Mennonite Church; Bob Buxman – WC MCC - GAP

**4. Introduction to delegate sessions**                      Jeryl Hollinger

a- feedback on delegate role

b- how can PNMC do a better job of helping congregations be healthy

**5. Review and approve 2012 Moses Lake delegate session minutes**

The minutes of the 2012 Moses Lake delegate session minutes were approved as written in the delegate booklet.

**6. Introduction of ballot**                      Jennifer Delanty

Jennifer presented the ballot, which will be affirmed and turned in tomorrow.

## 7. Executive Conference Minister report

Katherine Pitts

See delegate book for written report.

- Katherine has tried to visit as many churches as possible this past year. She sees God working and present in the wide variety of congregations.
- Katherine expressed appreciation for District Pastors who help keep her in contact with this widespread conference.
- Katherine requested prayer for four congregations who are searching for a pastor.

## 8. The role of delegates (table discussion-summary attached)

The board wants to hear from delegates about the role of delegates and to what extent this paper reflects that role.

The board is proposing a year-round delegate body.

### OPEN MIC COMMENTS

- Table 3 – Expressed appreciation and support for year-round delegates and hopes this system will be used well. Suggestion to use phone as well.
- TABLE 14 – Responding to the board via email isn't very helpful; helpful suggestions: video conversations via Skype, explaining role expectations to new delegates, having a new delegate breakfast before the first delegate session.
- TABLE 8 – Affirms year-round ministry of delegates. Suggestion: enhance the job description of expectation to carry information back to congregations.
- TABLE 4 – This is a good framing for new delegates, but doesn't really address what we've done thus far. Suggestion: To build affinity groups for discussion.
- TABLE 7 – Sharing beyond this group to congregations would be helpful. Suggestions: more worship time, not just business; paper contact for those who aren't tech savvy or don't have technology available.
- TABLE 5 – affirms year-long delegates. Encourage new delegates, not just recycle.
- TABLE 1 – One year term may be too short.
- OVERALL – support for having year-round delegates

## 9. Announcements and Lunch

## 10. Ten seminars were held in the afternoon with topics and leaders:

- a. Pat Shaver and Rose Marie Zook Barber – *“Praying with our Imagination”*
- b. Rachel Ringenberg Miller *“12 Scripture Project”*
- c. Otoniel Soto, Mexico –*“The Life and Ministry of the NW MEXICO churches”*

- d. Peter Lumsdaine – *“Christian discipleship, effective peacemaking & deep Creation care in a time of global crisis”*
- e. John David Thacker - *“Sunday Storytelling”*
- f. Matthew Yoder - *“Rural Church”*
- g. Meg Lumsdaine – *“Sacred Awareness: Reclaiming Wonder for God's Holy Seasons”*
- h. Mark Regier – Everence – *“Funding Mission Together”*
- i. Steve Kimes – Anawim – *“Turning Church Property Upside Down”*
- j. Gary Jewell – Jan Yoder – *“Sexuality”*

## **Session #2 – Saturday, June 22**

### **1. Gathering                    Jeryl called the group to order**

Jennifer Sottolano led in music.

Jennifer Delanty led the contemplation of Rev. 7:9-17

### **2. Moderator Report & Discussion on the work of PNMC - Jeryl**

Introduction of board members – described as a team: Jennifer Delanty, Harold Nussbaum, Wanda Dorsing-absent, Jerry Barkman, Eva Mendez, Joseph Penner, Jennifer Sottolano, Jack Swaim

- Jeryl talked of his “other life” as a Bee-Keeper and gardener and drew a parallel to conference work. Just as he cannot tell the bees how to have healthy hives, but can provide things they need to do their work, he cannot tell each congregation what to do to be healthy, but can do things to support their work.
- Some things the board and staff have worked at doing:
  - Asked congregations how to help them be healthy; helped congregations in pastoral transitions; equip lay leaders; provide communication via e-bulletin & *Evangel*; support and encourage pastors; offer DP relationships; connect congregations to resources for thinking about and planning for their future; fiscal responsibility; align PNMC documents; property management team for Peace Mennonite; encourage Katherine in her work; discern how to relate to non-traditional churches; Annual Meeting; CCC; support church-wide relationships (CLC, Phoenix); fill Bethel College board position; be a resource for congregational life when problems, questions, issues arise; use of technology to connect spread out conference.

### **OPEN MIC COMMENTS - TABLE 3**

Affirm Katherine for her work in getting around to all the churches. Appreciate work of District Pastors. Congregations need a better understanding of the role of DP’s. Looking forward to how equipping will happen for lay leaders. Suggestion: Lay leaders work in clusters, gather periodically for retreat.

### 3. Acceptance of Ballot

Motion for acceptance of ballot as written, M/S/C.

The Gifts Discernment team would appreciate any recommendations for future ballots.

Break

### 4. Conference Finances Harold Nussbaum

- Linda Dibble, Albany, OR shared that PNMC received a financial gift from the Clarence & Ruth Reeser estate. She encouraged others to remember PNMC in estate planning and that it is possible to contribute to endowment accounts that are already established.
- The board requested a 7% increase in giving from congregations for the 2013 budget. A number of congregations responded positively.
- Joseph Penner shared a proposal for disbursement of the Eugene gift to the conference. Proposal: The money would be available to developing or emerging congregations who submit an application for funding a new project. The grants offered would need to be matched by another congregation. Possible names for the project: Seeds Northwest, PNMC Seed Bank

### OPEN MIC COMMENTS

Steve W-J related that Mountain States had a similar program and the importance to allow freedom to fail. New initiatives don't need to be successful.

Response: You are free to fail, but we hope you don't. The intent of the application process is to stimulate thinking, not to monitor or compare projects. Applications will likely be reviewed by a screening committee to help people refine their proposals, not to decide the merits of each application. The application form will be on the web.

John Colvin asks if there is a format or diagram to help a church initiate a business that would benefit members of the congregation and the PNMC? Response : We don't have a program for that. Non-profit organization rules need to be followed.

Lynn Miller expressed enthusiasm for the possibility of matching money and the potential for it to bring conference closer to the churches.

Miriam Hooley shared that River of Life in Sweet Home benefited from the revolving loan fund and expressed appreciation to the Eugene Congregation for the gift.

Victor Fuentes shared that Iglesia Pentecostés is in process of constructing a church. Can we count on you to collaborate with us in our project? I have faith that you can collaborate with us.

Rose Marie Zook Barber remembers that PNMC gave the Eugene congregation a lot of money.

## **5. Recognition/Commissioning Prayer**

Elizabeth Soto Albrecht, next MC-USA moderator, will be coming to Oregon in July.

- July 12– 7 PM Iglesia Menonita Pentecostés – Woodburn
- July 13 – CIHAN – Ministerios Restauración – Portland – 5 PM
- July 14 – Lebanon Mennonite Church

Dates ahead and congregations celebrating anniversaries

- Sept. 27 – 29, 2013 – Mountain View, Montana – 100 years
- July 19-20, 2014 – Filer, Idaho 100 years
- Prince of Peace-Anchorage – 25 years
- Pastor/Spouse retreat – Oct 20-22, 2013 at Menucha
- Feb 8, 2014 – Conference Communication Council – Portland area
- Thanks to those who made this meeting possible – Audrey Lowen, Brett Tieszen, local committee, Rose Marie Zook Barber – worship services, Denny “Pablo” Gradin – Wendell Amstutz – translation
- P & J Coordinating ministry – revive – meet for dinner
- Welcome to worship at local churches and times were shared

## **6. Invitation to Kalispell 2014**

Cathy Brenneman invited us to Kalispell, MT June 20-21, 2014 with a poem.

## **7. Evaluation**

Please complete evaluation forms to assist with Annual Meeting planning.

## **8. Closing**      Nancy Kauffmann brought the meeting to a close in prayer.

**Submitted by: Barb Buxman**

## **PNMC God-sightings and Challenges Reports, 2013**

Give:

1. One example of a “God-sighting” in your congregation,
2. One challenge you are facing in your congregation,
3. How you are addressing the challenge.

**Albany:**

1. Discovering and using gifts,
2. Attending to the needs of older members of the congregation as well as new members,
3. Empower people who have been there a long time to feed others.

**Anawim**

1. Cooperating with churches of other cultures
2. Ministry to the poorest in Portland.

**Bend:**

2. Traditional church model doesn't fit them,
3. Rethinking the model of the church has led to a new style of leadership.

**Calvary**

1. Working with Roca de Salvación,
2. Building relationships.

**Centro Cristiano Pentacostés**

1. Growing fast,
2. Training leaders,
3. Serious prayer.

**Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva**

**Corvallis**

1. Weekly potluck strengthens
2. Small number of youth

**Emmaus** – building, challenge courage

**Eugene**

1. After 47 years with only one person dying in the congregation, three people have died in the past year and a half, the most recent one who was our pianist.
2. People in the congregation are realizing that something needs to change and are ready to start thinking and dreaming about what comes next for us as a congregation.
3. At the same time, we were able to claim who God has called us to be and start to live into that calling,

### **Evergreen Heights**

1. Gifts discernment
2. Children growing up
3. Helping kids discover and use their gifts

### **Evergreen**

1. Congolese visitors and youth taking a strong role,
2. Competing activities in youths' busy schedules
3. Quarterly retreats for youth and mentors.

### **Filer**

#### **First Mennonite McMinnville**

2. Anglo congregation – 12 members, average age 74

### **Hyde Park**

1. Youth planned worship service, the vulnerability shared by the youth who preached
2. How to group Christian Ed when there are wide spans between the children's ages.

### **Iglesia Cristiana Roca de Salvación**

2. Two cultures
3. Fasting and prayer

### **Iglesia Mennonita Pentecostés**

1. New people from California
2. Immigration

### **International Bethel City Church**

1. Members of the congregation including the youth are participating more in the church leadership.
2. We are facing financial challenges because we are a small congregation and everyone does not work to give their tithes and offerings to the church
3. We are addressing the challenges by one praying for our members to be blessed with jobs, especially those who are students, and two encouraging our members to invite their friends, and significant others to church.

### **Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita**

### **Lebanon Mennonites**

Support group for parents of kids who have made bad choices

### **Logsdon**

1. Increase in numbers

2. Ministries during the week
3. Mennonite Women in Mission – quilting to support MMN

### **Restauración**

1. Young people
2. Taking word out to others

### **Mt. View**

1. VBS – youth and young adults taking leadership
2. Decline in membership and aging of members,
3. Modified appreciative inquiry process and celebration of 100 years this year.

### **Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church**

Nontraditional church mode

### **Portland**

1. Building relationships with people in the community
2. Space

### **Prince of Peace**

1. Reading through the Bible together
2. Transient nature of the community (1/3 of the congregation moved away in 2 weeks)

### **River of Life**

Prominently located so lots of people with needs come.

### **Salem**

2. Pastoral transition

### **Shalom**

1. Child of congregation returned to share her excitement
2. Lay led

### **Spring Valley**

1. God very specifically answered our prayer for healing as we were praying.
2. Small, 12-15 on a Sunday, the congregation is aging
3. Have a number of children from the community from dysfunctional homes, need help addressing problems. Have a group of ladies who meet monthly assembling supplies for international use.

### **Warden**

85% Hispanic with new Hispanic pastor coming  
cross-cultural barriers

### **Western**



A child from the church came up with an idea for kits to give to those who are hungry. The kids put together zip loc bags with useful items for homeless people. Adults are being challenged by task of distribution.

**Zion**

1. How to care for families of those who are dying
2. Searching for pastor
3. Prayer – fear and trepidation