

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

BOARD MEETING

May 16 & 17, 2014

At the Pony Soldier in Portland, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Jeryl Hollinger, moderator; Harold Nussbaum, treasurer; Wanda Dorsing, secretary; Sarah Hooley, Jennifer Sottolano, Joseph Penner (Friday only), Jennifer Delanty, moderator elect; Jack Swaim

Members Absent: Eva Mendez, David Hockman-Wert, Joseph Penner (on Saturday)

Staff Present: Katherine Jameson Pitts, Executive Conference Minister; Barb Buxman, Administrative Assistant

Guest: Samuel Moran (Saturday morning)

Friday, May 16, 2014

1:00 pm Jack Swaim led a sharing time on our earliest memories of church.
Jeryl led the group in a dwelling in the word exercise that focused on verses that have been central in our lives.

For the Minutes:

- A. The board affirmed via email the appointment of David Hockman-Wert to complete Jerry Barkman's term ending June 2015.
- B. **MOTION:** *District Pastors stipends can be designated for housing allowance.*
MSC: Jack, Sarah

Reporting/Updates

Executive Conference Minister Report

- Katherine J. P.

Katherine reviewed her report to the board previously distributed by email. Highlights include -

The conversation between MC USA and area conferences regarding employing and/or credentialing LGBT persons.

Only one church, Seattle Mennonite, is in pastoral transition.

Planning for Annual Meeting in Kalispell is on track.

The Seed Northwest grant program is continuing to evolve and has received its first application.

All the necessary paperwork for obtaining our own PNMC 501(c)3 status has been submitted to MC USA and we are awaiting action from them to finalize this process

Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) Report

Katherine P. Jeryl H. Jennifer D.

The MC USA report on CLC and a summary of table group discussions was reviewed. The majority of time at CLC was spent on offering feedback to questions regarding church structure, polity and relationships in reference to a decision made by the Mountain States Conference to license a pastor in a committed same-gender relationship. The CLC meeting was well planned, structured, and meaningful. The spirit of the meeting was positive in the face of large systemic challenges. The MC USA board has established a task force to study the issues and bring recommendations to the MC USA Executive board in June.

Treasurer Report

- Harold Nussbaum

The board reviewed current financial information previously distributed by email. Conference is running very close to budget. Income is slightly higher than expenses. Congregational giving is at 95% of budget.

Finance Team Proposal

- Harold N., Jack S.

At the previous meeting, Jeryl shared a proposal form a finance team, which is named as a standing PNMC committee in our governance documents.

Benefits to having an active finance committee include wider involvement in conference finances and access to expertise needed at certain times such as real estate management or investment management.

The Finance Team would be an advisory group, not a decision-making or reporting team.

Tabled until tomorrow

Property Management Committee

- Joseph Penner

Jim Wenger is resigning, as of annual meeting, from leading this group. Appreciation for Jim's leadership was expressed. The board is responsible to find his replacement.

The property is getting a lot of daily use. Finances are stable.

Sanctuary Property Review

- Joseph P. & Jennifer D.

Joseph and Jennifer continue to work on the review process of the agreement PNMC has with Anawim and Bethel, since the three-year agreement was up in October 2013. The purpose of the agreement was to give Anawim and Bethel time to incorporate and raise money to purchase the property. Joint incorporation has not happened.

When the review is completed, the review team will make a recommendation related to the current structure.

Harold will make a contact for a potential person with expertise in property management to replace Jim Wenger as leader of the Property Management Committee.

Gift Discernment Team - Jeryl Hollinger
The ballot for Annual Meeting was shared.

PNMC Video idea - Jeryl, Katherine, Jack, Jennifer
No work has been done on this.

Robotic Warfare Resolution (submitted by Peter Lumsdaine)

Jeryl presented a proposed resolution from Peter Lumsdaine on April 30 with the hope that it will be brought to the June 2014 delegate meeting in Kalispell. This proposal was distributed to board members via email.

Discussion included use of delegate time and the purpose of resolutions, peace and justice committee activity, and MC USA's statement in the confession of faith opposing all warfare.

Tabled until tomorrow.

Assembly Scattered (idea shared by David Hockman Wert)

Information about Assembly Scattered has been in the e-bulletin. It is an opportunity for churches on the continent where the global assembly is held to host Anabaptist brothers and sisters from other churches in their own churches and communities. Plans are being made for Assembly Scattered events throughout North America as part of Pennsylvania 2015. Representatives of churches in North America who are interested in hosting an Assembly Scattered event in July 2015 must register before June 1, 2014.

We encourage any PNMC congregation or group of interested individuals to register to host an Assembly Scattered event.

5:00 pm **Supper break**

Evening Discussion:

In Mennonite Church USA conferences and churches, the homosexual debate threatens to fracture the church. The current issue is whether or not to discipline Mountain States conference for ordaining Theda Good, as well as related structural issues. A task force is working on these issues and will report to the Executive Board in June.

PNMC has not varied from the Mennonite Confession of Faith in relation to this. Such a move would be a decision to be made by the constituents of the conference. It is important for discussion about homosexuality and the church to happen at the congregational level.

Saturday, May 17, 2014

8:30 am Opening sharing and prayer was led by Wanda Dorsing.

9:00 am

1. Follow-up on Friday discussions

A. Robotic Warfare Resolution

The board agrees that because we are against all types of warfare as stated in the Mennonite Confession of Faith, we will not give delegate time to this specific issue but will invite Peter to host an “Open Spaces” conversation on the topic of Robotic Warfare at Annual Meeting.

B. Finance Committee

MOTION: *We encourage the treasurer to establish a financial advisory team to provide advice and counsel. Members would include treasurer, ECM, administrative assistant, and others with expertise as needed.* **MCS: Jack, Jennifer S.**

C. Video project

MOTION: *No formal video project will be pursued. Katherine and Barb will look into having a video camera at annual meeting to collect comments about the value of conference from people with the intent to create a video for social media.*

MSC: Katherine, Jack

D. Lebanon 2015

The board accepts Lebanon Mennonite Church’s invitation to host the 2015 Annual Meeting.

2. Relationship with delegates & delegate time at Kalispell 2014?

- Reviewed responses from delegates to the letter Jeryl sent soliciting feedback about how to use delegate time, including what if any time/attention should be given to the issue of homosexuality and the Mennonite Church. The feedback consensus was to not give delegate time to this. This topic will be an option in the Open Spaces discussions.
- Some delegate time will be used to have the conversation that had been planned for the CCC which had to be canceled due to weather. “How can we strengthen relationships

and find value in our diversity in the midst of theological and ethical differences? What is the glue that holds us together?"

3. Western Mennonite School relationship Jennifer D.

There is no formal relationship between PNMC and Western Mennonite School. There is a strong historical relationship, but the current relationship is unclear.

Jennifer D will look into what sort of relationship exists between Western and MEA.

Katherine will explore our current with Western Mennonite.

4. Policies that need our attention:

- a) MCC board appointment;
 - b) Resource Advocate;
 - c) Bethel College Board appointment;
 - d) PNMC Archivist.
 - e) PNMC historian policy (which we have adopted.)
 - f) Re-writing the one on "Terminating membership."
 - g) Reviewing the resolution process
- No action taken.

Noon **Lunch break**

1:00 pm **Final thoughts and Closing**

- Jeryl expressed gratitude to the group for their work.
- Future board meetings: Annual Meeting, June 21 at supper
- Sept 12 & 13, 2014 in Portland
- Katherine appointed Jennifer Sottolano to be the conference's Resource Advocate.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda Dorsing, PNMC Secretary

To Do List:

- Harold contact a person with property management experience
- Katherine and Barb will oversee getting a video camera at conference to collect footage for a website video
- Jennifer D. will find out what the current relationship is between Western Mennonite School and MEA.
- Katherine will find out what defines our current relationship with Western Mennonite School.