

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Board Meeting

May 1-2, 2015

Pony Soldier Motel, Portland, OR

Present: Jennifer Delanty, moderator; Brett Tieszen (Saturday only), Wanda Dorsing, secretary; Sarah Hooley, Joseph Penner (Friday only), Dave Hockman-Wert, Todd Lehman, Jack Swaim,

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

Absent: Samuel Moran, moderator-elect; Nellie Ascencio

Agenda

Friday, May 1st

1:00 pm Jennifer invited the group to share about their mothers. She lead Dwelling in the Word using Luke 24:13-35.

2:00 pm Reporting/Updates

Executive Conference Minister Report - Katherine

- Katherine recently returned from a learning trip to the Middle East with others from PNMC and MC USA, including Dave and Nellie from the board.
- Katherine updated the board on pastoral transitions.
- Online Annual Meeting registration begins next week.
- Reviewed the upcoming calendar

PNMC Policy Updates & Revisions - Jennifer

- Brett has agreed to update financial policies with help from the newly formed Finance Team.
- Jennifer proposed minor revisions for two policies: Purchasing and Capital Addition (99-13) & Finance Team (2015-1).
- Jennifer & Barb will continue to work on making our policies current and bring to the board for review.

Gift Discernment Team Report & Ballot - Jennifer

Jennifer shared progress on finding people to serve in board appointed positions and for the ballot to be presented to delegates at Annual Meeting. One four-year board position is still unfilled.

Sanctuary/Peace Property Task Force Update - Joseph, Todd

The board reviewed a new working proposal for the relationship between PNMC and Anawim and Bethel. This new proposal suggests that PNMC enter into a long-term lease program with Anawim and Bethel. The board discussed how to further define details of the lease including specific expectations of Anawim and Bethel as co-lesors; how finances could be handled in a way that gives Anawim and Bethel management autonomy, but protects PNMC's fiduciary responsibility as the owner; what type of liability accompanies long-term leasing, and what period of time the lease would cover.

The Gift Discernment Team has identified a person to serve as property manager on behalf of PNMC who would meet monthly with Anawim and Bethel. Anawim and Bethel would likely meet more often on their own to work on routine management issues. Joseph and Todd will continue in the current direction, refining the proposal based on the board discussion and the anticipated interaction with the property manager. They will bring updated proposal to the next board meeting in September.

Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) Meeting Report - Katherine, Jennifer

- Kathrine was appointed to be Vice-moderator for the CLC; Jennifer D will be on the CLC Listening Committee
- Ruth Haley Barton presented about group discernment.
- The CLC considered seven draft resolutions and made recommendations to the Executive Board (EB) on which ones should be presented to the delegates at Kansas City. Four resolutions were recommended to the EB: Chicago/Reba, Endless War, Israel/Palestine, Resolution Five (concerning membership guidelines).

Chicago/Reba Resolution - Jennifer

The board discussed this resolution including what the term "forbearance" means, and what, if anything we want to do with this resolution at PNMC's Annual Meeting.

5:00 pm **Supper break**

7:00 pm **Difficult Scenario Deliberation - Jack**

With input from board members, Jack compiled a list of possible scenarios that could be encountered in our congregations and in our life as a conference regarding LGBTQ people. The board divided into two groups to consider how the Chicago/Reba resolution would guide us in each scenario (i.e. What would it mean to exercise forbearance?) Each group made notes to share with the other what was discussed.

Saturday, May 2nd

8:30 am After a time of sharing, Jennifer opened the meeting with prayer.

9:00 am **Difficult Scenario Deliberation Continued**
The board reviewed the outcomes of last night's discussion and board members gave feedback regarding their support (scale of 1-5) for the suggested meaning of forbearance in each scenario. Consensus was easily reached among those present. Jennifer will work with Samuel and Nellie to get their input.

Treasurer's Report and May Everence Workshop – Brett

- Income is below budget which is often the case this early in our fiscal year since churches give in lump sums, not monthly.
- Seed Northwest grant money was given to Anawim.
- Randy Friesen, Eugene Mennonite, and Darrel Wisseman, Bend Mennonite, have agreed to serve on the Finance Team.
- Katherine, Brett and one more person will attend Everence's "Creating Congregational Culture of Generosity" workshop. Suggestions were made as to who the third attendee might be.

Discernment of PNMC Delegate Time at Annual Meeting

The board discussed how PNMC delegates might engage with the Chicago-Reba resolution at our Annual Meeting. The board considered if delegate time should be spent on any of the other four resolutions that were recommended to the EB at the CLC and concluded that delegate time would likely not be spent on those. The board brainstormed on other things delegates might work on. It was noted that providing direction to table leaders would benefit the table discussion process.

Noon **Lunch break**

1:00 pm Taking Action and Setting Direction

MOTION:

The board accepts the following policies as ammended: Purchasing & Capital Addition (Policy NO: 99-13) and Fianance Team (Policy NO: 2015-1).

MSC: Jack, Sarah

MOTION:

The board accepts the Gift Discernment Team's report including people to serve in board-appointed positions and nominees for affirmation by PNMC delegates.

MSC: Jack, Todd

2:00 pm A date for the September meeting will be decided at the Annual Meeting in June.
Jennifer closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda Dorsing,
PNMC Secretary