

PNMC Board Meeting December 11 & 12, 2015

Friday, December 11, 1 p.m.

Present: Katherine Jameson-Pitts, Jennifer Delanty, Matt Yoder, Brett Tieszen, Kathleen Aeschliman, Sarah Hooley, Jack Swaim, Todd Lehman, Tom Brenneman

Absent: Barb Buxman, Nelly Moran-Ascencio

Welcome and Prayer

-Jennifer led us in the midday prayer from p. 126 of *Pursuing God's Will Together*.

Opening Ice Breaker

-Katherine led us as we shared an "I am from ..." poem.

Dwelling in the Word

-Todd shared from Matt. 11, the final verses. He asked us to concentrate on a word that comes to us as he reads, then share our thoughts about this word.

Where We Currently Stand

-Jennifer presented information concerning the **Governance Process** (found in **Policies for the PNMC Board**). This is to help us understand our role in decision making for the conference.

-Jennifer presented two updated documents to add to our Board Documents notebooks. These are titled **Reimbursement for Use of Personal Vehicles** and **Resolutions Process**.

-We looked at the **Potentially Difficult Scenarios** document from May 1-2, 2015. There are a number of MC-USA congregations/conferences that appear to be leaving MC-USA and a few have indicated that they may PNMC. This document helps us to look at things that could happen, think through some scenarios and also be aware of what changes have occurred since May 2015.

-We reviewed the **CIHAN report** submitted by Nelly Moran-Ascencio.

Appointment of PNMC Moderator-Elect

Samuel Moran's recent resignation as Moderator-Elect creates a vacancy. Board member Jack Swaim is willing to fill Samuel's position, then serve as Moderator for 2016-18. The Board unanimously affirmed appointing Jack to this position. We will defer filling Jack's board position until June when other new members will be selected.

Executive Conference Minister Report— See the attached report.

-Katherine shared her report, and she also shared a desire to take a sabbatical next summer from July 1-Aug. 28. She will have completed 4 years as ECM by this summer. The Board affirms and encourages Katherine to do this.

Treasurer's Report & Presentation of FY 2017 Budget— See the attached report.

- Brett shared the Budget vs Actual giving report. Although giving is behind, he isn't worried much about meeting the budget as he is aware of some money that will soon be received and we have adequate reserves.

-Brett presented and explained the FY 2017 draft budget. We still have a deficit budget, but it is closer to balanced than the current year's budget.

-It was moved and seconded to accept the FY 2017 budget. The Board unanimously accepted the motion. The Board thanks Brett for his careful and diligent work. Brett also shared that he has been taking classes at Portland State University working toward getting a CPA license.

Discussion of the Sanctuary/Peace Property Arrangement

Update by Todd:

-Todd's next meeting with the Peace property tenants is Monday (Dec. 14).

-Todd's goal is to bring a proposal agreed to by both groups to the Board in February.

-It was pointed out that PNMC has liability for anything that happens on the property.

Report from Brett regarding potential options for the property:

-Brett reported on conversations regarding the zoning of the property for uses beyond a church building. It is currently zoned single family residential with an exemption for religious use.

-Any other use would require a zoning change which the city of Gresham is unlikely to approve.

Discussion and ideas:

- There's a feeling of obligation to the 2 PNMC groups who share the property.
- There are currently 4 individuals who pay rent to use the facility at various times.
- The one-page legal agreement we now have is inadequate. We should have a better legal agreement with each of the 4 parties who rent the property.
- Will the memo of understanding cover liability issues or do we need an additional document to do this?
- We need a legal opinion to at least cover the minimum requirements concerning liability for this specific property and its usage.
- There needs to be visible signs of the rules of property use (i.e. no weapons, no drunkenness, etc.).

Conclusions:

- A memo of understanding and a lease agreement with all 4 tenants needs to be done now.
- Todd will speak with Andy Wade about liability issues and continue working on the memo of understanding with the tenants that will satisfy the needs of property management and security, and he'll also talk with Gerry Langstraat about legal liability issues and have him talk to Jennifer, who will draw up a lease agreement for 6 months for each of the tenants.
- Todd will communicate the memo of understanding for our Feb. meeting as soon as it has been worked out.

Saturday, December 12, 8:30 a.m.

Opening sharing and prayer

- Jennifer read from Phil. 1: 3-11.
- We shared concerns and praises and prayed a morning prayer together.

Discussion of January 2016 Conference Communications Council and June 2016 Annual Meeting

Conference Communications Council

Katherine shared a draft schedule and thoughts of what is needed. It includes:

- Being in fellowship, sharing together, and relationship building is important.
- We will be talking about membership both in the congregation and the conference together. Can a congregation be a friend if not a member? What does it mean to be an Anabaptist congregation?
- We also will spend some time processing what happened at Lebanon last summer. It would be helpful to share things the Board has been doing—scenario discussions, conversations with some congregations, report from CIHAN about their feelings, allow people to express concerns, allow Board to convey that things are changing but not falling apart, help congregations become healthy and share the good news around the world, share what has happened since Lebanon in different congregations (provide a broader perspective about what is/has occurred)
- The meeting is at Salem; we probably want to sit 6 per table.
- Date is Jan. 9.

June 2016 Annual Meeting Discussion and Suggestions

- This is at Zion Mennonite Church the last weekend of June. (24-25)
- Katherine has met with the leadership of Zion and reports that they are enthusiastic about the annual meeting.
- Main goal of the Board is helping congregations be healthy congregations. What can we do at annual meeting that meets this goal?
- What could congregations share that they're doing well and also what help do they need? If we know this before June, it could help us get topics that are most wanted by congregations.
- Appreciative inquiry as a model to do church evaluations in a constructive way.

Other possible topics:

- Dealing with land justice, doctrine of discovery, environmental issues.
- Dealing with conflict without falling apart.
- Addressing rural and small town decline in the churches—Matt could work with others to present possible solutions to this problem.
- Possible speakers: Alan and Eleanor Kreider, Dwight Friesen (member at Evergreen), Chuck Neufelt, Meghan Good, Tom and Lois Harder, Patty Shelley, Dave Boshart, Marlene Kropf (please excuse any name misspellings)
- Possibly have a concert Friday night

Next Meetings

- Feb. 12-13** in Portland, 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- April 29-30** in Portland, 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.