

# PNMC Board Meeting

## April 29 & 30, 2016

Friday, April 29, 2 p.m.

**Present:** Katherine Jameson-Pitts, Jennifer Delanty, Brett Tieszen, Kathleen Aeschliman, Sarah Hooley, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Jack Swaim, Todd Lehman, Tom Brenneman

**Absent:** Matt Yoder, Barb Buxman

### Welcome and Prayer

-Brenda and Tony Kauffman welcomed us to DCC with scones and coffee/tea. Jennifer led us in an opening prayer.

### Dwelling in the Word

-Jennifer led us in reading I Peter 5: 1-10 three separate times with discussion questions for each reading.

### Executive Conference Minister Report—Katherine

-By the end of June Katherine will have visited 80% of the conference leadership teams. She plans to visit the other 20% after her sabbatical.

See Katherine's EMC Report—Notes on her report below

-Human sexuality and membership in conference is still an issue, though it's not a "loud" issue at this time.

-DP question—District pastor expectations/job descriptions grown, which has made more work and less comfort for the district pastors. Jack suggested that Katherine evaluate the DP system as to how it helps her do her job.

-Todd suggested that the conference have one person to help resource congregations for pastoral reviews. Learning to use appreciative inquiry as a way to review pastors would be most helpful.

-Katherine would like to have an Ethics Training every 4-5 years.

### Treasurer's Report—Brett (see Brett's reports)

-We are a little behind on giving toward the budget, but Brett feels that congregations will "catch up".

-The Finance Committees trying to figure what to do concerning questions on its investment policy. For example, we have about \$270,000 in a money market fund. Should we move it to other investment accounts or should we have the money available as in the money market fund.

-Should we rework the Seed Northwest fund? The assets in this fund are cash available. There has only been one request so far. Is there a better way to set up this fund so it is used as intended?

### CIHAN Report—Nelly

-Nelly shared a letter (see the letter for more detail) from all the remaining pastors of CIHAN. This letter has been shared with the CIHAN churches.

-The word "forbearance" has been poorly translated into Spanish as "tolerance" instead of "patience"; it has since been corrected on the website.

-A question CIHAN churches are discussing: "Will they stay together as a group (CIHAN) or pull apart and be individual congregations in PNMC?"

-Jennifer and Katherine are meeting with CIHAN pastors on Saturday, May 7, at Calvary Mennonite Church to help arrive at a good understanding of "forbearance".

### Deliberation for and Discernment of Our Response

1. Mountain States Mennonite Conference is seeking our counsel about ordaining Pastor Theda Good at the request of her First Mennonite of Denver congregation.

-We decided that Katherine and Jennifer will write a letter response. In it we want to thank them for asking for our counsel, tell them we're praying for them to find what's right for them and trusting them to find God's will, to express that conferences are autonomous and this is their decision, and to remind them that this decision will also affect us. We ask them to please keep us in consideration as they make their decision.

2. Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society (PNMHS) are requesting an annual donation from PNMC of \$2,000 to help offset their \$600 monthly expenses.

-Brett recommended giving a one-time “grant” of \$6,000 and asking PNMHS to come back in 3 years with a new request/recommendation for future funding. Brett’s suggestion was approved by the board. PNMHS will be asked to report on the level of usage by congregations, the conference, and the wider population.

### **Sanctuary/Peace Property Update**

Updates by Todd: (see the Draft of Sanctuary Memo of Understanding)

-After the memo of understanding was completed and accepted by all parties, they began to look at replacing some lights in the sanctuary and doing some painting.

-To Todd’s knowledge, things between Anawim and Bethel are going well. Having structure with clear expectations is helping the relationship between the 2 groups.

-Jennifer will contact Steve about having a lawyer help Travis get his disability benefits.

-There will be another meeting in May. Todd will have them talk about some maintenance projects and will talk to Steve about Travis and Nancy needing to vacate the property.

Report from Brett regarding potential options for the property:

-Since the signing of the lease, Brett has not worked more on the possibility of selling or developing the property. As he has time in the future, Brett will look more into possibilities.

### **Zion 2016 Annual Meeting and Presentation of the Ballot**

1. Ballot (see the proposed ballot)

-We still need a Moderator-Elect (4-year term) and a Pastoral Leadership Team member to replace Meghan Good. The PLT term would expire in 2018.

2. Delegate Sessions

-There will be a prayer team led by Pat Shaver during the delegate sessions.

-Delegates may be asked to re-imagine or restructure the Seed Northwest program or think of a better way to use the money already in the program that will follow the guidelines of the gift.

-Affinity groups during the second session to talk about topics that are a passion for them. This would also provide an opportunity for Katherine to explain again what a passion-based ministry really is. Four suggested groups are:

1. Seed NW Money for outreach—How can it best be used? (Brett)
2. Professional development/theological education opportunities (Todd)
3. Revisioning our Annual Meeting (Katherine)
4. What should PNMC look like in 10 years? (Jack)

There should also time for groups to report back to the larger assembly.

## **Saturday, April 30**

### **Opening sharing and prayer**

-Jennifer led us in this time.

### **Assistance for Annual Meeting registration**

-Registration fee is \$125. We recommended and accepted that the first representative from each congregation will receive a \$50 discount. The income realized by the annual meeting can cover the reduced cost.

### **What do we do if the LGBTQ issue comes up in the delegate meeting?**

-Katherine will include where we are in this issue in her report. If the issue comes up, we will listen and attempt to steer the meeting back to the agenda. We are asking conference members to “look forward” and “look outward” rather than looking inward this year.

### **Katherine's Sabbatical** (refer to Katherine's Sabbatical Planning paper)

-On Katherine's plan, she proposes how DPs and Barb Buxman can assist congregations while she is gone by allowing for additional hours.

-The board approved Katherine's proposal.

### **Leadership Transition from Jennifer to Jack:**

-Thanks to Jennifer and Sarah who are both leaving since their terms have ended.

-The new board will try to meet for lunch on Saturday at the annual meeting.

### **Other Business**

-Katherine and Jennifer will be contacting us about:

1. The letter to Mountain States Mennonite Conference
2. The Moderator-Elect appointment

-Jack would like to set up phone one-on-one meetings with each of us for input on:

1. The direction of PNMC (what's going well, what needs change)
2. How we operate as a board.
3. Communications with the board and through Evangel, etc.

-Jack would like to have a "rolling calendar" for 12 months which would be updated each time we meet. This would help us look at big topics, both predictable things and also things that may be popping up. We would have a scheduled time to address topics so we don't neglect something. He'd also like to have at least one meeting using a video conference.

### **Next Meetings**

-Fall: October 7/8 at Albany or October 9/10 (Sunday and Monday). This still has to be decided.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55.