

**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting**  
**Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, Oregon**  
**June 24-25, 2016**

Friday, June 24, 2016

Delegate Session 10:30 A.M.

- Moderator Jennifer Delanty welcomed everyone to the delegate session. She led us in reading Psalm 107: 1-3 and followed with prayer.
- Storytelling at tables:
  - Jennifer assigned each table group to talk about the question: Where have you experienced hope and healing in the church? Jennifer shared a brief example of her story as an example for the group. Tables were allowed 30 minutes to tell their stories.
- Approval of 2015 Minutes:
  - Harold Nussbaum and Brent Kauffman moved and seconded the approval of the minutes. The group approved the motion.
- Reports to Delegates:
  - Soul of the Conference — Katherine Jameson Pitts
    - Katherine acknowledged that it has been a difficult year for the Mennonite Church.
      - Three conferences and several congregations have left MCUSA.
      - PNMC Board has wrestled with how to live as a diverse conference. We have reaffirmed that we will be a member conference of MCUSA and will work to support the individual congregations.
    - Katherine has committed to visit all of our member congregations. She has met with 28 congregations and has 6 to go. She has found that all congregations care deeply about worship, about our children, about filling the needs of less fortunate persons. We care deeply about each other, our differences and concerns. We seek to connect member congregations with each other and resources to meet their needs and support their missions. She sees that we have the gifts to be God's people in the Pacific Northwest.
    - District pastors Dave Stutzman and Al Lind have retired. Samuel Moran will work with Wendell Amstutz with CIHAN congregations. In the next year we'll look at the District Pastor model for evaluation and possible change for even more effectiveness.
    - Megan Ramer is welcomed as a pastor at Seattle Mennonite Church.
    - Jennifer Gingerich is welcomed as a newly ordained minister.
    - Pastor Clusters: We'll try having an on-line pastoral cluster beginning this fall
    - Katherine will begin a sabbatical on July 1. Gary Jewell and Bob Buxman will share in Katherine's duties until she returns. Also, Barb Buxman can direct any questions/problems to the appropriate person(s).
    - Pastoral Transitions:
      - First Mennonite of Aberdeen—seeking pastor
      - Portland Mennonite—seeking associate pastor
      - Prince of Peace Mennonite in Alaska—seeking pastor
      - River of Life and Albany Mennonite Churches are hiring transitional pastors.

### Financial Report — Brett Tieszen

- Brett shared his vision of using the Peace Mennonite (Sanctuary) property in Gresham to develop the property as housing for the poor. Gresham, however, is not interested in this type of housing, but a satisfactory agreement was reached with the 4 congregations/groups who use the facility, so at this time there is no further need for change.
- A gift from an estate was made to PNMC helping to balance the budget once again last year.

### CIHAN Report — Nelly Ascencio

- Nelly reported that after the Kansas meeting in July 2015, there was much anxiety in the CIHAN churches. Each congregation was encouraged to make their own decisions. Four congregations decided to stay in the PNMC as long as no changes are made to the adopted resolutions. One congregation has left PNMC (Woodburn) and also CIHAN membership. Another congregation is still in the decision process.
- Leaders of CIHAN will be meeting in August to discuss further how to respond to the decisions made in Kansas. Nelly asks for our prayers as CIHAN continues to deal with decisions made in Kansas.

### Gift Discernment Committee Report-Presentation of the Ballot — Jennifer Delanty

- Jennifer explained how each position is elected or appointed and why this is an affirmation ballot and there are no “choices” on the ballot.
- Jennifer presented each person on the ballot and read a short biography about each one. She also shared biographical information about persons who were appointed to positions by the board.  
**(Ballot attached)**
- The ballot will be voted for approval at our session tomorrow.

Matt Yoder blessed our lunch and dismissed us from our morning session.

## Saturday, June 25

### Delegate Session 1 p.m.

- Vote on Ballot - Ballots were dispersed to delegates, marked, and collected.
- Breakout Groups and Sharing—The following groups were formed and a short summary of each group’s report to the delegates follows.
- **Using the SEED fund**
  - Communication from and to churches about what they are doing would help us to know how to use the existing framework for the fund.
- **Education and Equipping**
  - Need for leadership training for elders/deacons within congregations on a regular basis since new persons are moving into these positions often
  - Resourcing smaller congregations is a need
  - Communicating better the resources available to congregations and pastors
- **Re-imagining Annual Meeting**
  - Improved communication would be helpful in the future
  - If we want this to be more than a place to do business, we need to re-brand the whole thing

- **Looking into the Future**

- An appreciation of our community together was expressed
- Don't want to lose our diversity
- Want more youth and young people involved as well as the many "gray hairs"

Sharing from Pat Shaver about the prayer team

- Pat shared the following:
  - She was very thankful for the thoughtful recommendations from pastors for the team.
  - The team felt very nervous at first but felt God's presence as they prayed for us and our time together.
  - Many of the team felt how much God loves us all as they were praying.
  - The team heard from different persons and different languages on the team and it was an experience similar to Ruth and Naomi (*2 persons from different cultures united in love and devotion to each other*).
  - Pat also shared how she was healed after 2 knee replacements and 14 months of recuperation. She was miraculously able to walk at the Kansas City convention in 2015 as a member of the prayer team. She encourages us to tell the story when we feel that God has guided us and astonished us in answering our prayers.

Leadership Transition:

- Jennifer's Report
  - The Board studied 4 scriptures during meetings this past year: John 9 (who caused this man to be born blind) ; Matthew 11: 28-30 (discussed loss of congregations from MCUSA and some other individuals) ; Luke 9 (transfiguration —PNMC has witnessed transformation in our midst this past year—how do we maintain unity of spirit in today's differences) ; I Peter 5 (we discussed how we can fulfill this scripture as leaders of the conference)
  - Jennifer also reported on a good meeting with CIHAN leadership in which she and Katherine listened and shared about how to balance forbearance and following the guidelines decided by MCUSA.
  - Iris de León-Hartshorn prayed for the Board.
  - New moderator Jack Swaim was given a prayer shawl made by Joann Miller as a gift.
  - Jack presented Jennifer with a book of poetry as a gift of appreciation for her service.
- Results of Ballot - new board members have been approved by the delegates
- Announcements
  - Next annual meeting will be **June 24-25, 2017** (tentatively)
  - **February 4, 2017**, is Conference Communications Council in Albany
  - **December 4 & 5, 2016** will be a pastor/spouse retreat sponsored by Everence
- Closing Prayer - Jack Swaim, our new moderator, led us in prayer to close the delegate session.

**PNMC BALLOT**  
**2016 Annual Meeting, Zion Mennonite Church**  
**2016-17 Board of Directors Candidates**

Nominees for Affirmation by Delegates for the Following Positions are:

Moderator-Elect, 4 Year Term

Term expires 2020

Todd Lehman, Salem Mennonite Church

Board of Directors, At-Large Member, 4 Year Term

Term expires 2020

Janet Szabo, Mountain View Mennonite Church

Gift Discernment Team, 1 Year Term

Term expires 2017

Brent Kauffman, Lebanon Mennonite Church

Joseph Penner, Salem Mennonite Church