

PNMC Board Meeting, Friday, January 6, 2017, at Courtyard Plaza at Mt. Tabor, Portland, OR

Present: Jack Swaim, Katherine Jameson Pitts, Twila Lehman, Todd Lehman, Brett Tieszen, Kathleen Aeschliman, Janet Szabo, Jan Yoder, Barb Buxman, Jennifer Delanty, Tom Brenneman

Absent: Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Jenna Schlegel-Preheim

Welcome and Prayer — Jack

Opening “Ice Breaker” — Janet asked us to tell where we grew up and something noteworthy about it.

Devotional — Twila shared how she has chosen a word for a focus for the year since 2011. She was inspired to do this by Meghan Good. The words she has chosen over the years are: listen, rest, joy, give, transition, gratitude, and this year contentment (Philippians 4: 11-13). She challenged us to think of a word for ourselves for the coming year.

Review Minutes from Board Meetings in October and December — Jack

- Minutes for the December 2016 meeting were approved.
- Gift Discernment Team update—The team will present a slate for approval at the board’s April meeting. The approved slate will then be presented to PNMC delegates at the June annual meeting. Positions to fill because terms are being completed in June are as follows: (a) 1 board member, (b) Treasurer, (c) 2 members for the Pastoral Leadership Team (1 clergy, 1 layperson), (d) 2 persons for the Gift Discernment Team, and (e) 1 person for the WC MCC Board.

Executive Conference Minister Report — Katherine

- Katherine shared highlights of her written report. She also shared a PNMC Congregations update including a letter of withdrawal from River of Life Fellowship.
- PNMC staff met in November and decided to suspend publication of Evangel and to strengthen the on-line E-Bulletin.
- Seed Northwest grants—Katherine shared that no one has yet filled out the one-page application.
- Constituency Leadership Council—They met in October. Eastern District and Franconia conferences are considering a merger. Ohio Conference has decided that their member churches can choose whether to be members of MCUSA or not. There was discussion of credentialing a gay pastor who has a relationship, but no action was taken. Mountain States has now ordained a lesbian pastor who has a relationship. There was conversation about what to do with gays and lesbians in congregations. MC Canada is shifting its resources and putting more into regional church groups and less into the central organization.
- Sexual misconduct—It’s been pointed out that our MCUSA structure has very little power to handle sexual misconduct in the church. On the national level, training of conference ministers has been variable and inconsistent. Work is needed to establish consistency.
- Work on processing resolutions was done. It was decided that resolutions for the national meeting can be presented at anytime in a biennium, but that only 3 resolutions will be worked on at a national meeting.
- CLC is working on a way of delegates discussing what the church of the future should look like and how to get more delegate involvement.
- In March 2017 the CLC will have the person who will be working with delegates in Orlando come to the CLC and help them practice the large group intervention.

Sanctuary/Peace Property Update — Todd and Brett

Current Use of the Property

- The Memo of Understanding from April 2016 has worked fairly well until Steve Kimes stepped down from leadership of Anawim late in 2016. There have been a number of complaints, including complaints about a person distributing drugs from the red barn. Actions toward resolution are proceeding, in cooperation with local authorities and other stakeholders.

- Todd met with city representatives about the chronic nuisance complaint that has been filed against the property. Property needs such as lack of lighting, securing the sanctuary building, and clearing unwanted plants to make the property less inviting to criminal activity were discussed. The city wants us to have a licensed security guard on the property 24/7. Todd will propose a modification of this, and he is working with the Property Management Committee on resolving the nuisance complaint as well as on other current use matters including those in the bullet points below.
- Simon and Lucy will move into the house on the property sometime in January. Simon has begun taking on some of the maintenance requirements. He has proposed installing a chain-link fence in the front of the property.
- Amanda Murphy Reese, a new Anawim board member and Co-President, has said that Anawim won't provide services for the homeless on the property until the property is secured.
- Casa de Dios, one of the tenants who use the sanctuary, has agreed to lower the volume of their music in response to neighborhood complaints.
- A few persons who have keys to the sanctuary (parts of Anawim) have been using it on some nights in violation of the rental agreement.
- The facility won't be used as an organized warming shelter until the problems above are resolved. We need to make sure that it isn't operated informally until then.

Future Use of the Property

- Questions: Do we want to continue to rent the property to Anawim since it is no longer a congregation? Do we have a "pulse" of the congregations in PNMC about any vision or involvement individuals or congregations might have regarding a homeless ministry, such as a VS unit?
- Sanctuary Project—Brett has been investigating alternative uses of the sanctuary property. He shared a concept plot that contains 60 affordable living units as well as multi-use spaces including a space for sanctuary use.
- On Monday, January 9, the architect and Rob will meet with the city of Gresham to discuss the proposal of housing for the property and other possibilities.
- Brett has been in contact with PHC Northwest, a group that works to provide low-income housing that may be interested in heading this project if the city of Gresham approves it. They are very busy right now and Brett is not sure about their commitment to working with us on the project.
- Jack proposed that we should get the property appraised by 2 separate appraisers so we can have a market value of the property. The board agreed that this is appropriate. Katherine will take care of this. The appraisers will be asked what the property is worth if sold to a church, sold to a developer, or sold to a private individual.
- Todd has had an inquiry about the property from a church in the area that wants to expand. They would want to sell their current property before offering to buy the sanctuary property.
- Of the alternatives we discussed, the preference of the board is to pursue the 60-unit affordable housing proposal and preferably lease it out long term (PNMC would no longer manage the property). This would give PNMC a steady income along with providing much needed housing in the area. The second choice is to try to sell the property so we are no longer property managers.

CIHAN Report — There was no report due to Nelly's being absent (she was ill and we wish her speedy recovery).

Treasurer's Report — Brett

- Brett presented the budget. There were 2 changes to the draft budget from the December 2016 meeting. In the past, Katherine has been paying her social security as a self-employed person, resulting in paying both the employer and employee taxes for this. To help cover the extra cost, the board is paying an extra amount (about \$4,500 to \$5,000) in salary and allowing Katherine to have 1/2 go to retirement and 1/2 toward FICA support. The second change was a motion made that the compensation for Katherine shall include \$30,000 per year designated as housing allowance. This designation shall be effective until

modified by the board. The motion was moved, seconded, and approved. Another motion and second to pass the budget as presented was passed unanimously.

- PNMC net assets as of today = \$209,532. Brett says this makes our deficit budget less stressful. However, we need to make some changes so a deficit budget doesn't continue, since it isn't sustainable in the long term.

Due to the onset of bad weather, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. and the Saturday portion was cancelled and moved to February 4th.

Future meetings and information:

February 4

- CCC meeting at Albany Mennonite Church on Feb. 4 from 9-3. Board members need to register on-line (see the E-Bulletin). Here is a link for registration: <https://pnmc.org/ccc-registration/>
- After CCC, the Board will meet on Feb. 4 from 4-8 p.m. at the church to continue unfinished business from the Jan. 6, 2017, meeting.

April 7-8

- Next Board meeting
- Location TBD (Barb has the lead)

June 23-24

- PNMC Annual Meeting
- Location: Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA