

## PNMC Board Meeting, Friday, April 7 & 8, 2017, at Courtyard Plaza at Mt. Tabor, Portland, OR

Present: Jack Swaim, Katherine Jameson Pitts, Brett Tieszen, Kathleen Aeschliman, Janet Szabo and Twila Lehman (via Zoom), Jenna Schlegel-Preheim, Jan Yoder, Barb Buxman, Tom Brenneman

Absent: Nelly Moran-Ascencio

**Welcome and Prayer** — Jack shared a prayer from Pursuing God's Will Together.

**Opening "Ice Breaker"** — Jenna asked us to share about the first person we knew who stood with vulnerable people.

**Dwelling in the Word** — Katherine led us in three readings of Luke 10: 30-36 and 38-42 and discussion of what these passages meant to us.

**Review Minutes from Board Meetings in October and December** — Jack

- Minutes for the February 2017 meeting were approved.

**Gift Discernment Team update** —

- Jack shared a spreadsheet that shows team members, their roles, and their term length.
- Jack shared the Gift Discernment Team Report that has recommendations for elected and appointed positions. He also presented a spreadsheet that shows team members after the board affirmed the persons nominated.
- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that **the board affirms the elected positions and appointed positions presented**.

**Executive Conference Minister Report**

- Katherine shared her report.
- Katherine shared that there is an overall decline in attendance in our congregations, although a few congregations are experiencing growth in participation and membership
- Katherine noted that about a third of our pastors attended the Pastor/Spouse financial education event hosted by Everence at Skamania Lodge in March.

**Sanctuary/Peace Property Update** — Jack, Barb, and Brett

- Earlier, 8-10 years ago, there was a vision that International Bethel City Church and Anawim would eventually own the property; but that vision is not being realized.
- Brett has looked into making much of the property into affordable/innovative housing.
- Travis is still on the property and has not yet been evicted. There have been continuing complaints from neighbors about his use of meth and that he is also dealing it. Anawim doesn't appear to be a Mennonite congregation any more since Steve has resigned. It now appears to be a benevolent organization that wishes to work with the homeless. PNMC (through Katherine) is trying to resolve whether the group wants to be a congregation and involve itself with us or does not. Because Travis lives in the barn/shed on the property, the city has instructed us to put in a nuisance abatement plan. Also, we have found out that each time the police are called to the property, it costs PNMC \$500.
- Jack signed the nuisance abatement plan earlier, but many of the things have not been done and several fines have accumulated.
- Barb is now going to be our board representative with the Property Management Committee.

**CIHAN Report** — Nelly sent a report.

- Along with the report, CIHAN sent a "recommendations for action to the congregations" of PNMC. (attached) A motion passed that: **The PNMC Board supports the recommendations for action and encourages all congregations to support and participate in these actions**. Katherine will send a formal letter of response and support to CIHAN concerning this and will ask if it's okay to post the recommendations on the website.

### Treasurer's Report — Brett

- If we didn't have the Peace property, we would have had a \$200+ surplus; however, the Peace property expense caused a deficit of \$14,000+. (See Peace Campus Funds 300106 of year-end balance sheet, which were used to cover all Peace property expenses.) Brett will explain this on his 1-page annual report for June.
- Brett pointed out the amount of total cash in our accounts (\$437,000+). He recommends investing about 1/2 of this money in higher yielding accounts than what they are now. He forecasts that we may have no reserves in the near future. It was moved, seconded, and approved that: **The PNMC Board authorizes Barb Buxman and/or Brett Tieszen to invest not more than \$300,000 in investments including but not limited to certificate(s) of deposit, bond funds, and/or equities.**

### Vision for the Future (Discussion)

- As a summary of previous discussions, the theme "We stand with our neighbors" seems to fit what PNMC would like to work toward for the future (next 10 years).
- Finding ways for people and congregations to hear/share each others' stories is another goal or theme that delegates could work at for each time they get together or post on the PNMC website — could each congregation commit to something in common (working with immigration issues, etc.). If every congregation commits to a common goal, then the stories of how this was done can be shared at the following PNMC annual meeting.
- The above statements tie in with the themes "love builds up" and "love is a verb".

### Dates of Future Meetings

Those present agreed on these dates, and later they were confirmed by email with Jeryl and Nelly.

- June 23-24 at Menno Mennonite in Ritzville, WA
- September 29-30
- December 8-9
- Board Meeting February 9, with CCC February 10, 2018
- April 13-14 or April 20-21
- June 21-23 Annual Meeting in Boise, ID