

PNMC Conference Communications Council

Roll Call — Compiled by Barb

Conference Reporting/Updates

-Jack reported on Katherine's review and covenant of understanding. She received strong affirmation and she will be our ECM for another 3 years.

-Jack reported that the Peace Mennonite Church has been sold. A team from the board made up of Brett, Jack, Katherine, and Jenna will be looking at how to invest the money gained from the sale of this property and will present their findings to the board in April.

-Brett shared financial updates on our previous fiscal year and compared the budget vs. actual giving. Long-term trends show that giving is going down while expenses also are going down but not as fast. We recommend investing the Peace property sale money to help PNMC's financial sustainability.

Future Church Summit and Journey Forward

1. Background and Review of Report — Katherine presented the purpose and many questions discussed at the Future Church Summit. She reported that there was a delegate report resolution as a result. She reported that there was a chaotic response to the resolution and how the report would be used. However, the resolution was passed. Conferences and congregations are asked to begin a contextual discernment.

2. Table conversations about PNMC context — Katherine asked table groups to discuss one or both of the following questions and then to report back to the group.

a. What does it mean for us to follow Jesus as Anabaptists in the 21st Century in the Pacific Northwest?

b. What are important things we do together — in PNMC and MC USA?

Responses: We meet needs, work on peace and justice; we pay attention to social issues such as racial issues, undocumented immigrants; work at training our youth, work at willingness to change and adjust, while being attentive to a living Jesus in this present context; we meet together in different ways—we share faith and commitment together, come together to make decisions, to hold ourselves accountable to common

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theological beliefs; we follow the Book (text); we have a desire to be faithful; we want to know how to respond to the injustices that we're aware of today; we proclaim the gospel of salvation; we network people together; we support pastors' needs; we seek to model Jesus as an outward faced, inviting community; we focus outward; we interact with other cultures and faiths; we work at creation care on a scriptural basis; we try to provide support to the reactionism of our nation right now; we try to keep Christ as the foundation as we practice Anabaptism; we try to create alternative communities in our dominant culture; we seek to live differently by following Christ.

3. The Journey Forward (the next steps)

— Jack reported on Future Church Summit themes and how information will be shared with conferences and churches and how feedback will be returned to the Writing Team for the Journey Forward. Eventually, shared information will be consolidated and shared at Kansas 2019. There are 4 broad themes of the Renewed Commitments for MC USA that Jack shared.

— Katherine asked tables to discuss the questions listed below, to respond to each one, and return responses to her.

4. Response to the document

a. Can you identify with the commitments in this *Renewed Commitments* document within your particular context as a conference, congregation, or affinity group? If so, in what way(s)?

Responses: A statement like this is more honest since we have differences in our response to the confession of faith; listening, transformation, allowing in people on the edges, diversity coming together in worship, structural implications will be a ball of wax; the commitments seem written to be unobjectionable; it's good to review and renew our commitments, the statements seem to be written as boundaries rather than open spaces; need for stronger language as to what we need, seems to focus more on social matters than spiritual; the 3 main points seem to be working in congregations already; we wondered what the purpose of the first statement is, does it bring congregations together in a time of conflict by focusing on things we have in common, what is the theological rationale behind this; we found things that we disagreed with, such as baptism, peace, a call to be truly radical, is this a human-centered document, not a transforming one, does it marginalize people.

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b. Are there any core beliefs that are central to our Christian witness and Anabaptist identity that need to be either added or expounded upon from your perspective?

Responses were to be written down and handed in.

c. In what practical ways can this document be used as a resource to your conference, congregation, or affinity group?

Responses: Sunday school classes, membership classes, examine and keep what is good, share with those who are interested in joining our congregation, response to militarism, call to repentance and renewal, use to intro MC USA to new persons, is this a value or vision statement, maybe it doesn't explain well who MC USA is, might be helpful to make decisions as a church board about stewarding resources, etc.

d. What is your prayer for the church as we move through the Journey Forward process in the next two years?

Responses were shared back as prayers.

5. Next Steps

— Jack spoke about the study guide process, explaining that it can be a 4-week or 12-week process. Each session will have a common structure. The themes are Identity and Context, Follow Jesus, Witness to God's Peace, and Experience Transformation. Each of these themes has 3 possible sessions.

Our meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.