

## **PNMC Board Meeting, Apr. 20, 2018, at College Church of the Nazarene and via ZOOM**

Present: Jack Swaim, Katherine Jameson Pitts, Twila Lehman, Jan Yoder, Barb Buxman, Jenna Schlegel-Preheim, Jeryl Hollinger, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Brett Tieszen, Tom Brennehan, Kathleen Aeschliman (via ZOOM)

Absent: Janet Szabo

**Welcome and Prayer** — Jack opened our meeting, held at the College Church of the Nazarene in Nampa, Idaho.

**Devotional** — Jeryl read from John 17:20-23, the prayer Jesus prayed. A discussion followed. What does “being one” mean? What is Jesus praying for? We also read from I Corinthians 10:16-17, Colossians 3:15, and Ephesians 4:1-6.

**Focus Topic: Endowment Fund Proposal** — As agreed in our February 2018 board meeting, a committee comprised of Brett, Jenna, Katherine and Jack prepared a proposal for board consideration. Proposal (in summary):

1. Establish a \$650,000 sustainability fund (an endowment)
2. Establish a “healthy congregations grant fund” of \$50,000. Our ECM will manage requests. The fund will probably be expended within 10-15 years.
3. Use the Eugene gift of about \$80,000 for church development and growth. This gift has some restrictions, so it doesn’t have quite the flexibility of the healthy congregations grant fund. If there is an overlap on a request, we would try to use the Eugene gift if the request meets the gift restrictions.
4. Partner with Everence Financial Advisors to manage the funds on behalf of PNMC.

Discussion, and Implementation Questions:

—Overview question: Is it possible to put another \$100,000 into the sustainability fund from our other PNMC account balance from which we pay bills (our “liquid” fund)? Brett feels that we can do this but feels more comfortable to have money readily available.

—Is there a cost to establish the fund? This depends on how much is invested. In our case there would be no up-front fee.

—What happens to the interest in the sustainability fund? Brett feels (based on Everence input) that we can count on a 4% net gain in investment, and it will cost under 1% per year for management. We can pull what we need, but plan to pull about 4% per year to add to our PNMC bank account to be used in meeting our yearly budget.

—Who has the authority to manage these funds, especially for #2 and 3 of the proposal? How do we make changes when needed? Jack feels that this is a board decision after a recommendation from the treasurer. The moderator and treasurer would have the authority to deal with Everence. Brett suggests that at least 2 persons authorize with Everence for investment changes, and that at least once per year the board reviews the funds and has an opportunity to make change proposals at this time. We may need to add a policy that documents our process to our Policies and Procedures book.

—Should we be thinking about how to grow these funds (estate gifts, etc.)? There is concern that local congregations or potential givers may decide that PNMC has enough money and they don’t need to give as much as in the past for sustaining our budget. We need to continue emphasizing that our proposal is an attempt to get our yearly budget in the black and would not be sustainable if congregations and other givers decided not to give (we need both to keep in the black).

—Also, we want to keep separate accounts on our funds because some assets will be more liquid with a lower anticipated yield, and some assets will be a less liquid long-term investment with higher anticipated yield. It is also better to ask persons to give to the “healthy congregations” fund rather than add to the Eugene fund because the healthy congregations fund has fewer restrictions.

Additional questions were raised: What is the best way to communicate with our congregations about these funds? What will be the criteria for requests for funds and how and when will requests be determined?

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Motion: We approve the proposal and we will work out the implementation details recorded above. The board unanimously approved the proposal. They also decided to ask the same committee to work on the details; and Jeryl will join the group.

### **Reports**

***Gift Discernment Team (GDT)*** — Jack presented the candidates slate for ballot at annual meeting in Boise in June of this year. He also presented a matrix of present PNMC positions and timing of service and an updated version of the matrix if the persons submitted by the Gift Discernment Team are elected.

It was moved that the Board affirm the GDT report, and the Board unanimously approved the motion. The person to become Moderator Elect still needs to be found and the GDT continues to search.

We discussed the difficulty of finding a moderator elect. One thought was to consider finding co-moderator elects. The Board is open to consider this possibility. A thought was also shared that the GDT go back over the list of persons who have already refused to see if they would reconsider.

Jack will let all persons on the proposed ballot know that they have been affirmed by the Board.

### ***CIHAN Report***

Nelly presented her report. One of the main concerns in the report is how PNMC will support CIHAN pastors if they refuse to perform a same-sex marriage. Katherine explained that PNMC supports pastors not doing anything that they feel is wrong. As to the danger of a lawsuit, Katherine states that no church has been sued yet for this type of refusal. Katherine believes the ACLU would take this case if someone tried to force a pastor/church to do this.

Katherine will write a supportive response to CIHAN and include that the Board affirms this. Katherine will circulate this response to the Board and will also distribute this to other congregations as well as CIHAN.

CIHAN and Mennonite Women thanked the board for the approving the Revised Sister Care Grant Proposal and sending a check for \$2020. The board strongly supports the proposal and had approved the grant in our February meeting, but the final numbers had yet to be determined and that has now been completed.

### ***ECM Report***

Katherine presented her report, which included plans for the Annual Gathering June 21-23. Some highlights:

- There are 7 pastoral searches in process.
- Exploration for affiliation of a group called the Church of the Wandering in Olympia, WA.
- International Bethel City Church is looking for a place to meet/buy and the Muanges have moved to new housing. The church has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from Mennonite Men if they have a building purchase project by spring 2019.
- PLT approved Kenneth Hawes for licensing toward ordination.
- Matt Swora and Linda Dibble are new DPs.
- Annual Meeting—Katherine presented a draft schedule. She feels that planning is moving along well.

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- Pastor/Spouse Dinner—We (the Board) are asked to contribute for this dinner. The suggested sum is \$100.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Brett shared his report for the most recent fiscal year. His report included information on the sale of the Peace property and that almost all expenses came in at or below budget. We had a net operating loss of about \$27,000. Most changes on the balance sheet are due to the property sale.

**The Meeting** adjourned at about 4:30 p.m.