

PNMC Conference in Boise, ID

June 22-23, 2018

Delegate Session, Friday, 10:30 A.M.

1. Jack Swaim, Moderator, welcomed everyone to the delegate session.
2. Roll Call—Katherine called on member churches to complete the sentence:
“At (congregation) we are walking as followers of Jesus by ...”
 - Albany Mennonite Church:** Working with a dynamic youth group and having an adult SS series on "marginalized" groups with people sharing stories to help us become a more hospitable church.
 - Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva:** Preaching, evangelizing, and praying for those who are sick. That is our priority in our congregation.
 - Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship:** having a Sunday morning series on technology and faith. We have a declining membership but a core of about 40 members.
 - Emmaus Christian Fellowship:** Ministering to refugees in churches and are seeking to find ways to serve in the Meridian community and how to love our neighbors.
 - Eugene Mennonite Church:** We are in a period of transition and pastoral search. It's an exciting time of reflection and visioning for the next few years.
 - Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church:** Being in fellowship together and connecting with a school nearby that provides childcare. We're also developing a sister church congregation in NW Mexico.
 - Evergreen Mennonite Church:** Supporting and affirming our youth. We recently had 5 baptisms of 8th graders.
 - Filer Mennonite Church:** Working on a pastoral search and completing a VBS with more than 50 students. We also made a float for the Fire Fun Days and are working at being a witness in the community.
 - First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen:** Caring for and ministering to children through VBS (35 kids, most of whom were not from our church).
 - Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship:** Using “Godly Play” curriculum, and by walking with our sister church in Colombia.
 - International Bethel City Church:** Working with immigrant people and feeling blessed to worship God.
 - Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita:** Working as a church in transition. We are trying to discern if we should continue as a congregation and God said to continue. We're working with a suicidal person to show God's love. We want to share the love of Jesus.
 - Lebanon Mennonite Church:** Looking to the future and growing community. We are in collaboration with Boys and Girls Club and Jackson St. Youth Shelter to use the space next to church.
 - Ministerios Restauración:** Walking with Christ through 15 min to 1 hr prayer times and walking with others in community through prayer.
 - Mountain View Mennonite Church:** Operating an after school child care program for children of parents who work.
 - Portland Mennonite Church:** Partnering with a community agency for a series of hikes to develop relationship with homeless or those in transition.
 - Prince of Peace Mennonite Church:** Mentoring our service adventure youth and are also rediscovering the vision of God and who he wants us to be.
 - Salem Mennonite Church:** We are in transition, and we are working with the program on Friday nights. We also experience transition when persons move away. We are also working with sexuality.
 - Seattle Mennonite Church:** Working to extend our winter shelter to a yearlong program. This is also our year of Jubilee at Seattle Mennonite.
 - Shalom Church:** Praying with and for and supporting the "other" in our local community and the world.
 - Spring Valley Mennonite Church:** Our church is closing June 30, 2018. We have sold our building to conservative Mennonites. We are still supporting local ministries and will continue to look for new ministries in new places.
 - Warden Mennonite Church:** Serving the community through a food bank. We have a teacher teaching in the local school.

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Western Mennonite Church: Reaching out to Hispanic churches in our community and in Mexico. We're sending 27 kids from Mexico to camp this year.

Zion Mennonite Church: Taking some time of reorganization to release more time for local community work in immigration and legal help, The Canby Center, and other opportunities.

3. Approval of 2017 Minutes: There was a motion and second to approve the minutes, and it was passed.

4. ECM Report (Katherine Jameson Pitts): (Katherine will email this report.)

-PNMC is about 31 congregations, scattered like seeds in God's kingdom in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska. A number of our congregations are in transition.

-A number of congregations are in the midst of pastoral searches, including Evergreen, Eugene, Salem, Albany, Menno, Filer, and Warden. Katherine has talked to around 70 pastoral candidates in the past year, including a visit this past winter to AMBS to meet students. It is difficult to pull pastors from the east to the west, and there are more congregations seeking pastors than candidates. We have 8 persons from PNMC now attending 6 different seminaries and numerous people enrolled in Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education through the IBA classes taught by Pastor Samuel Morán.

-Katherine welcomed Kevin and Jess Chupp, new pastors at Aberdeen, and Kenneth and Stephanie Hawes, new pastors in Anchorage.

-New District Pastors beginning this summer are Mathew Swora, Linda Dibble, and Marlene Bogard. Samuel Morán, Bob Buxman, Tim Gascho, Gary Jewell, Renee Johns, Brent Kauffman, and Cecil Miller continue to serve as District Pastors. Katherine asked for prayers for the District Pastors.

-Katherine also serves on the Journey Forward Reference Council, offering feedback to the Renewed Commitments statement and the Pathways study guide.

-She has worked on Sexual Misconduct Investigations Training and Healthy Boundary training for Mountain States MC with former PNMCer Charlene Epp to present 3 trainings on pastoral ethics.

-Katherine has met with several folks who are interested in planting new Anabaptist faith communities in the Pacific Northwest.

-Katherine closed with a prayer composed by Bishop Ken Untener in Nov. 1979 to honor Archbishop Oscar Romero.

5. Introduction of Ballot:

-Jack introduced the ballot for the delegates to look at (also in delegate handbook). He explained how the gift discernment team presents a ballot and that it is approved by the PNMC Board.

6. Introduction of Endowment Fund:

-It was announced that there are 2 Everence workshops this afternoon that may help us to understand the endowments better which will be discussed on Saturday.

Delegate Session, Saturday, 1 P.M.

1. Moderator Report (Jack Swaim)

-We met 4 times in the past year.

-We have minutes posted on the PNMC website.

-Every 3 years we do a performance evaluation for Katherine, and this was done this year. The board has unanimously appointed Katherine to another term.

-The Peace Mennonite property was sold for \$700,000 this past year. We have consulted with Everence

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Financial advisors and others to determine the best use of this money. We have established a Sustainability Fund of \$650,000 and will use the investment gains only, for the near future. The other new fund is the Healthy Congregations Grant Fund. Its initial funding is \$50,000 and we expect to spend down the fund to aid congregations in being healthy. It can be added to, but our expectation is that it will be used up. We also have around \$80,000 of the Seed Northwest Fund. We are partnering with Everence to manage these funds.

2. Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2018 (Brett Tieszen)

PNMC's biggest financial news of Fiscal Year 2018—or any recent year—was the sale of former Peace Mennonite Church property in Gresham, OR. When the sale closed PNMC received \$700,000. A sale of the Peace property was not anticipated when the FY 2018 budget was written. The budget included net operating income from the property of \$11,600 but the actual result was a net operating loss of \$12,520. This outcome was due to lower-than-expected rental income (*you don't collect rent on property you no longer own*) and higher-than-expected maintenance and improvement costs (largely for work incurred prior to PNMC's receiving the offer to purchase the property).

The other weak spot for income was the annual meeting. Net income for the 2017 meeting at Menno Mennonite Church was \$3508, or \$392 below budget. Other income lines (contributions and interest/investment income) exceeded budget, in some cases substantially. Of particular note is that member church contributions were \$4357 over budget.

Almost all expenses came in at or below budget with the exceptions of translation service (\$1171 over budget) and office expenses (\$852 over budget, \$450 of which was renting equipment for translation). In total, expenses were \$7925 under budget.

In fiscal 2018 PNMC received contributions totaling \$5242 that were designated for funds or organizations outside of the PNMC general fund.

PNMC had a net *operating* loss for the year was a loss of \$27,214, compared to a budgeted loss of \$25,184. The Peace property sale was reported as *other* income instead of *operating* income because property sales are not a typical part of the conference's operations. The gain on sale is \$265,530 because the land was already on PNMC's balance sheet at a book value of \$434,470. When the property sale is included, the final net income for fiscal 2018 is \$238,316.

On the balance sheet most changes of note are again due to the property sale. The increase in cash accounts is due to proceeds from the sale. Having an accounts receivable balance at the end of fiscal 2017 was unusual and reflected a congregational contribution that was intended to have been received in the fiscal year but arrived later. The fixed asset account that was zeroed was the property.

In the equity section multiple lines were zeroed. 1) The Peace Rental Funds account recorded income from the sale of a separate piece of property received from Peace Mennonite Church that was sold shortly after acquisition. The board intended the income to defray the costs of disposing of the remaining Peace property. Once the sale happened in 2017, segregating the fund was no longer justified and it was rolled into net assets available. 2) PNMC did not aim to make a profit off renting the property and created the Peace Campus Funds to segregate accumulated rental income in excess of property maintenance expenses. The account was significantly drawn down in fiscal 2017 and reached zero in July 2017. 3) Land equity in the property was rolled over to net assets available.

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Seed Northwest grants were given for translation at a Sister Care seminar and to International Bethel Church and Lebanon Mennonite Church.

Retained earnings were zeroed out with Net Assets Available because for PNMC's purposes they are the same. Net Assets Available increased due to the gain on sale, operating loss, and other balance sheet changes listed above.

3. Overview of Funds Proposal (Brett and Jack)

The income from the Peace property belongs to the PNMC. We plan to invest the money, but the investment is not locked away forever. We plan to deplete \$50,000 of the sale money within 10-15 years in the Healthy Congregations Fund. The other \$650,000 will be invested. One goal is to raise our Net Income up to Zero (we have been in the red and wish to move to zero) so that PNMC is sustainable. In an endowment, we can have increased interest added to our budget without depleting the budget itself. Our new budget will have around \$9,000 deficit, but with increased interest in the endowment, Brett feels that our deficit can continue to get smaller.

Questions and Responses:

- What is the expected rate of return? 4% from a historical perspective
- What is the plan for the return? To use the income for aiding the budget. We'll try to use about the same % each year.
- How was the decision made in how to divide the money? After much dialogue, we finally decided to have some that could be given away fairly quickly, but we also wanted to have enough to sustain the PNMC, which includes keeping Katherine as a full-time ECM. To do this, we felt that \$650,000 was appropriate.
- Does using a one-time proceed in this way allow congregations to decide not to give toward day-to-day operations as they have in the past? Even with the anticipated earnings, this will just get us to break even.
- What are the criteria for grant applications? Seed Northwest has a more restricted definition for requests while the Healthy Congregations Fund has fewer restrictions. Also, we are asking input from table groups for the answer to this question later this afternoon. Recently, the board has received requests that fit the Seed Northwest definition that involves church growth and development, and we have approved these requests based on these criteria. There is also work in progress in a committee as to how to apply for grants. The thought is that smaller grants will have a simpler process while more comprehensive grants will involve more process before grant approval.
- Where can the new budget for 2019 be accessed? It will be posted.
- It was requested that the treasurer of PNMC send congregational treasurers requests for the budget so treasurers have an idea what to put in their budgets for PNMC.
- Why isn't more money designated toward sustaining growth? Seed Northwest is geared for this but will eventually be used up. This model mainly sustains PNMC.
- Could Mexico mission work be considered in the budget in the future?

Delegates were asked to discuss in table groups the Endowment Funds and Healthy Congregation Grants funds and report back to the group. Each group was asked to fill out a paper and hand it in after verbal responses were completed.

Some **responses** from table groups:

- We have concerns as to what the \$50,000 is for and also that it won't amount much per year.
- We thought about contributing to education for pastors and for volunteers.
- Leadership training for pastors, curriculum materials for new programs and buying materials.
- Children's ministries, establishing a church in Utah, millennial engagement, helping our congregations collaborate in ministry.
- Provide consultants for congregations, help PNMC students pursuing pastoral ministry.

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- What does “healthy” mean, is there a way to use funds to attract potential pastors to the Pacific Northwest?
- Workshops, continuing education, arts (like Ted and Company), engaging with Lombard Peace Center, developing sister church relationships, hosting pastoral candidates from the East, passion-based ministry for Mexico.
- Capital improvements with matching funds, financial support for specific ministries, continue supporting small congregations and more funding for church camps.
- Support training of lay leaders as well as pastors, healthy boundaries training, help churches start up a VS project, safety for smaller struggling congregations, fund youth conference for PNMC meetings.
- Support training for many different areas.
- See Jesus in “bright, bold new colors”, help in trainings and travel expenses, sister care, immigration and legal rights work, facilitate youth connections better.
- Community outreach seed money to get volunteers involved, resources to help congregations (accountability reports, etc.).

4. Ballot Results

The following nominees were affirmed by delegates:

- Dianna Eshelman as Moderator-Elect for 2 years, then as Moderator for 2 years
- Jan Yoder as an At-Large Member for a 4-year term
- Twila Lehman as Secretary for a 3-year term
- Renee Johns and Joseph Penner for the Gift Discernment Team for a 1-year term

In addition, the PNMC Board of Directors has appointed the following people:

- Dave Hockman-Wert as Treasurer to complete Brett Tieszen’s term ending June 2020
- Gary Martin to the Board of Directors for a 2-year term
- Nelly Moran Ascencio to the Board of Directors for a 2-year term
- Sam Adams to the Pastoral Leadership Team for a 4-year term

5. Installation of new board members

- New and current board members were asked to come forward and they were blessed in prayer led by Duncan Smith.
- Jeryl Hollinger, our new moderator, spoke to our group. He thanked members who are leaving the board (Brett Tieszen, Tom Brenneman, and Jack Swaim).
- It was moved and seconded and unanimously approved to thank the hosting churches and also the First Presbyterian Church for making this conference possible.
- PNMC Annual Meeting will be held in Albany, OR, next year.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.