

PNMC Board Minutes

August 25-26, 2018

Courtyard Plaza, Portland, OR

Present: Katherine Jameson Pitts, Jack Swaim Dianna Eshleman, Twila Lehman, Barb Buxman, Gary Martin, Jenna Schlegel-Preheim (& Vera), Jeryl Hollinger, Kathleen Aeschliman, David Hockman-Wert, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, and via zoom: Janet Szabo & Jan Yoder

Absent:

Saturday, August 25: Jeryl opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

1. Opening & Devotions (Jeryl)

Everyone brought one thing that said something about them – and we shared these items as a way of introducing ourselves.

Jeryl shared from “The Sin of Certainty” which says that the opposite of faith is certainty. Also followed up with Colossians 3:2-6 and a quote from “Sailing Between the Stars” which talks about the mystery of Christ. What would it be like to gather together around “mystery” in the church?

Jeryl stated that those on the board who are not voting members are still valued members of group discussions.

2. Process for Board minutes: Past practice: Board secretary prepared minutes and sent to Moderator, ECM, and Administrative Assistant to look over. Then the Administrative Assistant posted them on PNMC website. Process going forward: It was agreed that the Secretary will send the minutes to the Moderator, ECM, and Administrative Assistant. They will look them over and then the Moderator will e-mail them to the rest of the Board for approval. The Administrative Assistant will post to the Web site and Board will (formally) approve at the next Board meeting. It may be necessary for the Web posting to be less specific concerning confidential information and the Administrative Assistant, Moderator and ECM will develop that posting.

3. Reports

A. Executive Conference Minister (Katherine)

The review of 2018 Annual Conference feedback was positive and very well received.

Update to pastoral transitions: Eugene – has called Steve Kimes to begin Sept. 1; Albany – has called Peter Epp to begin in Sept or Oct.; Evergreen – will be discerning calling current interim during

September; Still working on pastoral searches at Salem, Menno & Filer. New pastoral searches beginning at Warden, and Zion (for ½ time Pastor of Christian Faith Formation)

Congregational Transitions: Emmaus is “replanting” -- gathering a core group for new direction; Anawim will be closing – transferring any assets to Villages of Hope

New church development: The Church of the Wandering, Olympia. Katherine met with Tasha Norton who is the pastor. Megan Ramer and Jennifer Delanty attended a service. She has also connected them with Linda and Darryll Graber and is exploring Evergreen’s interest in being a supportive partner. Rachael Weasley, Bellingham, is still in discernment concerning beginning a group. Rusty Bonham, a former Mennonite pastor, has invited Katherine to meet with a group of young adults at Springwater the first week of September to talk about their church and conference – what they want from it and what they don’t.

Strengthening pastoral ministry: Katherine visited Anchorage to License Kenneth Hawes, met with Ken and leaders; a new District Pastor is Marlene Bogard for Portland and Pacific Covenant - new DPs are great! Katherine is working with a congregation on a pastoral review; pastors did written accountability plans this year.

Equipping Lay Leaders: Exploring speakers and resource people for 2019 annual meeting to be held at Albany Mennonite. It will be 1 ½ day meeting. Considering “Doing Church Differently” for CCC with sharing of stories – perhaps from Springwater, Church of the Wandering, and others.

Other: Katherine is in conversation with Seattle Mennonite about hosting Canadian drama troop with presentation on sexual abuse in the church. She also attended a 4-day retreat at Our Lady of Grace Monastery

B. Treasurer (Dave)

The PNMC Balance Sheet shows Total Assets = Liabilities and Equity of \$1,185,913.86 as of 8/24/18 (checking on this amount??) Budget vs Actuals: Reviewed church contributions and other incomes comparing actual vs. budget. Expenses exceeded income by approx. \$16,000 for this budget year as of August 2018. Dave is working on clarifying various issues of the bookkeeping with the change of treasurers and the way things are recorded. Thus some of the figures on the reports distributed at this meeting need to be corrected.

C. CIHAN (Nelly)

A report was distributed to the PNMC board noting

- EBAFOM had a graduation of 6 students.
- A workshop “Carta A Los Romanos (Letter to the Romans) led by Marco Guete
- 25 students are currently taking Introducción al Nuevo Testamento (Introduction of the New Testament) taught by Pastor Moran.
- A fundraising project for EBAFOM to cover mileage, preparation of classes, and presentations.
- The CIHAN pastors are meeting once a month.
- In July CIHAN a worship service which was held at Iglesia Cristiano Pentecostes de McMinnville. 100 people attended that service. We also prayed for Pastor Miguel Castillo and his wife, Gladys. We will miss Pastor Castillo.

D. Moderator (Jeryl)

Jeryl clarified our PNMC CLC representation and distributed a Board Documents booklet to new members and updated pages for everyone's booklet. The major change for the booklets was to replace the Sanctuary Property section with documents regarding our endowment funds.

4. Official actions:

A. *Be it resolved that PNMC agrees to hold the note on the former Spring Valley property until it is paid off.* (This action was taken via email correspondence the last week of July 2018. Motion: Janet Szabo, seconded by Dianna Eshleman. Motion passed.)

B. Motion: *To add Jeryl Hollinger (moderator) and David Hockman-Wert (treasurer) to all Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) bank and investment accounts; and to remove from such accounts Brett Tieszen and Jack Swaim. Katherine Jameson Pitts (ECM) and Barbara Buxman (AA) shall continue to be authorized signers for bank accounts.* Dianna moved and Jenna seconded; Motion passed. (Jack will initiate the action).

C. Our PNMC CLC representation for Fall 2018 & Spring 2019 will be Katherine Pitts, Jack Swaim, and Jeryl Hollinger. Approved.

5. Review of board role, governance model, & governance documents (Jack)
Jack led a discussion on purpose, accountability, and duties of PNMC Board.

6. Direction for future board energies (The following concerns were reviewed to update all board members on what the issues are.)

- A. Passion-based ministries (Katherine) [Policy line 397 Section 2 in PNMC Notebook] Noted: Prayer team at annual meetings? MCC Bike Ride? Mennonite Relief Sale? NW Mexico Liaison Ministry. What is the role of passion-based ministries? Should we be more intentional about passion-based ministries or let them form organically? Should PNMC be involved with these?
- B. Financial investments (David) Operational Procedures: What are the rules and how do we make decisions? We have examples through Everence, but no formal policies. Need to create policies and guidelines. Growing the funds: brainstorm ideas of having/using donors, endowment fund, Healthy Congregation Grants. Should we have a team of board members work on this or create a separate finance team to do some preliminary work
- C. Healthy Congregations Fund (Katherine) We have Boise 2018 feedback (see handout of table group responses). Brainstorming about drafting an outline of Healthy Congregation Grant Guidelines (high priority since congregations are already asking for grants). What is a healthy congregation? Katherine researched and gave a handout of what others use as definitions of healthy congregations. Do we need one? Should it be part of the grant guidelines or separate?
- D. Human Sexuality & MC USA policies & PLT (Katherine) Reviewed KC MC USA Resolution texts, Credential Review Process, and Inter-congregational Relationship Guidelines. Who can initiate the guidelines? MCUSA is giving a lot of authority to local conferences to make decisions. PLT is wanting more guidance regarding pastors presiding over same sex marriages. What is appropriate use of institutional power?

Sunday, August 26 (meeting resumes at 8:30 am)

Present: Katherine Jameson Pitts, Jack Swaim Dianna Eshleman, Twila Lehman, Barb Buxman, Gary Martin, Jenna Schlegel-Preheim (& Vera), Jeryl Hollinger, Kathleen Aeschliman, David Hockman-Wert, and via Zoom: Janet Szabo & Jan Yoder

Absent: Nelly Moran-Ascencio

Jeryl opened the meeting with sharing what we would be doing on a “normal” Sunday morning and led in prayer.

6 E. Doctrine of Discovery (Jenna) Jenna led a discussion on “Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery” and how to encourage PNMC

congregations to implement the movie and curriculum (www.dofdmennon.org) into their adult education classes or at least raise awareness of the issues of entitlement, justification of violence, enslavement, extraction of resources against indigenous people. Spent time discussing how we feel about it and how to engage PNMC in the process of awareness.

7. Healthy Congregations Fund grants (we already have three requests for funds) Reviewed Healthy Congregation Grant Guidelines and Grant Application that Katherine drafted. Created a committee to work with Katherine to continue work on the process and review grants. Dianna Eshleman, Twila Lehman, and Katherine will comprise this committee. Agreed: Katherine has discretion to approve grants under \$500 without committee or board approval. Katherine will report after \$5,000 is granted and/or report progress to the board at each meeting.

8. Schedule future board meetings. The following dates and time were set:
Conference call Thursday, Oct 4, 7 pm (Pacific Time)
Board gathers November 2 & 3 (Possibly Seattle in conjunction with their Jubilee celebration?)
Conference call Thursday, January 10, 7 pm (Pacific Time) (budget finalization)
Board gathers Friday before and Sat after the CCC meeting on Feb. 2, 2019 at Zion Mennonite
Conference call Thursday, April 4, 7 pm (Pacific Time)
Board gathers in May 24-25 (Portland?)

9. Pick up remaining themes from Saturday evening

- A. Accepting new congregations' guidelines (Katherine) Looked at Policy No. 99-3 Membership of Member Churches. This needs to be reviewed.
- B. Guidelines for congregational giving to PNMC (David) Reviewed past guidelines for congregational giving: \$\$ for number of members/active attenders; some use a percent of budget or giving (approx. 6%). If congregations gave \$100/per person per year, we would be close to budget. Dave will research church budgets.
- C. Policy on Child protection (Mountain States policy attached) We encourage congregations to have policies, should PNMC have a policy?

10. Setting Board priorities

- Dianna is interested in working on Child Protection Guidelines. She'll work on this with Katherine.

- Dave will research congregational giving guidelines
- 1. Dave (Treasurer), Janet, Gary, and Jack (consultant) will work on operational procedures of financial funds
- Jeryl will work with Katherine and PLT with Credential Review Process, and Inter-congregational Relationship Guidelines

11. Closing

Jeryl closed the meeting with prayer at 12 p.m.
12:30 p.m. Lunch & wrap-up at Elmer's Restaurant
Board members are encouraged to hand in board evaluation forms

Twila Lehman, Secretary