

PNMC Board Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2018

1617 33rd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

(This meeting of the PNMC board was held in Seattle so that Board members could participate in the 50th anniversary (Jubilee celebration) of the Seattle Mennonite Church. Board members attended events at Seattle Mennonite on Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday morning. A big thank you goes to Dianna Eshleman for planning and coordinating meals and to Barb Buxman for finding and renting the house for board lodging and meeting space..)

Present: Jeryl Hollinger, Dianna Eshleman, Twila Lehman, Dave Hockman-Wert, Kathleen Aeschliman, Gary Martin, Janet Szabo, Jan Yoder, (Jack Swaim & Jenna Schlegel-Preheim, Nelly Moran-Ascencio via ZOOM)

Guests: Tasha Norton, Shelby Norton from “Church of the Wandering,” Olympia, WA

Absent: None

Saturday, November 3, 8:30-11:30 am

1. Opening

Jeryl opened the meeting at 8:28 a.m. Board members responded to the question: “One reason you agreed to serve on the PNMC board.” Ephesians 2:14 – 18 (NIV) was read and discussed: “How does the cross put hostility to death?” Prayer.

2. Minutes

The minutes from our PNMC board meeting August 25 – 26, 2018 had been approved by the board via e-mail.

3. Reports (9-11 am)

Executive Conference Minister: Working with Western Leadership team on finding an interim and then to begin thinking about long-term options. Service for Rick was at Fairview today. NW Mexico team is in flux and unsure of the future of this passion-based ministry.
New Pastors: Peter Epp, Albany; Jessica Wright, Evergreen.
Ongoing searches: Salem, Menno, Filer, Warden, Zion.
Met with the Church of the Wandering, Olympia. Rachael Weasley, Bellingham, on hold. Emmaus is “replanting” – have one new family.
Met with a group from Springwater -- they experience ongoing transitions in membership. One family is thinking about planting a similar group in a different neighborhood and we talked about how PNMC might be supportive.
Peter Epp and Kenneth Hawes would like to participate in the MC USA Transitioning into Ministry program. Cost for conference is \$200 per pastor.
The board affirmed helping with these expenses.
PLT has terminated Todd Lehman’s credential.
Grateful for the work of the District Pastors to work with churches in turmoil.
Michael Danner (MC USA staff) is confirmed to present on church vitality (maybe a half-day workshop) for 2019 CCC meeting at Zion in February.
Will continue to explore speakers and resource people for PNMC conference in 2019.
Working on a safe sanctuary policy for PNMC – Drawing on resources from other conferences.
Met with Jennifer Delanty to discuss Doctrine of Discovery Coalition and resources

CIHAN – No report.

Treasurer (see financial handouts) Balance Sheet: Is now corrected.

Balance is \$1,183,191.26. Budget vs. Actuals: Actual as of Nov 1, 2018, is \$85,061.08 (Over budget \$6,866.32). We still need to have clarity on a policy of how to withdraw from endowment fund.

Moderator Report: Noted written report on the recent CLC meeting which took place in Chicago, October 11-13.

4. **Guidelines for accepting new congregations:**

Discussed “Benchmarks for the Maturity of an Emerging PNMC Member Congregation” and “Process of an Emerging Congregation becoming a Member of the PNMC.” These are still good guidelines to follow.

5. **Church of the Wandering** (11:30 am)

Tasha and Shelby Norton from “Church of the Wandering” in Olympia, WA joined the board meeting at 11:30 am. After introductions, we heard from Tasha regarding background and interest in joining PNMC. They have been meeting weekly as a community for about a year. They appreciate the Mennonite emphasis on peace and the process and focus on relationships. They want to be connected to a larger church/denomination and body of Christ. There is a solid base of people so now what does it mean to serve and be a voice in the community of Olympia?

Others around the table shared how our churches came to exist. The discussion continued with Tasha and Shelby during lunch.

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm – Board meeting

Discussed next steps for “Church of the Wandering.” Katherine will continue to work with them and they DO qualify as a MIP (Member in Process). Katherine will keep us updated.

6. **Updates from working groups**

Child protection guidelines – Will continue to work on this. No new updates.

Congregational giving guidelines – Dave will continue working on this.

Healthy Congregations Grant Application & Guidelines – Reviewed the proposed grant application and guidelines.

MOTION: Janet moved and Jan seconded that we accept the grant application and guidelines presented as our policy. Discussion followed.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Funds Management – No report.

Credential review process – (for pastors performing same sex marriages). Reviewed steps PLT will use to work with pastors who have performed same sex marriages. Invited two pastors into this process.

Intercongregational Relationship Guidelines – Katherine and Jeryl are continuing to work on how congregations can maintain relationships reducing the hierarchical authority (conference) in the relationships.

7. Continuing CLC Discussion

Jeryl shared an update from the CLC meeting. This was the first CLC meeting with Glen Guyton as the new ED of MC USA and he brings a fresh approach. The Journey Forward seems to have become the new Purposeful Plan and includes an emphasis on practicing diversity and inclusion. This meeting included a game night and no table assignments. It was a good time to meet with moderators, conference ministers, and others to discuss ideas/issues. Felt like healthy discussion and good spirit.

The Mennonite Inc. & Mennonite World Review merger: A special delegate meeting is called for November 29 to discuss disbanding The Mennonite Inc and merging with Mennonite World Review. The Mennonite would give 90 percent of their resources to this merger. How will MC USA communication/reporting happen? Spanish publication? Nelly is planning to serve as one of our delegates representing Hispanic concerns. Also, Katherine will represent PNMC. Every congregation can send delegates or be included by phone. We need clarity on overall communications plan and that Conference boards would like to be more informed of what is going on (nationally) to be able to get our congregations informed to be part of the process.

Southeast conference has voted to leave MC USA

8. Upcoming Work for PNMC

2019 budget preparation: Will plan for board action on Jan. 10 when we will have a conference call board meeting. Katherine is primarily responsible for budget development and will do so in consultation with Dave.

Congregational Giving Guidelines: Katherine and Dave will work on congregational giving guidelines. Questions remain: How do we grow our income? Or do we cut expenses to keep in line with income?

Plans for June annual gathering: Will be held at Albany Mennonite in Albany, OR. Educational opportunities on Friday and Saturday including a “Healthy Boundaries workshop” and “Internet Safety.” Delegate sessions on Saturday. Possible theme is “Doing Church Differently.” How do we value and promote what we have to offer the congregations? What do we offer at delegate sessions? A list of ideas was generated.

What matters are priority for board attention: Remaining on the table: Child protection guidelines, Congregational giving guidelines, Financial Funds Management, Intercongregational Relationship Guidelines, Renew energy in Passion-based Ministries, how should PNMC promote Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, Missional Growth Edge.

The meeting was adjourned 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by Twila Lehman, Secretary