

PNMC Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 1, 2019

Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR

All present: Dave Hockman-Wert, Jeryl Hollinger, Jenna Schlegel-Preheim, Gary Martin, Jack Swaim, Dianna Eshleman, Jan Yoder, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Janet Szabo, Katherine Jameson Pitts, Barb Buxman, Kathleen Aeschliman, Twila Lehman

The meeting opened at 1 p.m. with Dianna Eshleman leading us in a gathering exercise. We went around the room sharing our responses to “Where would you travel to if money were no object?”

Kathleen Aeschliman then led us in a devotional on Lamentations 3:22-23, reassurance as we go through anxious or fearful times of life. And Psalm 136 (a salvation psalm)

Reports:

1. Executive Conference Minister (Katherine Jameson Pitts)

The last month has primarily focused on preparing for Conference Communications Council, laying groundwork for our Annual Meeting, and working with search committees and candidates.

Salem and Menno have candidate weekends scheduled this month. Filer is working with a part-time “interim” and seeing how that might evolve. Western has had a variety of pulpit supply while they discern congregational direction. Zion is interviewing candidates for ½ Faith Formation Minister position. Matt Swora has announced a desire to move to the Gorge where his wife is working, and he and the congregation are exploring possible directions for the lead pastor position, possibly moving to part-time temporarily as they restructure leadership and look for lead pastor.

We need new District Pastors in Idaho and Eastern Washington/Montana. Replacing DPs is always difficult and more so in these geographic areas.

Theme for Annual Meeting will be “Sharing the Journey Forward” to link us to MC USA Convention planning as well as focus on how we share our journey in our different contexts. We will use the “Renewed Commitments” from Journey Forward to frame the options:

- Follow Jesus – a dive into the biblical story – how do we know who we follow?
- Witness to God’s peace – either Doctrine of Discovery or Homelessness and ways local congregations can engage these communities
- Experience Transformation – how have we experienced transformation and how do we invite others to transformation?

Attended MC USA/MC Canada Conference/Area Church Ministers Meeting in Los Angeles. There was a positive spirit and greater cooperation and openness than in some previous meetings.

2. Treasurer (David Hockman-Wert)

Fiscal Year 2019 year-end:

Income was about \$10,000 above budget, Expenses about \$5,000 less than budgeted with the Net income at \$11,454.02.

Fiscal year 2020 budget:

MOTION: Janet moved and Dianna seconded to adopt the 2020 budget as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. CIHAN *(Nelly Ascencio)*

There were several events the past few months:

The first Culto De Fin De Año (New Year's Eve service) had 40 attendees.

A "Cena de Fin Año" (end of the year dinner) was given for all of the leaders and pastors.

A new youth group committee was created with their first event on December 21, having a vigilia. There were 75 attendees (including parents and children) and 8 people gave their hearts to Jesus. The guest speaker was Pastor Samuel Moran.

On January 12, was our "Confraternidad" which was held at Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva. We had 80 attendees, and had a great time worshipping together.

EBAFOM: We are very thankful for the congregations and individuals who have supported this ministry with their donations. In 2018 our goal was to raise \$6,000 and we received \$4,400 in donations. Our goal for 2019 is to raise \$6,500. We ask for your prayers to reach this goal. EBAFOM is a vital part of our congregations. The plan for EBAFOM in 2019 is to teach The Old Testament level 2, Acts of the Apostles, Romans, and Radical History and Theology. The students taking this course must participate in workshops that are led by IBA. Pastors can get continuing education by participating in this workshop by IBA alone.

4. Moderator *(Jeryl Hollinger)*

The Gift Discernment Committee needs to begin working on the annual meeting ballot. Only one PNMC board member needs replaced this year.

The January 2019 minutes were approved via e-mail.

Annual Conference Delegate session: It's time to begin discerning how to use our delegate sessions.

The Pastor-Spouse dinner at the annual meeting is generally financed by the board. Board members have always made contributions to this. Contributions should be made to PNMC and suggested amount is \$100 or whatever you feel led to give.

Jeryl submitted a paper to the board for discussion. It included the three areas, 1 – Growing PNMC's Ministry in the northwest; 2 – Facilitating a broad peace witness; and 3 – Passion-based ministries. Discussion resulted around how we can we promote youth and service/learning experiences as a conference? How do we publicize different events from the conference or sponsor congregations or give help to them? Could we organize support for parents who have kids with special needs.

How PNMC can provide support:

1. Communication: What is the best way to communicate across congregations? E-bulletin, Pastoral letters? Connect with other Mennonite organizations?

2. Money
3. Resources

5. Policy review/updating/discussion

Everence has a Lilly grant for Pastoral Financial Assistance (up to \$3000 matching grant for loan reduction. Grant available for the next 3 years). In the past, PNMC (Dec 2016), contributed \$300 of matching funds from the sharing fund for individuals. Do we want to continue doing this for this next three years? **MOTION:** Dianna moved and Jan Yoder seconded to continue with the \$300 toward the Everence matching grant for the Pastoral Financial Assistance program to be taken from the Healthy Congregations Grant Fund. **MOTION PASSED.**

In reviewing the policy section of our board document book, many had different versions. Jeryl will work on updating our notebooks. We went through the list of policies to determine which are still valid and which need updated.

- Annual Conference Delegate Assistance Fund (# 06) 2006- **Update**
- Annual Conference and Registration Policy (#04-1) 2004 - **Update**
- Delegates (#99-6) 1999 - **Update**
- Finance Team (#2015-1) 2015 - **Delete**
- Membership of Member Churches (#99-3) 1999 - **Update**
- Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy (#2001-3) 2001 – **Updated 2017**
- Nomination Process (#04-4) 2004 – **Review**
- Insurance/Damage Waiver for Rental Vehicles (#2001-1) - **Review**
- Purchasing and Capital Addition (#99-13) 2015 – **Updated in 2015 Good as Is**
- Reimbursement for Use of Personal Vehicles (draft) 2010 - **Update**
- Resolutions Process (#99-5) 2015 – **Update**
- Revolving Loan Fund Policy (#99-14) 1999 – **Delete**
- Termination of Membership (#99-7) 1999 - **Review**

Policies not on that list or in that section of our board books which should be added:

- Healthy congregations grant policy
- Credential Review process
- Child protection and abuse response policy – in progress
- Fund Management policy
- Investment Policy Statement (Tab 6)

**(5:00 pm break for supper provided by Zion Mennonite Church;
and the board reconvened at 6:00 pm)**

6. Managing our financial funds

(David Hockman-Wert & committee)

Dave gave a report on ideas/discussion that the Fund Management Team is looking into for our investments. (Investment policy statement approved 4/20/2018).

The board participated in a wide-ranging discussion about various ways to view these funds and what kind of boundaries should define their use. There was general agreement that we should not draw on

the investment fund or its interest if we have sufficient income or balances on hand. However, “sufficient” needs to be defined.

It was discussed that our investment fund can be seen in two ways: 1 – as a way to balance our budget through its earnings, or 2 – as funds for new vision. Discussion followed on what kinds of vision the board would find exciting and worthy.

This discussion concluded by the board asking the committee to take our discussion and proceed with drawing guidelines and parameters for the use of our investment fund and its earnings, and to bring recommendations to a future board meeting. The board also recognizes that we also have work to do on developing guidelines for our Seed Northwest Fund.

The Fund Management Team agreed to continue working and bring recommendations to Board. If a new mission/program comes up, that would be a (separate) Board action that may include finances as a part of supporting it, but is not a fund management responsibility.

Board adjourned at 7:35 pm

Twila Lehman
Board Secretary