

**Minutes of the PNMC Board Meeting**  
Friday, September 13 and Saturday, September 14, 2019  
Portland Mennonite Church  
Portland, OR

Moderator Jeryl Hollinger called the meeting to order on Friday at 1:00 p.m. Thank you to Portland Mennonite for hosting us.

**Present:** Leonard Nolt, Dave Hockman-Wert, Nelly Ascencio, Jan Yoder, Dianna Eshleman, Katherine Jameson-Pitts, Barb Buxman, Janet Szabo, Gary Martin (via Zoom from Anchorage). Twila Lehman (secretary) was traveling and unable to attend. We are still searching for someone to complete Jenna's term.

- 1. Gathering exercise:** Jeryl asked us to talk about something that happened to us this summer.
- 2. Centering:** Dianna focused on ethics and integrity and looked up Bible verses relating to this theme, many from Proverbs, from Corinthians, Luke, Philippians. Prayer from Hebrews 13:18.
- 3. Minute review:** Let the minutes of this meeting show that the minutes of our May 24-25, 2019 meeting were approved via e-mail.
- 4. Review of PNMC Board Role:** Jeryl went over the questions from the May 2019 meeting and the answers that he compiled (copy attached). Thinking that perhaps this could serve as a job description for future board members. Also went over Article V of the Bylaws in the policy manual, which covers the board of directors.

A document was found in the files that summarizes board responsibilities (we suspect put together by Jack Swaim). Jeryl included a copy of this document on the back of his summary sheet of the board survey. Katherine noted that there is an emphasis on nurturing healthy congregations in this document that isn't present in other documents.

Leonard asked about CCC. Perhaps we need a list of acronyms for new board members?

Dianna asked if we need an action on the Jack Swaim document. Jeryl noted he has it filed under his Gift Discernment Team information. Because we are re-doing the policy manual, perhaps we could put it under a Resources section?

## **5. Reports:**

### **A. Executive Conference Minister (Katherine):**

No active pastor searches (down from a high of 7).

Prince of Peace: It is felt that they need to decide on their vision before embarking on a pastor search. Katherine and Gary Jewell are going there next weekend (Sept 21) to discuss. Dave offered his services as a consultant for a lay-led congregation.

The Pastor Retreat concluded a few days prior to this board meeting. Few active pastors (of 24 people) in attendance. Is it a timing issue? Gatherings are difficult to schedule in our conference because of bi-vocational pastors. Discussion on possible solutions. Also need child care, which is a new issue.

Katherine presided at Brie Kruger's ordination and felt that that was a very touching event given her connection with her. Brie is serving as a chaplain at Providence Hospice. Portland Mennonite requested the ordination. She was ordained on behalf of the national church, the

conference, and the congregation. Katherine encourages the chaplains to check in with the congregations and district pastors.

The Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) met with Jennifer Gingerich and representatives from Salem Mennonite Church for a credential review after a same-gender wedding. Note placed in her MC USA file and the Salem congregation encouraged to continue discernment.

Katherine is still trying to connect with church planting people. Dave noted that he was in Olympia in July and stopped in at Three Magnets Brewing for lunch. He saw Tasha of Church of the Wandering but did not have a chance to connect.

Annual meeting in June 2020 will be in Seattle. Still working on a location. Katherine is talking with Dwight Friesen from New Parish Collective about seminar input.

CCC will be at Portland Mennonite on February 1, 2020. Discussed the possibility of having a workshop on Intercultural Competency Training. The MennoData database is being updated and Intercultural Competency training is one of the areas pastors are expected to complete. Katherine will contact some people in MCC to see if they have anyone who would be available. Sue Park-Hur is not available for that weekend

Katherine is working with the historical society because they ended up with a collection of files, including some pastoral misconduct files. Who should hold those files and have access to them? MC USA would like to have a copy of everything a conference has on misconduct incidents in case anyone moves from one conference to another. Katherine has drafted a policy to bring PNMC in line with MC USA policies (for board discussion Saturday morning). Also, what is the policy or agreement between the conference and the historical society about who owns the files?

Katherine provided updated data on Healthy Congregation grants. Eight grants have been awarded, closing in on \$15,000. Do we have a cap on the amount of money awarded each year? The board was comfortable with the idea of funds being disbursed without regard to capping the amount disbursed each year. Gary noted that it could create more excitement and enthusiasm and could serve as a point for future giving to the fund from individuals. Dianna also suggested lowering the award amount in order to spread the funds around.

## **B. Treasurer's Report:**

Dave handed out copies of Budget vs. Actuals and Balance Sheet. Added Everence Money Market as an account. Jeryl asked what the Miscellaneous Pass-Through account was for. Barb and Dave will check on that. Dave noted we do not have many liabilities except for payroll.

Barb met with Dave Coffman, who has also been in communication with Dave Hockman-Wert and made some recommendations. Dianna suggested Dave as a possible board member.

We are through about 62-1/2% of the budget year. We are low on member contributions (which varies throughout the year) but our income for the year is approximately 60%. Operating expenses are currently about \$4000 more than operating income, but we have other income (e.g., Spring Valley property) which is putting us in the black for the year so far. Annual meeting had low expenses this year. No speaker charge and no facility charge. Katherine asked about the sharing fund and what happens when that fund runs out? We could have an annual meeting offering designated for that fund.

**C. CIHAN Report (Nelly):** Nelly noted that these have been difficult weeks for some of the pastors including Angel Campoz and his health issues. Samuel Moran's wife had to travel to

Guatemala for medical treatment. September 29, 2019 is the date for the CIHAN annual meeting at Portland Mennonite Church at 5 p.m. It has been attended by up to 40 people in the past. It is a business meeting with reports from each congregation and dates set for the upcoming year. Nelly also gave updates on EBAFOM, the Mennonite Youth Committee, and the Hispanic Mennonite Women Committee of CIHAN.

#### **D. Moderator's Report:**

CLC: Will be October 17-18 in Phoenix. Agenda has not yet been released, but may possibly include new membership guidelines process?

New board member: Several persons have turned down our request to serve on the PNMC board for the remainder of Jenna's term. Jeryl asked for board direction in finding someone. We could have someone on the board serve as Finance Team chairman, which would free up requiring us to find a board member with financial experience. (We have three other names from the Seattle area, but those people do not have financial experience.) The board agreed on a prioritized list of who we will invite to this board position.

West Coast MCC Board Rep: PNMC has two representatives on the board - Beth Landis and Pedro Olvera. MCC is suggesting we replace Pedro since he has not been attending meetings. Dave questioned whether it is the PNMC board's responsibility to contact Pedro. Jeryl will reply to MCC and pass along the board's communication that we believe it is the responsibility of the MCC board to contact Pedro and notify him that they think he needs to be replaced. Jeryl will also clarify if we are to make an appointment to replace him.

#### **6. For review:**

##### From the delegate survey at the PNMC meeting in Albany:

The delegates at conference feel that their congregations are engaged.  
Youth representative on the conference board? As delegates?  
Varied comments about financial responsibility and policies.  
Good support for the Board's role as "not a policeman."

Some discussion about the delegate handbook. Diana suggested charging a nominal printing fee for delegates who want a printed copy. Also suggested asking the agencies to pay for printing to have their reports included. Or should we just include the cost of printing delegate handbooks to annual meeting registration?

Jeryl is particularly concerned about making delegate sessions useful to those attending our annual meetings. What is the role of delegates? Dave pointed out that in our by-laws, delegates are given a fair bit of authority to bring resolutions and vote. This will be an ongoing discussion, with results of the delegate survey being shared at the CCC meeting.

Jeryl talked about how the delegates voted to give voting rights to the youth at the MC USA gathering in Kansas City. Katherine pointed out that this action was not clearly debated and gives smaller conferences more representation at annual meetings than larger conferences.

Jeryl talked briefly about the resolution on treatment of child immigrants that arose from the floor at the MC USA assembly in Kansas City. He feels that our denomination is much smaller than it was two or three years ago and that we really want to be a peace and justice church and that resolution was representative of that. Dianna noted that the annual gathering reflects Glenn Guyton's more relaxed leadership style and our growing toward a more intergenerational denomination.

Albany Mennonite's presentation was a highlight of the annual gathering. Many comments along the lines of "I saw my congregation in that presentation!" (Especially rural churches.)

We note that Linda Dibble of Albany in PNMC is now MC USA Moderator-Elect.

## 7. Policies:

**A. Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee policy was approved by the board via e-mail.

**B. Policy manual update** (Dianna): We removed the old policy and procedure packet and sections 5-8 of our board handbooks. The old policy and procedure section was replaced with yellow copies of Policies for the PNMC Board and white copies of Policy and Procedure Packet. Some discussion about the titling of the two sections; Katherine will revisit that in the future.

The following policies were previously reviewed with the Board and are ready for approval:

- 5.1.2 Conference Communication Council (existing document based on Section 1, Category 1.3)
- 5.1.3 Delegates
- 5.2.1 Finance Team (informally approved by email since Albany Annual Mtg, Jack Swaim suggested we accept now & review in 6 months if needed)
- 5.3.1 Insurance/Damage Waiver for Rental Vehicles
- 5.2.2 Investment Policy Statement (for approval to ADD to Section 2, previously Board adopted April 2018 orphan document in policy notebook. Add to list for review in future.)
- 5.3.3 Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy
- 5.2.3 Nomination Process
- 5.3.5 Reimbursement for Use of Personal Vehicles
- 5.1.8 Table Group Covenant (removed from orphan location in policy notebook)

**Action:** Jan moved that we accept the updates and changes to the above-listed policies. Nelly seconded. Motion carried.

The following policies/procedures were introduced to the board for comments and will be brought back for approval and adoption into Section 2 at the next scheduled board meeting. Changes were suggested and will be incorporated as appropriate. If board members have further comments or concerns, please bring them to Dianna or Katherine before the next meeting.

- 5.2.4 Policy and Procedure Review
- 5.4.1 Executive Limitations Monitoring Procedure (extracted & updated from Section 1, Appendix lines 726-728)
- 5.3.3 Ministerial Misconduct File Protocol & Access Policy
- 5.1.7 Safe Sanctuary Abuse Prevention Policy

The following policies are advise-only of future policy development or revision (brainstorming on things we should tackle):

- 5.2.2: Dianna is recommending that Finance Committee review this one.
- Board self-monitoring process & tool: The policies do state that the board is supposed to discuss its process and performance. Need to look at the tool and make sure it lines up with our policy.
- Inter-Congregational Relationship Guidelines document:
  - Approved by the delegates in 1999. Jeryl and Katherine to review.
  - New policies to be developed to address:

Ethics/Confidentiality  
Digital Communications and Security  
Board/ECM/staff records retention  
Review current EMC and board members job descriptions.

The board thanks Dianna and the committee for their hard work in getting these policies updated.

**Saturday, September 14, 2019**

Jeryl opened the meeting at 8:44 a.m. with a quiet time of prayer, thinking about and praying for the church at all levels.

Jeryl reviewed the agenda for this morning's meeting with a plan to be done by 11:30 a.m.

#### **7. Future meeting planning:**

Three in-person meetings a year? Katherine asked if we could also have a conference call about the budget in December or early January with an eye to approving it at the February board meeting in conjunction with the CCC meeting on February 1 at Portland Mennonite. The following meetings were scheduled:

- Conference call tentatively scheduled for December 12, 2019 at 7:00 PST.
- February board meeting on Sunday, February 2 after the early service at Portland Mennonite. Diana will host at her house. (May start meeting Saturday evening after the CCC event.)
- Spring meeting on May 15-16 in Portland (Friday noon to Saturday noon)
- Annual meeting in Seattle June 26-27.

**8. Visioning Discussion:** Jeryl gave us some background and his thoughts about where PNMC and the board go from here given that we are more financially stable and have fewer congregational issues.

Katherine will be going on sabbatical, probably in July and August 2020. She is supposed to get four months every four years but feels that that amount of time may be too much. Dave asked if she could break it up to two months every two years. She will consider. As she is our primary administrative person, we need to put a system in place to cover issues that might arise while she is gone.

One of Jeryl's suggestions is that we work toward a "greater Anabaptist vision in the Pacific Northwest." An observation was made that policy lines 389 & following call for a Theological Education Team? Is there a need for this? Would a good delegate discussion be to share on how we engage visitors in our congregations? We had a lively discussion on these and other topics. Dave expressed strong support for having a visioning time at each board meeting.

Nelly asked for clarification about which entity is responsible for appointing someone to the various committees (like the MCC board) and if that was a CIHAN responsibility and if that person was a representative of CIHAN or PNMC. Katherine noted that we ask CIHAN for input and recommendations but the PNMC board makes appointments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Szabo for Twila Lehman