

**PNMC Annual Conference
June 22, 2019
Albany Mennonite Church
Roll Call and Delegate Session Minutes**

Roll Call (During first Worship)

How has your congregation engaged the *Journey Forward* or one short story of how you have **Followed Jesus/Witnessed to God's Peace/Experienced Transformation** in the past year?

Albany Mennonite: (Peter Epp) Using *Mending the Divides; Creative Love in a Conflicted World* during Adult Sunday School class.

Bend Mennonite: (Sam Adams) Looking outward to community.

Centro Cristiano McMinnville: (Gloria Baez) Bible School and raising new leaders.

Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva: (Misael Araujo) Studying Anabaptist history. Sharing 22 years with Salem Mennonite and seeing growth in youth.

Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship: (Dave Hockman-Wert) Studying Pathways curriculum

Emmaus: (Craig Morton) Meridian School-Support to homeless students; Welcome packet to peace church.

Eugene Mennonite: (Karyn Angell) Focusing on the homeless (tiny houses, laundry, garden, small loans)

Evergreen Heights: (Kathy Bilderback) Building relationships in school, VBS, neighbors. Connecting with sister church in Mexico.

Evergreen Mennonite: (Jessica Wright) Equipping congregants to reach out. Welcoming refugees.

First Menno-Aberdeen: (Kevin Chupp) Pathways Study guide.

First Menno-McMinnville: (Simon Rendon) Small (8 members). Continuing to meet.

Hyde Park: (Leonard Nolt) Working with "Better Angels" an organization that works at addressing political polarization.

Iglesia Mennonita Roca de Salvación: (Alvaro Flores) Kids fundraising to fix church. Growing.

International Bethal City Church: (Simon Muange) Recent move to 182nd St. Increase in numbers. Providing translation services.

Jerusalén Iglesia Mennonita: (Angel Campoz) Shares with elementary school in area.

Lebanon Mennonite: (Julia Todd) After school program and the "Micah House" now referred to as "Vault" and "Hops and Hymns" every 4th Sunday at a local brewery.

Ministerios Restauración: (Samuel Moran) Some legal and some undocumented people attend worship. Work with immigrants.

Mountain View: (Elaine Kauffman) Summer church – space for children

Pacific Covenant: (Jerry Barkman) Eight members; continuing to meet and serve

Portland Mennonite: (Rod Stafford) Global climate change; climate refugees

Prince of Peace: (Ken Hawes) Sense of identity and renewed covenant.

Salem Mennonite Church: (Jim McKinnell) Welcoming new pastor this month.

Seattle Mennonite: (Daren Kellogg) Anti-racism and immigration.

Shalom: (Jan Yoder) Camp Camrec, County Auction, PNMC Board, Vets for Peace

Western Mennonite: (Craig Stinson) Immigration, refugee resettlement, legal services.

Zion Mennonite: (Pat Hershberger) VBS Bible Memory get to go to Drift Creek Camp. Bridging Cultures, English classes, food, Stephen Ministries, new young families attending.

Minutes of Delegate Sessions

Delegate Session 1 – 10:30-noon

Jeryl Hollinger, Moderator, welcomed us at 10:45 am.

Introduction of Guests

The following persons were given 30 seconds to introduce themselves: Duncan Smith, The Corinthian Plan; Marisa Smucker, MMN; Karen Horsman, Director of Donor Relations MMN; Sue Park Hur, Denominational Minister for Leadership Development, MC USA; Nate Yoder, MCC; Marlene Bogard MCC; Iris de León Hartshorn, Associate Executive Director for Operations, MC USA; Cyneatha Millsaps, Executive Director for Mennonite Women; Marvin Lorezana, MMN

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 2018 Annual Meeting Delegate sessions was made. (seconded, approved)

• Executive Conference Minister Report (Katherine Jameson Pitts)

Congregational Transitions

Spring Valley concluded the process of closing and selling their building to another Anabaptist congregation. In January, Anawim Christian Community officially closed as a congregation and ministry, although some of their work continues through the Village of Hope organization. Warden Mennonite Church decided to move forward to cease having regular worship services and to sell their building.

PNMC Healthy Congregation Grants

The Healthy Congregation Grant Program seeks to promote projects that help your congregation strengthen its mission, witness, outreach to your community and/or life together as the body of Christ.

We have awarded 6 grants to date. We have assisted in the following:

- Providing materials for a sewing ministry
- Sponsoring a Ted & Company presentation
- Supporting a multi-congregation youth retreat
- Purchasing simultaneous translation equipment

- Supporting a leadership development/biblical education program
- Bringing a consultant to work with a congregation on identity formation, visioning, and goal setting.

Applications and instructions have been sent to all congregations.

Pastoral Transitions

Pastoral Openings have been filled. New pastors were welcomed with anointing oil:

Peter Epp -- Albany
 Jerrell Williams -- Salem
 Jessica Wright -- Evergreen
 Steve Kimes -- Eugene Mennonite

We also look forward to welcoming at a later date:

Ron Hershey – part-time interim at Filer,
 Bryce Miller – coming to Menno August 1st

Ordinations and transfers

- Brie Krueger, Portland Mennonite (chaplancy).
- Britt Carlson (Community Life Minister at Portland Mennonite) received from Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and issued her a Mennonite Church USA certificate of Ordination
- Bill Blank (transfer from Atlantic Coast Conference of MC USA)
- Merritt Welty (transfer from Mountain States Mennonite Conference)

District Pastors Recognized

Marlene Bogard – Portland, Pacific Covenant
 Bob Buxman – Salem, Zion, Western
 Gary Jewell – Menno, Prince of Peace, Evergreen, Seattle, Hyde Park
 Linda Dibble -- Lebanon, Eugene
 Renee Johns – Emmaus, Evergreen Heights, Filer
 Brent Kauffman – Albany Bend, Corvallis
 Cecil Miller – Mt. View, Shalom (retiring in September)
 Samuel Moran – Centro Cristiano Pentecostés, Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva, Iglesia Menonita Roca De Salvación, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonite
 Mathew Swora – International Bethel City Church, Ministerios Restauración
 Unassigned - Aberdeen, Warden, Calvary

• **Treasurer’s Report – Dave Hockman-Wert**

Dave went over the current income and expenses in relation to the 2019 Budget and presented the 2020 Budget (summary) with visuals. Overall, our actual operating income in 2018-19 exceeded our budgeted income by about \$32,000, thanks largely to a generous estate gift. Expenses were about \$4,200 less than budgeted, leading to a net operating income of about \$27,000. PNMC’s budgeted bottom line of a small operating loss has turned into an actual small gain!

PNMC Board opened an investment management account totaling \$950,000 with Everence Trust Company in June 2018. The new account is referred to as “Endowment Funds” on the balance sheet. This past year, the Board has been developing policies to guide the management and disbursement of these funds. “Healthy Congregation” grants were created and a “Sustainability Fund” to allow 4% interest to be withdrawn annually, both to have more “liquid” funds available for ongoing PNMC operations as well as to maintain the principal. As of April 23, 2019, the

investment account totaled \$986,072, after a big dip in December and a big rise in the first part of 2019.

He also presented a graph showing income and expense history and balance sheet history since 2000.

Overall, we are in good financial shape as a conference. Now the challenge is how to be faithful stewards of our financial resources. Questions from delegates included asking about the vision for PNMC. This is something the Board will continue to wrestle with asking for input from congregations.

- **PNMC Ballot**

Ballots were distributed to delegates and they were asked to mark the ballots (for affirmation) and then they were collected.

2nd Delegate Session - 3:30-4:30 p.m.

The afternoon session began with pastor Kevin Chupp of Aberdeen making a presentation to Iris de León Hartshorn on behalf of Cecil Miller who was not present to do it himself. It was a plaque concluding the "Potato War" between Washington and Idaho noting Carl Hege's death this spring.

- **Moderator's Report**

Jeryl made note of his moderator report on pages 5 & 6 of the Delegate Handbook and added comments on several other items:

He handed out a copy of policy change of policy 99-3 5 **Membership of Member Churches** with the delegate body. Take this back to your local congregations. Added a Child-safety policy as a requirement of member churches.

On Conference Historian, the Board decided to discontinue this position. History records will be kept with the Mennonite Historical Society.

Asked how can we expand the Anabaptist vision and network in the Pacific Northwest? If you would like be included in brainstorming about this, please talk to Jeryl.

Recognition of Board Members who are going off the Board: Kathleen Aeschliman, Jack Swaim, Jenna Schlegel-Preheim

Questions posed for moderator and board: What is our vision? Our conference needs to make a statement to our hurting communities.

- Anabaptist witness in our communities.
- Peace witness
- Passion-based ministries

Commitment questions for table groups. Table discussion groups addressed the questions listed below. It was also suggested that we post these questions for people to take back to their congregations.

Within PNMC, what is our commitment to one another?

- Some of our commitment to one another is expressed through participation in conference programs and events. Some is expressed through informal relationships and other ways in which we cooperate for worship or service. What are the ways your congregation expresses its commitment to our life together within PNMC?

- PNMC offers several avenues for congregations to express commitment to our life together. We wonder how committed congregations are to these things? In board meetings several questions surrounding the subject of commitment have arisen:
 - Meetings: We presently have two delegates gatherings a year: CCC in January or February, and the annual meeting. At times we have planned a pastor and spouse retreat. Some have suggested we need gatherings for youth. Are congregations committed to these - supporting pastors and delegates and youth to attend?
 - Finances: The board has tried to live financially within the giving amount coming from congregations. But recently we have needed to rely on investment funds to balance the budget – funds we would like to use for more visionary work. Some congregations have asked what dollar amount we expect from them but the board has been reluctant to set standards that some others will have difficulty meeting. What kind of financial commitment to PNMC is your congregation comfortable with?
 - Disagreements: When divisive issues touch our conference life, how committed is your congregation to remaining in fellowship and discussion with other congregations in PNMC? How is such a commitment expressed in your congregation? Should the board be giving guidance and help in this area?

Ballot Results

The following nominees were affirmed by delegates:

- Leonard Nolt, Board of Directors, At Large Member (4-year term)
- Renee Johns, Joseph Penner, Gifts Discernment Team (1-year term)

Appointments:

- Rod Stafford, Pastoral Leadership Team (4-year term)

Blessing of Leadership – by Iris de León Hartshorn

- Blessing of New/current board members
- Blessing for Linda Dibble soon to become Moderator-Elect of MCUSA

Announcements:

Invitation to Annual Meeting in Seattle. Megan Ramer offered an invitation for all to attend the annual meeting next year in Seattle where it will be sponsored by Seattle Mennonite and Evergreen, to be held at El Centro de la Raza on Jun 25-27, 2020.

Conference Communications Council – The date is set for February 1, 2020, at Portland Mennonite Church.

Pastor's Retreat focusing on Climate Change -- <https://mennocreationcare.org/pastoral-retreats/>

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Twila Lehman, Secretary