

PNMC Delegate Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 27, 2020

(8:00 am Alaska time; 9:00 am Pacific time; 10:00 am Mountain time)

PNMC Zoom Webinar Conference

1. Welcome and prayer
 - a. Jeryl called the delegate session together at 9:15 a.m. PST via a ZOOM Webinar platform.
 - b. After going over procedures, Jeryl opened in prayer.

(If there is no objection we will consider the minutes of the 2019 meeting approved. If you have an objection please use the chat box to raise it and we will address it during the Q and A session.)

2. Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report – Katherine Jameson Pitts thanked the PNMC congregations for their resilience and creativity during these challenging times.
 - a. New pastors – **Bryce Miller** at Menno Mennonite Church and **Ron Hershey** at Filer Mennonite Church.
 - b. Interim pastors – **Terry Rediger** at Western Mennonite Church, **Bill Blank** at Zion Mennonite Church, and **Gary Jewell** will begin at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship in July.
 - c. Ordination of **Kevin Chupp**, First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, Idaho. **Angel Campoz**, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita, Salem, Oregon, will be ordained soon.
 - d. New District Pastors – **Sylvia Shirk** for Seattle MC and Evergreen MC, **Merritt Welty** serves First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, Filer MC and Emmaus CF, and **Terry Rediger** serves Zion MC and Salem MC. They join current DP pastors **Marlene Bogard**, assigned to Portland MC, Pacific Covenant MC, and Western MC; **Linda Dibble**, serving Eugene MC and Lebanon MC; **Gary Jewell** connecting with Mt. View, Menno, Hyde Park and Prince of Peace MC; **Renee Johns**, continuing with Evergreen Heights MC; **Brent Kauffman** who serves Bend MC, Corvallis MF, and Albany MC; **Samuel Moran** assigned to Centro Cristiano Pentecostés, Comunidad Christiana Vida Nueva, Iglesia Menonita Roca de Salvación and Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita; and **Mathew Swora** who is continuing with International Bethel City Church and Ministerios Restauración. First Mennonite McMinnville, Calvary MC and Shalom Church are served by Katherine Pitts.
 - e. **Healthy Congregation Grants** are available to congregations. Grants given recently this year included support for pulpit supply during a pastoral sabbatical and for preparing a hospitality suite for overnight guests in the church building.
3. Treasurer Report- Dave Hockman-Wert went over PNMC financials. Overall, PNMC is on solid financial footing. He shared charts and graphs of the following (see Delegate Handbook for a hard copy):

- Income/Expenses vs Budget FYE 2020 – we have a net operating Income of \$8,268
 - Budget vs Actual – Net Operating Income of \$5,258 (this is due to lower expenses than anticipated).
 - Investment Gains/Losses (Line 7900) -49,000 – Finance Team has been created and is monitoring investments. Showed a line graph of history of fund.
 - Graphs showing Income/Expense History and Asset History
4. Moderator Report – Jeryl Hollinger explained how the Board operates. The Executive Conference Minister is the lead staff person. The treasurer oversees the finances and the PNMC Moderator is the chairperson of the Board. The Board establishes policy and gives guidance to the staff. The minutes of the Board meetings are available on the PNMC website. This year the **2019 Annual Minutes are approved** (without a motion and vote) due to having our meeting on ZOOM. There were no objections.

Introduction of the ballot prepared by the Gift Discernment Team (GDT) The GDT consists of ECM Katherine Jameson Pitts, Moderator-elect Dianna Eshleman, Joseph Penner (Salem) and Renee Johns (Hyde Park).

BALLOT

Moderator-Elect: Kevin Chupp pastor of First Mennonite in Aberdeen

(The moderator-elect serves for 2 years in that role and then serves for 2 years as moderator.)

Treasurer: David Hockman-Wert. David has been our treasurer for the past two years, completing the term of Brett Tieszen.

4-year Board position: Megan Ramer, lead pastor at Seattle Mennonite

Pastoral Leadership Team – (this is the group that gives guidance to our ministerial credentialing process) – **Angel Campoz** – who is presently on the team and has agreed to another term.

Gift Discernment Team - Renee Johns and Joseph Penner

Positions filled by the Board (listed on page 20 of the handbook):

Two-year Board positions: Nelly Moran Ascensio – taking another term on the Board representing the CIHAN congregations and **Kiara Yoder** - Zion congregation

Vacant Board position: Deren Kellogg of the Seattle congregation has agreed to serve the one year remaining on that term.

Jeryl reported on the Constituency Leaders Council (CLC). The CLC consists of 3 leaders from each conference as well as MC USA staff and program leaders. A primary issue under conversation with the larger church is the membership guidelines. PNMC Board has tried to stay up-to-date on that conversation and participate as we are able. Our Board has felt that it is time to re-think those guidelines and some folks in our conference have participated heavily in those discussions.

We have re-fashioned our finance team. Our organizational documents call for a Finance Team, but we have not had a functioning group. Our Board decided that because we have investment funds, and many of us on the Board do not have a lot of experience in managing such funds, we needed the help of an active Finance Team. So we re-wrote the expectations and guidelines for a finance team and then formed the team.

The team includes the following people:

Janet Szabo, completing her 4th year on the PNMC Board, has chaired this team –

Deren Kellogg will replace her next year

David Hockman Wert, current PNMC Treasurer

Jack Swaim – previous PNMC Moderator who helped establish our funds

Brett Tieszen – previous PNMC Treasurer

Jeryl thanked PNMC for allowing him to serve and gave gratitude to the PNMC Board. He thanked Janet Szabo and Gary Martin who have completed their terms on the Board. He gave appreciation for our staff: Brenda Kauffman, communications; Barbara Buxman, Administrator; and Katherine Pitts, Executive Conference Minister.

5. Q & A – Questions or comments for ECM, Treasurer or Moderator
 - A. What is the total value of PNMC Investment Fund? Answer: A little over 1 million.
 - B. What does “rethink the guidelines” mean? Answer: The current guidelines include three parts as to what it means to be a part of MCUSA. A committee of 40 people worked on changing these guidelines.
 - C. What is the PNMC Policy booklet? Answer: The Policy Notebook is provided to Board members. It lists all the necessary documents to help us operate effectively. It concludes policies, bylaws, structure, and guidelines. It can be made available to congregations for transparency reasons, but probably would not be useful beyond that.
6. Affirmation Ballot – responding to the GDT recommendations. Gary Martin shared a poll with the ZOOM members and then you needed to choose to “affirm” or “oppose” each person on the ballot. Ballots were received by Gary over ZOOM and reported to Jeryl at the meeting. New appointees were confirmed and welcomed.
7. Congregational Check-in

“One thing we are thankful for is.....”

Kathy Mark, Corvallis Mennonite, ...continuing to gather together with grace and goodwill for each other.

Rebecca Allen, Seattle Mennonite, ...the call from Black organizers to deepen our commitment to “Just” peace through financial and other support for police abolition and black-led uprising. The beginning of an ongoing journey for Seattle Mennonite.

Ron Hershey, Filer Mennonite, ...new beginnings.

Kevin Chupp, First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ...flexibility and resilience and learning new ways to be together.

Laz Martinez, Hyde Park Mennonite, ...all the ways we have been able to connect through drive-by graduations, ZOOM church, staying together and drawing strength from one another across the country.

Samuel Adams, Bend Mennonite, ...growth and adding new members and to see a thriving congregation.

Travis King Weaver, Anchorage Mennonite, ... reconnecting with people all around the world through ZOOM.

Elaine Kauffman, Mountain View Mennonite, ...faithful financial contributions even in this time when we have not been able to meet together.

Bryce Miller, Menno Mennonite, ...creativity and connecting across distance.

Ray and Kay Nussbaum, Western Mennonite Church, ...Pastor Terry Rediger for his care and teaching, support and leadership while we are separated and to Katherine, ECM, and Bob Buxman for their support during pastoral transition.

Trudy McKinnell, Salem Mennonite, ...for Jerrell Williams, pastor, and adopting an Inclusion Resolution for the congregation.

Amy Hoing, Evergreen Mennonite, ...unexpected passion for racial justice. Supporting each other through learning and activism.

Peter Epp, Albany Mennonite, ...ZOOM book club reading *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad.

Karyn L Angell, Eugene Mennonite, ...sustained sense of humor during this time.

Brie Kruger, Portland Mennonite, ...compassion and responsiveness in our congregation the past few months. Sincere concern for those who are suffering. A commitment to stand for justice. Education on racial justice. Our values are rooted in love of neighbor and faith in Christ.

Janice Yoder, Shalom Mennonite and UCC combined, ...technology to be connected with others both near and far. Also grateful for an anonymous donation to be used for racial and economic justice during COVID and to be able to give money to good works.

Jerry Barkman, Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church, ...for our small church to have love for each other and to be able to meet in each other's homes through ZOOM and e-mail. Support each other and others through this pandemic.

Pat Hershberger, Zion Mennonite, ...for people with technology skills to be able to make connections. For the financial resources to be able to respond to those who need help during this time.

Julia Todd, Lebanon Mennonite, ...relationships that extend beyond physical distancing and for God's grace.

Craig Morton, Emmaus Christian Fellowship, ... be part of the initial cohort of church planters and been able to engage in replanting. To be able to support low income and homeless students through a local school district giving program and involved in BLM vigil and "Inclusive Idaho" organization.

Kathy Bilderback, Evergreen Heights, ...to connect with others outside the area. For love and respect and grace among members and to seek peace and welfare of church and community.

Angel Campoz, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita, ...support from family, friends and conference through this difficult time of loss.

Nelly Moran-Ascencio, (on behalf of Samuel Moran) Ministerios Restauración, ...good health, support from PNMC.

Lucy (Matanda Lucy Masakadi) Bethel City, ...no cases of COVID until now, gathering by ZOOM, for PNMC and we pray for PNMC and the congregations.

8. Introduction of new Board and prayer for Board and staff: The Board members were introduced.

Dianna Eshleman – New Moderator

Kevin Chupp – Moderator-Elect

David Hockman-Wert -- Treasurer

Twila Lehman – Secretary

4 -year terms: Jan Yoder

Leonard Nolt

Deren Kellogg

Megan Ramer

2-year terms: Nelly Moran Ascencio

Kiara Yoder

Linda Dibble, Moderator-Elect of MCUSA gave an update from MCUSA. MCUSA has been responding to needs here and around the world with conferences, congregations and communities as we learn to be church during the difficulties faced in this pandemic. Approx. 190 leaders attended a webinar on race relations in the church, MCUSA is working on 2021 Convention in Cincinnati (a decision will be made this fall if it will be remote or onsite). Conversation around Membership Guidelines: there is a CLC planning team to create a recommendation for the delegates.

Linda led in prayer for the new PNMC Board.

9. Transition to New Moderator – Jeryl welcomed Dianna Eshleman as the new PNMC Moderator. A prayer shawl will be given a later time to stand as a reminder that we stand with you in prayer in this leadership responsibility.
10. Invitation to 2021 Annual meeting – Dianna thanked Jeryl for his service over many years. The 2021 meeting place and format is unknown at this time. We hope to know more at the Conference Communications Council on February 6th, which will be held as a Webinar. As a conference, we have learned some new skills and ways to include people who are not always able to be at conference wide gatherings in person.
11. Closing
Dianna thanked those people who planned and made this virtual group meeting happen, with a special thank you to Jeryl Hollinger, Katherine Pitts, Gary Martin & Dave Hockman-Wert as well as others who shared advice and expertise with online meetings.

Dianna led in a closing prayer. The delegate session ended at *10:00 am Alaska time; 11:00 am Pacific time; 12 noon Mountain time.*

Everyone was invited to join a PNMC informal Zoom gathering immediately after this meeting ended.

Twila Lehman
Secretary