

**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
PNMC Board Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2020, via ZOOM
9 am-noon PST**

Present: Dianna Eshleman (Moderator), Kevin Chupp (Moderator-Elect), Katherine Jameson Pitts (ECM), Twila Lehman (Secretary), Dave Hockman-Wert (Treasurer), Jan Yoder (At-Large), Leonard Nolt (At-Large), Barb Buxman (Administrative Assistant), Deren Kellog (Appointed), Megan Ramer (At Large), Kiara Yoder (At Large), Jeryl Hollinger (Past Moderator)

Absent: Nellie Moran-Ascencio, (CIHAN Moderator)

Welcome and Opening

Dianna opened in prayer at 9 a.m. PST. Dianna thanked PNMC for the beautiful prayer shawl made by Mt. View Mennonite Church Prayer Shawl Ministry in Kalispell, Montana, which was given to her by Jeryl (outgoing Moderator) to her as the new moderator.

Review of Policy (Section 1) - 2.5 Board Member's Code of Conduct.

We reviewed Policy (Section 1) - 2.5 Board Member's Code of Conduct. It was suggested that we change the use of pronouns. Leonard will work on this.

- Reminder to be sure to send your signed "Conflict of Interest" forms to Barb.
- Noted that Dianna attends a first Tuesday monthly "Moderator Zoom Meeting" with MCUSA.

Reports

1. Executive Conference Minister Report (Katherine sent previously)

Katherine shared pictures and reported on her 6-week sabbatical. She is grateful for the time apart from PNMC and thanked those who filled in for her.

Congregational Updates:

Reopening is one of the big topics of conversation. We have several congregations that are meeting in person. Others are exploring small group meetings, outdoor meetings, drive-by church and other variations.

Lebanon had a farewell ceremony for Brent Kauffman on August 30. They are in the process of looking for an interim pastor. Katherine spoke at this ceremony.

Zion has started their pastoral search. There are only 6 people on the MC USA pastoral registry, which is an historical low. They are doing well with their interim.

Hyde Park said goodbye to Marc Schlegel-Preheim and welcomed Gary Jewel as interim in July. They are needing to reorganize their Leadership Team before appointing a search committee and completing their Congregational Profile.

Healthy Congregation Grants

One grant for \$1500/yr X 2 years was approved for Filer Mennonite to send their pastor to attend Hesston for Pastoral training (online).

There will be an online pastor cluster beginning this fall. Katherine is excited to begin this new type of gathering.

Katherine continues to write for *Leader* magazine and will have a column in the Winter 2021 edition.

2. CIHAN Report (Nelly sent report)

The Council meeting and the pastor's monthly meetings have been cancelled due to COVID 19.

EBAFOM: Nine students who meet in McMinnville finished their course; Historia de La Iglesia (History of the church). Pastor Moran taught the class half via Zoom and the other half in person. The students are now waiting to start their new course: La Justicia Y La Paz en Las Enseñanzas De Jesús (The Justice and Peace of Jesus' Teaching) as soon as they get their material.

Committees: The Men, Women & Children committee cancelled their annual convention. The youth committee is still working on whether they will be doing their convention via Zoom.

Hispanic Congregation: Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita & Ministerios Restauración are still having online services via Facebook live and Zoom. Centro Cristiano Pentecostés de McMinnville & Iglesia Menonita Roca de Salvación have started their service in person.

3. TEAM REPORTS

1. Pastoral Leadership Team (Katherine)

The pastoral leadership team is working on an ethics covenant (review or change), reviewing MC USA pastors, and looking at enrichment/support for pastors.

2. Gift Discernment Team (Dianna)

No meeting over the summer. Suggestions made by the Board for GDT to consider: Ask delegates to give names on ballot; Ask congregations to publish a request in their bulletins; Ask pastors if they have names to offer.

3. Policy Review (Leonard) Section 2, 5.2 – Governance

Leonard reviewed Section 1, all 2.5 policies & Section 2, all 5.2 policy/procedure documents. He did not find anything that needed changed/corrected. He noted that the Finance Team was requested to review the Investment Policy Statement. A self-evaluation form for PNM board members was created by Gary Martin and Leonard Nolt. PNM Board members are to fill it out (preferably the same day) after each Board meeting and send to Dianna by email attachment.

4. Finance Team (Deren)

The finance team is working on the annual review. Goal is long-term financial stability with fewer churches and rising salary guidelines.

Need to add Dianna as a signatory to PNMC documents and banking.
Would like to develop the annual budget in narrative style to present to PNMC.
Reviewed and approved the current investment policy statement.
Suggestions for accounting procedure review:
 Include another in the deposit process
 Office manager should send confirmation of money received and cc finance team
 Have another person review all financial statements, etc. (Dave will start reviewing bank statements & reconciliations monthly.)
 ECM review administrative assistant's records each month
Create a *Best Practices* document for congregational treasurers.
 Everence has available "best practices" resources for church Treasurers
Suggested possibly inviting an Everence representative to a future meeting for Board education.
Finance Team will work on a values statement and bring to the November meeting.
Next FT meeting is scheduled for Oct. 24 at 10 a.m.

5. Treasurer Report (Dave)

Shared financials on screen. Balance Sheet as of August 29, 2020, shows a total Bank Account balance of \$126,451. Budget vs. Actuals: FY2021 Budget-Fy21 P&L Account 34001 Sharing Fund Ins. Premiums is getting low. Finance Team will look at this. Congregational giving is 48% of budget, but not too bad. Overall giving is 46% of Budget. Operating expenses are 46% of budget. Overall, we are in pretty good shape. Board discussion about commitment to supplement pastor medical insurance premiums since Jan. 2009. No written agreement known. FT to review. Katherine supports continuing.
The Board supports narrative budget development. It is initially a lot of work, but then it gets easier. Board to give input on what elements it finds helpful.

6. Theological Education Team (Katherine)

Not functional now and not needed as in the past. It focused on teaching opportunities but now there are many online opportunities available. It was suggested that we dissolve the Growth and Development duties of this team and move to the Pastoral Leadership Team. We will take action on this at the next regular Board meeting.

4. New Business

1. **Spanish Translation Cost Analysis** – The Board stressed the importance of continuing Spanish translation for all PNMC functions, and to also look at PNMC breakdown of languages represented. Katherine and Kiara will look at ways to build better communication with PNMC non-English speakers. Kiara agreed to go to the next CIHAN meeting with Katherine.
2. **Conference wide education/enrichment activities** – We are encouraging pastors and congregations to take advantage of the many MC USA webinars and trainings. MC USA will provide our conference staff and board with access to the online Anti-racism Training modules developed by Dr. Tobin Miller Shearer without cost to us. The Board

thought this would be a good idea to pursue. Katherine will have a proposal/timeline for the Board to begin the anti-racism audit for the October meeting. Also hoping to have a Biblical Studies professor bring educational input to the Conference Communications Council (CCC).

- 3. New Church Development** - Olympia Church of the Wandering is no longer interested in joining PNMC. Rachael Weasley is gathering a group in Bellingham. They began doing some zoom church this summer. Jamie Rye, who has moved from pastoring in Ohio to running the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Helena Mt. is interested gathering an Anabaptist faith group there. Over the last few years, we have supported Rachael in participating in the MMN SENT program (\$120) and recently in getting started on Zoom (\$600) with money from the **NWSeed fund**. That grant program is no longer functioning as it was designed and the committee that developed it dissolved. The funds were given from Eugene Mennonite with the intention that they would be used for congregational development. Katherine would like better/clearer guidelines around church plant monies. Deren will take this to the Finance Team.
- 4. Task force development proposal** – The Board approved the Finance Team & Executive Committee (moderator, moderator-elect, secretary) to look at ECM contract renewal plan. Katherine’s contract renewal date is February 2021. She indicated willingness to continue pending contract length discussion.

Meeting Schedule:

PNMC regularly scheduled meeting will be the third Saturday for the months of January, May, August, and November. All meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m. PST. All meetings will be via ZOOM.

October 24, 2020 – One-hour meeting for CLC recap. (8:30-9:30 a.m.)

November 21, 2020 – PNMC regularly scheduled Board meeting (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

January 23, 2021 - PNMC regularly scheduled Board meeting (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

February 6, 2021 – CCC Meeting (8:30 a.m. to noon)

March 27, 2021 - One-hour meeting for CLC recap. (8:30-9:30 a.m.)

May 15, 2021 - PNMC regularly scheduled Board meeting (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

June 26, 2021 – Annual Meeting (format, location, and times TBD)

Be sure to fill out and return the Self-Evaluation form to Dianna and sign the Conflict of Interest form and return to Barb.

Meeting adjourned 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by Twila Lehman
PNMC Secretary