

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
PNMC Board Meeting Minutes via ZOOM
Saturday, January 23, 2021
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. PST

Present: Dianna Eshleman (Moderator), Kevin Chupp (Moderator-Elect), Katherine Jameson Pitts (ECM), Twila Lehman (Secretary), Jan Yoder (At-Large), Deren Kellogg (Appointed), Megan Ramer (At Large), Kiara Yoder (At Large), Jeryl Hollinger (Past Moderator), Nelly Moran-Ascencio, (CIHAN Representative) Barb Buxman (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Dave Hockman-Wert (Treasurer), Leonard Nolt (At-Large),

Welcome and Opening

Dianna opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. PST. Kevin led us in a devotion on JOY. He shared how joy transforms us using examples from scripture from Christ's birth through resurrection. He led us in prayer.

Board Education

Eight Characteristics of Good Governance from Nonprofit Boards Council –

Efficient * Accountable * Transparent * Responsive * Consensus-Oriented * Participatory *
Inclusive * Following Rule of Law

Minutes

The minutes from the November 21, 2020, meeting were accepted electronically by Board members and posted to the PNMC website.

Reports

1. Moderator Report - Dianna

- We are thankful for the three recent financial gifts to PNMC.
- Dianna gave a summary of Moderators MC USA monthly meeting that was held on 1/11/21.

2. Gift Discernment Team (GDT) Report - Dianna

GDT members are Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Executive Conference Minister (ECM), Joseph Penner & Renee Johns

GDT ZOOM meeting is scheduled this month to start work on the nomination slate. New terms begin after the Annual Conference for both the positions filled by delegate vote and Board-appointed positions. The GDT welcomes suggestions from the Board of persons to consider for vacant positions, especially the Lay Person position on Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT). The following six positions need to be filled this year.

4-year term elected Board member (currently Deren Kellogg who was appointed to complete Jenna Schlegal-Preheim's term when she resigned.)

3-year elected term Secretary (currently Twila Lehman)

1-year elected term to serve on GDT (not a Board member) - Joseph Penner (Oregon)

1-year elected term to serve on GDT (not a Board member) - Renee Johns (Idaho)

4-year Board Appointed term to serve as Clergy Member for PLT (Pastoral Leadership Team) currently filled by Amy Epp

4-year Board Appointed term Lay Person for PLT - currently filled by Linda Dibble, who is now Moderator-Elect for MC USA.

3. Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report – Katherine

Guide congregations through pastoral transitions

- Zion – have a candidate who they are interviewing through ZOOM and other socially distanced ways.
- Lebanon – change in internal leadership, seeking interim pastor, pulpit supply
- Hyde Park – named search committee, profile complete, will meet with them to begin process of looking at MLIs (Ministerial Leadership Information Form)
- Western – extended interim pastor until end of 2021
- Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva – Currently without a pastor. Nelly gave contact information to Katherine for her to follow up.

Support congregations in planning for their futures

- Partnering with Terry Rediger on visioning process for Western
- Meeting with Salem Mennonite to plan visioning process
- Assigned District Pastor for Community of Hope church plant, Bellingham
- Conversations with Muanges about move to Michigan and connecting them with IMMC (Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference)

Strengthen the ministry of our pastors

- Began one-on-one meetings with all active pastors – including question of what resources they would find helpful from PNMC or MC USA and exploring desire for a distanced retreat
- Continue meeting with monthly Online Pastor Cluster
- Working to connect new pastors with MC USA Healthy Boundaries training

Facilitate the sharing of fresh ideas and best practices among lay leaders

- Working with congregation to find resources for antiracism work
- Working with congregations to develop parental leave policies
- Continue working on Conference Communications Council (CCC) agenda/organization –
 - 8:30 PST Welcome/Opening prayer/Worship
 - 8:45 State/Soul of the Conference from ECM
 - 9:00 Presentation by Safwat Marzouk
 - lecture
 - break
 - small groups
 - Q and A
 - 11:00 Sharing from Congregations – a blessing and a prayer request
 - 11:55 Closing prayer
- Continue trying to get stories from congregations for E-Bulletin
- Preaching in four difference congregations this quarter

Build connections across the conference and with the wider church

- Prepared draft budget for Finance Team
- Updated resources for Gift Discernment Committee
- Continuing intermittent “Three things from PNMC” emails to pastors and other leaders
- Completed writing assignment with Leader magazine
- Responding to emails of concern about PNMC pastors/congregations

Anti-racism Training for Board

We are waiting on the contract from Duncan Smith. He has the information he needs to get that to us and to contact you all with instructions on how to complete the online Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). He still thinks that we can be ready to debrief as a board on March 27. Working on creating a PNMC Board **TEXT** group.

Things to think about:

PNMC congregations are shrinking and financial contributions are lessening. We need to be thinking about our current organizational structure as we look to the future. This will be put on a future agenda to discuss.

4. CIHAN (Concilio De Iglesias Anabautista Del Noroeste) Report – Nelly

CIHAN's Board: We have not yet been able to make the transition with the new board members to take their new positions. We had planned to make the transition but for some reason we have not been able to do it as we had planned on. I will keep you posted when it is official.

Concilio/Council: We have not had any meetings; they are postponed until further notice.

EBAFOM (Escuela Bíblica Anabautista De Formación Ministerial): Has not started their new courses/classes, they are postponed until further notice.

HISPANIC CONGREGATIONS: Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita & Centro Cristiano Pentecostés de McMinnville are having in person services and are live streaming the service through Facebook live. Ministerios Restauración is still having online services broadcasted through Facebook live on Sundays. They are also having Bible study and prayer time through Zoom meetings with congregational members. Iglesia Menonita Roca De Salvación started doing in-person services on Sunday, January 10. They will have in-person services on Sundays only for now and will continue to have online services streamed through Facebook live on Wednesdays & Fridays.

PRAYER REQUEST: Pastor Víctor Estrada's mother passed away on Thursday, January 21, 2021. She lived in Mexico and Pastor Víctor E. is unable to travel to Mexico.

Pastor Samuel Moran expectedly lost his eighth grandson, Judah. Pastor Samuel's daughter was expecting a baby boy, but was born prematurely and passed away shortly after birth. Pastor Samuel made the decision with his wife to travel to be with their daughter and son-in-law who are grieving the loss of their baby boy. It was not an easy decision to make because of what is happening right now, but they decided that the well-being of their daughter and son-in-law were more important than the risks. Thank you in advance for your prayers for both of our pastors.

5. Policy Report - Leonard

The Board previously approved pronoun changes in the "Policies for the PNMC Board." Leonard would also like us to respond to pronoun changes referring to ECM (Executive Conference Minister) on lines 604, 622, 636, 667, 693, 710, 711 (his or her), and 731 in the "Policies for the PNMC Board" under *Category IV: Executive Conference Minister Limitations*.

MOTION: Deren moved and Kiara seconded that we approve the pronoun changes to lines 604, 622, 636, 667, 693, 710, 711 (his or her), and 731 under the “Policies for the PNMC Board” under *Category IV: Executive Conference Minister Limitations*. **MOTION PASSED.**

6. Finance Team (FT) & Treasurer Report – Deren (for Dave)

Meeting with Dennis Lefevre from Everence

The Finance Team met with Dennis Lefevre, Financial Consultant at Everence, to discuss PNMC’s investment funds. PNMC has two funds at Everence: an Investment Fund and a Stock and Bond Fund. The Investment Fund has increased 4.36% after fees. The market has done well. The portfolio was set for a long period of time - up to thirty years. The question of when to get into or out of certain investments can be difficult, but it is much safer to take a long-range view rather than trying to respond to short-term trends. Most investment managers balance on a quarterly basis, but Everence does not always hold to a strict schedule; sometimes the schedule is advanced based on the markets. When there is money to invest, it is always better to do so frequently. Investing large sums less frequently can be affected by vagaries of the market. If there are known cash needs, it is better to hold onto the money, rather than putting it in investments, then pulling it out. One of the questions we had is, if money is withdrawn from the fund, can PNMC choose which type of funds to draw on, i.e. equities, bonds, money market, etc. The answer is no; in such a case, Everence would take the money pro-rata from all different types of accounts.

We also asked why we have the Stock and Bond Fund with approximately \$15,000 as well as the Investment fund and if it makes sense to combine them? We need to research to make sure the Stock and Bond Fund not a restricted endowment fund, but this seems unlikely as we took money out in 2006-2007. Dennis will check and see whether this is the case. If this is not a restricted fund, there is no reason not to combine them.

Proposed PNMC FY2022 Budget

Dave developed a draft budget that Deren presented. The budget projects a slight surplus with somewhat decreased income and increased expenses.

Balance Sheet Assets dropped \$10K this last year.

Question from Board: Are there necessary minimum balances? Deren will take this question back to finance team.

The finance team is working on creating a narrative budget that will put these numbers in the context of PNMC’s mission to present at the annual conference.

MOTION: Megan moved and Jan seconded that we approve the 2022 Budget as presented.

MOTION PASSED.

Covenant of Understanding (COU) for Executive Conference Minister (ECM)

The team drafted a Covenant of Understanding (COU) for the Executive Conference Minister that covers the period from February 1, 2021 through the 2022 Annual Conference Meeting. This is based on a 1.0 FTE position for the ECM as approved earlier this month. The ECM excused herself so the Board could discuss her COU.

MOTION: Jan moved and Kevin seconded that we approve the Executive Conference Minister’s Covenant of Understanding as presented. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Board and Katherine together arrived at an agreement to revisit her intent to continue employment as ECM in a year from now.

Suggestion for Finance Committee:

Building in an **annual** reach-out to congregations to add to their PNMC budgets during their budget-building cycles and/or a thank you for current giving.

Reminders

- Keep the MC USA timeline in your prayers:
January: Executive Board (EB) makes final decisions regarding which resolutions will be presented at MennoCon21
Jan-Jun 2021: EB staff lead implementation in collaboration with ECM's and others. EB staff develop a communication plan.
March 2021: CLC receives final resolutions
July 2021: Delegates vote on final recommendations at MennoCon21
- Share news from your congregations for the twice monthly PNMC E-bulletin

Next meeting dates:

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

March 27, 2021 - Zoom meeting for CLC recap report (8:30-9:15 a.m.)

Follow with IDI Board Review with Duncan Smith (9:30 - 12:30 with break included)

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

August 20-21, 2021 - PNMC Annual Conference

Closing

Katherine closed the meeting with a blessing and prayer. Adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by Twila Lehman
PNMC Secretary