

PNMC Board ZOOM meeting Agenda
Saturday, November 20, 2021 - 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Members Present: Dianna Eshleman, moderator; Kevin Chupp, Moderator-elect; Katherine O'Brien, Secretary; Dave Hockman-Wert, Treasurer: Deren Kellogg, Kiara Yoder, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Leonard Nolt, Megan Ramer, Jan Yoder.

Staff present: Katherine Jameson Pitts, Executive Conference Minister; Barb Buxman, Administrator.

Sharing time - Praise / challenges in our personal lives

Scripture & opening prayer Megan read from "Voices Together" (VT 1044, 953) the response to community crisis prayer. She then read Jeremiah 29:4-11 for a devotional about exiled people seeking the welfare of all people in the city where they find themselves.

Board Education (Dianna) The board was previously given role structure diagrams referring to MC USA and CLC. There were some questions and explanations about the diagrams.

The board viewed a video produced by the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) explaining the history of resolution to retire the membership guidelines. This video may be a useful tool for congregations in our conference to use in preparation for the delegate assembly in May 2022 held in Kansas City. Other webinar tools to explain proposed resolutions are being developed by MC USA to make available to all the conferences for education prior to the delegate assembly. It was suggested that these materials be translated into Spanish for those congregations who may benefit from educational material in translated form.

Reports & Action items:

Moderator Report (Dianna)

1) Motion to retire the PNMC Pastoral Medical Insurance Grant program since it is no longer needed with other options available, based on Finance Team recommendation. Moved by Deren, seconded by Nelly. Passed unanimously.

2) Motion to amend minutes 9/11 meeting Finance Team (FT) Report section (a & f unchanged, but replace b,c,d,e with the CORRECTED VERSION below provided by Dave. Moved by Kiara and seconded by Janice. Passed unanimously.

AMMENDMENT: Finance Team: Deren (partial discussion here and later in the meeting)

- a. Report previously emailed to the board.
- b. The finance team discussed combining the two accounts/funds we have with Everence (the large Investment Fund, from the sale of the Peace property, and the small Stock and Bond Fund, which has been around for a long time), which is basically a way to simplify the books. There were no objections.

- c. The finance team also discussed reallocating our assets to better show our goals, based on an Asset Allocation Questionnaire from Everence that the team members filled out. We are now thinking more long term than we had previously thought. The team would suggest changing our allocation from Moderate Conservative to Moderate, increasing the risks as well as the potential rewards.
- d. It was suggested that this conversation happen when the board meets in person. This discussion needs to include our mission and vision and what ethical filters are in place. Board needs to have consensus about goals and strategy.
- e. In the end Dave suggested we leave the funds as they are for now until the board can have a more comprehensive discussion.
- f. Katherine JP suggested that the Finance Team research the Sharing Fund need for pastor insurance. It has been in existence for several years and has not been reviewed.

3) Annual review of Board Members Code of Conduct (policy 2.5 yellow pages in board manual) was done.

4) Drift Creek Camp (DCC) Board Retreat May 13-15, 2022 update and reminders. Retreat begins Friday evening after supper with snacks and departure Sunday morning after worship followed by Brunch. All plans are tentative depending on COVID recommendations at the time. Cost estimates (including for accompanying family members) about \$100 per adult, pro-rated for children.

5) Brief report of recent Moderator meeting:

Gift Discernment Team (GDT) Report (Dianna) - will start meeting by January to develop slate to fill 4 positions-

- CIHAN rep- appointed 2 year term (Nelly Moran-Ascencio maxed out at 8 years -2014) (GDT will seek consultation with CIHAN for a replacement member from their group.)
- Moderator elect- elected 2 year term
- At Large member - appointed 2 year term (Kiara Yoder 2020)
- Board Member- elected 4 year term (Jan Yoder, appointed in 2016, elected 2018)

Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report (Katherine JP) - written report is available

In addition to the written report emailed to the board prior to the meeting: Katherine presented the potential for an Employee Assistance Program through The Corinthian Plan, more details to come later. Katherine JP will prepare a weekly equity exercise for us from Jan-May using the 21-day Equity Challenge materials; Katherine JP will explore options for church plants to use PNMC or MC USA nonprofit tax status.

CIHAN Report (Nelly) Written report was emailed to the board and Nelly highlighted comments from that report.

Policy Committee Report (Leonard)

1) **Document Retention Policy 5.3.6** -Motion to accept this policy made by Megan and seconded by Kevin. Passed with unanimous approval. Dianna will provide Mennonite Historical Society with a copy of new document retention policy adopted at today's meeting

2) **Investment Policy Statement (Policy 5.2.2)** - noted that at the PNMC Finance Team Meeting July 25, 2020, they reviewed the Investment Policy Statement (Policy 5.2.2) and "did not have any recommendations for changes at this time". The board has had time to review also since last meeting.

ACTION requested for new review date today to keep in review rotation schedule and provide a working document for future discussion by board of investment management priorities. To facilitate the action there was a motion by Megan, seconded by Jan. Unanimous approval to use this document for future study at the May meeting. 11/20/21 will be recorded as the review date.

3) Leonard, Kevin, Katherine & Dianna plan to review sections 5.3 & 5.4 policies for next meeting discussion as per rotation guide every 3 years by policy 5.2.4. Review report to be given at January meeting, action to accept will be requested at May meeting.

Finance Team (FT) & Treasurer Report (Deren, Dave) Part of discussions from the finance team were discussed earlier. FT and budget reports were emailed previously to board members.

-13 congregations responded to the FT survey and reported they were financially healthy. There may have been some respondent bias as congregations that are not financially healthy would be less likely to respond. FT plans to develop a culturally appropriate questionnaire for non-responding congregations.

-combined stock & bond fund with some retained as a money market account at US Bank. Question raised if using a credit union would be a better expression of PNMC values. FT will review implications of the question.

-more research into question of tax status best avenue for affiliated organizations, such as camps, and emerging new congregations. Apply for their own status 501-(C)3 may be the safest overall for them?

-endowment fund use utilizing current Investment strategy statement. The question of whether PNMC should grow the fund for future needs or spend down some portion for immediate needs or for work to fulfill its mission, has been raised. Feedback from CCC may be helpful to future board discussion at May meeting.

- Investment strategy recommended by Everence to be changed from moderate conservative to moderate risk, based on survey of the FT members. FT has not taken any action yet, as the results of the Board discussion about the use of the Endowment Funds will inform this decision.

Discussion & Action Items:

1. **Discussion item-** (Katherine JP) **CLC meeting 5/27/2022 ; Delegate meetings 5/28 - 5/30**, in Kansas City, MO How to generate delegate interest for attendance from PNMC?

1. A suggestion was made that selection of speakers with topics of interest/relevancy might encourage some members to be delegates.
2. Educating members on the resolution and importance to members
3. Include Spanish language programs/speakers
4. High cost of attendance was discussed. Some congregations might be financially more capable of sending delegates than others.
 1. Discussion on conference helping to finance a portion of costs to attend the delegate meeting.
 2. Discussion of making it fair and equitable and based on need.
 3. Comments on youth delegates and ensuring their safety.

After much discussion, action was taken as follows:

ACTION – Motion made by Kiara “In order to work toward equity among our congregations, PNMC will offer scholarships to the MC USA Special Delegate Session May 28-30, 2022 in Kansas City for up to 75% of the cost of registration, travel and lodging to all congregations with financial need.” Seconded by Leonard. Passed unanimously.

*Noted that the Executive Board of MC USA is also working on a subsidy amount for delegates with financial need.

2. Information from Michael Danner, MC USA (Dianna)

Board Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 8, at p.m. Pacific time with Michael Danner, MC USA Associate Executive Director for Church Vitality

3. **Annual meeting** - (Katherine JP) **Friday, June 17, 2022**. Pastor’s ethics training, workshop for other people (Everence), pastor appreciation dinner in evening;
Saturday, June 18, all day delegate meeting. Location to be determined

*Board members were encouraged to familiarize themselves (for future discussion) with the 2 documents which pertain to annual meeting planning process, sent by email before this meeting. “Guidelines for Program Planning Committee” and “Guidelines for Local Arrangements Committee.”

Reminders

- 1) Share news from your congregations for the twice monthly PNMC E-bulletin
- 2) Next quarterly Board zoom meeting date will be **Saturday, January 22, 2022**.
- 3) 2022 annual retreat - **May 13, 14, 15 Drift Creek Camp**
- 4) board zoom meeting with Michael Danner on **Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 6pm Pacific time**

Future meeting agenda items list: (contact Dianna if you have additional agenda item requests)

- 1) Continued (Intercultural Development Inventory) IDI processing at May retreat
- 2) Discussion item for May meeting - Would it make sense to convert the Secretary & Treasurer positions from non-voting to voting members?
- 3) Policy committee will present 5.3 & 5.4 policies that address ECM/ Board relations & ECM Limitations for new revision dates in January. Action at May meeting.
- 4) develop Digital Security policy- Katherine JP continues to gather information from other conferences & resources about how to best develop this policy.
- 5) Investment Policy Statement (Policy 5.2.2) - strategies for the Investment fund will be discussed at the May meeting

*Reminder to please fill out **Google Form** meeting evaluation (link sent to you in a separate email) within 24 hours after the meeting. (Mandated after each regular meeting by policy 2.1.7)

Dianna thanked the members for returning to Barb the signed confidentiality statement sent electronically before the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned with comments and a prayer from Katherine JP. (VT 1059)