

PNMC Board Zoom meeting

Saturday September 10,2022

Members Present: Kevin Chupp, moderator; Chris Nord, Moderator-elect, Julia Todd, Secretary; Dave Hockman-Wert, Treasurer: Deren Kellogg, Kiara Yoder, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Leonard Nolt, Megan Ramer, Emily Toews and Dianna Eshleman.

Staff present: Barb Buxman, Administrator

Sharing time – Many shared of summer adventures, traveling, spending time with family and friends and getting children off to school.

Scripture & opening prayer – Chris opened with a meditation on the parable of the Sower. This meditation encouraged us to focus on the generosity of the Sower rather than the soil. In Jesus day, farmers protected their seed with vigilance even while in the midst of hunger they were guarded. Then, Jesus describes God as flinging the seeds with abandon not like the farmers of the day to only plant in specified plots of ground. The story is prefaced with the woman who anointed Jesus with oil and was referenced as “wasting time with sinners.” The soil doesn’t amend itself, nor are we to judge if the soil is good or bad. We are not fit to judge. We should all be generous farmers with God’s message.

Reports & Action items:

Moderator Report (Kevin)

Several items were noted for the record:

1. Lebanon Mennonite Church terminated membership with PNMC effective July 13, 2022, after offering a formal rejection of the PNMC board’s invitation to engage in the process for shared discernment as outlined by our conference policy.
2. Eric Massanari accepted the call for the role of ECM on July 25th, with a start date of November 1, 2022. The search process was outlined from April 1 – July 25th for reference.

Kevin attended the Moderators & Conference minister’s meeting July 11, 2022 and noted that many conferences are facing changes. It was noted that churches must be both a member of a local conference and MCUSA.

Gifts Discernment Team (GDT) – Kevin reported that the team has new members but has not yet met. The GDT needs to have a more formal process of sending out notices seeking candidates from pastors. Notices are sent to Pastors in January seeking response for the need to fill PNMC positions. A suggestion was made to send a notice to the entire churches via the bulletins with open positions listed to elicit members for the broader church work. A question

was raised about using a nomination form at annual conference as well. Chris Nord will work on development of an electronic form for the GDT to use in this process.

Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report - none

CIHAN Report (Nelly) – No Council meetings have been held in May or August. A September meeting is planned. The Pastors continue to meet monthly. See attached report.

Policy Committee Report (Leonard)- The policy on Digital Security was sent to Brent Graber and Bryce Miller for review with corresponding email replies. Leonard suggested a change from annual review of this policy to every three years or as needed as well as referring to our record retention policy for deleting temporary information. Chris Leonard and Kevin will continue to work on this policy.

Finance Team (FT) & Treasurer Report (Deren, Dave)- Written reports were available for both the Finance Team and the Treasure's report. Deren noted that Dennis Lefevre is planning to meet with the finance team in the near future. The question has been raised about Camp Camrec, WA needing to establish an exempt status. The IRS policy states that "churches and associates are automatically exempt and not required by IRS to establish an exempt status." This includes nonprofit churches, auxiliary conventions or associations with churches.

The Balance sheet was reviewed noting the drop in investment funds due to the market losses as well as completion of several more Healthy Congregational grants. The year is now two-thirds complete and 52% of the income has come in for the year. Dave notes we are in a stable budget position noting the Net Operating Income is in good standing. This is the line to focus attention on. Income from affiliated groups is primarily from the Mennonite Village for credentialing of staff.

Discussion & Action Items:

1. ECM Orientation – Barb will initially work with Eric setting up accounts, establishing calendars and enrolling Eric in insurance plans etc. A schedule will be made for Eric to visit all congregations with Barb coordinating this schedule. The Corinthian plan has been maintained to keep the account active. Additional funds may be needed for equipment purchases. Yolanda has a job in Skagit Washington and they have looked into housing.
2. Moderator succession – Kevin is moving to Illinois ending his term 10/9/22. A list of names was developed for an interim position. Chris made the motion to offer the position to Jack Swaim from 10/7/22 -6/30/23. This was seconded by Megan Ramer. After further discussion a list of names was developed in order of 1) Jack Swaim, 2) Jeryl Hollinger, 3) Dianna Eshleman with the position to start as soon as possible as an amended motion. The motion passed. Kevin will make the contacts.

3. Tithe of money from conference property sale – The Board was presented with an option for tithing of the monies from the property sales for PNMC. Following an example by Allegheny Mennonite Conference of Radical Trust. It was recognized that money can be a gift or a burden to an organization. The Finance team was directed to determine the amount of funds available to be dispersed with the understanding of keeping the PNMC functioning and viable with assets. The money would be equally divided among member congregations with the stipulation of them reporting back how the funds were used within a timeline. A list will be developed for suggested options for using the funds, some examples were camp scholarships, Drift Creek Camp, PNMC support, community programs churches support.
4. Community of Hope (Bellingham, WA)– church plant status – Following the board policies (#5.1.10 and 5.15) affiliate church plants are to move toward membership with conference after three years of affiliate status. The policy calls for two members meeting with the PNMC board. The Community of Hope representatives were desiring to meet with board on 11/19 but since this is Eric’s first meeting with the BOD, they will be asked to attend the 1/21/23 meeting. A time of shared reflection and open- ended discussion will be directed by Megan and the interim moderator at that meeting.
5. A clarification was made that the moderator will seek the opinion of the Secretary and Treasurer but they will not be made voting members due to extensive bylaws changes.

Thanks, and appreciation was extended to Kevin for his time of service as moderator elect and moderator over the past years.

Reminders –

Future meeting agenda item list:

1. Retreat Plans
2. Move forward with Community of Hope Membership
3. Move the Digital Security policy forward
4. PNMC Board meeting 11/19/2022 and schedule future meetings corresponding with Eric’s schedule
6. Conference Communication Council – Zoom meeting 2/4/2023
7. Annual meeting –June 23 & 24, 2023 at Portland Mennonite Church

Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Emily at 1200.

Submitted, Julia Todd PNMC Secretary