**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**

**Board Retreat- Drift Creek Camp**

**Friday May 13, 2022**

Members Present: Dianna Eshleman, moderator; Kevin Chupp, Moderator-elect, Julia Todd, Secretary; Dave Hockman-Wert, Treasurer: Deren Kellogg, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Leonard Nolt, Jan Yoder

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

Members Absent: Kiara Yoder and Megan Ramer

Guests present for the weekend: Karen Nolt, Gary Jewell, Ken Pitts, Cathleen Hockman-Wert, Brenda Kauffman, Jessica and Junia Chupp and Uzziah and Edin Ascencio.

The meeting opened with a challenging game of Senior trivia which was enlightening to all.

**Reports & Action:**

**Policy Report/updates:** The policy on Digital information 5.3.7 was reviewed. Kevin will have it reviewed by outside sources for accuracy. This policy will be brought back to the next meeting for any revisions.

The motion was brought forward by Leonard Nolt to approve the policies 5.3 and 5.4 with the exceptions of 5.3.2 and 5.3.7. Nelly seconded the motion, the motion carried.

The motion was made on policy 5.4.1 to take formal action to add category 4 with the review every three years. Motion carried.

**Discussion items:** Dianna raised the question to consider changing the bylaws to allow the Treasurer and Secretary to become voting members of the board. This was tabled after considerable discussion noting discrepancies in the bylaws.

On the policy 2.8.1.1 the motion was made by Deren to change the language to say that the Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) is nominated by the Gift Discernment Team but appointed by the board. This motion was amended to say that in section 2.8.1 the Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT), Finance and Theological teams are nominated by the Gift Discernment Team but appointed by the board. This was seconded by Kevin Chupp. It was noted that the Gift Discernment Team presents names for the two at-large GDT members to the board for affirmation, but are elected by the conference delegates.

Also for discussion was the item of needing to appoint a new Healthy Congregations Grant Committee with the current team all leaving the Board. (Nelly, Dianna and Katherine) The team generally consists of two board members and the moderator or moderator elect.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

**Saturday May 14, 2022**

The same members were in attendance for the Saturday meetings.

Jan Yoder opened the meeting with a devotional from Isaiah 43:19. She reflected on shepherding in the desert, raising the question, “Who are we becoming through the practices we are doing?” After the desert experience of Covid the past two years we are looking for streams of renewal.

**Moderator Report**: The January meeting minutes were electronically accepted for approval. The EMC Job description was accepted and approved this month electronically. Two new board members are needed for upcoming terms. The Healthy Congregational Grant committee will have the moderator as a standing member and two other board members.

The discussion of the bylaws changes, (to have the Secretary and Treasure have voting rights) was dismissed in favor of making the policy change to add #2.4.1.3 to read, “As the Secretary and Treasurer are not voting members of the Board (page 9 of Bylaws) the Moderator shall solicit their opinion in all board discussions along with other Board Members.” We noted that the Secretary position is often focused in recording by nature of the office. Both the Secretary and Treasure positions may be removed at will for discretionary measures. This statement met with agreement and will be voted on at the next board meeting.

The Board members were asked to help with serving at the Pastor’s Appreciation dinner as available.

Meeting site options for the next upcoming PNMC conference will need to be decided before the end of conference this year. Portland Mennonite Church and Western Mennonite Church have been contacted. Recent prior years have been held at Albany -2019, Boise – 2018, Ritzville- 2017.

**Gift Discernment Team (GDT**) The slate of nominees was presented for approval:

Appointed by PNMC Board and GDT

Secretary – Julia Todd

At Large members (2) board appointed 2 year terms

Kiara Yoder and CIHAN representative

Pastoral leadership Team, 4 year appointed term – Sam Adams

West Coast MCC Board Rep from PNMC – Beth Landis

Finance Team (2) – Jack Swaim (2year), Harold Nussbaum (1year)

Elected by PNMC Delegates

-Board member, delegate elected 4 year term – Emily Toews

- Moderator Elect/Moderator, delegate elected 4 year term(pending)

- GDT – (2) 1 year elected terms by delegates – Rick Bollman and Jennifer Gingerich

The motion was made to affirm the slate of nominees by Jan Yoder, Seconded by Deren Kellog. Motion was passed.

**Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report** (Katherine JP) – Written report was sent and reviewed. Katherine reported that nine congregations had requested grants for attendance at MC USA and that 16 of the 24 congregations are sending delegates. To date 489 delegates and 60 observers are registered to attend conference. A review of the congregations of PNMC was given.

**CIHAN Report (**Nelly) – The report was reviewed as written. The CIHAN Council may appoint a delegate to the PNMC board at their next meeting.

**Finance Team (FT) & Treasurer Report** (Daren, Dave)- Written reports were distributed. The Investment fund has stopped growing in the last couple months with a sixty-four thousand flux in the market. The stocks and bond funds have been moved to a second account. Twelve thousand dollars has been spent in Grant funding.

An ongoing discussion has been to move funds from the General fund checking account to Everence funds as they can provide most services rather than keeping a checking account. The issue would be how to handle cash. It was decided to keep funds in the US Bank as presently operating until Everence has ATM presence in the West coast area.

Another question raised is what to do with the Investment funds. Fifty thousand had been set aside for the Healthy Congregational Grant funds. With trends of costs increasing and funding by church members decreasing what is a comfortable level of risk verses investment? The cash flow annually is $170 thousand. It was pointed out that PNMC is a worthy Non-profit organization worthy of the funds. We also have an ethical obligation to serve others. Several models for distribution of funds were looked at for a tithe. It was noted that the income from congregations is only enough to fund a half-time ministry. We determined that our response is that the Board is weighing questions of sustainability and being able to offer a tithe on the funds.

**Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Search Team** – Kevin reported that the job description was completed earlier in May (approved electronically by the board) and the team has been working with the Church Vitality Office MCUSA in this search process. The first round of interviews will begin toward the end of May. Applicants have been using the MLI system. The search team is working on interview questions. Kevin reports the team is a good compliment of talented people to work with making the process work well.

The IDI process experience was worked at during the afternoon session with the group desiring to call the conference churches to be in prayer for the upcoming Special Assembly. A letter is to be crafted to reassure all conference congregations of the board desire for them to be participants at the table to work together in the decision-making process.

**Discussion & Action Items:**

The group discussed the four resolutions that will be acted upon at the upcoming Special Delegates Assembly. The board supported the Retirement of the MCUSA membership guidelines; Justice in the US Criminal Legal System; MC USA Accessibility Resolution and hearing of the Resolution for Repentance and Transformation. A number of the board would be in favor of the Repentance/Transformation resolution being rewritten with a less strident tone.

**Sunday May 15, 2022**

Subsequently after other reflection the letter will not be sent at this time

A zoom meeting is scheduled for June 3 at 6:30 pm to craft the letter to be sent.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:45

Reminders –

1. Complete the Google Form meeting evaluation within 24-48 hrs
2. CLC Meeting 5/27/2022: Delegate meetings 5/28-5/30 Kansas City, MO.
3. PNMC Zoom meeting Friday, June 3, 2022 6:30 pm
4. Annual meeting – Friday, June 17 & 18, 2022

Submitted,

Julia Todd, Secretary PNMC