

PNMC Board Zoom meeting

Saturday November 19, 2022

Members Present: Jack Swaim, Moderator; Chris Nord, Moderator-Elect; Julia Todd, Secretary; Dave Hockman-Wert, Treasurer; Deren Kellogg, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Megan Ramer, Emily Toews and Dianna Eshleman.

Staff present: Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister (ECM); Barb Buxman, Administrator

Members Absent: Leonard Nolt, Kiara Yoder

Sharing time – The group shared a bit about themselves, in the spirit of getting to know each other better. We have scuba divers, mountain climbers, world travelers and long-distance runners in our group.

Centering – Jack led in a prayer by Oscar Romero

Board Education – Jack led in a time of sharing views on roles of ECM and board, and how they work together. The ECM works to carry out the day-to-day functions with the board. The board has a more strategic function. The board has an eye toward the future (ends) and supports the ECM by making sure details are in place with policies. The board works toward collective collaboration on controversial issues. A key role of this group is to be a defender of relationships and accountability rather than polity.

Future board topics for consideration:

- How do we consider the COF and the resolutions recently approved in the 2022 Delegate Assembly?
- Cultural diversity study and ideas to move forward
- Use of the Menno Data Resources for holding credentialing record keeping information.
- Addressing the issues raised with the Repentance/Transformation statement
- Learning more about communication with CIHAN and inclusion
- A possible change in by-laws to include forbearance
- Anti-racism and cultural competency for all – Megan raised the parable of conference being like those circling a campfire. All are welcome to the warmth though we are a multiplicity of cultures, and we need to name our differences. Every culture draws in others to join the circle.
- The top two areas for future work were identified as:
 - 1) Looking at the Confession of Faith and involvement with forbearance.
 - 2) Inclusion and relationships with CIHAN

Reports & Action items:

Moderator Report - Jack expressed appreciation for board and the opportunity to have conversation with each board member.

(Jack and Chris) – Chris will start his two year-year moderator cycle term effective 6/30/2023 – Discussion/action to follow.

Housing allowance for Eric – The board discussed the amount allowed for tax exempt status (not a PNMC expense) for the Executive Conference Minister position. Historically \$30,000.00 has been allowed. Eric expressed a desire to reduce this amount to \$25,000.00. After discussion, the motion was made to approve \$25,000.00 for housing allowance. (Emily) A second was made by Megan and the motion carried.

Report from the Zoom Constituency Leaders Council (CLC). CLC is made up of representatives of the 21 area conferences, constituency groups and agencies - Chris and Jack attended the Zoom meeting in October 2022. Groups addressed questions of how they are experiencing conference or constituency group life right now and what joys could be celebrated and what burdens could be shared.

The Executive Board is proposing that the Delegate assemblies meet every three years instead of two.

The Executive Board has asked the resolutions committee to reevaluate the current process, and to make recommendations for improvement. Some of the highlights were: voting for resolutions may be changed to a 7-point gradient scale, rather than a yes/no scale. Aspirational elements of resolutions will be addressed separately from resolutions requesting for action such as a specific organizational change. Another question raised was if there appears to be a conflict between resolutions and our Confession of Faith, is there a process to examine such. It was noted that there is no intent to revise the Confession of Faith at this time. Also noted that the 1995 Confession of Faith took eight years to complete once there was agreement to create a new one.

The next MC USA delegate assembly will be held July 2023. Proposals for changes to the resolutions process will be part of the agenda.

Board's meeting evaluation and improvement process - the question was raised as to how or if the form is being used. Dianna used a Google form to evaluate the board meetings and how to make the meetings most beneficial as part of an improvement process. Jack and Chris will work out a process going forward.

Gifts Discernment Team (GDT) (Jack) The GDT identifies candidates for PNMC positions and will begin work again in January. The current members are Jack Swaim, Interim Moderator; Chris Nord, Moderator Elect; Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister; Rick Bollman (Emmaus); Jennifer Gingerich (Salem).

PNMC Openings (2023) for which GDT will identify and recommend candidates for board consideration, later followed by delegate consideration where appropriate:

Moderator-Elect (M-E): Two-year term starting 6/30/2023, after which the M-E becomes Moderator

Treasurer: Three-year term (Incumbent: Dave Hockman-Wert elected 2020)

Board Member At Large: Four-year term (Incumbent: Leonard Nolt elected 2019)

Pastoral Leadership Team: Four-year term (Incumbent: Rod Stafford)

GDT: One-year term, eligible to continue (Incumbent: Rick Bollman)

GDT: One-year term, eligible to continue (Incumbent: Jennifer Gingerich)

Finance Team Member: One-year term, eligible to continue (Incumbent: Harold Nussbaum)

West Coast Mennonite Central Committee (WC MCC) Board– details to be clarified

Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report (Eric Massanari)- Eric expressed great appreciation for PNMC Administrator, Barb Buxman, and her excellent skill in getting his office set up and all the details addressed. An Oregon entity having an employee in Washington was an unexpected challenge that is being met in this change of ECM position.

Eric expressed his desire to intentionally work at relationship building and listening to conference leaders, pastors, congregations, constituency groups and others affiliated with PNMC. He is using a learning approach by asking key questions of each group. A key beneficial meeting was the Zoom District Pastors' meeting (11/7). He also visited ten pastors, three District Pastors, and two board members in his Oregon visit (11/14-18). In addition, he met with Rachel Weasley from Community of Hope (11/9) Bellingham, WA. He appreciated many expressions of welcome and sharing of meals.

CIHAN Report (Nelly) – Written report reviewed. While the CIHAN council did not have their annual meeting, the pastors are having their monthly meetings, the most recent was 11/7/22.

Policy Committee Report (Leonard) - Deferred

Finance Team (FT) (Deren)- The Finance team met for their quarterly meeting 10/22/2022. Eric has been invited to the 1/7/2023 meeting along with Dennis LeFevre, the PNMC Everence rep to discuss the investment funds. Dave will begin to draft a new budget for the 2023 year which starts 2/1/2023. Deren will add a narrative portion to the budget. The Finance team is still considering uses of the funds from the sale of the Peace church.

Treasurer Report (Dave) – Written report reviewed. While there has been a bit of outer pressure to tithe the money from the Peace Church sale, the team is looking toward moving funds to the Healthy Congregational Grant fund while keeping funding for PNMC sustainable. The total current assets value on 10/21/22 was \$137,690.58 which is an increase over this time last year of \$24,344.54. The Endowment fund has diminished due to fluctuations in the markets. The remaining memorial funds were used to equip the ECM office. The balance in the Healthy Congregational Grant fund is \$24,728.61.

Discussion & Action Items:

1. Board meeting January 21, 2023, via Zoom. Time: 0830 – 1230 Pacific Time.
2. Community of Hope Bellingham WA church plant - next steps Megan, Jack and Eric will meet to design recommendations.
3. Conference Communication Council (CCC) Zoom on February 4, 2023. Time: 0900-1200 Pacific Time.
4. Planning for Annual meeting ensues no later than just after CCC.
5. Board meeting April 22 Zoom 0830-1130
6. Annual meeting (June 23-24, 2023, at Portland Mennonite Church). Board meeting to welcome new members, at the conclusion of the annual meeting.
7. Board Retreat – September 23rd or 30th – Keep both dates open

Previous Moderator Kevin Chupp moved from PNMC to another conference in early October 2022, early in his term. Due to the unusual circumstances of placing an Interim Moderator (Jack Swaim) mid-term, the board made the motion to accept the Moderator-Elect to the Moderator position, June 2023, to serve a two-year term. (Megan) Second by Emily. Motion carried. Chris' term will end in June 2025, and two-year terms will continue forward.

This will require the GDT to also identify a candidate for moderator elect one year early. (2023 open position)

Prayer/Closing-Eric led us in a body/movement prayer.

Adjourned at 12:20pm

Submitted, Julia Todd PNMC Secretary