

**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Board Meeting – Camp CAMREC, WA
Saturday September 23, 2023**

Members Present: Chris Nord, Moderator, Karla Morton, Moderator-Elect, Julia Todd, Secretary; Dave Hockman-Wert, Treasurer: Deren Kellogg, Gary Jewell, Kiara Yoder, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Megan Ramer and Emily Toews.

Staff present: Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

Members Absent: Barb Buxman, Administrator, Jack Swaim

Chris opened the meeting with a welcome and passed out the updates for the board documents. An orientation to the PNMC website will be on the agenda for the next meeting to familiarize board members with the contents.

The meeting minutes from the prior meeting (4/22/23) have been electronically approved by the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) Board of Directors.

Digital Security policy - Chris has reviewed the policy with Leonard Nolt who had taken the lead on this policy. Chris and Dave will contact Bryce Toews to review the document for any further development that may be needed.

Policy Lead Identification – All board members are encouraged to review the policies annually and bring any updates to the board. Policies need to be reformatted to be gender neutral as they are updated. Megan Ramer and Dave Hockman-Wert expressed willingness to serve as the review team. The next policies in rotation to be reviewed are the policies numbered 5.2.4.

MennonCon Debrief- Attendees at the Mennonite Convention 2023 were asked to share significant moments. The smaller size of the group was definitely noticed. The mood was one of lightness with willingness to share without adversarial expression from those in disagreement. Many expressed appreciations of the workshops and being able to attend. The delegate sessions were held at the end of the experience with limited agenda which felt like a reward. The limiting of discussion did not give adequate time to process the information (especially around the changing of the number of years between conventions) Some did not realize a youth convention will not be available next year due to the vote keeping the conventions bi- annual. The racial diversity of the staff was noted with appreciation.

Lacking from the convention was a naming of the losses of conferences and congregations from MC USA, while lament was reduced to graphs and numbers. Pain was not acknowledged over the large shift in MCUSA membership.

Dismantling of the Doctrine of Discovery- Eric reported that Sarah Augustine, executive director for the organization has issued a call to prayer on 11/4/2023 for the Oak Flats Apache Nation and the ruling of the government to destroy sacred grounds for a copper mining project. We are to pray for spiritual transformation for all society in how we relate to the earth. Pray for the healing and repair as the organization works at legislative levels to work with the government in this process.

A Native American Embassy has been created in Portland Oregon for any who are willing to come and learn about the people and their cultures. This is an opportunity for board members to share about their congregation's involvement and whether the conference should explore possible involvement on this issue of justice.

CIHAN Representation to the Board and Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) – A discussion was held regarding the bylaws for Board members terms and being at variance with policy V.2.e. Nelly has served two consecutive terms for CIHAN as the PNMC board representative ending in June 2023. We currently do not have a representative on the PLT from CIHAN. The report from Nelly was discussed at this time. The pastors of CIHAN continue to meet with the pastors from churches who left Conference. They are listening together and continuing to have relationship and giving support through prayer. The three congregations that remain in conference are Iglesia Anabautista (Keizer OR), Ebenezer and Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva (Salem OR) and Ministerios Restauracion (Portland OR) and there is a pause in CIHAN council meeting together at this time. It was noted that CIHAN is not responsible to the board bylaws. After extensive discussion by the board and recognition that an appointed term is not the same as an elected term, the consensus of the BOD was presented as a motion. The motion was made by Megan that “we interpret the bylaws in such a way that the 2 -term limitation in article V.2.e does not apply to appointed directors in this instance.” Seconded by Gary. The motion passed 7-0. This gives opportunity to clarify by-laws and allow CIHAN to follow in the same vein. Appreciation was expressed to Nelly for her continued work to be a bridge between PNMC and CIHAN.

NW Mexico Fund Updates – Eric reported that this fund is not part of the budget. Samuel Moran, Simon Rendon and Curt Dorsing manage this fund. This year \$5400.00 has been dispersed to resource congregations.

Reports & Action items:

Moderator Report /Gifts Discernment Team (Chris) – Chris reported that a survey for solicitations of nominations for PNMC positions is being worked on and will be presented at the Conference Communications Council by the Gifts Discernment Team. They also have a plan to follow up with pastors for nominations.

Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report (Eric) - Eric highlighted a few notes from his written report. There are two active pastoral searches in process at this time (Aberdeen Mennonite and Salem Mennonite) as well as working with leadership teams and search

committees in four other congregations. Eric is working with congregations to find Interim leadership as well. Eric has traveled extensively to meet with Idaho and Montana congregations as well as Oregon and Washington congregations this past year. Appreciation was expressed to Eric from the BOD for the travel that he has been willing to do.

Eric has been developing a theme for the CCC around inviting gratitude and support recognizing that generosity requires intentionality. Also recognizing that many churches have been connecting ecumenically building relationships in communities a focus will be on learning to build bridges with other faiths and what we can offer to other faiths.

Personally, Eric and Yolanda have been happy to have found a house close to his parents' home and move from apartment living.

CIHAN Report (Nelly) Written report was given as well as discussion in prior conversation of the board

Policy Committee Report - no report

Finance Team (FT) Deren – Written report was given. Deren states the finance team is looking to the original intent and impact of various funds in the budget. The committee is seeking board input on the use of the Investment funds and how to communicate that with conference. A suggestion was to put the narrative on the website of the committee's findings as to how funds have been used.

Treasurer Report (Dave) - The giving has been slower than in a normal year with about 30-35% of the income for the budget year being given. Expenses have been above normal but within reason. The cash available is always in flux. A withdrawal from the Investment funds has been made to keep the budget afloat. This is the first time taking a withdrawal from the Investment funds.

Discussion/Future meetings

1. Next PNMC board meeting 11/18/2023 Zoom (Note the change in date)
2. Annual meeting – Friday June 21-Sunday June23, 2024 at Bend, Oregon.

Submitted,

Julia Todd, PNMC Secretary