

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Zoom Board Meeting
Saturday November 18, 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, Emily Toews and Jack Swaim.

Staff present: Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister, Brenda Hostetler Kauffman - Communications

Members Absent: Barb Buxman, Administrator

Scripture & opening prayer- Karla Morton led in prayer. Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship was remembered specifically as well as Eric and Yolanda in the midst of home relocation.

The meeting minutes from the prior meeting (9/23/23) have been electronically approved by the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) Board of Directors.

Board Education- Brenda Hostetler Kauffman gave an orientation and review of the PNMC website. Flint Hills is the hosting organization and we looked at a number of other sites which have been completed by them. The current platform is not easy to upgrade and is about 10 years old. Our current website needs to be more easily used in a mobile version and have the ability to have a second language capacity for the entire website. An initial quote to rebuild our website was between \$5-7500.00.

Chris will initiate a Goggle docs questionnaire for us to use in our congregations. The budget for Communications has been increased to cover some of this expense. Brenda will send links to a number of other websites to review. The PNMC BOD needs to send ideas and options to Brenda for what changes we would like to have made. A focus group will need to be assigned to work on the rebuild with Brenda. Kiara voiced willingness to serve on the focus group. The focus group will need to determine who the market segments are that will use our website.

Reports & Action items:

Draft Annual Appeal letter – Eric led the discussion to determine support for initiating a letter. Reasons for sending a letter are to express gratitude to the conference churches for their support of PNMC, reviewing the work completed in the past year and for continued support to conference. The BOD supports sending of the letter, the content and general intentions of the letter and initiating an annual communication with congregations.

Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report - Eric reflected on his written report and shared goals. Eric expressed admiration for the varied expression of the body of Christ he has found in PNMC in his first year as Executive Conference Minister. He has met (in-person or via Zoom) pastors and congregational leaders from all our PNMC churches over the last year, and made in person visits to seventeen of PNMC's twenty-four churches (22member congregations and 2

church plants). Of note, currently seven of the twenty-four congregations re seeking new pastors.

Eric is seeking to establish a regular cycle of annual performance reviews for PNMC staff. He meets regularly with Barb and Brenda and the staff relationships are going very well.

Moving into their new home has been a pressing agenda. Eric plans vacation time at the end of December.

Goals for next year include a trip to Alaska; enriching gatherings with ecumenical connections, planning for the Conference Communications Council (February 2024), and our Annual Meeting in Bend Oregon, June 2024. Eric desires to support Pastors and leaders of PNMC.

Eric reports his job satisfaction is extremely high, that he is appropriately challenged and that the gifts he brings resonates with conference needs.

Moderator Report – Chris reported he is still working on several projects from the last meeting.

Treasurer Report – Dave reviewed the Balance sheet and Income and Expense reports. The total current assets are \$81,000.00 on the Balance sheet. Congregational giving is lagging which is normal for this time of year. The point which would trigger consideration for a transfer of funds is \$75,000.00 in total assets. We are three fourths of the way through the budget year with corresponding expenses being 80% being spent.

Finance Team (FT)- Deren reviewed his written report. A portion of their work was to draft a letter communicating gratitude for the work of the churches, to be intentional and transparent in the use of stewarding of donated funds and to appeal for continued support. A history of the five donated funds was shared with the board along with the original intent for the donation. The finance team is working on gathering more information to be shared with PNMC.

CIHAN – Nelly reported that she will continue to be the representative to the PNMC Board. She expressed thanks for the encouragement received at our last meeting at retreat. CIHAN work is on pause at this time but the pastors continue to meet monthly. We were asked to pray specifically for the CIHAN congregations and pastors. Board members were encouraged to attend any of the CIHAN congregations or the Pastors meeting. The next Pastors meeting is January 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm at Portland Mennonite Church. Nelly will send confirmation of the time to the PNMC BOD.

Gift Discernment Team – no report

Policy Committee Report – no report

Eric was excused from the informal discussion of his first year with PNMC. The board reviewed the job description for the ECM and our interactions and perspectives of the work Eric has done. A strong affirmation was expressed for Eric's work filling the job expectations. Board members are to email their responses to Chris.

The board reviewed the budgeted salary following the MCUSA guidelines. Gary made the motion to approve the budgeted salary proposal with the amended housing allowance allocated to \$37,000.00. The motion was seconded by Kiara. Chris called the question and motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Megan Ramer.

Discussion/Future meetings

1. PNMCM BOD – January 13, 2024 9:00 am Zoom
2. Conference Communication Council – February 10, 2024 Zoom
3. Annual meeting – Friday June 21-Sunday June23, 2024 at Bend, Oregon.

Submitted,

Julia Todd, PNMCM Secretary