

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Zoom Board Meeting
Saturday January 13, 2024

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

Members Absent: none

Sharing time – Board members met in break- out rooms with prayer partners.

Scripture & opening prayer – Gary Jewell

The meeting minutes from the 11/18/2023 meeting have been electronically approved by the Pacific Norwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) Board of Directors.

Board Planning for Annual PNMC meeting and the Conference Communication Council (CCC) meetings –

CCC will be held February 10, 2024 via Zoom from 8:30 – 12:30 PT. Our theme: *That We May Be One: The Gift of Ecumenical Relationships*. We will hear stories of ecumenism from Mountain View Mennonite Church, Kalispell MT, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise ID, and Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle WA. Chaplain Stephen Obold-Eshleman, Portland OR will give the chaplaincy perspective.

A reminder has been sent out by Eric to all congregational leadership/Pastors to register on the PNMC website. PNMC Board Members are expected to attend and need to register as well.

The Annual PNMC meeting planning is being developed. The board encouraged having a three - day conference including holding a Sunday morning worship service and possibly planned group activities for the afternoon. Dates are June 21-23,2024 in Bend Oregon. A call for a logistics team and a program planning team was made. Emily Toews, Gary Jewell and Dave Hockman-Wert volunteered to assist with the planning as PNMC board members. A theme will be developed around looking at ways we intentionally bind ourselves together as a group of believers. More information to come!

Website update – Brenda Hostetler Kauffman Communications Coordinator has made contact with a Web developer with an estimated cost for Web design being around \$7500. The design would include follow up support from the company. Brenda would be able to maintain the website. Board members are asked to solicit information from their congregations regarding

use of the websites and changes that would be helpful on the website. Chris has a Google document in place for any feedback. Agreement to move forward was expressed by the board.

Two letters have been put forward to congregational leaders/Pastors for discussion and feedback. The first was an appeal letter for continuing support for the work of PNMC. The timing of this letter would be received better at a time other than the end of the year. Very little response was received back from this letter. Other means of inviting support will be discussed.

The second was a letter from the Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) expressing remorse for action taken regarding credentialing prior to the affirmation by MCUSA on the “Resolution for Repentance and Transformation.” Subsequently the PNMC Board rescinded the Ministerial Credential Review Process policy which mandated a credential review for pastors who have performed same-gender weddings. The question was raised if we have a sense of restoration of relationship of those harmed by such action. Eric replied, yes, that the direct contact with persons involved has opened the doors for communication.

Reports & Action items:

Treasurer Report (Dave) – The income and expense report current through 1/11/24 was presented. The yearend report will be completed 1/31/24. Noted in the report was that increases in expenses are not being met with budgeted income. The 2023 year (FY24) is ending on a deficit of almost \$50,000 at this date. The budget for 2024(FY25) will also be a deficit budget of a little more than \$51,000. A discussion ensued regarding looking at models to promote raising funds possibly using ongoing sustaining memberships for PNMC. Adding a creative donation process on the new website, sharing stories and building connection with the constituency were some additional ideas.

The motion was made by Karla Morton to accept the budget as presented. Both Nelly Moran-Ascencio and Megan Ramer seconded the motion. Discussion was made of using the investment funds principal to offset the budget deficit. Dave reports a policy will be drafted to determine how the transfer of investment funds process occurs so it is not just the responsibility of the treasurer. The motion was passed unanimously with appreciation expressed to Dave and Finance Team for all the work in this process.

Moderator Report (Chris Nord) – Chris gave a verbal report regarding the process of discerned understanding regarding Eric’s first year performance as Executive Conference Minister. The Pastoral Leadership Team was also part of this process and board members were given a link to this review for a short duration.

Policy Committee Report– (Chris) The annual policy review process will begin at the April meeting with Megan, Dave and Kiara leading this process.

Chris shared he will not be able to attend the spring Constituency Leadership Council (CLC) which is being held in Goshen Indiana, due to work schedule conflicts. The Moderator, Moderator Elect and the ECM are currently budgeted to attend. Chris proposed that we may consider reducing this to two positions in the future. It was noted that MCUSA has worked with conferences with resources as needed.

The themes for the Board portion of the upcoming Conference Communication Council will focus on the budget and the idea of congregational consideration of adopting support of the conference at a level of 6% of their congregational budgets.

Gifts Discernment Team (GDT) – Chris reported that the GDT (team consisting of Rick Bollman, Gloria Nussbaum, Eric Massanari and Karla Morton) is meeting this week to begin work on the next years slate of candidates to serve in open positions for PNMC.

Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report (Eric)- A written report was highlighted with Eric expressing gratitude from the evaluation process while acknowledging that funding staff is the largest part of the budget. At this time PNMC has six pastoral openings with fewer candidates. This is a large part of his work as well as preparation for CCC and the Annual meeting. He and Yolanda are settling into their home and Eric is finding a new space to work from refreshing.

CIHAN Report (Nelly)- Nelly presented a written report with the CIHAN Pastors meeting dates for the year. Iglesia Anabautista Ebenezer is celebrating with Pastors Jesus & Rosa Fuentes on their one-year anniversary since opening. The board prayed for Pastor Samuel Moran's return to good health.

Finance Team (FT) Deren – The Finance team has had considerable concern regarding the budget and finds this to be a continuing item of discussion. The various funds have been summarized with the origination of funds, purpose and access to the funds for the PNMC. This information will be shared in the E-Bulletin along with stories solicited regarding how those funds have been used. He also shared that a policy proposal is being developed to establish what level triggers a withdrawal of investment funds for use.

Future meetings

1. Conference Communication Council – Zoom meeting February 10, 2024 8:30-12:30
2. CLC Meeting March 21-23, Goshen Indiana
3. PNMC Board Meeting – Zoom 04/13/2024 9:00am PT
4. Annual PNMC meeting – Friday June 21-Sunday June 23, 2024 Bend Oregon

Submitted,

Julia Todd, PNMC Secretary