

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

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

Staff present: Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

Members Absent: Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Megan Ramer, Barb Buxman

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

Opening prayer – Kiara Yoder

The meeting minutes from the 01/13/2024 meeting have been electronically approved by the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) Board of Directors.

Other Board action - the PNMC BOD voted by electronic approval on 2/5/2024 to gift money from the Sharing Fund to help with needed expenses for medical and travel.

Board Planning for Annual PNMC meeting, Bend Oregon, June 21-23, 2024

Eric reported that Barb Buxman may not be able to attend the annual meeting and board members will need to assist with registration and other details.

The Logistics and Planning committees have developed an agenda and program for the annual meeting. The theme is “Called in the One Body, and Thankful!” with guiding scripture from Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17. Craig Morton and Sam Adams will be leading a pre-meeting Anabaptist Theology Symposium on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

The Friday afternoon program includes a community service opportunity for those not attending the Contemplative retreat for Pastors/Chaplains/Credentialed leaders. The Appreciation Dinner for Pastors/Chaplains/Credentialed leaders will be at 6:00 pm. Board members will help with serving as needed. Stay for the PNMC Hymn Sing at 7:30. Nancy Kauffmann with MCUSA, will be guest speaker for the workshop period after the first delegate session. The second delegate session will start at 8:30 Sunday morning followed by a worship time. Check the April 1 E-Bulletin for a full meeting agenda.

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. A link to the Peppertree Hotel registration will be sent once the conference registration is completed.

BOD role in the Annual Meeting

Chris encouraged help with the new delegates breakfast to just sit with the new delegates and share experiences. Chris will lead the meeting. Email Chris if you can help.

Board members have helped contribute to the Appreciation dinner by serving and a monetary contribution. Suggested donation is \$100.00.

Make the most of the delegate sessions to have generative discussions. A review of the procedure 5.1.6 for bringing motions to the floor will be available. Board members were asked to review the policy. A notice will be sent to appoint delegates early and forward any items for possible discussion or motions to the board. Notice for bringing motions to the PNMC board will be sent annually in March for board discussion at the April meeting.

Also noted the discussion for the next year's meeting location needs to happen at the April meeting. Canby Grove Retreat Center was suggested as a possibility for 2025.

CCC Debrief – appreciation was expressed for the representation of various congregations at the meeting. Positive feedback has been given but Eric will develop a feedback tool for following meetings. Notes from the meeting will be sent to the board members.

Report from Constituency Leadership Council (CLC) Meeting – Eric and Karla

The Constituency Leadership Council is a gathering of Conference leaders, denominational staff and church organization staff as an advisory body of MCUSA. They meet two times per year with one being an in-person meeting. The group is a sounding board for feedback on resolutions being brought forth to the MCUSA delegate body and addressing issues related to denominational ministries. Eric reported on experiences of change and embracing creative possibilities in the wider church. Karla reported great enthusiasm for the meeting and shared about her experience of speaking to the CLC on the question “Why do you remain a Mennonite?”

Reports and Action

Gift Discernment Team Report

Chris reported that three of the four open positions have willing candidates to serve on the board. The positions are:

Board appointment positions:

At large board position (2-year term) – Libbie Lapp from Mountain View Mennonite, Kalispell Mt
Pastoral Leadership Team (2-year term)– Bryce Miller Menno Mennonite, Ritzville WA
Finance Team member (2-year term) – Jack Swaim Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise ID

The motion was made to approve the named persons to the appointed positions by Karla, seconded by Kiara. The motion passed unanimously.

Delegate vote:

Secretary (3-year term) - Dan Smith-Derksen from Evergreen Mennonite, Kirkland WA
At large board position (4-year term) - Megan Ramer Seattle Mennonite, Seattle WA
Gift Discernment team (1-year term) - open

The motion was made by Karla to approve the motion (as amended to include the board position) to be placed on the ballot for the delegate decision. Second by Kiara. The motion passed by unanimous vote. An electronic vote may be sought once the Gifts team candidate is secured.

Policy Review Committee

The policies presented were sent a week prior to the meeting for review. All policies were presented with proposed amendments and electronic comments were available. Dave presented for the committee the following:

The policies are the Tab 2 Policy & Procedure (now “Operational Procedures)

- 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 - Asked the Finance Team to review sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 annually taking the leadership role for the board to review these policies. These policies have been added to their April agenda.
- 5.2.3 – Reviewed with an amendment for the Gifts Discernment team to submit a final ballot to the Board for approval before printing.
- 5.2.4 – Reviewed, suggested removing in entirety with all information transferred to Appendix 1 as presented.
- 5.4.2 – Reviewed; no changes suggested.

Tab1. Policies for the Board (now “Governance Policies”)

- Appendix 1 (updated): we have drafted a monitoring calendar and check sheet for our Executive Limitation policies as presented.

The motion was made to adopt the recommendations of the review team as presented. (Eric, second made by Emily) The motion passed with one abstaining vote.

Moderator Report – Chris reported that most of his work has been with the GDT to prepare a ballot. Chris also thanked outgoing board members Kiara and Julia for their service with the board.

Executive Conference Minister Report – Eric referred to his written report giving a few highlights. Churches in transition are most of his challenging work. With six open positions he helps coach the search committees and interviews possible candidates. This is the hardest time for the congregations as they wait for a minister.

The church plants are taking steps toward membership but are not ready to move forward with full membership yet. Eric plans to attend a workshop on church planting and is a part of the MCUSA church planting/revitalization discussion group. Eric invited prayers for churches seeking leaders.

Website update – the decision was made to stay with the Flint Hills Design team for moving forward with the web redesign. There is some work to do on our end before they can give an estimate but it looks to stay within or close to budget for the project.

Eric has been working through historical misconduct files for the conference to determine understanding and to see how conference responded and to ensure all documents are recorded as needed.

Eric plans to spend some work time on the West Coast MCC bike ride this summer. This is a good opportunity for him to build contacts. He and Yolanda plan to travel to Alaska to visit the VS unit as well as the Prince of Peace Mennonite Church in September.

CIHAN – Nelly was not able to attend the meeting today. She did ask that we hold her in prayer for rest and quieting of her soul.

Finance Team Report

Deren reviewed his written report and states that the Finance Team acts as an oversight function similar to an audit for the conference financial reports. The team is working on a narrative form to present the budget to conference at the annual meeting. The team is also working on fundraising aspects and ways to maximize those efforts.

Treasurer Report (Dave) – The income and expense report current from 2/1/2024-4/6/2024 was presented. The Investment Fund continues to grow, despite \$90,000 of withdrawals to our bank accounts last year. The Healthy Congregations Grant Fund continues to be used well. The Sharing Fund for the healthcare needs is nearing zero and may need to be replenished soon. The Net income at this point in the fiscal year is close to break-even, which is great! He is working with the Finance team to develop a policy which helps to determine when funds need to be withdrawn for continued functioning.

A discussion was held regarding moving the board retreat to a every other year event to decrease expenses. Noted that our retreat should be opposite the MCUSA rotation. This will be discussed at the June Board meeting.

Future meetings

1. Annual PNMC meeting – Friday June 21-Sunday June 23, 2024 Bend Oregon

Eric closed the meeting with prayer. Adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Submitted,

Julia Todd, PNMC Secretary