

**PNMC Board of Directors**  
 Sept 21, 2024 Meeting Agenda

Time	Item	Host
9:00-9:15	<b>Meet in Breakout Rooms with Prayer Partners</b>	Chris
9:15-9:20	<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gary
9:20-9:50	<b>Annual Meeting Conversation Tables:</b> here is a link to the notes that you all recorded (thanks for doing this) of your table's conversations during the second delegate session. Please review these notes. What stands out? Are there any common threads that we should pay particular attention to? Are there any actions that we should consider taking?	Chris
9:50-10:00	<b>Gifts Discernment Team:</b> Neither of the at-large GDT positions made it onto the ballot, due to an oversight on my part, but both incumbents (Rick Bollman and Gloria Nussbaum) have indicated that they would be willing to continue for another year. Policy 5.2.3 indicates that it falls to the board to appoint GDT members to fill these positions.	Chris
10:00-10:10	<b>PNMC Staff Transitions:</b> Barb has retired from her position as PNMC administrative assistant and Brenda has stepped into that role. How can the board express gratitude for Barb's many years of valuable service?	Eric
10:10-10:30	<b>Open Letter to MCC:</b> In June seven former MCC workers (including secretary Dan Smith Derksen) published this <a href="#">open letter to MCC</a> in the Anabaptist World. How can or should the PNMC board take action in support of the signers of this letter to encourage MCC to improve its practices around support for its international workers, use of NDAs and inappropriate terminations.	Chris
10:30-10:35	<b>Break</b>	
10:35-11:00	<b>Board orientation:</b> An annual refresher on the basic governance structure and documents of the board.	Megan
11:00-11:55	<b>Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator (Chris)</li> <li>• ECM (Eric)</li> <li>• CIHAN (Nelly)</li> <li>• Finance Team and Treasurer (Deren and Dave)</li> </ul>	
11:55-12:00	<b>Close with Prayer</b>	Emily

Calendar:

- November 23, 2024 Zoom BOD meeting at 9:00-12:00 PST
- January 11, 2025 Zoom BOD meeting at 9:00-12:00 PST
- February 1, 2025 Conference Communications Council BOD to participate /Zoom
- April 12, 2025 Zoom BOD meeting at 9:00-12:00 PST

**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**  
**Zoom Board Meeting**  
**Saturday, September 21 2024**

**Members Present:** Chris Nord, Moderator; Karla Morton, Moderator-Elect; Dan Smith Derksen, Secretary; Deren Kellogg, Gary Jewell, Megan Ramer, Emily Toews, Libbie Lapp

**Staff Present:** Eric Massanari, Conference Minister

**Members Absent:** Dave Hockman-Wert, Treasurer; Nellie Moran-Ascencio

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

**Opening prayer** - Gary Jewell

**Minutes approval** - Minutes from the 4/13/2024 meeting were approved by the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) Board of Directors.

**Review of the PNMC Conference table discussions** - lead by Chris Nord

*Question 1 “When you think about your congregation in the context of PNMC, and PNMC in the context of MCUSA, how is the whole greater than the sum of the parts? Why is it important to your congregation to be a part of this conference and denomination? Are there ways that your congregation yearns for greater connectedness?”*

Common themes in responses included: We are a collection of “broken pieces brought together”; a strong value of connectedness, especially for the small churches; Anabaptist rootedness, with encouragement to invite greater participation among non-Anabaptist heritage members.

**Gift Discernment Team** - leftover agenda about members of this team: GDT members have 1-year terms. Must be renewed each year. ECM, Moderator and Moderator-Elect are default members plus two members-at-large. Gloria Nussbaum and Rick Bollman They are willing to remain on the team for another 1 year term.

Motion to approve made by M. Ramer. 2nd by E. Toews. Motion passed unanimously.

**PNMC Staff Transitions** - Barb Buxman is resigning/retiring from her role at PNMC with 9/30/24 as her final day. Brenda Kauffman will take on the tasks Barb was doing in an expanded role closely aligned with the original vision of this staff position, one ½ time position. Compensation will be \$25 per hour. Eric and Dave will review for next year’s budget. May see an increase.

E. Massanri proposed that PNMC cover the attendance cost for Barb and Bob at next year’s annual meeting as a gift from the Board. (cost around \$330 for each). This was affirmed unanimously. Additionally, suggestion made for a physical gift, such as a gift certificate from the Oregon Relief Sale. Other suggestion made for collecting donations.

**Action:** Chris will circulate a letter to collect donations.

**Discussion about Open Letter about MCC abuse** - Chris raised this as a topic of concern, Encouraged everyone to read the full open letter if they haven’t yet, and invited individual responses. Sharing of feelings including Sadness, Anger, Dismay..., Contemplation about how to support those who’ve experienced abuse. Feeling of expectation that MCC needs to make a significant response. Some discussion centered around how MCC is structured. Where/ to whom is it most appropriate to communicate and exert pressure. Ask MCC why they haven’t

answered the questions from the open letter. Further discussion centered around responses already taken by Central District Conference.

**Action:** Board affirmed Chris to write a draft letter to MCC leadership and Boards from PNMC Board.

**Board Documents Binder Review** - Megan R reported on review work going on for the Board Procedures Binder. Policy Committee (Megan, Dave and Kiara) with assistance from Barb B. Reviewed 1st two sections of the binder. 1st Section to be renamed "Governance Policies." Category II of this section covers Policies for the Board. Category III is specifically regarding the relationships between the Conference Minister and the Board. Category IV covers the limitations for the ECM. Megan explained how Categories I & III are like "guardrails" around Category IV, which all connect in how the Board accomplishes Category I objectives (The Ends).

Tab 1 Governance Policies

Tab 2 Operational Procedures - Things we do as a conference and how they are done procedurally.

(Further review coming in forthcoming meetings.)

Chris reflected on the value of this manual and its usefulness, encouraging all to consult and use the binder. Eric added that our model allows for the Board to be a visionary body for the Conference, while the staff are the implementers of the vision. Eric is the main contact for the Board so questions from Board members should first go to the ECM.

All sections of the binder are reviewed on a scheduled basis. Schedule is in the binder.

## Reports

### Chris - Moderator's Report

- attended a Moderators meeting, first time he's been able to attend.
- Other Moderators reported on their Strategic planning cycles.
- Central District Conference has provisional membership status - would this be useful for PNMC? Chris wants to find out more about how they do it. Intermediate status? Provide questioning congregations some distance without fully leaving the conference? Outside churches testing membership status?
- Allegheny Conference has a Youth Pastor - could PNMC consider? Programming at conference level? Events? Concern noted about travel and schedules being hurdles to overcome to make events successful. Ideas suggested included sending rural youth to cities for urban immersion experience and vice versa. Also intergenerational service activities. Karla noted there aren't currently any youth in the ID churches, but if there were, the hardest part would be the nature of being Anabaptist in a very non-Anabaptist setting.

### Eric- Executive Minister's Report

- He, Chris and Karla as Moderator-elect connect with Constituency Leadership Council of MCUSA - 2x per year, staff and moderators from all conferences. Mostly conference ministry meetings.
- "Passion-based Ministry" model for PNMC from the past. NW Mexico Liaison ministry. Eric and Samuel only remaining members but steering committee no-longer exists. One request for funds over a year ago. Eric and Samuel had to make a decision together. - Board needs to think through whether and how the "Passion-based ministry" continues.
- Eric shared about a pilot program of EAP benefits for conference and member staff benefits. Would include pastors for the EAP benefits. Just information sharing for now. Possibly for budget consideration next year.
- Filer MC, Eric visiting with Jack Swaim to be with them for service of blessing and releasing. Eric is impressed with how Ron Hersey has led their 2-year discernment

process and its transparency. It has been a very positive and open process. They want to remain in relationship, but not affiliation with PNMC; more comfortable with the Rosedale Conference. Our connection as siblings in Christ transcends their leave-taking from PNMC. Chris encourages members to send messages of support to their church.

- Planning for next year, theme of "The Transforming Church." We are living through times which are transforming the church. 500th anniversary of Anabaptism will be marked with some resources.

PNMC Annual meeting proposed to be in Kalispell, MT at a Lutheran Camp. Site has been identified. Would include room and board. (Driftwood Creek Camp had been under consideration, but became clear through conversation that this coming year they wouldn't be ready yet.) Proposal for camp in MT was met with enthusiasm. Fee suggestion set at \$400 to cover additional fees PNMC covers for attendees. Camp has summer staff who would be able to provide some children's programming and who are trained with equivalent of safe-church practice.

### **Deren - Financial Report**

Fiscal year about 60% complete and giving about 50%. Positive sign.

Finance Team met and reviewed the Seed NW Fund (created from the Eugene Mennonite Church sale in OR) - created for innovative programs in our congregations, mission outreach and growth - have a few recommendations to make the funds more accessible.

- Current rule to have any contributions be matched by the congregation. Recommending to remove this requirement.
- Recommending that \$5000 be the maximum grant amount.
- Found that the original committee hasn't been updated since the creation of the fund. Recommending that the Healthy Congregations Fund committee (Eric, Megan and Emily) be also given charge to oversee the Seed NW Fund, and recommending adding another member to this committee.
- Recommending that ECM may be given authority to approve small grant requests of \$500 or less. Need to define difference between Seed NW Fund and the Healthy Congregations Fund. to be reviewed at next meeting.

Finance Team also has recommendations for how to make withdrawals from the Investment Fund.

Need some more time and guidance for the letter to be sent to congregations to ask for contributions. Want to dialogue more with Eric on that. Don't want to send at end of the year. People already receive too many requests at that time.

These proposals will take Board vote, will be added to agenda for next meeting.

**Closing** - Barb Buxman joined on zoom to receive comments and thanks from individual Board members.

**Closing prayer** - given by Emily Toews