

PNMC Board of Directors

Apr 12, 2025 Meeting Agenda

[Zoom Link](#)

Time	Item	Host
9:00-9:15	Meet in Breakout Rooms with Prayer Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deren and Gary• Dave and Libbie• Karla and Megan• Emily and Dan• Eric and Nelly	Chris
9:15-9:20	Opening Prayer / Centering	Karla
9:20-9:40	CCC debrief and Annual Meeting update: This is our first board meeting since the CCC meeting and our last board meeting before Annual Meeting. Do board members have any feedback to share about CCC? Eric will provide an update about plans for Annual Meeting during this time as well.	Eric
9:40-9:50	Reconstituting the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee: Last year Dave, Megan and Kiara shepherded through a substantial overhaul of our policies and procedures. Since Kiara stepped off the board that subcommittee has gone into hibernation since it now has only two members. Is there a third board member that would be willing to engage in this work? It's time (actually a bit past time) to begin the next review cycle. Action Item: Vote on proposed changes to operational procedures 5.2.1 and 5.2.3 that were introduced in the September meeting	Chris
9:50-10:00	Debrief Recent Conversation with CIHAN churches: In Early March Eric and Karla met with the CIHAN pastors to discuss the impacts of the political climate on their church lives and to discuss ways the PNMC can best support them.	Eric, Nelly and Karla
10:00-10:20	Discuss the response from MCC to the letter that we sent: MCC sent this response to our letter . What are your thoughts with respect to this response? What should our next steps be?	Chris
10:20-10:30	Break	

10:30-10:35	Centering Poem	Eric
10:35-11:15	<p>Three items for the Board to consider referring to Delegates: There are three items for the board to consider referring to delegate action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The slate of candidates put forward by the GDT. (also process board appointments proposed by GDT) • The Draft Resolution shared earlier • A resolution to invite Community of Hope into full membership as a PNMC congregation. 	Chris
11:15-11:55	<p>Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator (Chris) • ECM (Eric) • CIHAN (Nelly) • Finance Team and Treasurer (Deren and Dave) 	
11:55-12:00	Closing prayer and adjournment	Dave

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Zoom Board Meeting
Saturday, April 12, 2025

Members Present: Chris Nord, Moderator; Karla Morton, Moderator-Elect; Eric Massanari, Conference Minister, Dave Hockman-Wert, Treasurer, Dan Smith Derksen, Secretary; Libbie Lapp; Nellie Moran-Ascencio, Deren Kellogg, Gary Jewell, Megan Ramer, Emily Toews

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

Opening prayer - Karla opened meeting with prayer.

2/1/2025 Conference Communication Council (CCC) debrief and Annual Meeting update:

Eric reviewed the CCC conference which took place by Zoom meeting on Feb. 1, 2025.

Content feedback shared by members who attended:

- Getting to know presenter Olivia Krall was a highlight;
- I learned a piece of US history which was totally unknown to me;
- it was a large group in attendance and they were enthusiastic, it was a good format for prompting and sharing ideas, the time spent was worthwhile;
- It was cool seeing one church (Mt. View) gathering together to attend and sharing brunch with each other at the same time;
- Maybe more meetings could replicate this format, actually one benefit Covid gained us, using virtual gathering more effectively;
- Archives stories were exceptional.

Eric reviewed some of the recent themes which the CCC gathering has used: Non-Violent Communication, Ecumenism, Anabaptism at 500. Asked whether Conference is using this gathering properly in structure and purpose. One member asked whether the CCC theme could be carried to congregations throughout the whole year thematically.

Eric reviewed plans for the Annual Meeting coming up June 19-22 in Kalispell, MT. Board members specifically involved in helping plan the gathering include: Megan R, Gary J, Libbie L, and Dave HW.

- When folks arrive on Thu the 19th, they need to have eaten their own supper.
- Board members are invited to contribute financially to the gifts for pastors which Eric has purchased (10,000 Villages Candles) Total cost was \$270.

Reconstituting the Policy and Procedure Subcommittee:

Action Item: Vote on proposed changes to operational procedure 5.2.1 and approval for new procedure 5.2.5 that were introduced in the September meeting. Motion to approve made and 2nded. Passed by unanimous vote.

Debrief Recent Conversation with CIHAN churches: (Eric, Karla and Nelly met with CIHAN pastors)

Reason for conversation due to our CIHAN churches facing different circumstances and consequences from recent changes in immigration policies and enforcement by federal govt.

Nelly referenced Ministerios Restauracion having members who are scared, but is more present with other two churches. Comunidad Crista Navida has members from Venezuela, three families have court dates and they are scared to show up for fear of being deported. Ebenezer has reported they might not go to the court dates due to ICE actions around those. Karla reported story of one member in Portland who needed to hide from ICE, then lost his tools from a construction site and ended up losing his job, struggling without employment.

Ministerios meets at Portland MC, and they have discussed ways of mutually supporting each congregation. Vida Nueva has the same relationship and dialogue with Salem MC. Ebenezer does not have this relationship with any other church. Eric asked Pastor Jesus if they would be open to a closer relationship with another PNMC church, and they will think about it. Albany MC might be a good pairing.

Prospect of making the trip to MT for the annual meeting is prohibitive. May be some representation at annual meeting, but not many. We will try to stream meetings. Thinking going on around how to get voices from CIHAN churches during annual meeting.

Planning happening around a meeting about immigration rights and how to support neighbors. Will be on May 17, by ZOOM.

Discussion taking place with Pastor Samuel about other ways PNMC may be supporting the CIHAN churches, including carpooling possibilities to annual meeting.

Board paused to offer prayer for our CIHAN members.

Discussing the response letter from MCC to the letter that PNMC Board sent to her regarding allegations of harm to current and former MCC staff personnel:

Letter received from Ann G-H of MCC. We assume that it was shared with the MCC Board, though the letter is only signed by Ann G-H. Chris invited thoughts from Board.

- Hearing that MCC is restructuring “HR” this seems like a red flag. HR always seems like a buffer. (MCC will be sending some HR to regional offices rather than having all in Akron and Winnipeg.)
- Some steps are being made, like the Listening Space, but not sure MCC is going far enough. Trust has been broken. Don’t know how I feel.
- I don’t know many details, but the letter didn’t make me feel great. Not full reassurance. Understand MCC can’t admit all wrongdoing. I love MCC, so it’s really hard feeling like I’m being duped. I know people in MCC I love who aren’t part of the harm. I feel conflicted.
- I think I’m naive. My first reading of the letter made me feel hopeful. Conversation with member who is a victim of MCC harm helped create greater awareness.
- Dan offered a draft response to the Ann’s letter which named some specific steps we could direct back to MCC. Would be appropriate to send another letter. Could use Dan’s letter as a starting point. How would the Board like to proceed? Board agreed.

- Would like PNMC Board to make a response to Ann's response. Chris will work on drafting a new letter which may be shared for Board input, before Annual Meeting.
- Eric mentioned there are two conferences in USA and one in Canada have expressed written inquiries to MCC on the issues of leadership abuse. Eric and Doug Luginbill are asking for conversation to happen at the CLC meeting. Will CLC offer podium time to a representative from MAST? Eric is not sure how the agenda is being structured.
- Dan shared with the Board the MAST website link www.mccabusesurvivors.org

Centering Poem - from A Book of Uncommon Prayer by Brian Doyle, shared by Eric
"Furious Prayer for the Church I Love and Have Always Loved but Which Drives Me Insane with Its Fussy Fidgety Prim Tin-Eared Thirst for Control and Rules and Power and Money Rather Than the One Simple Thing the Founder Insisted On"

Three items for the Board to consider referring to Delegates:

There are three items for the board to consider referring to delegate action:

- The [Draft Resolution](#) shared earlier
- A resolution to invite Community of Hope into full membership as a PNMC congregation. - This will be considered first at annual meeting, so if it passes, the folks from Community of Hope may be engaged in additional business decisions.

Chris expressed great excitement about the possibility of bringing a new congregation into the conference. Opened to the board for questions or comments, and solicit a motion for Board to recommend action to the delegates. - Motion made by Megan R. and expressed the history of relationship with Rachael Weasley going back to Chicago and now in WA. Affirmed the Spirit working in Rachael. 2nd by Karla. Question raised about the process.

Clarification given that Board makes recommendation to the delegates for their vote.

Member asked for refresher of primary points congregation needs to have in place for consideration of membership. CoH has already presented all required materials including a statement of commitment to the Confession of Faith from an Anabaptist Perspective (1985). Eric pointed out that the whole denomination is in tension with the exact language of the Confession of Faith as of actions by the Delegates a couple years ago. Good to remember it's an organic document, not "holy writ."

Board considered whether Delegates must make another motion and 2nd at the Annual Meeting. By policy 5.1.5, it is not required, but definitely time for discussion and vote is given.

One member raised the issue of not wanting to have the fact of CoH being a "Queer-centric" church being publicly "litigated" in the delegate session. It is assumed that the motion will pass resoundingly, despite the possibility of some delegates voting against it. A review was mentioned of a previous church membership vote being done by delegates making a physical action, such as standing in affirmation, or raising/waving hands like ASL applause.

Once the vote passes, an invitation would be made for CoH to introduce itself, either at the beginning or end of the roll-call.

Vote taken on the motion - motion carried unanimously.

The [slate of candidates](#) put forward by the GDT. (also process board appointments proposed by GDT)

- ❖ Slate of candidates for Gift Discernment Team - New Moderator-Elect - Jeannette Wisman from Bend MC, Deren K. has agreed to continue. Gloria Nussbaum and Jan Yoder are the other two who are elected by the delegates.
- ❖ Also three positions which we need to appoint.
 1. Pastor Amy Epp for 2nd 4-yr term on Pastoral Leadership Team,
 2. Rob Hanson for 2nd 4-yr term as lay member on Pastoral Leadership Team, and
 3. Kathy Bilderback for a continuing 2-yr term on the Finance Team.

Motion made for these appointments. Motion was 2nded. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to recommend elected positions to the Delegates for their vote. Motion 2nded.

Draft Resolution statement prepared by Eric and Chris.

Eric shared about hearing widespread fear and concerns about Christian-nationalism. Board proposed a new name to [A Call to Discipleship Amidst a Culture of Christian Nationalism](#).

Discussion:

- ❖ What will be done with this document? Could be on PNMC website. Could be sent to media agencies as a press release. Conversation about how to make this document have "teeth." Saying this is who we are is good, but how do we live this out, in practice? Wanting the statement to be impactful and to help encourage us to live this out. Board could make practical suggestions in the coming year for congregations. This topic has come up
- ❖ Will Delegates be given time to review and make suggestions of amendments? Thinking is to introduce during the first plenary session. Table discussion time to be given on 2nd day. Not certain on the amendment suggestion process.
- ❖ If this resolution is adopted, how might this change things within your congregation?
- ❖ Could get bogged down if allowed to be group-edited at an annual meeting. Could be a statement made that the Board will continue to process what action steps might happen in the coming year, and anyone with suggestions or comments should submit those to the Board.
- ❖ This is a good step to catch a sense of the pulse for how our congregations are feeling about this right now or dealing with it in their own way.
- ❖ Chris is looking for 3 focused table discussion prompts on this statement. Invited Board members to send their ideas.

Motion made to recommend this statement to the Delegates for discussion. Motion 2nded and approved by vote.

Reports

- Moderator (Chris)
Noted this being his last PNMC Board meeting and expressed gratitude for the time and experience. The board affirmed his service and Eric offered a prayer of thanks.
- Executive Conference Minister (Eric)
Two prayer requests for congregations
 - Mt. View MC gathered in discernment as they are in search mode for a pastor.
 - Salem MC, also in their own time of transition searching for a new minister, but more presently have had some devastating losses recently. Death of young woman in a car accident, and a death by suicide of a church member this week.

Other things to report:

ongoing meeting quarterly with the churches. Rachael Weasley has been licensed, Tyler Merrill installed at Seattle MC.

- Gathering of regional Bishops form National Council of Churches. Focus was on Christian Nationalism. Gave Eric hope that Christians of many traditions are united in their concern.
- MCUSA lawsuit against the Dept. of Homeland Sec. Prayers for Iris DeLeon Hartshorn who's working on that.
- Eric will be serving as Spiritual formation mentor for a DMin candidate at AMBS. Looking forward to that as another way of connecting with AMBS.
- Will soon be going off the board of Spiritual Directors International after 7 years.
- Immigration Teach-in coming on May 17. Will be sending out more materials on that soon.
- Conversations happening lately around "What are some of the new expressions taking shape among faith and Christian communities as some have moved away from formal church structure. Know of some conferences who have shifted by-laws to include additional categories of affiliations. Like a book group, or prayer group, for example.
- Offered greetings from MC church in British Columbia. They have offered prayers and support. Eric asked Board to consider any specific needs for support which would deepen our connection with them regionally.

Chris offered a prayer for Salem MC.

- CIHAN (Nelly) - nothing else added.
- Finance Team and Treasurer (Deren and Dave)
Met on March 12, including Chris and Karla. Talked about future planning. Current rate of spending could deplete resources as early as 2037. Discussed ideas on how to change this trend, reduce reliance on the investment fund. Also talked about the Finance Team's role in this process. Determined that FT will support the Board in financial planning in any way they can, but is ultimately up to the Board. Some ways of reducing reliance on the investment fund was to help provide information to congregations on how to leave bequests in their wills. Everence has information. Charitable contributions. Donations through securities are more complex. Need to discuss with Everence rep, Dennie LeFevre. Decided FT would talk with him before inviting him to the annual meeting. Also want to talk with other conferences to find out what they're doing. Planning to meet again on May 17. Chris added thanks for the report.

Dave offered to review the budget, but focused on what the Tariff chaos has done to the investment fund. Shared a graph which showed a sharp drop last week, with a sharp bump when they were paused, then started to drop again. Not a huge swing, he thought it might be worse.

Noted that the policy 5.2.5 clarifies policy of how much should be withdrawn from the fund each year. We are currently below the threshold of where we should now be withdrawing from the fund. This means the fund will be reduced, but with the market shifting negatively Dave decided to wait a bit.

Closing prayer and adjournment (Dave)

Voices Together Sending Prayer 1058

Submitted by:

Dan Smith Derksen, PNMC Board Secretary