

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Zoom Board Meeting
Saturday, January 10, 2026

Members Present: Karla Morton - Moderator; Eric Massanari - ECM; Dave Hockman-Wert - Treasurer; Dan Smith Derksen - Secretary; Janette Wisseman - Moderator-Elect; Gary Jewell, Emily Toews, Nelly Moran-Ascencio, Megan Ramer, Deren Kellogg

Members Absent: Libbie Lapp

Guest: Chris Nord.

BOD (Re)Introductions: (Karla)

Recognizing that each year there are some new members, the Board spent time sharing about themselves and their personal involvement in the Mennonite Church and PNMC.

Opening prayer - Karla opened the business session of the meeting with prayer.

Reports:

Executive Conference Minister's Report: (Eric)

- Family focused recently. They've just moved Eric's parents into permanent residence in Bellingham.
- Eric took some vacation over the holidays.
- Visited Village Grace church in Portland who reached out to inquire about PNMC and the possibility of joining. Had a really lovely visit. Church made up of two churches both who had Four Square tradition but are no longer due to some theological differences. Portland Mennonite pastors will continue meeting with Village Grace leaders.
- Annual meeting planning Program Planning and Logistics Planning teams will be starting this week. Karla & Emily offered to join the program planning committee. Eric wanted members from Albany MC and Corvallis MC as the hosting churches. Other participants include: Jackie Eicher, Julie Allen, Lisa Ebersole, Kathleen Hockman-Wert, Brenda and Eric. Logistics Team includes: Dave Hockman-Wert, Mike Baker, Brent Kauffman, Brenda and Eric.
- Half-day retreat for nurture and reflection for ministry leaders on Thursday. Full group will arrive and start Thursday evening. Conclude on Sunday with collective worship.
- Eric noted ideas about potential content speakers and presenters. Several names of individuals mentioned.
- Invitation received this week to go to Seattle for an ecumenical service for Week of Christian Unity held at St. James Cathedral sponsored by the Center for Ecumenical & Inter-Faith Engagement at Seattle U. Eric will be one of the speakers. Eric invited prayer. Will be held Wednesday, January 28.
- Eric will leave Feb. 1 with the Mennonite group to visit Palestine. Will remain contactable by email while away, as needed.

Finance Team Report: (Deren)

- Main topic of last meeting was the 2027 Budget, which will be a separate report.
- Concerns discussed about long-term reliance on the investment fund. Unsustainable. Trying to figure out ways of addressing this before it becomes an urgent problem.
- BOD may focus some time on a “Visioning” process which could include this issue.

Moderator’s Report: (Karla)

- Met with Eric to discuss the state of his MOU, which was agreed there wasn’t a need to change anything. But, after meeting with Dave realized there were more considerations based on MC USA credits for salary taking into account experience.
- Talked with Nellie about ways of “safeguarding” Hispanic congregations whose members are being targeted by ICE. At this time, particularly Vida Nueva.
- Heard back from Drift Creek about the weekends proposed for BOD retreat. They have other groups booked.

Budget Report: (Dave)

- Investment fund has been robust and doing well.
- Budgeted contributions, we are over 100%, largely thanks to some large gifts from a few folks and a \$5000 gift from an estate.
- Bottom line, Budget is in the black right now. Might come close to breaking even this year. Dave expressed great thanks and appreciation for the effort and support this represents.
- ‘27 Budget, raised individual giving, based on impact from recent efforts & appeals
- Question asked about when Mennonite Village had officially stopped their contributions. Dave answered with some history of the decision, but exact reason not totally clear. Eric added that they wanted to reevaluate the Covenant of Understanding more than a year ago. Meeting didn’t actually take place. Eric has tried to follow-up, but not gotten a reply. Still have some relationship, but not financial giving from them, for now.
- Income projection lower than budget, largely because of lower cost of Annual Meeting.
- ECM salary change is 6.8% increase due to new credits for pastoral experience as recommended by MC USA plus COLA.
- Website revamp is starting. This will be a more significant expense.
- Spring Valley church sale payments will be ending.
- Operating Budget will have \$62,000 deficit. (\$56,000 after amendment below.)
- BOD moved to accept the Budget. 2nded. Discussion: reminder made that we need to continue making appeals, consider this a fiscal responsibility and challenge of the BOD. Suggested that individual giving could be a higher budgeted amount and the BOD should consider this a duty to work at achieving that higher amount. Idea was affirmed.
Amendment proposed to raise the individual giving from \$9000 to \$15,000. 2nded. BOD affirmed the amendment Amendment passed.
- Vote on the amended Budget: unanimous approval.

CCC Meeting:

- Eric reviewed the CCC Agenda
- Primary speaker, Pastor Samuel Moran; presentation will be in Spanish with translation so that all can listen to the Spanish
- Reports of BOD work to be given, including Finance, CIHAN, Budget overview and ECM report and Pastoral Leadership Team, and possibly from Duncan as new CSL to introduce himself.

Review of 11/22/25 BOD Minutes:

- Movement made to accept, but one member noted a typo that should be corrected. Correction made. Additionally, information from the executive session was removed. Minutes amended to remove points from discussion. Noted simply that BOD affirmed renewal of MOU for ECM for a 2nd 3-yr term.
- With the amendment and correction made, Minutes were passed

New Business

- Strategic Planning, what is the next step? From previous minutes, plan was that Eric and Karla would reach out to some other conferences about what they do. That has not yet happened. Eric commits to still do that.
- About CCC, Do we intend to have someone make the individual appeal like Chris did last year? Karla accepted that could be her, but probably during the budget discussion, not during the opening. Megan also offered that she is willing to make that appeal.
- BOD Retreat, Karla will reach back out to Drift Creek to reconsider timing.

Closing prayer and adjournment:

Karla led the group in a visualization of holding hands together, with eyes closed. She prayed with reflection on Phil. 4:4-8 Rejoice in the Lord always...

Submitted by:

Dan Smith Derksen, PNMC Board Secretary