

PNMC Board Meeting

Portland Mennonite Church, Portland, Oregon

Saturday, February 21, 2009

8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Devotions

Pedro

Eph.6:7-8, we “serve wholeheartedly”, not to please others, but because we want to serve. Whose fingerprints, what kind of fingerprints are we leaving on PNMC? Our efforts need to be based on prayer and prayer and more prayer.

Consent agenda (Board minutes approval – September 2008, November 2008, January 2009; there were no corrections or additions and the minutes are approved as they stand.)

Upcoming Meetings

PNMC Annual meeting update

[Speaker: April Yamasaki of Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Theme: Treasure Valley 2009: Sent out and drawn in by Jesus]

Jennifer Gingerich is to be chair of the Program Planning Committee. Other members include Amy Epp, Worship Leader, Russell Adrian, Music, Lynn Miller, seminars.

Janis (Sheldon Burkhalter’s wife) will arrange for the bookstore.

(Ardy and Bill Albers, Peter Epp and Shanda Hochstetler are names to be kept in mind for future involvement in conference planning. Both couples are from Portland Mennonite.)

Announcements are already going out for the meeting.

The agreement to use the campus site carries certain restrictions: use of site requires hearing a presentation on their college, displays on the campus site by other colleges are not allowed, we must allow the display and sales of campus-published books. However we will also be able to use the church building right next door for the Mennonite college displays, the display and sale of MPN publications and, possibly, for some worship services.

A Silent Auction for MCC/PNMC is planned. (There will be no MCC sale in Idaho this year; the silent auction recipient agency may rotate among agencies in future, if this works out.)

Delegate book preparation and translation – hopefully Don Bacher can fit this in with all his other activities. Judy Bacher may be willing to tackle the delegate book job during the interim. We will ask Denny Gradin to do the translation again this year.

Delegate session agenda items:

Relationship of Western Mennonite with PNMC – official status needs clarification, particularly for non-profit status. Mennonite Village has done these steps. What implication for churches re: school? Concerns by School about wider voice in PNMC, members from PNMC on school’s board. Question regarding the requirement that board members should be Mennonite? All faculty members don’t need to be Mennonite, but must affirm statement of faith. The suggestion was made to bring the chairman of the WMS Board to the next PNMC board meeting. It would also be helpful to review the process that Mennonite Village went through (before the next meeting). A related issue/question was whether some MCC West Coast board representatives should still be chosen from within PNMC, and if so, how.

Put the questions of agenda, bylaws on the PNMC listserv.

By-laws approval – associate membership question – functional teams, term[s] conference ministers/district pastors rather role of - see document. CIHAN has revised its by-laws, next step line up CIHAN's bylaws and the PNMC bylaws. CIHAN is a/the constituency group of PNMC but there has not been definition what that relationship means. MCUSA has number of constituency groups (women, native American, etc.) but no language in their bylaws as to how these groups function/relate. CIHAN was asked to draft some language for the section on constituency groups within PNMC. There was a suggestion to revisit language of Executive Conference Minister – MC Canada used language of General Secretary. Indiana-Michigan Conference now uses Lead conference minister.

Suggestions for the speaker for 2010 annual meeting are now in order. We may elect to give more time to the Faith and Practice Forum Team to do presentations rather than invite a guest speaker.

Columbus '09 Mennonite Convention

PNMC will send four delegates: Moderator, Moderator Elect, New Exec Conference Minister, and CIHAN representative. Expenses are paid by the conference. CIHAN will report the delegate name by March 15.

CLC, Mennonite World Conference, other gatherings

Constituency Leaders Council is made up of 2 to 3 representatives (currently Dave, Linda, Sheldon) from each conference and constituency group, plus agency representatives. The recommended representatives now are the Lead Conference Minister, the Moderator and/or moderator-elect, plus a racial/ethnic/gender representative from within conference leadership. Dave recommended the following general plan: the Moderator Elect begins attending CLC starting with the fall meeting of the second year of the term and continues through 1st year of term as Moderator (2 years, 4 meetings).

The Anti-Racism Task Force has recommended that all conferences make an effort to send one or more racial/ethnic/gender representatives. If that isn't done, then some of the white male representatives would have to sit out (in silence). Linda and Dave both think it would be better to "extend the table" and invite an additional representative, rather than lose the chance to hear from the wisdom available.

Linda is on a task force on the role of conferences in MCUSA. One step might be that every two years CLC would run a training session for moderators, board members, etc. CLC might therefore move from the "elder" concept towards the "discipling, training, mentoring" concept.

Mennonite World Conference in Paraguay: Dave and Cathy are going; some other members of PNMC are going as well.

Capacity Building Campaign Update

Bruce Harder declined to serve as chair. Mark Vincent asked: do we want the ECM to be integrally involved in the development and leadership of the campaign or do we want the conference members to lead the campaign, thereby the ECM would more passively benefit? If the former, then the campaign timeline needs to be reset. We have not yet found lay person ready to run with it. Would the ECM be chair? No – but s/he should be highly involved.

Prayer is integral to the success of this campaign, as well as to the work of the board. Board members covenant to prayer over Saturday lunch hour. In addition, board members need to bring the prayer concerns to the congregations.

Cecil and Judy Miller's names are again brought up to serve on the Campaign. Dave will contact, but will focus on the District Pastor role instead. It would be worth asking the Hershbergers about their willingness to serve once there is a chair. Other names include Rick Bollman, Sam Eicher [*he has since declined*], Carl and Ann Hege. Mary Mae Hardt and Don Bacher's names were also brought up. Isaac and Wendell promised to talk with Rick. Janet Buschert has expressed willingness to serve. Dave is to contact Hege. Pedro will talk with Don. Jeanne will talk with Mary Mae. Pedro will contact John Beechy of Salem. Next step is that the Campaign committee members need to find others for the sub committees: Communication and Celebration, e.g. Peter Epp and Shanda Hochstetler.

Timing and Approval Process for the Annual Budget

Who is to approve the budget? With the switch to the new budget year (FY Feb. 1-Jan. 31), the timing for the delegates to do the approval at the annual meeting no longer works. Although there is some ambiguous wording in the new draft bylaws, they appear to indicate that board should grant approval. "Article V 1.a. "Serve as the Board and exercise full legal responsibility for PNMC." This appears to put responsibility for budget on PNMC Board. It will be important to put out budget, in its planning stage (in the Fall), on a list serve for general comment by members. Delegates should be able to give input on priorities during the annual meeting. Model: delegates look at figures, ask questions, review priorities, and plan. When the ECM comes on board then s/he will have key input. Budget/treasurer again at annual conference. Budget/finances part of delegate meeting should include a report at the 1st delegate session on current status/big picture upcoming priorities, annual state of the Conference financial report, and then a budget seminar session later open to all interested PNMC participants. Written reports should be included in the delegate book.

Audrey moved that the board would do the approval of the budget in the Fall of each year; it was seconded and passed. Transparency of the financial state is very important. Attendees at the budget seminar would be encouraged to sign up for a budget/finances discussion email list. The new budget process would include these steps:

1. Present overview of financial situation.
2. Financial/budget seminar – gather input, priorities from delegates
3. Exec. Conf minister together with treasurer will develop budget
4. Board approves draft budget.
5. Send draft to congregations, solicit feedback
6. Board approves final budget

Request for International Bethel City Church to become official PNMC member congregation – Dave and Audrey will go before the April meeting and report back. They will plan to bring conference greetings.

PNMC Sharing Fund (catastrophic) – update policy

The need to update this policy raises general questions about how to handle things previously handled by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee no longer exists. The suggestion was made that an Executive Team could be comprised of the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and Exec. Conf. Minister. Discussion ensued on whether the “Executive Team” would have broader application than just this policy? Would this group’s role be affirmation, consultation? How would this group fit in a policy governance system? Does it take on responsibilities that the Executive Conference Minister should have? Discussion was tabled for more thought.

Need for Leadership of Continuing Dialogue with Weldon Nisly

History: Pastoral Leadership reported to the Delegates regarding work with Weldon. How do we stay in fellowship, what to do about credentials? Weldon promised not to do another same-gender marriage and his credentials were restored. However, the promised dialog on the question never occurred. Eighteen months ago, the Pastoral Leadership Team planned on dialog/mediation on the topic. Again this never occurred, despite the fact that Weldon had requested dialogue. The Pastoral Leadership Team now says that they are too busy with their load of credentialing and are asking another group to work with Weldon and the pastoral team there. How do we have dialogue with the pastors at SMC? We of PNMC, along with many others, are polarized.

Steps to take: The Pastoral Leadership Team currently has a heavy workload and cannot handle this further task. The Faith and Practice Forum Team has approached SMC about testing the team’s model for intra-congregational dialogue, but have not yet received a response. A small group dialoging with SMC is what is needed next, knowing that the outcome could be change. One need is to have discussion with Weldon and the pastoral team that is ground building, not confrontational. Perhaps the board should start by praying and reading scripture. It is also critical to clarify the purpose of the intended dialogue.

One question is accountability. The conference has strong disagreements on this issue. We need to see each other as brothers and sisters even if we don’t agree. There are many other “issues” upon which we, as individuals and congregations, do not agree.

The board supports the Faith and Practice Forum Team initiative to interact with Seattle Mennonite.

CIHAN report

Wendell/Pedro

José Hermida was commissioned for one year as pastor of Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva of Keizer, Oregon.

There is an upcoming focus session on immigration issues: weekend of Mar 12-15, with MCC west coast, including special service for youth, sponsored by CIHAN commission, MCC west coast and the Canby Center executive director. The weekend seminar is titled: Your neighbors, what Canby needs to know about immigrants and immigration – a community seminar for neighbors, workers, immigrants, employers,

CIHAN needs to update its by-laws. The effort to update will be headed by Samuel Moran.

CIHAN churches want to reach out to those of other cultures; they are starting planning efforts for an event this Fall that would invite all PNMC congregations.

One CIHAN church has lost two leaders, arrested and eventually taken by immigration authorities. There are no warrants, no charges, and no information available.

Sheldon and Dave visited the last delegate meeting (Concilio), at which Victor Vargas was presented with a plaque of appreciation for his many years of service.

Conference Minister report

Sheldon

OED

Comment: I’m not sure why the mention of SMC’s process is relevant in a discussion about Weldon’s past action. Also, the agreements between PLT and Weldon never specified what the second sentence here says.

OED

Comment: Again, I’m not sure how this relates to the focus of the topic (dialogue related to Weldon’s past action).

The group affirmed the huge amount of work that Sheldon has been accomplishing.

Staffing Updates

Update on Search Committee for Executive Conference Minister – Interviews scheduled for March

Administrative Assistant: No change as yet. Don Bacher is still the interim AA, doing as much as he can given his time availability. We are waiting for the new ECM before hiring a permanent replacement.

District Pastor assignments: These are gradually being filled. Wendell will resign from Board if affirmed as CIHAN district pastor in April.

Plainview Property Discussions Update

Early deeds indicate that the Glaser family, who donated the land for the property, may need to be involved in disposition of property.

CLC Report/MC USA Health Insurance plan

Dave gave a brief update on the status of the MC USA health insurance plan.