

Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, December 3, 2024

Board Members Present: Indigo Brown, Moderator; Esther Sanders, Vice Moderator; Wendy Blight; Sandy Wisecarver; Diana Kutas, Treasurer; Deborah Tyler; Ron Patterson, Scribe; Dawn Koloi; Amy Johnson

Staff: Designated Conference Minister Phil Hodson; Camp Director Pam Peterson and Conference Accountant, Andy Warren.

Excused: Mark Boyd, Camp Director, on sabbatical; Talaalemotu “ Leilani” Alaelau; Tevita Fakasiieike; Leah Atkinson Bilinski.

Indigo called us to order and invited Phil to open our meeting with prayer. His prayer reflected Advent wonder and hope.

At Indigo’s invitation, we shared a bit about what we were looking forward to in the New Year.

Financial report.

Andy shared the October report which is posted in Base Camp. He noted that the Conference is ahead of budget for the year; that Pilgrim Fir is performing better than our budget forecast and that losses at camp N-Sid-Sen are greater than budgeted. Board members were invited to ask questions and to review the figures presented in Base Camp

Camp Report

Pam reported on N-Sid-Sen, noting that she had posted her last report on Base Camp. She added a list of items she had accomplished during her tenure. Several items are still in process. She will edit her report to reflect these additions. She reported spending time with the incoming interim director. She hopes to return as a camper in the coming season! Members of the Board expressed thanks to Pam for her service among us.

DCM Report

Phil began his report by thanking Pam for her service and for her pastor’s heart in the Conference. She stepped into so many pastoral roles and her practical Stewardship of the office has been deeply appreciated. He asked God’s blessing on her future endeavors.

He reviewed his activity schedule and his travel plans. Based on a couple of experiences, he is seeking opportunities to gather people on Saturday’s for intentional vision and planning events with more congregations. At the upcoming CM gathering, he and his colleagues will be planning a response to new Federal legislation that may threaten non-profits engaged in seeking justice.

One question was asked concerning where he had done strategic planning: University Place and Northshore.

He explained that routinely he preaches in a local congregation, then takes questions from the congregation and then asks those gathered about their purpose and direction as a congregation.

Indigo reported on the anti-racism training possibilities. People’s Institute had a very large cost increase to about \$89,000 for the training we were hoping to receive. Reflecting a great deal of work on Indigo’s part, Phil presented some other possibilities. A program designed and presented by the New York Conference would charge \$1,000 per workshop. This amount is the cost for each of three modules spread over two years.

We also received a proposal from Genuity Consultants for a workshop that would cost \$350 per person for 30 participants. These costs might be negotiable depending on travel and timing. There

would be additional fees for planning and post-workshop evaluation. The total cost estimate to hire Genuity Consultants would be \$49,000 .

Individual Board members, staff and others can also contract with People's Institute to do their training for \$350.

Phil responded to a question by stating that the Board and the staff would do training this year and that we await a proposal from the COM for how authorized ministers in the Conference would be trained.

In response to a question about offering a variety of opportunities, Indigo said that she hopes we can choose one option from the three investigated

Lengthy discussion ensued. It is clear that we are deciding on something for the Board and the staff only at this point, especially given the mandate passed by the Conference Annual Meeting. Phil hopes we will use the information on these three choices and create a path that others will follow. .

Andy noted that we have \$7,000 budgeted for this year for training the Board and staff.

Consensus formed around working with the New York Conference, using their training model.

We agreed that people could still choose additional options, but that together we would undertake a baseline training package, recognizing that this is a first step in an ongoing and necessary process.

Phil offered thanks for the hard work that Indigo did investigating these possibilities and seeking additional options.

It was moved, seconded, passed that we do the New York Conference training as a Board and staff, with people also being free, as individuals to do the People's Institute option at \$350 per person.

Phil will work on dates for Board members and staff to participate.

Meeting Schedule

To enable participation by youth Board member, Talaalemotu "Leilani" Alaelau, we discussed alternating first Sunday and first Tuesday dates in the coming year. We agreed that our January meeting would be Sunday, January 5 at 6:30 pm. We agreed to do this on alternate months.

Executive Session Concerning Property at Pilgrim Firs

It was moved, seconded, passed to enter into an Executive Session.

It was moved seconded and passed to leave Executive session.

Decision Concerning the Sale of Property at Pilgrim Firs

It was moved, seconded, passed to accept the recommendation of Mark Boyd to accept the offer from John McPhearson for the sale of a parcel of land at Pilgrim Firs consisting of 3.03 acres for \$18,000 with all related costs, survey, closing costs, etc. being paid by Mr. McPhearson.

Spring Retreat Dates

Phil will send us a survey regarding Spring retreat dates.

Vice Moderator, Esther closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Patterson, Scribe

