

Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2025

Board Members Present: Indigo Brown, Moderator; Esther Sanders, Vice Moderator; Sandy Wisecarver; Ron Patterson, Scribe; Amy Johnson; Leah Atkinson Bilinski; Wendy Blight; Diana Kutas, Treasurer; Talaalemotu “Leilani” Alaelau; Deborah Tyler; Dawn Koloi.

Staff: Designated Conference Minister Phil Hodson; Conference Accountant, Andy Warren.

Excused: Tevita_Fakasiieike.

Indigo called us to order. The agenda had been posted. Esther opened us in prayer.

This special meeting was called after Phil reported to the Board that Brian Wallace, Acting Managing Director at N-Sid-Sen had resigned. Our gathering followed a period of intense activity by Phil, our Moderator, Vice Moderator and other members of the staff which included extensive conversations with Brian. Wendy, as chair of the Personnel Committee and Andy, as Conference Accountant were also involved.

Members of the Board then asked questions and discussed the circumstances of the resignation.

Wendy reported that Brian felt unable to accomplish what he felt needed to be accomplished at the camp. Brian will spend his last week at the camp compiling a list of the items needing to be addressed at the camp.

Phil recommended that we accept his resignation with grace. It was (moved, seconded, passed) to do so.

Phil then presented a series of recommendations from conversations he had Mark, Andy, Indigo, Esther, Wendy and others since he first received news of the resignation on Tuesday.

1. On Monday, Andy will go to N-Sid-Sen for a few days and ask Ben Crosby to join him to walk the property with Brian to get some additional eyes on what Brian sees. They will debrief on the camp schedule, and needed maintenance. Ben will hold the keys and check the property daily.
2. In the next few weeks. Mark and Phil will visit the site to do a second walk-through for safety related repairs on the list Brian is compiling. Ben will join them.
3. Phil will be on the phone with Mike Carr of UCCR: (United Camps Conferences and Retreats) an organization that manages camp sites. He will ask them to assess the site and prepare a bid that is detailed for what they might be able to do. He will ask them to prepare a two to three-year plan for us. He may seek an additional bid. This assessment might cost about \$3,000.
4. Staff will reach out to Lady of the Lake camps as our premier group to keep them informed. (Warrior Pathh, which is a key group at Pilgrim Firs is looking to launch an east side program and might be interested using N-Sid-Sen.)

Mark spoke with individuals who might help to get us on the road for this summer.

Our catering firm, Upper Crust, will permit us to downscale if we need to up until April 1.

Once the budget for needed repairs is established, the Board will be notified. Phil recommends that we undertake dialogue with the Stewardship Committee to raise additional money for repairs needed.

This effort will require all of us, including volunteers and professionals in our Conference and beyond

Staff need time to evaluate and will come back to us with the facts.

Phil reminded us that we are in a long game. The taskforce(N-Sid-Sen Vitality Taskforce) which the Board approved and which Phil has been building, will work to make recommendations to the Board

Phil is looking for a team model for staffing our camps with a wider support system for those who are on the ground.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Conference in the next weekly communication. Leah will draft this. We will post updates as they become available.

The Board expressed gratitude to staff and others who have responded to this situation with skill and competency.

Phil shared a text: Isaiah 41:10 “Do not fear..... For I am with you”.

It was moved, seconded, passed, to recommend the Capital Budget for Pilgrim Firs for presentation to the Annual Meeting delegates for their consideration.

After discussion, the Board agreed (moved, seconded, passed) to recommend covering the deficit incurred and projected to occur at N-Sid-Sen, utilizing reserves drawn from the following unrestricted reserves:

325a	Make a Difference Earnings	\$50,000
390	Pentecost Fund	51,000
925	Waggoner Fund	50,000
606	Camp operating Fund-Pilgrim Firs	50,000
910	Church Development Projects	50,000
Total		\$251,000

Losses in FY 2025: \$118,000 Projected loss in FY 2026: \$133,000

The Board rejoiced in the news that our Moderator Indigo Brown has been nominated to join the United Church Board!!!!

With thanks to all, especially those who joined from other time zones, we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Patterson, Scribe

