

Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, June 3, 2025

Board Members Present: Sandy Wisecarver, Moderator; Dawn Koloi, Vice-Moderator; Leah Atkinson Bilinski; Diana Kutas, Treasurer; Deborah Tyler; Ron Patterson, Scribe; Indigo Brown, Past-Moderator; Kendrick Richardson; Demontrice Bigham; Edwin Galeai; Ryan Lambert; Morag Stewart

Staff: Designated Conference Minister Phil Hodson; Conference Accountant, Andy Warren; Mark Boyd, Camp Director, Pilgrim Firs.

Excused: Talaalemotu “Leilani” Alaelau; Amy Johnson; Tevita_Fakasiieike

Dawn called us to order. Sandy was unable to be with us to lead the meeting because of the need to be a caregiver. Dawn offered devotions. She reminded us of our retreat and the power of our being together and sharing our stories. She came away thanking God, reflecting on the question of what we were taking away from our gathering? Hope was her take away and worries were what she left behind. She reminded us of the words of Jesus in Mathew 11: 28-30: ‘come to me all you who are burdened’. Jesus invites us to rest and take comfort in his presence. Our Conference needs the leadership we must give, but tonight, God is calling us to rest and renewal. God offers that to all of us. We must bear one another’s burdens and trusting God to sustain us in difficult circumstances. She reflected on our time together during the retreat and then led us in prayer. ***(Board members are reminded to sign up to lead devotions for the coming meetings.)***

The May minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

Phil reminded us of his three questions and the way we had revised them during our recent retreat. What is our purpose, what is our plan, and what are the blessings we hope to achieve in the next twelve months?

He invited us to review our blessings and to remember the purpose statement we had crafted together:

Purpose Statement

Our purpose is to honor and build up the body of Christ for the ongoing and ultimate unveiling of the realm of God and the communal salvation envisioned by Jesus Christ.

He then reminded us of our four goals for the coming year:

To grow relationships by building bridges: through improved communication, reminding us that we have agreed to make visits and contacts in the coming months and to continue to our commitment to dismantle racism. “Come and see”.

Complete the Constitution and by-law rewrite and present it to the Conference for input and comment in a series of forums leading to the Annual Meeting of 2026.

Call a settled Conference Minister

Articulate clearly the next faithful steps for N-Sid-Sen.

He invited us to unpack these goals gradually in the next several months. Phil reports his excitement about these plans as they will guide this board on behalf of the Conference. This is a strong start.

Phil invited us to think through our purpose statement and these goals and to exchange thoughts with one another.

We agreed to do this in our next few meetings. We will take the first goal and ponder it until we meet in July.

Financial Reports

Andy shared his screen inviting us to view his complete reports on Basecamp. While the numbers are not completely final, they are close. He is right on target with his forecasts.

Conference revenue is ahead of budget, but expenses are also ahead of budget, so we are showing a year to date deficit of \$24,186, which is less than anticipated.

Pilgrim Firs revenue is ahead of budget, but expenses, while greater than anticipated, were exceeded by income showing a year-to-date profit of \$107, 723.

N-Sid-Sen revenue was, as anticipated, less than budget. Expenses were also less than budget, so the year-to-date loss was \$99, 314. The excellent efforts underway toward a turnaround at N-Sid-Sen are beginning. Words of appreciation were expressed to all who are helping make this happen.

He also reviewed our current draw rate on various funds and reminded us that this pattern is not sustainable.

Andy called for questions. Leah asked about reserves at Pilgrim Firs and Andy noted that they have been building, both capital reserves and operating reserves. N-Sid-Sen has, at present, no reserves. He reviewed the figures.

Diana shared an idea that she will propose to the Stewardship Committee about a 90 for 90 campaign to celebrate 90 years at camp N-Sid-Sen. Andy noted that we had

raised \$5,000 since the Conference Annual meeting to support emergency equipment and preparations for the summer season at N-Sid-Sen.

Camp Report

Mark directed us to his written report in Basecamp.

He spoke of his visits to N-Sid-Sen and the various groups who have used the camp. He reminded us that the Warrior PATHH group will begin to use the camp soon.

He has been working with the leaders who have volunteered to work at N-Sid-Sen during this transition time. Upper Crust is our food service for the summer and there is a good cook on hand to cook during August. There is a work camp later in June. He thanked all the volunteers who have done so much to get the camp in shape.

Deborah commented on how wonderful the camp looks.

There is an ongoing evaluation at N-Sid-Sen and many are helping. The camp is not broken, but it needs TLC.

Mark reported that Pilgrim Firs is very busy. They have a waiting list, and he is still working to get groups in. He refers to other camps when it is possible. They are continuing maintenance efforts and have enlarged their archives with items from the former Conference office. They are hiring summer staff. The Pride Picnic is coming up this Sunday. Money for the food comes out of the Pride Fund. Camp registration is a little slower this year. Once again, he invited us to read his report.

Designated Conference Minister

Phil's report is on Basecamp. He reviewed Search and Call activity as listed in his written report. He noted his travel schedule. He asked Board members to invite him to their congregations if he had not been there. As Board members we are his eyes and ears. This Conference is being blessed by our local churches and the activities of this Board. Everett is installing a new minister this Sunday: Davi Weasley. Board members are invited to attend: "Come and see!"

We will be celebrating June 29th with Samoan Congregations a group installation of pastors, recognizing their leadership. This will be held at Fauntleroy UCC and Board members are invited to attend. In July we will be sharing in the activities of General Synod in Kansas City.

New Board members were reminded of anti-racism training. The Board will cover their expenses. There are several opportunities coming up soon to join Authorized Ministers in completing this training.

As leaders, our participation and feedback on this training is valuable. We need to invite more individuals and congregations to become involved.

Phil will put up a survey to invite us to think about Fall retreat dates. This will move us forward. The retreat will be on the west side.

Liaison List

Ron: COM east and west; Leah: JWM; Edwin: CDC; Deborah and Diana: Outdoor Ministries; Morag: Global Ministries; Demontrice and Kendrick: Stewardship; Amy and Indigo: MRC; Sandy: Annual Meeting Planning.

There are a few groups who still need to have liaisons. Diana is stepping away from Outdoor Ministries and Deborah is taking her place.

Committee Appointments by the Board

Rev. Jill Komura to MRC

Jana Csicsery to COM West. Moved, Seconded, Passed.

Planned Changes for the Conference Meeting

After concerns were raised about having the next Conference meeting in three locations at once, the Board asked that this decision be reconsidered. Mark and Phil spoke at length about these concerns and Phil will seek other possibilities and present alternatives to the Board for their consideration.

Discussion ensued. We need to consider technology availability. Phil will focus on places where we can mix. He hopes to bring three choices.

Phil closed our meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Patterson Scribe.

