

***Board members are reminded that we take turns doing devotionals as we open our meetings. If you have not done so, sign up and please take a turn.***

## **Board Minutes 03\_03\_26**

### **Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, March 3, 2026**

**Board Members Present:** Sandy Wisecarver, Moderator; Dawn Koloi, Vice-Moderator; Diana Kutas, Treasurer; Morag Stewart; Ron Patterson, Scribe; Leah Atkinson Bilinski; Amy Johnson; Ryan Lambert; Edwin Galeai.

**Staff:** Designated Conference Minister Phil Hodson; Conference Accountant, Andy Warren; Mark Boyd, Executive Director, PNC Outdoor Ministries.

**Absent:** Talaalemotu “Leilani” Alaelau; Demontrice Bigham; Indigo Brown, Past-Moderator; Kendrick Richardson; Tevita\_Fakasiieike.

#### **Excused:**

#### **Opening**

Sandy, our Moderator, called us to order, and Leah opened the meeting with a devotional that reflected on current events. She needs more reminders of the movement of God in hard times! She spoke about her pilgrimage to Montgomery, AL and reflected on a story from “Just Mercy,” by Brian Stevenson. Stevenson writes about his first encounter with a death row inmate. He interviewed a person named Henry. He had been sent to tell Henry that he was not to be put to death that year. Their conversation continued for three hours as they shared their life stories with one another. Stevenson spoke about Henry singing the hymn, “Higher Ground”, which speaks about a path in life that defies the way of the world and invites us to embrace the reality which Jesus promised. Leah reminded us of the power of worship and praise and of the community we share. Leah then opened our meeting with prayer.

#### **Minutes**

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of February 3, 2026, including the posted addendum to the meeting minutes that reflected an electronic vote.

#### **Financial Report**

Andy called our attention to the extensive reports posted in Basecamp, including the Board highlight summary report for January 2026. He invited us to review the reports presented and then summarized the Fiscal Year to Date (January) financial picture for our three main cost centers: Conference Ministries, Pilgrim Firs and N-Sid-Sen.

Conference Ministries revenue is \$284,713 vs. expenses YTD of \$385,042 for a deficit of (\$100,329).

Pilgrim Firs revenue is \$767,680 vs. expenses YTD of \$591,217 for a profit of \$176,463.

N-Sid-Sen revenue is \$392,632 vs. expenses YTD of \$289,791 for a profit of \$102,841.

February reports will be posted soon.

Undesignated funds have all had gains this year. He noted that he will draw some of these dollars in the coming months.

Andy was thanked for his leadership and commended for the series of hearings he led over the last weeks concerning the proposed budget. We rejoiced that he was feeling better.

## **Camps Report**

Mark called our attention to the written reports he placed in Basecamp, inviting Board members to read them.

### **N-Sid-Sen**

The cleanup and insurance work is continuing. The logging firm is finishing removing damaged trees and thinning. A forester has helped select some more trees to cull, especially on the east side of the road. Randy brought in several new groups. Fifteen new groups are coming in! A UU group has been booked as well. Mark will be over there while Randy and Linda are on vacation. Zach and Mark will travel over in May. The new leaders of Lady of the Lake, one of our groups, will be meeting with Mark. Mark continues to rebuild relationships with groups who stopped using the camp.

### **Pilgrim Firs**

The camp is doing well. Repairs continue. The guitar camp Board is excited and has expressed some interest in helping with funds for some repairs. Currently a regional Peace group is in residence preparing for a protest action.

Diana noted that the Pilgrim Firs Chile recipe won the contest at a fund raiser at Spirit of Peace, held to support those under threat of detention.

**In his role as Executive Director**, Mark reported on several projects. He will be working closely with Randy. He is monitoring the efforts of the Outdoor Ministries group. He is doing recruiting for camp leadership and has been visiting churches. He met with the Stone Sculptors. He met with several executives from other denominations

networking around the position at N-Sid-Sen. He continues to work with the Futuring Committee, who has worked on a job description. Leaders have been trained for the upcoming camp season.

OMA—the national UCC camping ministry group, has given a grant to support a gathering of youth leaders.

He reports that our software program, Ultra camp is a bit frustrating. Their fees have been around \$4,000 per year and they are increasing to \$6,000 in the coming year. There appear to be some business problems with this firm. He may need to look at a different option.

After a question, Mark noted that the N-Sid-Sen featuring team will be addressing sustainability in a forthcoming report.

Dawn commented on the quality of Andy's zoom budget presentations and Mark's input.

### **Designated Conference Minister Report**

Phil reminded us that he had submitted a report which he invited Board members to read. He is working with five churches in transition as they prepare their profile. This is a priority for him. He prepared his report for the annual meeting. He updated his travel schedule. Phil reported that we now have a Conference YouTube channel which has all the 'Come and See' videos. They are very well done, and will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

He continues to build out an annual meeting page. The meeting is coming up.

Beth, Mark and Andy have worked so hard!

He wrote a reflection on the bombing of Iran which he invited us to share. His travel is locked in for the duration of his time with us.

He reported that he will become the Intentional Conference Minister of Missouri/Midsouth Conference and in that light, he is invoking the 90-day clause in his contract with us, so he can be in that position in a timely fashion.

The Board received this news with regret and expressed thankfulness for his service. May 31 will be his last day with us.

Sandy will post information for the Board on Basecamp from Diane Weible concerning Phil's departure and possible plans for the next months.

### **Liaison check-ins.**

JWM. Leah met with Sophie Morse and Jen Butner, two of the four co-chairs of JWM. This committee has not met during the past year. While they have a commitment to the work, this meeting was their last official act. Going forward, there is important work for those committed to Justice and Witness.

### **Annual Meeting reminders.**

### **The Board will meet at 5:00 pm On Saturday to decide on retreat dates and to share dinner together at the Hotel.**

Rev. Amara Oden will be the process person for the annual meeting. There has been no revision to the standing rules.

Sandy reported on the work and the good efforts Beth has offered. We will enjoy the youth. Singing will stitch together the parts of the meeting!

The entire planning committee has agreed to return for next year. The Board celebrated that news with thanks!

Sufficient funds have been raised to bring youth to the Annual Meeting. The offering will be divided between the youth program and Thrive International. Further donations are always welcome.

### **Columbia Lakewood Church**

Noting that the Board had voted electronically concerning this matter, Phil reported that he has nothing new to report beyond what had been in Basecamp so far. He will put new information on this thread as it appears.

In discussion, it was noted that this was a Brethren/UCC congregation. Historically, the former UCC congregation had sold their building and took their assets to the Brethren building with the understanding that if the congregation dissolved, the assets would be divided between the two judicatories. Howard Ullery— the Brethren Executive, reported to Phil that a potential buyer, a congregation, was performing due diligence toward a purchase of the property. It is estimated that proceeds from the sale might net us between \$600,000-700,000.

If this deal does not go through, the Board would like further information and the ability to engage more fully with the Brethren about next steps.

Leah brought up some questions, reminding us that we might have begun voting before all the facts were clear. She asked Phil to obtain a copy of the by-laws of this congregation. He agreed to do so. Diana expressed some concerns based on her experience in commercial real estate.

There seemed to be a consensus that there are clearly some votes that we should not do on threads and that we need to provide room and time for questions. Our by-laws have some language on these things.

### **MRC Update**

Dawn has been meeting with the Ministry Resources Committee.

When and if the new Constitution and By-laws are adopted, there will be considerable work defining term of service for Committee members and officers going forward.

Dawn noted that the MRC updated their records about who is serving and their terms of service. They are working on updating the slate.

Lelani will not continue to serve on the Board. Some names were mentioned for possible Board membership. Melanie Childers from the east side and others were proposed. A possible youth might be Emma Champaign from Fauntleroy.

### **Search Committee**

The search committee met with Diane Weible, the Conference Minister Search Coordinator. Cameron has many questions that the Board needs to answer. These answers will form the basis for a profile for a settled CM. Sandy will post the questions on Basecamp. We discussed a timeline for answering these questions. This will be the topic of our April meeting, with threads beginning on Basecamp. A google document was proposed as a living document for the group to edit together. Phil will post the questions.

### **Conference Disaster Ministry**

Edwin has been attending national UCC disaster coordinator meetings as an Alaskan representative. There is a meeting in Cleveland on April 13-16. It was moved, seconded and passed that Edwin attend this meeting as our PNC Disaster Response Coordinator and that we pay his airfare. Lodging and other expenses are covered by the national UCC. We will need to expand this team.

**As we prepared to adjourn, it was noted that no one had asked to be excused from tonight's meeting. We need to have further discussion on attendance and the importance of full participation by all Board members.**

Sandy will share this concern at the annual meeting.

Ron closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Patterson, Scribe.