

Board Minutes 03_14_26

Pacific Northwest Conference Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, March 14, 2026

Board Members Present: Sandy Wisecarver, Moderator; Dawn Koloj, Vice-Moderator; Diana Kutas, Treasurer; Morag Stewart; Ron Patterson, Scribe; Kendrick Richardson; Leah Atkinson Bilinski; Amy Johnson; Ryan Lambert; Edwin Galeai; Nancy Childers; Tevita_Fakasiieike.

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

Absent:

Excused: Demontrice Bigham

Sandy, our Moderator, called us to order and led us in prayer. This meeting is being held over dinner to establish dates for the coming year and to review the Annual meeting which had ended before our gathering.

Sandy noted that the Board service of Talaalemotu “Leilani” Alaela and Indigo Brown, Past-Moderator had ended at the conclusion of the Annual meeting and that we were being joined by newly elected Board Member, Melanie Childers. As soon as they are identified, the chair of the newly formed Youth Council will be joining the Board of Directors.

Sandy called on Board member Kendrick Richardson. Kendrick shared his concerns about continuing to serve and after discussion agreed to further conversation with Sandy. For the present, he will be stepping back from the Board. He raised serious issues that we need to address.

Sandy expressed the Board’s thanks to Beth for her hard and diligent work on this Annual Meeting!

Board members were reminded again that our communication needs to be on Basecamp. Phil spoke about this and its importance. Amy will update our Board list and send calendar invitations for coming meeting dates and retreats.

Sandy had received communication from Diane Wieble, UCC Conference Search Coordinator concerning our need for an Acting Conference Minister to begin work when Phil’s contract ends May 31. Diane had forwarded two profiles for our consideration. The Executive Committee, consisting of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer and Scribe will interview these two individuals and bring a recommendation to the Board for

their review and approval. This needs to happen soon. The Board agreed that the individual chosen as Acting CM would be eligible to apply for the settled position on the same terms as any other potential candidate the Search Committee might consider.

Beth will be asked to link Board members to the evaluation forms from the recently concluded annual meeting.

Some discussion ensued about our experience with the facility we just used. Phil noted that a tentative hold had been placed on the facility by us for the end of April, 2027, we need to decide on this and perhaps even lock in a longer-term contract. He noted the advantages of the current location. It appears that despite the snowstorm and a flurry of cancellations, we will at least break even financially. The Board needs to develop a long-range fund-raising strategy to encourage the level of participation by young people. Scholarships are simply necessary for the vitality of the Conference.

The Search for a Settled Conference Minister. The Search Committee was commissioned by members of the Conference during the Annual Meeting. They have met several times. They have presented a set of questions to the Board that are necessary as they prepare a profile. Phil will post these for Board input.

Phil reminded us that our role as a Board is 'governance'!

Phil reported that our amazing Accounting Manager, Andy Warren will be retiring in December. This will be a loss for all of us! Phil will work on finding a replacement.

Phil reported that he had met the objectives he had established for himself when he came here with one exception.

He feels he helped the Board embrace their role in governance more fully and that he built a great staff team. He will work with Andy and Diane Weible to lay out a transition plan. He will continue to work with Mark and others to identify a new Associate Director who will be based at N-Sid-Sen.

Phil will ask Beth to work on a potential model for transitioning the Board members from two-year to three-year terms as per the newly adopted Constitution and Bylaws. We will need to make some adjustments.

Phil believes that we will need a program person going forward and suggests that Beth be identified as "Conference Administrator", which more fully describes her actual role.

Phil will be working with Tyler from the Central Pacific Conference to update the Memorandum of Understanding our two Conferences share concerning Beth's schedule and work assignments. We will need to let her concentrate this Fall on her work for CPC toward their Annual Meeting. She currently works for us 32 hrs.

As we discussed next year's annual meeting, it was noted that Leah had identified date parameters, including school vacation dates, holidays like Easter and the annual gatherings of our Samoan Congregations.

One proposed date is April 24-26. We discussed the pros and cons of Friday-Saturday vs. Saturday-Sunday.

Dawn reminded us of a celebration being held at her congregation (Samoan Congregational Christian Church #2) on April 19 at 11:00 am including all those pastors and congregations recently included in the Conference.

Phil reported on a few suggestions offered by UCC General Counsel concerning the present political environment and reminded us that this office works for the national setting and for the Council of Conference Ministers. Local congregations need to first consult their CM when legal issues arise.

We expressed our thanks to our moderator for her leadership at the Annual Meeting!

Phil closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Patterson, Scribe

Addendum To the Minutes of March 14, 2026

It was noted that a new Constitution and Bylaws had been approved by the gathered delegates of the congregations of the Pacific Northwest Conference at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ on March 14, 2026. That new document became the Constitution and Bylaws of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ at the moment of that vote.

Ron Patterson, Scribe