

Board Minutes 04_07_26

Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, April 7, 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; Melanie Childers.

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

Guest: Al Bentley, from the Nominating Committee.

Absent: Tevita_Fakasiieike; Demontrice Bigham;

Excused:

Sandy, our Moderator, called us to order and called on Morag Stewart to lead devotions. Morag shared stories about the difference between having the right to do something and doing the right thing in each situation. She quoted Proverbs 3:5-6 which calls us to trust God in all things. She reminded us that our actions as a Conference must deepen relationships. Choose relationship. She led us in a prayer, echoing the words of the Serenity Prayer.

The Moderator asked us to review and approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026, meeting. (Moved, Seconded, Passed)

The Moderator asked us to review and approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 14, 2026. (Moved, Seconded, Passed)

Financial Reports

Sandy called on Conference Accountant, Andy Warren, to review our financial reports. He called the Board's attention to the summaries posted in Basecamp, reminding us to review them and that he is happy to answer questions.

He noted that the actual income is somewhat diminished this month because he had not taken the normal draw from endowment funds (4%) since a weak stock market reduced the value of our holdings. This adjustment will be reflected in next month's reports.

Fiscal Year to Date **Conference Ministries** income was \$396,413, expenses were \$467,488 for a FYTD deficit of \$71,075, which is less than the projected deficit.

Fiscal Year to Date **N-Sid-Sen** income was \$417,373, expenses were \$333,459 for a FYTD profit of \$83,914. This is ahead of projection.

Fiscal Year to Date **Pilgrim Firs** income was \$890,750, expenses were \$720,248 for a FYTD profit of \$170,502. This is ahead of projection.

He reviewed the financial results of the recent annual meeting. Costs came in higher than expected. He feels that folks do not want to pay more for the annual meeting. The loss is about \$27,000 and most of that was hotel expenses and the cost of airfare from Alaska.

He answered questions from the Board.

Andy presented a four-year Profit and Loss Statement. This report is available on Basecamp.

Camp Reports

The Moderator called on Mark Boyd, Executive Director for Outdoor Ministries. Mark noted that his written reports were available in Basecamp.

He is pleased to report that more groups are using our camps.

He asked the Board if they would approve using some of the funds previously allocated for waterfront improvements at Pilgrim Firs to purchase a needed new grill. This is a much needed \$6,000 expenditure. This was (moved, seconded, and passed) approved.

Sharing his excitement, he reported that Zak Norenburg, Associate Director at Pilgrim Firs, got engaged on his trip to New Zealand this week.

N-Sid-Sen is experiencing a surge in usage with groups returning and new groups rebooking. He reported on the popularity of the Textile Retreat.

At present there are three applicants for the Associate Director's position at N-Sid-Sen. Responding to a question about a search committee for this position, Mark responded that since this is a staff position, Mark will supervise the hiring. He reported that the strategic planning group and Ben Crosby have advised him.

He reported that while most dollars flowing to the camps come from outside groups, the usage by UCC related people and congregations has significantly increased.

After Mark spoke about forming Boards for the camps, a question was raised about this process. Mark responded that this idea only exists in concept form. It was agreed that a formal proposal be brought to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

Discussion ensued and a few possible models for an advisory group of those with special expertise were shared.

Ryan suggested that we need to publicize the budget projections for N-Sid-Sen as a success story.

Once again, the Board noted our thanks and praise for Randy and Linda Crowe for their work in making N-Sid-Sen more stable.

Designated Conference Minister

Sandy called on Phil to offer his report. Noting that his written report (recently revised) is in Basecamp, he reminded us that we are down to the last weeks of his ministry among us. He reviewed the Annual meeting, stating that while every meeting is a blessing, this one had blessings in abundance. He reviewed his upcoming schedule for the next weeks and presented a summary of the Search and Call processes underway in the Conference.

Phil had updated his report to include information on "Love Knows No Borders".

He reported that there is a special meeting of General Synod in May to vote for a new Associate General Minister.

There is nothing new to report on the sale of Columbia Lakewood church property.

Commenting on the recent Conference Annual Meeting, Phil noted that he believed the cost of the meeting was not unreasonable. This location brought people together and was good value. People need to own that there are real costs and that meeting at a local church has many hidden costs. We don't charge enough!

We are investing in relationships. The point is to be together. \$250 is a more realistic price.

We need to recognize those who sponsored youth attendance and as a Board own our role as ambassadors of the Conference and as people who make a giving commitment to the Conference as part of our service.

The April, 2027 dates are available. The Hotel is willing to lock in 3 years.

Annual Meeting Review and Planning

Sandy presented a summary of the evaluations from the Annual Meeting. Online participants do not have the same experience. How do we make the online experience more wholistic?

The Youth presentations were praised as was Lillian Daniels and her keynote. Connections made, worship, and the meals all received high marks. The presentations were great. The lunchtime affinity groups were welcomed. Having the meeting post-Easter is better. More breakout groups were requested. More time for group open discussion was requested. Please limit comments from the floor to 2 minutes! There needs to be two screens for greater visibility.

The worship music was too loud. The tech team was praised. There was a request for information about Stephen Ministry and Christian Education resources.

Phil asked that this information be included in the minutes for future reference: **Of the hotels in Spokane---The Centennial is a hotel in Spokane that has the meeting space. Their costs are also 1.5 times what we spent this year.**

Amy noted that we need to explain to people the actual costs. These are necessary costs. It will take telling people repeatedly that these costs are real.

Our tech team noted how easy the hotel was to work with.

The Board suggested locking in 2027 and 2029 after we found out that 2028 was not available. Phil will bring us options at our next meeting, including an option in Spokane.

After discussion, it was (moved, seconded, passed) agreed to lock-in the 2027 date; April 24-25, 2027 at the Doubletree, South Center. Saturday and Sunday. Phil urged us to plan to install our settled CM during the Sunday Worship.

Liaison Check-in

Edwin, as the liaison for the Committee on Local Church, asked about how funds are disbursed for use by this committee and for the amount of money available for their work. These grants, from the Share in Tomorrow Fund, have aided local congregations and have been limited to \$5,000 without Board approval. Andy suggests that this amount be revisited by the Stewardship committee as they undertake revisions in the current Fiscal Policy which reflect the newly approved Bylaws of the Conference. This topic needs to be revisited in coming Board meetings.

Youth Leadership Council Proposal

It was **moved, seconded and passed** that we authorize the formation of a Youth Leadership Council as proposed by youth gathered during the Annual Meeting. This would be an intentional Committee as provided for in the Bylaws. Board members and staff will work with the youth to work out the details of this committee in a way consistent with safe church policy. This committee will be an intentional attempt to build connection across the Conference. This might also include representation from this group on the Board of Directors.

The following is the document young people prepared at the Annual Meeting.

Formation of Pacific Northwest Conference Youth Leadership Council

Proposal Vision: We hope to establish a council of youth (age 14-18) dedicated to representing the Youth of the Pacific Northwest Conference (PNC). We need to focus on increased involvement, and resources for youth in our conference.

I. Governance & Membership

The Council will consist of approximately 12 youth members (ages 14–18) serving one-year terms. To ensure diverse representation, only one member may serve per congregation.

Executive Leadership:

- Chair: Presides over meetings and serves as the primary youth representative on the greater PNC Board.
- Secretary: Maintains meeting records and serves as the designated email liaison.
- Adult Advisors: Two young adults (18+) and/or former PNC Board members providing mentorship and logistical oversight.

II. Core Characteristics

- Strategic Goal Setting: Identify three annual goals during the first session to dictate the Council's work.
- Yearly In person connection: An annual leadership retreat hosted at one of the Conference camps to plan our year. To ensure transparency and accessibility, the Council will utilize the following platforms:
- Digital Presence: A dedicated PNC Youth email, social media page to highlight initiatives and a landing page on the official PNC website.
- Feedback Loop: A public comment form for churches to seek consultation from the Council.
- Internal Coordination: A Basecamp page for member communication.

IV. Logistics & Next Steps

- Meeting Set up: Monthly via Zoom (tentatively the last Saturday night of each month).
- Immediate Action: The founding attendees will convene with Phil and Beth within the next few weeks to formalize the Council's structure.

Founding Youth Members:

- Naomi Bilinski (Fautleroy UCC)
- Eliot Sales (Fautleroy UCC)
- Veronica Brulotte (UC Ferndale)
- Seminare Alaelua (CWC UCC Anchorage)
- Sara Tanielu (CWC Anchorage)

- Davis Gustafson (Plymouth UCC)
- Tevita Fakasiieiki (Westminster UCC)
- Kumiko Taano (CWC Anchorage)
- Tobias Tagi
- DJ Lafoga (Emanuel UCC)
- Emma Shampain (Faulteroy UCC) emshampain@Gmail.com

Search and Call Questionnaire

The Board was reminded that the CM Search Committee needs our help building a profile. Phil had shared their questions with us, and we need to work on the answers as soon as possible. Phil will resend the details, and we need to put our thoughts out there. Andy is working on those parts of the profile requiring statistical and financial data.

Acting CM Search

A committee of the Board consisting of the Moderator, Vice-moderator, Treasurer, and Scribe met with two potential candidates provided by the UCC Conference Minister Search Coordinator, Diane Weible. They are proposing that the Board interview one of the two. Sandy will post this individual's profile.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to enter an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a potential candidate.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to leave Executive Session.

We agreed to meet on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 5:30 pm on zoom to interview this person for the position of Acting Conference Minister.

Phil reminded us that the work we are undertaking now is confidential and that the profile we will receive must be held in strictest confidence.

Terms of Office

Al Bently from the Nominating Committee was present for most of our meeting. He has been working with Morag on determining Board terms and establishing a protocol for Board and Committee terms reflecting the new Bylaws. They will continue this work and report at our next regular meeting.

Given that Diana, our treasurer is concluding her sixth year at the next Conference meeting, it was pointed out that we need to find someone for her to mentor in the coming months who can move into this position

Edwin is headed to Cleveland for Disaster Ministry Training. We wished him Godspeed in this important assignment for our Conference.

We noted that since this is the first meeting of our 'year', speaking with members who have unexcused absences will begin next month.

Phil offered a powerful prayer as we parted from one another.

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 5, 2027 @ 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Patterson, Scribe