Board Minutes 08_04_26

Pacific Northwest Conference Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, August 4, 2026

Board Members Present: Sandy Wisecarver, Moderator; Diana Kutas, Treasurer; Morag Stewart; Ron Patterson, Scribe; Leah Atkinson Bilinski; Amy Johnson; Ryan Lambert; Demontrice Bigham; Melanie Childers.

Staff: Acting Conference Minister Lorraine Ceniceros; Mark Boyd, Executive Director, PNC Outdoor Ministries; Andy Warren, Conference Accountant.

COLC: Chair Rose Lynn Selix will not be present, We will reschedule the discussion of the recommendation concerning the new Samoan church.

Guest: Cindy Bauleke, Chair COM West.

Absent:

Excused: Dawn Koloi, Vice-Moderator; Edwin Galeai; Tevita Fakasiieiki

Note: Members of the Committee on Local Church were to have been with us tonight to present a new Congregation for membership in the PNC. Due to the tragic death of a family member of one of the committee members, the committee will be invited to our September meeting. Board members are invited to review the information provided in Base Camp on **Family of Christ-Full Gospel Church in Tacoma**.

Sandy, our Moderator, called us to order and invited Lorraine, our ACM, to lead us in prayer. She invited us to center, remembering the deep loss one of our number recently sustained. Lorraine reminded us of our call to faithfulness and community.

Board Growth/Reflection Time

As part of an ongoing Board exercise, Lorraine continued to introduce Peggy McIntosh's *Invisible Knapsack* (1989) as a framework for privilege awareness. She invited us to reflection and to discuss an additional five items from the list of fifty:

1. I can, if I wish, arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.

2. I can avoid spending time with people whom I was trained to mistrust and who have learned to mistrust my kind or me.

3. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live.

4. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.

5. I can go shopping alone most of the time, well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.

Privilege is an invisible backpack. We assume that our experiences are just the way things are instead of culturally conditioned assumptions that impact how we perceive reality and perpetuate racism. We will continue to discuss how these ideas show up in us as individuals and collectively. This exercise is not about blame, but rather about truth telling. We reviewed the five items listed above and sought honesty with ourselves and one another. Lorraine noted that we need to look within when we experience discomfort. We are called to recognize that we put on these defensive backpacks as children growing up in a racist society. Discussion and reflection ensued.

Lorraine noted that the discomfort we are feeling might be represented by a floor covered with eggshells. When you step on them you can see them and perhaps hear the pain of the micro aggressions persons of color feel from us. Our anti-racism training has only taught us to be quiet. We need to learn.

She sees her role among us as one who plants the seeds. We must want to grow. Racism is a system that holds marginalization in place and divides people.

The Minutes of the July meeting were approved as corrected. (Moved, seconded passed). Morag had noted that the document she had been asked to prepare has already been posted.

Camp Report

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

He noted that Summer is a busy time at our camps. After a state inspection there are some minor items that need correction. While ticks are a problem, those causing Lyme's Disease are not a factor in Washington State. There is a male bear hanging out at Pilgrim Firs.

N-Sid-Sen has been busy. They are seeking a new cook. Randy and Linda and a few others have been working in the kitchen. (Bless them!) There is a review underway of the number of camp attendees. A strategy for greater promotion is planned.

Mark has been working to get the relationship with the Warrior PATHH group that is proposing to use N-Sid-Sen back on track. They have needs that must be addressed. Zak and Ashly, from Pilgrim Firs are assisting with this. The relationship with the Sufi community is improving.

Mark commended the work of the Outdoor Ministry Committee and their efforts on developing a mental health support network for campers. Their work met some of the unique challenges offered by special needs campers.

We have four applications for the N-Sid-Sen job. Most are experienced applicants. Ben Crosby will help Mark review. Lorraine suggested having a few other voices from the Board or the Outdoor Ministry Committee. She will discuss this with Mark.

Outdoor Ministry Committee is working to establish dates for next year. The camps will then be able to suggest dates to the Board to meet their retreat needs sooner.

The Council of Stewards supporting Pilgrim Firs has added a few more people. They hope for a first meeting in September.

Leah expressed her wish that more of the Council be made up of people active in local congregations. She is concerned that a 'church mindset' be represented to encourage greater partnership and a mutual sense of mission and accountability.

ACM Report

Lorraine is planning more visits to the Conference. Three times each month. She has had meetings with many congregations. She is pleased that ministers are reaching out to her. She has written two pastoral letters. She will be speaking with Sandy and Diana on how to use the funds collected for Spokane disaster relief.

Finance

Andy called the Board's attention to his written reports and welcomed our questions.

Fiscal Year '27to Date Conference Ministries income was $76,224, expenses were $81,609 for a FYTD deficit of $5,385 which is less than the projected deficit.

Fiscal Year to Date N-Sid-Sen income was $190,699, expenses were $138,005 for a FYTD profit of $52,694. This is less than projection.

Fiscal Year to Date Pilgrim Firs income was $146,224 expenses were $177,073 for a FYTD loss of ($30,849) This is above projection but money from our largest user is expected.

Andy noted that we have started to use the BECU accounts.

He will be providing more information on the Veradale loan. The security improvements that this loan enabled are moving ahead slowly and the grant securing the Conference loan to this church has been renewed.

PF shortfall will be balanced in August—with Guitar camp revenue.

Staff Issues

As we continue to prepare for Andy's retirement, Lorraine has reviewed the job description with Tyler at the CP Conference. We use CDM and Quick Books. The job search will begin in early September and conclude in time to allow a long overlap. Andy noted that looking for a full-time person will give us the best chance of securing a qualified candidate.

Liaison Check-in

Annual Meeting Committee has set a theme for next year's annual meeting: Love in Action   I John 3:18.   They are meeting twice monthly.

How do committees become Standing Committees?

Leah had agreed to review this and to prepare a document for Board consideration that will have a process for how this happens. She promises a rough draft by the next meeting.

Search Committee

It was (moved, seconded, and passed) to enter Executive Session to review the efforts of the CM Search Committee.

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

Stewardship Committee—new member. At the request of the Nominating Committee, it was (moved, seconded, passed) to elect Nicholas Eber-LaPierre to become a member of the Stewardship Committee.

List of Board Proposed By-Law Revisions for the Upcoming Annual Meeting

1.The treasurer should not be chair of Stewardship.

Sandy closed our meeting with prayer.

Adendum to the August minutes of the Board. After dialogue with the members of the CM search committee, ACM Lorraine suggested that the Board provide funding for the Search Committee to gather in person. Leah then initiated an electronic vote by making the motion: " I move to approve the expense (for an in person gathering of the search committee) with the expressed desire that a date will be found to which all search committee members can commit".

A majority of the Board having voted in favor of the motion, Moderator Sandy declared that the motion was approved. (August 20, 2026)

Respectfully submitted, Ron Patterson, Scribe

Next meeting: Tuesday September 1, 2026