Minutes of
Pacific Northwest District Board
Meeting December 17, 2025

In attendance: Barbara Daté, Enten Eller, Patrick Fiegenbaum, Daniel Klayton, Peggy Liley, Debbie Roberts, Majeska Seese-Green, Liz Ullery Swenson, and Howard Ullery

Welcome

Peggy welcomed those in attendance and began the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Minutes of September 9, 2025 meeting

The minutes of the September 9, 2025 meeting were adopted as submitted.

Mission and Ministry Board Report

Barbara reported that the DDF team were greatly moved by the contribution from the PNWD, which spurred the Brethren in the Southern Ohio Kentucky District to augment their contribution.

The Mission and Ministry Board had two Zoom orientation sessions for new members Sarah Mason and Eric Ramirez. Sarah is a young adult high school teacher from Kansas. Eric is from the Dominican Republic, and has been living in the United States for quite a while. He is director of the SeBah program in the Atlantic Northeast District. Their enthusiastic participation in the sessions were encouraging.

The Board also confirmed At-Large member Addie Locatorto from outside of Pittsburgh, and she will be joining the Mission and Ministry Board at their July Annual Conference meeting in July. Addie is a lifelong outspoken advocate for marginalized persons of many stripes. She has been a coach and administrator for males sports teams and more recently has undergone intensive theological training and work as a part-time pastor.

The Mission and Ministry Board also spent considerable time reviewing the position of General Secretary, since David Steele's second 5 year contract end August 31, 2026. David offered to serve a third term if the Board called him to it. After deep conversation, discernment during several closed confidential sessions over 3 days, the Board offered David two additional years, which he accepted. David will serve as General Secretary through August 31, 2028.

The Board Development Committee and Barbara submitted many names of leaders they had interviewed for Mission and Ministry Board to the Nominating Committee. The Board adopted its 2026 budget at a follow-up Zoom meeting. The Board will meet in March in Modesto, California.

Financial Review

Daniel sent out the balance sheet and profit and loss statement as of November 30, 2025. The Board contribution to the Deportation Defense Fund is coded at 62045, $22,597.40.

Daniel requested to be added to the Eder Financial authorization team as Treasurer for the District at Level 3. This would require re-affirming our authorized contacts, including Debbie Franklin (currently at Level 2), Debbie Roberts (Level 4), and Lani Wright (Level 4). After discussion, the Board agreed to add Daniel as Treasurer for the District to the authorization team at Level 3). Daniel will circulate the necessary paperwork.

Ministry Team Report and Re-Credentialing

Enten gave a summary of the Ministry Team's activity in re-credentialing ministers for the five year rotation, and had a list of 20 ministers. The Team decided to approve the renewing of Ron Tilley's credentials. Joseph Tolton is pastoring at the Klamath Falls Friends Church in southern Oregon. He has been accepted into membership at Peace Church, and the Team is encouraging Joseph to participate more regularly with Church of the Brethren in order to maintain his ordination in the Church of the Brethren. Joseph has apparently been recorded (their term for ordination) in the Friends meeting, but he wants to honor his original call and maintain his personal historical connection with the Church of the Brethren.

There are five persons who have not yet completed all re-credentialing requirements, and the Team is asking the Board conditionally affirm the renewal of the ordination of Jeff Barker, Debbie Eisenbise, Joe Roy, Mike Rumley-Wells, and Steve Stone.

Dane Breslin has had his commissioning service at the Sunnyslope congregation. That commissioning, along with his ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and his work with his ministry cohort this year satisfy the credentialing requirements for the District and Sunnyslope.

Finally, the Ministry Team has been notified by Pearl Rohrer that she would like to lay down her credential.

It was the sense of the meeting that the 17 ministers who have completed their credentialing work have their ordinations renewed: Sam Brackett; Glenn Brumbaugh; Bill Christiansen; Bobbi

Dykema; Steve Gregory; Jean Keith-Altemus; Sarah Kinsel; Carol Mason; Cynthia Mason; Mike O'Cain; Debbie Roberts; Liz Swenson; Ron Tilley; Joseph Tolton; Howard Ullery Lani Wright; and Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey. In addition, Daniel Klayton and Colleen Michael should continue being licensed, and David Ortega have his commission extended.

It was also the sense of the meeting to conditionally credential the ordination of Jeff Barker, Debbie Eisenbise, Joe Roy, and Steve Stone, to be renewed upon completion of their re-credentialing requirements. Mike Rumley-Wells will continue to pastor a Church of the Brethren congregation, but no further qualification will be made as Mike is ordained in another denomination.

It was the sense of the meeting to accept Pearl Rohrer's decision to not renew her credentials. The Ministry Team will be in touch with Pearl and hold her ordination open if she changes her mind.

Report on Spiritual Blessings and Columbia-Lakewood Community Church building

Daniel mentioned that the Board continues to incur expenses connected with the Columbia-Lakewood Community Church building, including legal representation, and about $22,000 in needed electrical upgrades to the building.

Howard continues to work toward sale of the Columbia-Lakewood Community Church. New developments continue to arise. For one, the building's insurance has lapsed and will require replacement of the electrical panels to qualify for insurance again. Howard has retained an electrical contractor to replace the electrical panels, and they are scheduled to do that work on December 29-31, 2025. Howard and Debbie Roberts notified the preschool that the building is uninsured.

In addition to the electrical work, there are some problems with the roof, missing shingles and so forth, as well as the boiler which is overdue for inspection, and the fire extinguishers need to be inspected and charged.

The Columbia-Lakewood Community Church failed to maintain its tax exemption for the property, and there is an assessment of about $35,000. Interest and penalties will continue to accrue. It was the sense of the meeting to authorize withdrawal of funds from Eder Financial to pay the outstanding tax assessment before December 31 and avoid further interest and penalties.

Spiritual Blessings continues to meet at the building, which raises more questions of liability and exposure for the District. Debbie Roberts and Howard will discuss the issues at

Columbia-Lakewood Community Church raised in the meeting tonight, and formulate a plan going forward.

Annual Conference Webcasting

Enten recounted the negotiations he has had with the Annual Conference Office, and his plan for further negotiations.

PNWD Board Scheduling

Going forward, we agreed to meet the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. Next meeting: January 8, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Closing

We adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Fiegenbaum
Recording Secretary
Pacific Northwest District