Minutes of the Board of the
Pacific Northwest District, Church of the Brethren
Meeting June 18, 2026

In attendance: Barbara Daté, Enten Eller, Patrick Fiegenbaum, Daniel Klayton, Peggy Liley, Debbie Roberts, Liz Ullery Swenson, Howard Ullery, Lani Wright, Becky Yaeger (guest)

We began with a round of introductions for Becky Yaeger at 5:05 p.m. She is looking for a place to plug in and be more involved with the District. In the absence of Peggy Liley, we took up the business of the Board.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 14, 2026 were approved as distributed.

Finances

a. **Report** – Daniel distributed the Profit and Loss Sheet and the Balance Sheet received from Debbie Franklin through the end of May.

b. **Eder Financial** – As previously announced, Eder Financials is moving out of the kind of asset management service they have traditionally offered to congregations and professionals, and Everence is taking over. Loyce Borgmann of Eder is working with congregations and districts about what to expect from the new regime. Everence is the financial management arm of the Mennonite Church, and our District should meet with a representative from Everance. Daniel and Debbie Franklin will set up a meeting with them. Daniel will notify the Board of the scheduling of the meeting, in case anyone would like to attend/listen in.

Mission and Ministry Board

Barbara submitted the following written report:

1. **Denominational staff**. 7 changes because of retirement, relocation of life/jobs. AND 6 vacancies have employed with one exception of one interview which is in process now. One major change is Wendy McFadden July retirement after 40 years! Thankfully, this week Madalyn Metzger has started part-time to July 13th as the new Interim Exec Dir. Of Engagement and Communications.

And this week as Interim leadership of Brethren Press, Rhonda Pittman Ginrich will begin to step into that role (altering Debbie Nofsinger from PT to FT).

Dir. Brethren Disaster Ministries is Mennonite Jeff Thomson starting June 22.

Director of Ministries who is focused and busy this next month, Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, will retire mid July so there is active interviewing going on now.

BVS: Marissa and Virginia are continuing in their Interim Co-Director positions.

Children's Disaster: Adam Lane May 27th

Asst Treas. Michelle Martinez

B&G asst. Arndt Peter Schultz

2. **AC documents**. We made some minor editing suggestions for the AC NB1 On Weapons Transfer and for the AC NB2 on the 2014 Ministerial Leadership. Both document changes were what I would call "editorial improvements for reader comprehension".

3. **Newsline article**: Please note that there will be an MMB Statement of Intent published in this week's Newsline. The bottom line is that we intend to be open and transparent about a couple of major projects some MMB teams and staff have been working on. After Newsline comes out Friday or Saturday early, feel free to communicate with any MMB members or staff if you have questions or input before, during or afterward Annual Conference!

The big picture has to do with our future as CoB… which would include all aspects of our life together… We are hoping to have more people sharing and involved in future discernments about our life together over the next few years. (MMB was originally designed to bring forward what over the decades the AC delegates discerned to push forward living out our mission together…for our future and future generations.

Details will be shared during AC…

Please remind your delegates that MMB members and staff all sit in one place during AC. This year the location is once again in the FRONT however shifted to the RIGHT HAND side.

4. **Reminder about New Table**. This ad hoc group of Brethren leaders has called about 75 Brethren together to explore and delve into our current life together and provide insight, brainstorms and leadership for our future together.

New Table meets about monthly for 90 minutes with homework in between. I just want to urge PNWD to make sure that you have some members involved. I am one person who joined after they got started and still have not been in the large gathered group yet. There are teams working on various tasks. If you know of someone to add, you can forward that name or person to Howard or to me or anyone you know on the New Table team. DE Russ would be another option to forward someone's name. Howard may have more updates.

5. Finally, this is my last PNWD board meeting as an MMB member. I felt called to provide leadership to call marginalized persons onto MMB which I succeeded in.

I was recruited from Area 5 which is basically the entire west coast and once called, then MMB members represent the entire denomination. On the ballot are 2 people from the PNWD for one MMB slot after June 30th with election results come in, and the 3 new members are invited to the Wednesday evening July 1st dinner meeting. If it is not you, Daniel, then it will be Gretchen Zience from Olympic View.

Both of you would be welcome to sidle up to me anytime for my observations and experience! Daniel, if you have special gifts you want MMB leadership to know, please let them or me know so your preferences as they discern committee assignments this next week.

Howard piped in to note that New Table will be introduced to the entire AC body! If you cannot be present in person at AC, REGISTER! See Livingstreamcob.org for info about FREE online access or go to brethren.org (There is a $2.50 tech fee to pay and the registration deadline ends 5 days before the start of AC on June 28.)

BMC Anniversary Celebration – Liz attended the 50th anniversary of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interest in Minnesota. She highly recommended that people attend any future such meeting. The gathering told stories, recounted the struggles, and remembered the work of the last 50 years. Liz will be facilitating and leading the BMC worship service at Annual Conference on Wednesday, July 2 at 2 p.m. PDT. At this time, that service will not be streamed, but Enten volunteered to talk about it with Liz.

Ministry Team Report – Enten reported that the Team is planning a meeting to outline a process for congregations who hire a pastor who is not ordained in the Church of the Brethren.

Whitestone Church of the Brethren – Daniel updated the situation at Whitestone. Daniel (in person) and Howard (virtually) attended a follow-up meeting to work out what the Whitestone congregation will do and what direction they're contemplating after Daniel leaves as their pastor. Debbie Eisenbise was mentioned as a possible interim pastor at Whitestone, and Daniel will bring that to the next Whitestone meeting on July 5. Barbara mentioned that Springfield

had hired Debbie Eisenbise to assist them, and she said the congregation had a good and positive experience with Debbie, in tandem with Deb Oskin as the congregational moderator. Barbara will get in touch with Peggy to supply contact information for congregants and to find out more about Springfield's experience with Debbie Eisenbise.

Peggy will attend Annual Conference virtually, and pre-ordered the scheduled worship messages. She offered to use these recordings as pulpit supply for Whitestone. They will also have pulpit supply from Valley Christian Fellowship. Enten suggested that Whitestone might also avail themselves of virtual pulpit supply through Living Stream's roster of contacts. Peggy asked the District's prayers and wisdom for Whitestone's discernment, and to be willing to act as a sounding board for the congregants at Whitestone.

District Conference September 25-27, 2026 at Camp Koinonia

a. **Planning Committee** – Daniel and Liz talked earlier today about planning for District Conference. Liz has a proposal for the Saturday gathering based on conversations with the local Baptists and some ideas generated at our planning and visioning meeting from 2019 (which went by the boards when COVID 19 hit).

b. **Conference Theme and Programs** – The theme is in development, and Liz said that more information will be forthcoming at our July meeting.

c. **Leadership Slate (Board Chair)** – This is Peggy's last year as Moderator. Other positions up for filling (Board Chair, Ministry Chair, Standing Committee Delegate) are all in their first term, and the current incumbents (Liz, Enten and Patrick, respectively) have all said they will serve a second term if called. That does not, though, mean that new persons are shut out if they are interested in serving the District.

Annual Conference

a. **Online Hospitality Room** – Enten is still putting together a roster of persons willing to host the online hospitality room for an hour or two. Hosting is informal and simple, greeting people who log onto the Zoom room, answering questions if possible, and so forth. The Zoom room is available to all, whether registered or not. E-mail Enten if you are interested in taking a shift. Daniel and Peggy volunteered to take a shift and Barbara said she would if her activities at Conference permitted it.

b. **Any Other District Considerations** – Enten just found out that the Annual Conference Committee will impose a $2.50 software fee for virtual participation at Annual Conference, and people who log on will have to navigate the website to pay that fee before they can “attend” Annual Conference.

We also discussed the gathering of the Western Brethren and preferences for an in-person meeting and how to include those attending virtually, both from the west and the east.

Closing We adjourned at 6:31 p.m. Next meeting July 9, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Fiegenbaum
Recording Secretary
Pacific Northwest District