**Minutes of the Board of the**
**Pacific Northwest District, Church of the Brethren**
**Meeting August 13, 2026**

In attendance: Patrick Fiegenbaum, Daniel Klayton, Peggy Liley, Liz Ullery Swenson, Howard Ullery, Lani Wright, Gretchen Zience

Peggy called us to order at 6:02 p.m. She reported that the wildfire situation in north central Washington has improved greatly, but the danger continues, both in Washington and Oregon.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the July 9, 2026 were approved as distributed.

**Olympic View Pastoral Search**

Lani reported that the Olympic View congregation is being very active and "refreshingly communicative" about their pastoral search. They have a candidate in mind who is not credentialed by the Church of the Brethren, who preached at their service last Sunday. Lani was impressed by the candidate and said he seems to resonate with Brethren values and is receptive to denominational credentialing. Gretchen said his message was well received by those in attendance. The congregation has been posting circulars in Seattle inviting people to attend Sunday service on line or in person, and the congregation has received a couple of inquiries from those flyers.

**Financial Report**

Daniel had the financial reports for the month. He pointed out the suspense funds that were being held temporarily on behalf of Camp Koinonia, have been disbursed either late last year or early this year.

a. Shall the Pacific Northwest District move investment funds into Everance as Eder Financial discontinues those services?

In late July, Loyce Borgmann from Eder Financial and representatives from Everance met with people from the District. Daniel attached some of information received from Everance. One benefit that Everance is able to provide is actual investment advice.

The document ETC Allocation Models provides various models for investment, depending on the consensus of the District for more aggressive or more conservative investments, green

investments, and so forth. Part of the process of transferring the District's investment funds is deciding where to land those various transfers. Daniel said the District should maintain the structure of some of the dedicated funds such as the Cemetery Maintenance Fund. Daniel recommended that we combine the money currently held in two Endowments of $176,000 (line item 11320) and $195,000 (line item 11430). We agreed to keep the Church Development Fund (line item 11310) approximately $411,000 separately accounted for. Everance said they were able to accommodate changes in allocation relatively quickly, so we aren't locked in with what we first choose to do. Howard proposed and the rest of the Board agreed to instruct Everance to distribute the funds no lower than the Moderate level of the ETC Allocation Models.

**It was the consensus of the meeting that pursuant to the divestiture of Eder Financial from its financial services arm to move the District's investment funds currently held by Eder Financial to Everance. The Board authorized Daniel Klayton to facilitate the transfer of funds and to instruct Everance to duplicate as best as Everance is able to allocate those funds as they currently are held by the District.**

**Update on Annual Conference Webcasting**

a. Shall the Pacific Northwest District donate $1,000 to Annual Conference, to cover the overage of 2026 Annual Conference webcasting?

We discussed the meeting that Enten and others from the District had with Program and Arrangements Committee about the Annual Conference webcast. One of the items from that meeting was a $1,700 shortfall in the expenses. Living Stream committed to cover $700 of that and the District will cover the other $1,000. We decided to hold over on honoring this commitment until we get Enten's input.

**Update on District Conference**

a. Program planning

Liz presented her logo for District Conference meant to signal the renewal of our commitment to Another Way (of Living). David Radcliff will present Friday evening about the New Community Project. Saturday will feature two presentations on the Evergreen Model used by the American Baptist Region. Representatives from Mennonite Insurance will be on site to introduce themselves to anyone interested. Mennonite Insurance is expanding into the Pacific Northwest.

There will be a hybrid Zoom/live Sunday worship service hosted by Sunnyslope. Daniel has spoken with their moderator Kayla, and will talk with Dane when he returns from his time off about what that means and what commitment it will require from Sunnyslope. We will also like to have experienced children's minister or ministers.

b. Board Chair candidates

Please continue to be in prayer and discernment for the District to choose a candidate for the Board Chair to succeed Peggy.

c. Proposals for District Conference re Annual Conference resolutions

We will also want to schedule time to discuss the resolutions adopted at Annual Conference:

i. Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience, and Supporting Our Neighbors
ii. Resolution on Weapons Transfer

**Update on Whitestone Community Church of the Brethren Discernments**

Peggy shared that the Whitestone hosted Pastor Randy, a preacher from the Valley Christian Fellowship. She has not been impressed with the message. The congregation continues in its season of discernment, and it is not clear to Peggy where the congregation might go from here. Be in prayer for the congregation and the choices it makes in the near future. In a meeting Daniel had with Valley Christian Fellowship, they told him that they do not have designs on the congregation or the church building, but that they would regard their presence at Whitestone as a ministry project to expand their presence in the area. Their main contributions will be pulpit supply and community outreach. Howard volunteered to attend a meeting that may be scheduled at Whitestone with the Valley Christian Fellowship folks.

Howard shared that Steve Gregory broke his hip, and managing that physical setback is complicated by his advancing dementia. Steve is living in a managed care facility at this time.

**Closing** We adjourned at 7:32 p.m. Next meeting September 10, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Fiegenbaum
Recording Secretary
Pacific Northwest District