

PASTORAL HEALTH, Board of
Absarokee Evangelical Church - March 25, 2017

Members present: Werner Seibert, Scott Davies, Susan Williams, Eric Hutch, Peter Holmes, Rod Griffin, Ann Conover, April Fournier

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Werner, who opened in prayer and Romans 15: 14-15 was read.

Werner asked if anyone would serve as Secretary. April was asked and agreed. Scott Davies nominated and Rod seconded the motion. MSP (moved, seconded, passed)

Werner led a discussion on the purpose of the Board, which is CPR. Each aspect was expanded upon and discussed. Crisis – counseling; Prevention - retreats, prayer summit, sabbaticals; Restoration - not only for pastors, also family and the congregation, if needed. It was proposed that a member of our board liaison with the Board of Church Health, but no decision was made yet.

Werner handed out copies of the Board's inception notes and the 2017 Budget for review. Budget discussion-In addition to the amount included in the 2017 Budget, there are additional funds held at the Board's disposal by Western Conference. The designated “Pastoral Care” funds currently total \$21,891. Any unused funds stay in the budget to maintain our ability to assist when requested. The budget may be reviewed again later, if reallocation of account line items is necessary.

Werner asked each board member to consider which area(s) of CPR they feel most called to. The initial categories are as follows and will be discussed again for any changes at the next meeting:

Under Crisis - Scott, Susan, Peter, Rod & Ann

Under Preventative - Scott, Susan, Eric, Peter, Ann, April

Under Restoration - Susan, Eric, Peter, Rod

Rod suggested the board consider clarifying each aspect of CPR-to do some vision casting for direction.

It was brought up that the Pacific Conference has a manual for dealing with restoration that spells out a procedure to follow. Werner will contract Pacific Conference for a copy, so that we might have a guideline to develop our own.

Susan and Peter opened a discussion regarding the draft proposal they brought to the meeting regarding providing a toolbox for pastors to deal with emotional illness and traumas to help reduce compassion fatigue. One proposal was to hold possibly mandatory workshops for pastors and their families within specific travel areas to help them recognize when they need help. Eric expressed that he would be interested in helping with pastors in the outlying areas. Scott suggested this type of work will require a change of culture within the Conference requiring accountability, connection, and

vulnerability. Peter offered that training our pastors is the answer, not psychology. It was agreed that we would table for further discussion at the next meeting.

With regard to Sabbaticals, there was some concern whether just granting funds as the board has done in the past is effective. Should there be some expectation from the board regarding what effect it has, follow-up, and what we can do to ensure that the underlying issues have been dealt with, rather than the pastor coming back to no change within the church. Scott felt that we need to create a procedure on how the churches handle a Sabbatical (for the pastor and the church). The decision was made to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Werner presented the application for "Conference Pastor's Counseling Assistance" for the board's approval. Scott motioned that the board accept it and Eric seconded the motion. This form will be added to the Western Conference website. There was discussion regarding whether the board should cap the assistance and it was determined that it will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

In the event of Werner's Sabbatical beginning May 22, he suggested the Board choose a temporary chairman in his absence. Scott nominated Rod and Susan seconded the motion. MSP

It was agreed the next meeting will be held May 13th, 9-12 at Absarokee Evangelical Church and suggested the WC Supt Elect or Existing be present.

Board member mileage reimbursement forms were distributed.

The meeting was adjourned in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
April Fournier
BOPH Secretary