

## **Meeting Minutes of the Northern Lights Regional Board, April 8, 2026, 7 PM**

The extra called meeting of the Northern Lights Regional Board was called to order and opened in prayer by moderator Doug Garner. In attendance: Doug Garner, Bill Jennison, Mary Larsen, Mary Palmer, Barb Abercrombie, Max Webb, Doug Taylor, Sarah Almanza, Miriam Gentle, Gloria Soja, Mathew Keith, Rachel Crum, Kate Kostecki, and Karrin Lewis.

**Bylaws revisions** – Bill Jennison reported from the group that worked on our bylaws to bring them into line with the triennial design of the general church. In particular, the Commission on Ministry would have half of their membership elected every three years. Other board members would serve three-year terms. The committee chairs named in the bylaws are primarily administrative. Other committees are more program in nature are not included – and chairs of those committees are appointed by the moderator. An attempt was also made to keep the board at a manageable number (19).

Doug addressed the unevenness in what we call the regional board, brought to his attention by Rachel, recommending that we adjust to use the same term throughout the bylaws rather than using both regional board and board of directors.

The board thanks Bill, Robin, and Paul for their diligent work on revising the bylaws.

Bylaws are amended and approved by the board – and do not require action at regional assembly. Doug moved that we accept the revised bylaws with the additional revision regarding consistent terminology around regional board; seconded by Max. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Changes will be shared informationally at Regional Assembly in the docket. Paul will ask Robin to make sure to mark the changes in red.

**Transformation grant Kennewick CC** – Request for \$850 registration fee for Matthew Keith to attend the Mediation Skills Training Institute through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in order to support building Kennewick Christian Church's work in building their "co-op" ministry with Nuevo Vida and other potential partners. The Transformation Team previously granted the request and the board unanimously approved it.

**Faith Formation policy on mileage reimbursement for anyone transporting campers to camp (at the IRS rate of 14 cents per mile)** – This is a new NLR policy that was put forth by Faith Formation that allows the region to reimburse anyone who drives campers to camp. Folks can request reimbursement, OR donate the reimbursement back to the region, and/or request a letter to claim it as a donation on their federal taxes. The board approved the policy change unanimously.

**DCEF Investment Proposal** was submitted by the Finance Team and explained by Mary Palmer. A DCEF note reached maturity in February. We need to decide what to do with that money.

The finance team recommends adding \$106,000 to the remaining DCEF note to bring it up to \$250,000, maturing in June 2027. Of the remaining \$276,000, they recommend moving \$170,000 to CCF in an additional, separate Bostick Select Account for long-term investment, depositing \$85,000 in April and \$85,000 in June due to market volatility. Mary shared a history of the funds. The board approved the proposal unanimously.

**Preparation for Regional Assembly** – Paul thanked board members for their service since this was the last meeting of this particular iteration of the regional board. Additionally, the following tasks need to be completed prior to Regional Assembly:

- Reports from ministry leads need to be submitted to Robin for inclusion in the RA docket – and any items needing to go on the business agenda noted.
- The business meeting agenda needs to be set:
  - (Informational) Bylaws revision as approved by the board – **Robin** will prepare this and **Doug will ask Bill Jennison** to write up a short description of the changes.
  - Proposal for entering the Open and Affirming Discernment Process in the NL Region – **Gloria, Christie Love, Doug, and Paul** will work together to write up a short description of the proposal.
  - Electing new members for the Regional Board and COM – **Paul will talk with Amy.**

Sarah and Mary Larsen and the Regional Assembly committee have been working hard along with our hosting church, Kennewick Christian Church, and their pastor, Mathew Keith.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Paul Allen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karrin Lewis (subbing for board secretary Devin Wright)