

Pacific Northwest District Mission Board



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Dear Church Leaders and Fellow Servants of Christ,

I'd like to thank you for your service to the Lord in your local congregations and communities. As a Mission Board, it is our goal to get the saving gospel of Jesus to as many ears and hearts and we possibly can. That's why we work as a Mission Board and that's why you volunteer the hours that you do, so that the name of Jesus might be glorified and that the love of Jesus might be spread.

That is also the reason that our Mission Board hosts our annual January Pastors' Conference. We want to equip our pastors with as many tools as possible, and then offer encouragement to them to use those tools in their ministries back at their home congregations.

Each year we plan our January conference to be an outreach themed conference. We want to keep missions and mission opportunities right before our pastors' eyes. This conference used to be called the "Missionary Conference" but it's been changed to be a gathering of all the Pastors of our district. As our District President John Steinbrenner reminds us:

"There are at least two good reasons every active pastor in our District wants to commit himself to attend our January Conference. A few years ago, due to vast distances in the PNW, our District decided to go from 4 annual conferences to 3 (we dropped the Spring Pastors' Conf. in April). This decision included a "gentlemen's agreement" that attendance at the remaining 3 conferences (Fall P/T, January, Summer) would be supported by all our pastors and their congregations. This cost savings allows churches to make the remaining 3 conferences a priority for their pastors' mutual encouragement and spiritual growth. Of course the other reason January's "Mission Conference" is important to all pastors... is because we are all missionaries at heart. The outreach emphasis at January's Conference is a blessing that benefits every pastor and their church!"

If you are fully supporting your pastor and covering the costs of dues and travel for him to attend this conference, thank you! It is such a blessing to have as many of the brothers together as possible. If you are not fully supporting this effort or are asking your pastor to pay his own way, let me offer you something to consider. I know that church budgets can be tight. I understand that not every church can do everything that they might see as good or beneficial. But I'd like you to consider the benefits of this conference for your pastor and for your congregation. The opportunity to network and fellowship with fellow pastors is an invaluable part of any conference. But this particular January conference will train and encourage your pastor with skills that can immediately be put into practice and can foster an attitude of outreach among the leaders and your congregation. Consider the potential for your church to grow as a direct result of the outreach encouragement that your pastor is sure to gain for this conference.

I feel strongly that the benefits of our conference far outweigh any negatives when it comes to cost or time allowing your pastor to be out of the office. I feel like it is a good investment for any congregation to send their pastor to this conference and I feel the money spent will be deemed worth it in the long run when you consider the positive impact that attendance will have on the pastor, the leaders and in turn the membership as a whole. With those thoughts in mind, perhaps it doesn't look like such an expensive ordeal anymore.

Please consider paying the dues and travel costs for your shepherd to come and be with us and learn with us and grow with us! We'd love for him to be with us this January and in the years to come! I believe, also, that your congregation will grow as a result.

In his service with you,

Pastor Brian Hackmann

PNW DMB Shepherd and
January Pastors' Conference Chairman

