

Allegheny Mennonite Conference  
Leadership Council  
April 10, 2014

The Leadership Council of Allegheny Mennonite Conference met on April 10, 2014 at the Conference office in Somerset. The following were present: Joy Cotchen, Aaron Dunmore, Carrie Eikler, Dallas Hetrick, Kathy Holsopple, Karen Howard, Chris Lehman, Donna Mast, Tim Mock, Lorne Peachey, Cathy Spory, T.J. Tennefoss, and Wayne Yoder.

Moderator Lorne Peachey called the meeting to order with Donna Mast leading in a worship and prayer time.

1. Lorne highlighted a few items from the March 1st Faith and Life Gathering meeting in Scottdale.
  - The budget for 2014-2015 was approved as submitted
  - Tim Mock was approved as conference treasurer
  - Marvin Friesen was affirmed as moderator-elect, T.J. Tennefoss was elected as the Eastern region representative, and Julie Swartzentruber was elected on the nominating committee.
  - RDC: Do you continue to support having a Reconciliation Discernment Committee work on the relationship of AMC and HMC? This question was asked with the following results: 91 yes and 6 no.
  - There was affirmation that three of the RDC committee shared with the delegates at the meeting.
2. Carrie Eikler reported that 4 congregations want to participate in Sister Congregations. Carrie will need someone to help her with this and to report to the delegates at our summer Celebration of congregations and conference in August since Carrie will be unable to attend. Wayne Yoder agreed to do this at Celebration 2014.
3. Active participant data: The information gathered from the March meeting showed there are roughly 2,000 members not 3,000 which is what the MC USA database shows. It was discussed that membership is a touchy subject for congregations and that each congregation is responsible to update their own information on the MC USA database.
4. Nominating committee chair: The following will be on the nominating committee for 2014-15: Bill Brubaker-Johnstown Region; Nancy Kauffman-Eastern Region; Julie Swartzentruber-Western Region; and Enos Tice-Casselman Region. Names were suggested in the order in which they should be contacted.

There was a prayer time led by Dallas Hetrick.

5. a. Tim Mock, treasurer, reported on the budget to date which is 12% behind in giving received. Tim will work on a letter to send out to treasurers that would note our financial position. An idea was given that maybe we could have a conference Sunday each year in which conference would be highlighted in each congregation along with an offering taken.
- b. Giving goals - it was agreed to continue forwarding 10% to MC USA
- c. BNCP (Bhutanese Nepali Church of Pittsburgh): Donna Mast reported that they were short \$600 in April to meet their expenses. The financial outlook for the BNCP was discussed and suggestions were made to Donna to take to the support team.

Chris Lehman led in a time of prayer.

6. Structural changes: Since the structural change occurred the subject of how conference does credentialing was discussed. Donna Mast distributed a proposal for the procedures for ordination, licensing, and or ministerial changes. The council favors a pastoral team as outlined by Donna. Delegates will need to be informed, but, according to the bylaws, they will not need to vote on the change. Donna will send a list of ordained minister names to the council. The decision on this was tabled until the next council meeting in July.

There was a time of prayer led by T.J. Tennefoss.

7. Minister of Children and Youth report by Joy Cotchen.
  - Joy showed the council the tee shirts that were designed by Dallas Hetrick and Aaron Dunmore that were used at SnoKamp. She mentioned that Dallas and Aaron will be attending EMU in the fall.
  - She reported that there were about 80 youth that participated in SnoKamp. They used scripture from Luke 24 with Glen Alexander Guyton being the resource person. The theme was *Journeys*.
  - A month after SnoKamp was Jr.Hi. Winter Retreat led by Alan Kauffman pastor at Maple Grove. The group was very small, only 13 were present but the interaction was terrific.
  - Summer camp counselors recruiting is coming together.
  - She has written 10 references since January.
  - Youth Ministry Council will be held in May. This will be opened up to youth pastors, churchwide agencies, etc., since there are currently only 6 conferences with youth ministers.
  - She recommends that Leadership Council continue having two youth on Council, so that it would make it more comfortable for youth to attend Council meetings.
  - April 12-13, will be a cabinet meeting at Joy's house.

8. Christian Workers Training Fund (CWTF): this item will be brought up at the next Leadership Council Meeting.
9. Archives: Chris Lehman reported that congregational boxes were distributed at pastor peer that week. Chris has been in contact with Colleen McFarland, MC USA archivist, who stated that the congregational boxes belong to the congregations. If a church has withdrawn or has closed, then the material should be reviewed and important documents should be kept. MC USA archives are working on guidelines. This work should be done by the end of 2014. If material were to be transferred to digital, MC USA archival still recommends that paper copies also be kept. Council feels that since we are to keep paper copies it would not benefit conference to have the extra costs and time spent on transferring the information at this time. After much discussion it was decided that we would continue to distribute the congregational boxes and put a hold on other material until MC USA archives are finished with the guidelines.

A prayer time was led by Wayne Yoder.

10. Reconciliation Discernment Committee:

- a. Donna Mast reported that the Committee met on March 15th. They were empowered by the responses of the delegates. Don Sharp, who is serving as the mediator, does a good job of worship, prayer, and discussions. A suggestion came to the committee following the Faith and Life Gathering that congregations be engaged with some questions pertinent to the work of the committee. The committee decided to ask congregations to address one of the questions which was to consider their own congregation's history of discipline, how it came about and what were the results. The next meeting will be May 3. Conference will again get an update after the Committee's next meeting.
- b. It was noted that conference has received communications from Glade and Oak Grove about Hyattsville. It was noted that Donna responded to Glade's letter addressed to Lorne Peachey and herself. The Oak Grove email was addressed to 4 persons from Lancaster conference and was copied to pastors in Allegheny. Leadership Council agreed there does not need to be a response from Allegheny since the email was not addressed to us.
- c. The time responses from the delegates at the Faith and Life Gathering were read and were as broad as immediately to a few years as to a time limit when the RDC would come to a conclusion.

11. Report from CLC (Constituency Leadership Council)

Donna Mast thanked those who prayed for her as well as for the CLC meeting. It was a good meeting, most left with more hope than what they came with. Donna served as the worship leader as well as on a task force, so she had very little down time. Donna will continue with the task force which will hold conference calls in the near future that will eventually be giving a recommendation to the Executive Board. Karen Howard reported that it was unfortunate that the Council could not have been at the meeting, to be there with the Holy Spirit, to feel how things worked. She felt very welcomed at the Mennonite table. The CLC will continue to meet in the future, as it was beneficial for the wider Mennonite Church.

12. Celebration 2014:

Cathy Spory reported that the committee is working on things and has a theme which is "Being Loved to Love" with the scripture being I John 4:7-21. Two of the speakers have been set with a third trying to fit it into her summer schedule. They will again all be persons from within Allegheny. Still working on worship person/team.

13. Celebration 2015 & MWC (Mennonite World Conference)

Cathy Spory reminded council that Celebration for 2015 will be moved to July 21-26 and will be held in conjunction with Mennonite World Conference in Harrisburg, PA. Allegheny members are encouraged to attend and Gloria Horst Rosenberger will be coordinating this event between Allegheny and MWC.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Reported by  
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