

Leadership Council  
July 10, 2014 Council Meeting

The Leadership Council of Allegheny Mennonite Conference met on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at the conference office in Somerset, PA. Moderator, Lorne Peachey called the meeting to order with the following members present: Joy Cotchen, Carrie Eikler, Marvin Friesen, Kathy Holsopple, Karen Howard, Chris Lehman, Donna Mast, Tim Mock, Lorne Peachey, Cathy Spory, T.J. Tennefoss, and Wayne Yoder.

1. Lorne Peachey introduced Marvin Friesen to Council as he will begin his term as moderator-elect for conference at the conclusion of our Celebration weekend in August. Lorne thanked the council for working with him the past 4 years and said it has been a joy to work with the group. Lorne read from Philippians 1, noting thanks for the partnership in the work of the church, he closed with prayer.
2. *Minutes from the April 10th meeting:* It was noted that on page 4, number 13, the wording should say the Celebration for 2015 will be moved to July in conjunction with Mennonite World Conference in Harrisburg. PA.

***Motion: With the wording change noted, the minutes were approved.***

3. *Financial report:* Conference Treasurer, Tim Mock distributed a yearend report for 2013-2014. The expenses were under budget but so was congregational giving. Tim stated that congregational giving is not supporting the budget that the delegates approve. We transferred \$28,805.11 out of the reserve funds which was more than the \$24,000 out of reserve that was budgeted. It was noted that we have \$4,000 in the mission trust designated for church planting that cannot be used towards budget. There was some discussion on keeping all the direct trust funds separate with no decision being made.
4. *Sister Congregations.* Carrie Eikler reported that there are about 8 congregations who have signed up to participate in this. Since Carrie will not be at Celebration in August, Wayne Yoder has agreed to give a blessing to those congregations. Those congregations participating will need to be paired up.
5. *Replacement for Carrie Eikler's remaining two year term* as the Western Regional rep on Leadership Council: Five names were suggested and put in order in which they should be asked. Cathy Spory will make the contacts.
6. *Meeting with Gortner:* The Gortner Union congregation asked Donna to come and talk to them about the reconciliation discernment. Lorne Peachey and Cathy Spory accompanied her on that visit. Donna was able to bring the morning message to the congregation

before they had a noon meal and then a meeting. The three of them shared with council on how they responded to questions and their feelings from that day. Questions were raised on where do we meet and what do we do when possible future requests come to Council before the reconciliation discernment committee is done processing. No decisions were made.

7. *Proposal for pastoral team:* Donna Mast distributed a list of credentialed persons within Allegheny by regions. The plan is to move forward with one committee who would be charge of interviewing pastors for licensing and ordinations. Currently there are four committees, one from each region but due to the lack of ordained persons in some regions this is not always possible. With this one committee proposal there would be more consistency during interviewing for a credentialed persons. A suggestion of a 5 year term go to this team. Donna will contact the names suggested.
8. *Reconciliation Discernment Committee:* Donna reported an update for the committee and they have met 3 times. The committee has talked about what it would look like if Hyattsville were to stayed and then another time looked at what it would look like if Hyattsville left Allegheny Conference. Then they put the two lists side by side to look at the differences. The committee is asking for time to update the delegates at Celebration. The committee will meet again on July 26. This committee is making progress and at this time there is not a time deadline set.
9. *Ministry Inquiry Program:* Mennonite Church USA works with colleges to have a summer program for those who feel they might be interested in a future in church leadership. The last few years we have had 1 or 2 persons participating in this program. There is a cost of \$250.00 per year for conference. Do we want to limit it to only having one per year, since this is not a budget item? After some discussion it was decided that a limit would not be set per summer and the money could be used out of the Christian Workers Training Fund for conference's portion.
10. *Support for Suraj, pastor of the Bhutanese Nepali Church of Pittsburgh:* Donna reported the first two years this church plant did well but this past year they have been struggling. Suraj will report at Celebration. After Suraj's report the delegates should decide if they are committed to pay his salary. Dale Miller has been working hard on the support committee and as well as helping Suraj's family with personal adjustments. There will be a support team meeting on July 22.
11. *Bylaws and organizational documents.* Karen Howard and Enos Tice have been working updating these documents, since the three year trial structural change has passed. The documents were reviewed with suggested changes. This is a work in progress and Council will continue to look at the new suggested changes at the September meeting.

12. *CWTF (Christian Workers Training Fund)*. This fund has been turned over to Everence to handle. There is currently one loan and another loan that has been turned over to a collection agency. It was noted that Council cannot legally get involved in any outstanding loans. The need of this fund needs to be looked at.
13. *Celebration 2014*: Cathy Spory reported that the speakers will be Carl Geissinger, Bob Brown, and Naomi Tice. There will be a talent show after Saturday night worship. Heather Lehman and Alyssa Cable Green will be heading up the worship for the weekend. A business agenda was distributed and reviewed and an updated agenda will be posted on the website. Gloria Horst Rosenberger is the coordinator between Allegheny and Mennonite World Conference and may have something to share during celebration.
14. *Mennonite Central Committee Representative*: It was reported that Ryan Lehman from Kaufman will be Allegheny's new MMC rep.
15. *Transitioning into Ministry program*: MC USA is looking at a proposal for new ministers. This would be a two year program with up to 5 new pastors and one mentor. They would meet by teleconferencing and the cost would be \$300.00 for two years. They will try to make it doable for part time pastors. Donna stated that this would be very helpful for new pastors.
16. *Gift to Allegheny Synod of Lutheran Church*. A letter was received announcing that Bishop Gregory Pile of the Allegheny Synod was retiring and Donna was invited to a farewell celebration in August. Donna stated she will not be attending but has worked with Bishop Pile and in a gesture of blessing we send a donation from Allegheny Mennonite Conference. It was decided that a gift of \$50.00 in honor of Bishop Pile be sent to the Allegheny Synod.
17. *IGH (International Guest House) in Washington, DC*: T.J. Tennefoss who is Allegheny's rep on the IGH board reported that Annabelle Kratz will be retiring from the board and this may be a good time to rethink our relationship with IGH. After some discussion it was decided that IGH select their own board as they have done in the past. T.J. will come back to Council with a working proposal between IGH and Allegheny.
18. *Leadership Council meeting dates* for the next year have been set as follows: -September 18, 2014 (Council); November 1st (Faith and Life Gathering); January 16-18, 2015 (Council retreat); March 7, 2015 (Faith and Life Gathering); April 23, 2015 (Council); June 30-July 5 (Assembly in Kansas City); July 21-26 (Celebration in conjunction with MWC); August 13 (Council)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by Kathy Holsopple