

Leadership Council Meeting  
April 23, 2015  
held at Somerset conference office

The Leadership Council of Allegheny Mennonite Conference met on Thursday, April 23, 2015 with the following present: Joy Cotchen, Marvin Friesen, Kathy Holsopple, Karen Howard, Chris Lehman, Donna Mast, Tim Mock, Cathy Spory, T.J. Tennefoss, and Wayne Yoder. Absent were John Davis, Leslie Hunsberger, and Tayllor Lehman.

Moderator, Cathy Spory, called the meeting to order and had everyone share a joy from the day.

Donna Mast shared with a devotional time, opening with a prayer. Donna shared poems, a song, and words from Luke 24.

Cathy opened a time to share and reflect from the March 7th Faith and Life Gathering. Three questions we were to think about where: 1) what did we do well 2) what could we have done better and 3) general reflection of the day. Council then spent time in sharing their thoughts.

The minutes from the Leadership Council retreat, January 16-18 were approved as submitted. The minutes from the March 7, 2015 Faith and Life Gathering were accepted to post on the website.

Staff reports:

Donna Mast, Conference Minister, reported:

1. On some reflections in her personal life
2. She has met with the 4 regional pastor groups since the March 7th Faith and Life Gathering
3. Lisa Sayre was licensed for task at Shalom.
4. 2 persons were approved for ordination. We have received 4 letters asking for ordination.
5. She is done with her commitment to serve on the worship committee for CLC
6. On a song that has showed her God's love during her GPC training that has been a huge gift from the Lord. It has helped her see God's work in her and a way of releasing some feelings.

Joy Cotchen, Conference Minister of Children and Youth, reported:

1. That SnoKamp and Jr. High Winter retreat went well. Dan Hunsberger was the resource person for SnoKamp and Rob and Theresa Wolf (Johnstown Service Adventure Unit leaders) were resource persons for Jr. Hi.
2. Youth Ministry Council met April 19-22 and she was only able to attend one evening due to a grandson's illness.
3. They are still in need of staff for summer camps.
4. June 2nd she and David Dupuis will meet with the pastors in the morning and speak about PA clearance for those working with children.
5. On her stressful family life during this past month.

Kathy Holsopple, Administrative Assistant, reported:

1. It has been fairly quiet in the office since the March 7th meeting.
2. She will be working on getting year end reports.
3. That Susan Nisly (from MMN, formerly Youth Minister with Allegheny) and Marisa Smucker (Allegheny's rep. from MMN) will be visiting the Johnstown Service Adventure and will be staying a few nights at her house.
4. Shared the blessing of an upcoming family wedding.

CLC (Constituency Leadership Council) report by Karen Howard. Immigration was a high point at the last meeting in March. CLC needed to decide what resolutions will be going to the churchwide delegates in Kansas City this summer.

Treasurer's report was given by Tim Mock, Conference Treasurer. He stated that as of March 31st we were at about 67% for giving which we should have been at 75%. He said that we need to look at what we need to change. It was decided that we would commit to staff as is for one year, until June 30, 2016. We are going to be a smaller conference and how can we vision that within the next two year until our funds are depleted.

Donna Mast reported that Irvin Stutzman will be here at the conference office June 2nd. In the morning Joy Cotchen and David Dupuis will be speaking with pastors on PA laws for background checks on those working with children. In the afternoon Irvin Stutzman will speak to pastors and any interested delegates on what will be proposed at Kansas City.

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) will be held July 21-26, 2015 in Harrisburg, PA. They are asking that each conference do a global display. Suggestion of names were given and will be contacted of possibility of putting a display together.

It was discussed that since we aren't having a Celebration of Congregations and Conference this summer due to the MWC and MC USA Assembly, should we get together as a conference for possibly a one day get together. After much discussion it was decided the we would not hold a summer get together.

Possible locaitons for the fall Faith and Life Gathering were discussed.

It was noted that since the March meeting, Allegheny has now lost five congregations since the beginning of 2015.

Donna Mast reported she met with the support group for the Bhutanese Nepali Church of Pittsburgh (BNCP). Pastor Suraj Bhandari asked the support group if the offering collected at the fall Faith and Life Gathering (\$1,270.00) that was to be for Ser to go to MWC could be used to help with their monthly expenses. After some discussion and the talk about what is legal, the answer is that the money must be used as it was designated.

World's Attic is seeking to get their own 501c3. It was discussed about Council approving the World's Attic recommendation on the changes of their by-laws. After much discussion and looking at the wording it was decided to agree to the changes with the exception of section 1.01 - noting this change. The red words were suggested changes by World's Attic. The highlighted yellow words are to be eliminated per Leadership Council's recommendation.

**Section 1.01 Offices.** The World's Attic, *Inc.* is a ministry of Allegheny Mennonite Conference *and is sponsored by churches of the area.* *It is* duly recognized in the state of Pennsylvania as a non-profit organization with registered offices in the state of Pennsylvania. The principle place of business and mailing address of World's Attic, *Inc.* shall be: The World's Attic Thrift Shop, 109 E. Main Street, Somerset, PA 15501. ~~World's Attic shall be known as a service agency of the Leadership Council of the Allegheny Mennonite Conference sponsored by churches of the area.~~

Leadership Council would like to make note that World's Attic is responsible for their lease if they should leave earlier and that Allegheny Conference will not be held liable for their unpaid remaining lease.

It was noted that our next meeting will be held Thursday, August 13th, at the conference office location and this will be a meeting of the outgoing and incoming council members.

Cathy Spory closed with a word of prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Holsopple