

Faith and Life Gathering
November 4, 2017
held at Hyattsville Mennonite Church
Hyattsville, Maryland

LeAnne Zook from Hyattsville opened the day with a call to worship. There were songs led by Pastor Cindy Lapp, scriptures and a holy journey devotional was shared by Associate Pastor, Michelle Burkholder.

Enos Tice, Moderator-elect, welcomed everyone and thanked Hyattsville for hosting the meeting. He reported on Dave Mishler's health condition and the reason Dave could not be present for the day.

Enos read the new vision for Allegheny.

Allegheny Mennonite Conference is:

A regional body of churches

Diverse in theology and perspective

Committed to mutual support

Working with Jesus as our center

Partners in ministry in our neighborhoods

Discovering peace and justice together

As we journey, we want to:

- follow Jesus
- laugh often
- be compassionate
- respond to real stuff
- make allies

Jane Rittenhouse, Leadership Council's western representative, read the *withdrawal letter* from Maple Grove congregation, effective October 30, 2017.

Jane and Enos took *roll call* with the help of Cindy Lapp asking trivia questions. There were 46 delegates and 8 visitors present.

Minutes from the summer Celebration of congregations and conference dated August 5, 2017 were reviewed.

Action: *The minutes from the August 5, 2017 were approved as submitted.*

Enos Tice explained that since Moderator, Marv Friesen, is moving to Canada there is a need to hold an election for moderator-elect and Enos will move into the role of Moderator. ***Ballots were distributed with LeAnne Zook being the new moderator-elect to begin following today's meeting.***

Sharing time by Pittsburgh Mennonite Church: Mentioned for joys is the amount of kids in the congregation and the different groups that are formed and meet to share with each other the ups and downs of their lives. Challenges for their congregation include having a large building to be caretakers of. The meeting group laid hands on Pittsburgh representatives and a prayer was led by Cindy Lapp.

Erin Leatherman, *Conference Treasurer*, discussed the distributed budget report. She explained:

- The lens fund
- Celebration offering that is going to the youth
- Celebration registrations
- Congregational giving
- Individual giving

AMC's viability and looking ahead to staffing up to July 2019 as an independent organization were discussed.

- Four scenarios were presented: current, future full (all 3 staff at half time), future moderator, and future bare bones (staffing is 83% of our budget so it is difficult to find meaningful other areas to reduce).
- Congregations have pledged about 70,000, revenue (from IGH, building sale) is projected at 26,500 (a drop next year to represent the end of the building sale revenue) and individual giving at 20,000 (maybe too optimistic)
 1. Question: How sure are we of the congregational pledges? Answer: We are not 100% sure of the numbers...based on current year pledging with the assumption that numbers will not go down
 2. Question: What does dropping staff members do to benefits? Answer: Dropping under .5 times means that staff members do not participate in the Corinthian Plan (LTD, AD&D, Life, and health). The conference can rewrite the contracts to allow staff retirement benefits to continue based on new hours.
 3. Question: When can we confirm the congregational pledge amounts? (to be able to more confidentially state our numbers?) Answer: The end of the year is usually when congregations report for the next year – so fair amount of confidence will be had before the March meeting on final numbers.

Network Team

Central District Conference Minister, Doug Luginbill and CDC representative Arman Habegger were introduced as visiting our meeting today. Those present who are serving on the Network Team from Allegheny are: Phoebe Sharp, Julie Swartzentruber, LeAnne Zook, and Enos Tice. The purpose of this team was to build relationships and become better acquainted with each conference. A report was presented by both Central District Conference and Allegheny Conference, highlighting some of the likenesses and differences. There were lots of questions, such as, conference staffing, International Guest House, distance, etc.

Sharing time by Springs Mennonite Church: A group of representatives shared their joys and concerns. A big joy was that the congregation now has new transitional pastors, LuAnn and Robert Yutzy. The Yutzy's shared that transitional work is hard and takes lots of energy. Springs attendees were asked to come forward for laying on of hands by the delegate body with a prayer by Dave Swanson.

There was a lunch break which gave delegates time to share additional concerns or affirmations that they may wish to share with the larger group.

Sharing time by Hyattsville Mennonite Church: Cindy Lapp, Pastor, shared what is working well for them. She also reported on her meeting with community police once a month to share information and viewpoints. They are also looking at what it means to be in full membership with Allegheny. Hyattsville representatives were asked forward for laying on of hands with Wes Bergen giving a prayer.

Report from International Guest House: Kim McClain, co-chair of IGH board was introduced and shared how IGH is moving forward with their mission. There was an invitation for those present to stop over at the house after the meeting for a visit.

Constituency Leadership Council report was given by Allegheny's CLC representative, Phoebe Sharp. She thanked the delegate body for their support and trust in sending her in this role. She reported that the council met in October in Kansas City. They discussed the future church summit, conferences and decision that would affect MC USA, and immigration.

The Network Team moves that AMC move forward into more formal conversations and negotiations with CDC to develop a proposal which would then go to each conference to be processed.

There was a time for delegate discussion in which delegates were to look at 1) what staffing scenario provides the best balance between personal needs and financial viability for 2018-19? And 2) Are there additional concerns about or affirmation for the staffing models that you wish to convey to the group? Following a question and answer time, Dave Swanson led in a prayer.

Call for motion from the network team ***that AMC move forward into more formal conversations and negotiations (with Central District Conference) and to develop a proposal which would go to each conference, to be processed according to the requirements of each conference, which describes a path that leads to a mutually beneficial affiliation agreement. This proposal shall be developed so that a decision can be made by each conference, ideally going into the CDC Annual Assembly in June 2018, but no later than November 2018.***
The motion was passed with no objections.

Pastor Cindy Lapp led in a prayer for the moderator, Enos Tice and the moderator-elect, LeAnne Zook as they begin their new roles with conference.

Doug Luginbill came forward with closing remarks. He said he heard hopes, joys, fears, and concern that invite a spirit of faith. Doug closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Holsopple
LeAnne Zook