

Annual Moderator's Report

2018-2019

In November, Allegheny Mennonite Conference (**AMC**) adopted a Polity and Purpose statement. In this document, some major ideas were outlined about who we are, and who we want to be as a conference. As Anabaptist Mennonites we share a common faith commitment and heritage. Spending time together helps us discover God and what it means to be disciples of Jesus today. We show our love for each other by helping each other without trying to control each other. This helps to facilitate God's work among us so that "God's healing and hope flow through us to the world."

The purpose of AMC is:

1. To promote Jesus as the center of our faith, community as the center of our life, and reconciliation as the center of our work.
2. To serve as a resource for, and to offer guidance to, pastors and congregations in matters of faith and life.
3. To facilitate the reign of God by providing channels through efforts in mission, evangelism, church planting, Christian formation, nurture, and peacemaking.
4. To be supportive and respectful of the discernment processes used by Conference and individual congregations in decision making and to understand our diversity as a way of sharpening one another (Proverbs 27:17) in extending the reign of God in our communities.

This year at conference delegate sessions we have continued to invite congregations to share about: What gives them joy? What are the challenges they are facing? How do they envision the future unfolding in their congregation? Delegates from other congregations are then given a chance to ask follow-up questions and to gather round the delegates from these congregations in a time of prayer. This is a way of giving and receiving counsel and blessing the work of individual congregations.

As conference re-envision the future, we are also working toward becoming sustainable financially by not needing to draw down our reserves during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. We appreciate contributions congregations and individuals have made that have helped to reduce the amount we needed to draw from reserves this fiscal year. We look forward to input from the Ministry Resources Team to help us regain financial viability.

Now that a Polity and Purpose statement has been adopted, along with other statements on our website, the delegates have affirmed moving forward with developing a vision statement and updating our mission statement. Although Leadership Council has given this some additional consideration, a timeline and process for developing these statements remains to be determined.

We look forward to our Celebration of Congregations and Conference with the theme of ***Much Fruit*** (John 15:1-8). This will be a time to do worshipful work, fellowship, worship, and strengthen relationships with old and new acquaintances in conference and with representatives from Mennonite Church Agencies.

The last paragraph in our Polity and Purpose document says: "As people—created in the image of God—we cannot see the future, but we are confident that as we continue walking together in faith as responsible disciples of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will continue to transform us in ways wonderful and new." Our prayer is that this will be our experience, and that we will bear much fruit.

Enos Tice, *Moderator*

LeAnne Zook, *Moderator-elect*