



New York Mennonite Conference
An Area Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Leadership Commission Report:

Ministers Retreat, held July 25-27, was a rich time of fellowship and retreat for pastors and church leaders. We did not invite a resource person this year. Instead, we deepened our relationships to one another and to God. We took the time to 'check in' with each other, as well as spending extended time listening to God through scripture and silence. Tuesday afternoon was a deliberate time of retreat where persons were invited away from conversation with others and into contemplation and rest with God. We received many reports of refreshment, and plan to offer a similar format for next year.

The Conference Treasurer and Assisting Moderator positions end on September 30, 2011. At the time of this report, we are recommending Dan Gallagher (Corning) to a full term (having served a partial term which was vacated for health reasons). We are recommending Jim Eiss (Alden) to serve at Assisting Moderator. Jim has been involved with Delegates for years, is an immigration lawyer, and has a desire to become more involved in our Conference. We are happy to extend recommendations to you with such fine candidates.

Credentials Update:

Licensing for Sonya Stauffer Kurtz was extended by one year.

LeRoy Mast was placed on 'inactive' status

Gene Miller and Keith Zehr were extended another term

Leadership Development is one of Mennonite Church USA's 7 priorities, and one specifically in focus for this Commission. As such, we are developing a wider understanding of our purpose. Some documents that will inform this are:

1. Ministerial Credentialing, Competencies, and Education Grid found at:

<http://www.mennoniteusa.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=SQhh9E1jPBQ%3d&tabid=1495>

2. Pastoral Education Programs available in MC Canada and MC USA:

<http://www.mennoniteeducation.org/MEAPortal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=416>

All Pastors and Church Leaders should be aware of these documents because they give an overall view of our understanding of the ongoing task of developing leadership capacities within and on behalf of our church. Leadership Commission will continue to bring focus to this priority in order to create a culture where persons are identified and empowered by the community of faith for the task of leadership. We recognize that leaders are called and formed over the course of a lifetime. We seek to embody this reality as a Commission given this specific task.

On behalf of New York Mennonite Conference,

Terry Zehr (chair), Tim Wright (Pastor Rep), Sandra Craft (Lay Rep), Gene Miller (Conf. Min.)