

Conference Minister's Report

For Delegate Assembly on September 17, 2011



As individuals and congregations, where do we invest our energy and resources? What are the investments that you and I can make that will matter one hundred years from now? What is unshakable? Only the Kingdom of God! As followers of Jesus in New York Mennonite Conference, we get to be part of God's transforming work that will last for eternity.

We continue to look to **"Dreams and Visions 2010-2017"** to guide us in our twin priorities of new and renewed churches across the state of New York. God is at work across the conference in our churches—you will hear of some of the ways our congregations are engaged in the Mission of God at Celebration.

Church planting initiatives in the West Side of Buffalo and also with a Burmese Chin group continue to develop in dynamic ways. The Buffalo Chin church continues to meet in the West Side of Buffalo; Pastor Jehu, a Burmese Chin pastor of a Mennonite church in Kitchener, provides support and insight. It is a joy to relate to this body. We continue to lay the foundation for a wholistic Mennonite ministry also on the West Side. We're still seeking the right person to lead this new work. Come to the workshop at Celebration for more information. Conversations have begun with interested parties regarding the sale of the former Harris Hill Mennonite church property.

The Conference Overseers (District Ministers) meet regularly and confer on many other occasions as we support congregations in their mission.

A highlight of this past year was my attendance at Pittsburgh 2011. I was a delegate representing New York Mennonite Conference and also served as a table group leader. It was a wonderful week with excellent fellowship, inspiration, good conversations, and many opportunities for training and learning.

The Minister's Retreat on July 25-27 at Beaver Camp was a much appreciated time of refreshment and encouragement. George Brunk III is the featured speaker at Celebration 2011 September 16-18 at Beaver Camp.

We are working toward ordination this fall for Linda Wright at the Jesus Church in Addison, NY. Dan Graber has completed his service as interim pastor at the Community Mennonite Fellowship in Corning, NY. The congregation at Corning is looking for a long term pastor.

I continue my participation with eight Atlantic Northeast Conferences (ANEC) of MC USA as we cooperate in new church planting initiatives and develop resources for new churches. A Church planter's event will happen September 23-24 in Allentown, PA entitled "IN THE CITY FOR GOOD-- Mennonites, Migrants and Millennials: Sustaining Radical Movements".

Grace and peace,
Gene Miller-Conference Minister