



Central
District
Conference

focus

KNOWING CHRIST'S LOVE
ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

February 2015

Overseeing the finances of the CDC

Each year, Central District Conference must decide how to allocate funding to support the work of the conference, paying staff, providing funding for committee activities and covering expenses associated with events like the board of directors meetings and the conference's annual meeting.

The members of Central District Conference's stewardship committee are the five people responsible for overseeing the CDC's finances, making recommendations to the board on annual budgets and spending plans and handling other financial matters.

Along with those clearly financial items, the stewardship committee also works "to find ways to help people feel directly connected to the conference, other congregations, and people," said Lori Nester.

"What started as a golf outing of pastors evolved into a fundraising event open to all, as an event prior to the annual meeting in some years," she said. "Last year, the bike/walk event in Madison helped showcase the pedestrian friendly city and encouraged fellowship among early arrivals, in addition to providing an opportunity to raise money for the spending plan. We continue to brainstorm ways to help individuals and congregations recognize the value of belonging to conference and encourage monetary and other support."

That eye to financial management makes the stewardship committee an important part of the CDC.

"It's vital for the life of CDC that a group of committed folks pay attention to both the revenue needed to fund conference work and also the expenditures necessary to carry out our mission," CDC Treasurer Roger Nafziger. "Seeking financial support beyond what the CDC congregations can contribute each year has become an important function of the committee."

That work takes a dedicated group of people. Stewardship committee members said they wanted to be involved in shaping and maintaining CDC out of a commitment to CDC values and mission.

The Central District Conference
stewardship committee consists of:

Lori Nester

Leroy Saner

Roger Nafziger, treasurer

Carl Yoder

Emma Hartman, CDC staff

Together, they do the work assigned
to the stewardship committee:

- *Recommend financial policy and direction to the Board of Directors which includes: management of funds, bookkeeping, auditing procedures, salary levels, formulating the annual spending plan, and monitoring conference income and expenses.*
- *Create and manage a long-range development plan*
- *Develop and promote a vision of stewardship for the conference and link with denominational resources to meet that vision in the local congregations.*

"I chose to be a part of the committee a number of years ago when asked, primarily because I believe so strongly in the mission and the work of Central District Conference," Roger said. "While some of the issues that threaten to tear CDC and

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the Mennonite Church apart can weigh me down, I have such care and concern for the church that I am willing to do what I can to help CDC be a vibrant and thriving area conference of Mennonite Church USA."

Stewardship committee member Carl Yoder said, "Being on the committee has given me a greater insight into the issues and tasks the conference faces and a greater

appreciation for the people who are in leadership and those who serve on the various committees."

Cincinnati enjoys second biannual arts celebration

Cincinnati Mennonite Church had its biannual Celebration of the Arts Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 7 and 8.

The weekend included multiple workshops, an art gallery, an art boutique, a talent show and a fellowship on Saturday. Sunday included a church service focused on "Growing through Art: Nurturing our Spirituality, Creativity, and Joy."

Eighty-five people attended Saturday's events, coming and going throughout the day. That was also the number of people who attended the Sunday worship service. Twenty-two artists contributed to the gallery and nine artists contributed specifically to the boutique, while eight additional artists offered gallery items for sale. The talent show included 10 acts, plus a congregational sing.



Lori agreed, "I have a deep appreciation for the hard work that all those involved in committee work, the board, and on staff put into the life of the conference. I have been on the committee during difficult financial times and had to help make hard decisions regarding staff time and other cutbacks in order to get the spending plan to a manageable level for the time. It has been good to not have to spend agonizing time at our meetings, looking at what else can be cut, even though congregation giving does not completely meet the needs and we have to look creatively at other options."

Lori also mentioned her appreciation for the work the CDC does as a whole conference and the importance of conferences in the church.

"CDC is not just a structure created to exist as a structure," Lori said. "Conference really does exist to help facilitate relationships between people and congregations - nurture and care for congregations and pastoral leadership - provides a way for us to be more than just individuals. Being a part of a committee or a task force is one way to become involved and gain a deeper appreciation of those connections."

**Don't miss the remaining
CDC Regional Gatherings
from 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**March 7
Eighth Street Mennonite,
Goshen, Ind.**

**April 18
North Danvers Mennonite,
Danvers, Ill.**

***(MC USA Executive Director
Ervin Stutzman will attend
this regional gathering.)***

*Regional gathering dates and locations were
incorrect in the January 2015 CDC Reporter.
The dates above are up-to-date.*