



Central  
District  
Conference

A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

# focus

April 2018

KNOWING CHRIST'S LOVE—ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

## CDC Committees: Supporting and building relationships

Central District Conference has several standing committees that carry on aspects of the work of the conference. As we anticipate the Annual Meeting in Goshen, Ind., the chairpersons of these committees answered three questions about their work:

How would you describe the mission of your committee? What are you doing on behalf of the conference?

What are the primary tasks or emphases of your committee this year?

From the perspective of your committee's work, what are strengths you see in Central District Conference?

### Missional Church Committee

*Matt Morin, chairperson*

The work of the Missional Church Committee is slow, patient, sometimes even frustrating work. As opposed to, for instance, the Gifts Discernment Committee, whose work consists of finding a particular number of people, by a particular date, to do particular jobs—the work of Missional Church Committee is far less task-oriented.

Our main focus is to help build up the conference by strengthening relationships (a) among CDC congregations, and (b) between CDC congregations and other people outside of the conference.

We recognize that there are many ways of being the Body of Christ; there are countless forms of church. And so, as a committee, our most important work is staying attentive. What are we hearing? Which congregations have expressed similar interests or challenges in their local contexts? How might we introduce them—perhaps at a CDC Regional Gathering? How might we support congregations in their shared visions—perhaps through a Reign of God grant? How might we join with groups outside of our conference—groups like the Poor People's Campaign—who are proclaiming the good news of God's liberation from the rulers of this world?

The Missional Church Committee is a CDC ministry through and through. We know that congregations have much to share with one another in terms of prayers, stories and material resources. However, we don't presume to know what it is, precisely, that any individual congregation has to offer; nor do we know the best way that such sharing might occur. That all depends on the congregation—on their changing circumstances, and the needs of their neighbors. This type of work always invites participation; it is always unfinished.

Members of the Missional Committee are John Powell; Gladene Hershberger; Kiva Nice-Webb; Karla Minter; Tim Stair, Lois Kaufmann-Hunsberger, Resource Advocate; and Matt Morin, chairperson.



*Matt Morin, chairperson of the Missional Church Committee, talks with committee member John Powell at the CDC Leadership Council meetings at Camp Friedenswald, April 7, 2018.*

Mary E. Klassen

## Stewardship Committee

*Leroy Saner, chairperson*

The Stewardship Committee recommends financial policy and direction to the Board of Directors. Formulating the annual spending plan and monitoring conference income and expenditures are the major tasks, but tasks also include management of funds and salary levels. Creating and managing a long-range development plan and developing and promoting a vision of stewardship for the conference are on-going tasks.

The committee is grateful for good support from congregations and individuals, which enable the conference to meet its spending plan. We urge your continued support to enable the important work of the conference committees, congregations, and pastors.



Mary E. Klassen

The conference has just established a brokerage account with Everence that will allow donors to give appreciated securities like stocks or mutual fund shares to Central District Conference. It is an easy way to give, and donors will avoid having to pay capital gains taxes. More information will be forthcoming. Contact the conference office for details.

The committee consists of the conference treasurer, Roger Nafziger; conference staff members, Emma Hartman and Doug Luginbill; and three elected members: Leroy Saner, chairperson; Carl Yoder; and Sharon Rensberger.

## Ministerial committee

*Ardean Friesen, chairperson*

The mission of the ministerial committee involves two main activities. First we provide support and help to Doug Luginbill, conference minister. Secondly we work with the credentialed leaders in our conference.

Doug has the responsibility of relating to all congregations within CDC in addition to the pastoral staff. With 41 congregations, that

can be a heavy load. In addition to pastoral staff we have a number of credentialed chaplains within CDC. We assist Doug as a committee by providing moral support and prayer support. In addition, much of the work includes licensing interviews for new pastors and chaplains. In most situations there are committee members who meet in person with the candidate along with Doug or we will video conference. Ordination interviews are also done as needed. We tend to the policies that relate to credentialed leaders as well.

The conference is blessed with a wide variety of credentialed leaders. As a committee we are in contact mostly when performing the interviews mentioned above. In addition, we relate to credentialed leaders at the Annual Meeting and the Pastor/Leader appreciation dinner. One aspect of what we do is to constantly evaluate what we can do to improve or strengthen relational accountability. It's important to us as a committee to know that we are doing what we can to support our credentialed leaders.

Members of the Ministerial Committee are Renee Kanagy, Ray Person, Kay Bontrager-Singer, Brenda Sawatzky Paetkau and Ardean Friesen, chairperson.



J. Tyler Klassen

*Ardean Friesen, chair of the Ministerial Committee visits with Omi Baumgartner at the CDC Regional Meeting, March 17, at Silverwood Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.*

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