

Report of the Board of Directors to Delegates of the Central District Conference Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors 2018-2019 included Arman Habegger, Mary Etta King, Tim Lind, Phil Martens, Carrie Mast, Anna Yoder Schlabach, and Rachel Stolpe. Emma Hartman and Doug Luginbill always met with the Board as members of the CDC staff. The Board will have met a total of six times since the last annual meeting.



Prior to our first meeting in early August, we held a get-acquainted session with Dr. Jane Wood, the newly appointed president at Bluffton University. Those who attend this year's annual meeting will have an opportunity to meet her.

At last year's annual meeting the Board announced that CDC had received a financial gift from the estate of Russell and Lora Oyer of Illinois. The Conference received nearly \$70,500, and the Stewardship Committee was directed to provide counsel for using these funds. The Board did approve that \$7000 be given to the hymnal project *Voices Together*. An additional \$20,000 was placed in the CDC reserve fund.

One key item of discussion that has occupied the Board has been the conversation between CDC and Allegheny Conference. Specifically, these two bodies have been exploring whether they should merge in some manner. Ultimately, Allegheny Conference determined that it wanted to remain a separate conference, though recognizing that its financial viability was strained. Central District opted to extend a financial gift of \$8000 paid over a two-year period to help the conference maintain a presence at denomination-wide events.

Regional gatherings were hosted in the east, central, west and south of CDC, the latter since we now have three more congregations in the southeastern United States.

Our conference minister Doug Luginbill has now served CDC for nearly three years, and our bylaws require that the annual meeting delegates approve a recommendation for a renewal term. The Board will bring that recommendation to the delegates after having conducted a survey of a variety of persons across the conference.

Finally, at our March meeting, we spent some time discussing the art of resolutions. I remember that as a much younger meeting attendee, delegates might spend considerable time writing and approving resolutions. Those resolutions often addressed various social issues prevalent in the news at those times, and a resolution would be proposed, the language would be fine-tuned, and the resolution would be approved by the delegates. What difference that action made we don't know. But I think it accurate to observe that the resolution made little difference in how we acted when we returned home. Though the Board has made no decision on the role of resolutions in our affairs, we continue to consider their value.

As a Board, we hope that you will enjoy attending this year's annual meeting in Milwaukee and we thank the many persons who have planned this event for our benefit.

Arman Habegger, CDC President