

## **Ministerial Committee Report**



*Members: Brian Bolton (Shalom, Harrisonburg), Kay Bontrager-Singer (Faith, Goshen), Michael Crosby (First, Champaign-Urbana), Gayle Gerber Koontz (Assembly, Goshen), Ray Person (chair; First, Bluffton), Robin Walton (Columbus), Doug Luginbill, Conference Minister (ex officio).*

Typically, the Ministerial Committee meets in person twice a year at Camp Friedenswald once in the Spring and then in the Fall. Due to the pandemic, all of our monthly meetings have been by Zoom. Throughout the year we have continued to discuss the challenges that power dynamics pose in the church, especially with regards to patriarchy and racism, and hope that we can continue to find ways to support CDC congregations as they explore these challenges more in the future.

**Credentialing for ministry** is a significant part of our work as a committee. We work with the Conference Minister in credentialing interviews, for both licensing and ordination. It is a joy to interact with so many gifted and well-qualified candidates for ministry. Our conference is truly blessed.

This year we formalized a process for **Clergy Development Grants** as a resource for clergy to help them fund continuing education and other projects. We provide up to \$400.00 and encourage congregations to provide some of the funding for the projects we approve, whenever possible. For more information, see CDC's website.

In October, we held a **Pastor +1 Retreat** at Camp Friedenswald in partnership with Allegheny Mennonite Conference and Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Based on the positive feedback we received, we are planning on repeating it on October 22-24, 2021.

As a committee, we joined other sponsors of the "**Resolution for Repentance and Transformation,**" which was prepared by the Inclusive Mennonite Pastors.

We developed a **Record Retention Policy for Credential Files** to guide us as a committee concerning maintaining confidentiality of these files and clarifying which files will be preserved in the CDC Archives at Bluffton University and which files should be destroyed. These discussions have also included when and with whom do we share information about results of investigations of clergy sexual abuse, when we are notified by other conferences of actions they have taken with clergy who have some past or present connections to CDC. Our policies were clear on how to proceed when we undertake the investigation and now we have more clarity for how we related to cases investigated elsewhere in MCUSA.

Our continuing discussions concerning power dynamics in congregations led us to recommend programming for our **annual meeting led by Credence & Co.** and we are pleased to partner with the CDC Board in sponsoring their work with us at this annual meeting. We encourage pastors and congregational lay leaders to participate in the workshops as we strive to manage better the conflicts that occur in our congregations and conference.

Submitted by Ray Person