

Missional Church Committee Report



Members: Karla Minter (chair), Xaris Martinez, Kiva Nice-Webb, Mark Rupp, Valerie Showalter, Tim Stair, Matthew Yoder
Staff member: Emma Hartman

Over the last year, CDC's Missional Church Committee has met regularly via video conferencing. We have focused on living into our mission of nurturing congregations through resourcing and encouragement in three key areas.

****Taking the next step as an anti-racist conference, congregations, and individuals**

In early 2020, the Missional Church Committee gratefully accepted the work, discernment, and provocations from the Racial, Ethnic, and Religious (RER) Reconciliation Task Force. In July 2020, committee members Kiva Nice-Webb, Tim Stair, and Valerie Showalter, alongside Brian Sauder of Faith in Place (and member at Chicago Community Mennonite Church), hosted a webinar to share about the RER's three provocations. The provocations--to take the next step of "being, knowing, and doing" the work of dismantling white supremacy--were explained, and the webinar hosts offered suggested applications for what this work might look like at the conference level, in congregations, and in individuals lives.

In this way, the Missional Church Committee has become a resource for the conference and our congregations for racial justice issues, and we are hearing many are taking these provocations seriously. At the conference level, the Leadership Council took and reflected together on the Intercultural Development Inventory. CDC pastors have been enrolled in the WiderStand Consulting anti-racism training, for which the conference has covered all costs. The Missional Church Committee has also developed a grant that congregations can access for anti-racism initiatives that facilitate their community taking a "next step." Grants are available for up to \$500.

****Growing Communities of Faith and Peace**

We continue to keep our ears and eyes open for the Spirit's movement in emerging communities and expressions of faith and peace. Two CDC congregations are exploring the possibility of supporting new faith communities, and Missional Church Committee members are available to support them in their discernment. Another CDC congregation is exploring offering a new expression of faith through supporting a second worship community with missional intentions.

****Congregational Revitalization**

In the midst of a rapidly changing world, the Missional Church Committee is excited by the questions some CDC faith communities are asking about what it means to be the body of Christ. There is a vision within MC USA to support congregations that are interested in processes of revitalization or replanting, specifically those communities who are interested in doing church differently than has been done in the past. As we enter into a post-pandemic world, committee members Karla Minter and Tim Stair are developing ideas to nurture congregations who are proactively asking these questions.

--Submitted by Valerie Showalter