

Ministerial Committee

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).



For a second year, the Ministerial Committee has held all of its monthly meetings by Zoom due to the pandemic. We continue to discuss issues concerning the corrosive effect of patriarchy and racism in the church and we continue to seek ways to be more open to diversity in the clergy leadership in CDC and its congregations.

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. Although Zoom is often more practical for these interviews, in the past in most cases we have had some members join with those we are interviewing in-person. Hopefully, we will be able to do more of this safely in the coming months.

Last year we formalized a process for **Clergy Development Grants** as a resource for clergy to help them fund continuing education and other projects, including counseling. We have approved some of these grants and are pleased with reports we have received from those who benefited. We are also pleased to be a part of the fundraising campaign that will include \$40,000 for the purpose of clergy development, not only supporting the kinds of things this grant funds but also providing some scholarship opportunities for seminary. For more information about the grants and the fundraising campaign, see CDC's website.

We continue to seek **ways to support CDC pastors and congregations**. We have agreed to participate in an Employee Assistance Plan (EAP) for credentialed pastors and interested church staff members. This EAP is being coordinated across Mennonite Church USA with the assistance of Duncan Smith who is the Director of the Corinthian Plan. We have also scheduled a webinar with David Brubaker of Eastern Mennonite University for CDC pastors and congregational leaders concerning best practices for staff relations committees, personnel committees, pastor relations committees, etc. for November 12, 2022, 9:30-11:00 am. Congregations and pastors will be receiving more information about these opportunities soon.

As a committee, we joined other sponsors of the **"Resolution for Repentance and Transformation,"** which was prepared by the Inclusive Mennonite Pastors. This is just one way that we are trying to support the LGBTQ+ people and their congregations as we strive to live into the values of this resolution regardless of how the vote may go in Kansas City.

Members of the Ministerial Committee have also participated in Doug's three-year evaluation and the search for an associate conference minister.

Submitted by Ray Person