



Associate Conference Minister's Report 2024

My weeks are filled with joy! Hearing the incredible acts of peace, justice and inclusion undertaken by congregations of Central District Conference, both emerging and established has been encouraging and energizing. God is good!

Building a Network of Thriving Emerging Communities of Peace

As the Associate Conference Minister in CDC (working $\frac{1}{3}$ time or about 15 hours a week), I support emerging faith communities and aid existing congregations seeking revitalization. Over the past year, my focus has been on developing relationships, structures and processes to nurture emerging communities aligned with CDC's vision "to answer God's persistent call to share that love with one another and the world." This work has included:

- **Growing Network:** Cultivating relationships and resourcing several emerging communities including:
 - Moveable Feast (Chicago, IL)
 - Olentangy Wild Church (Columbus, OH)
 - The Intention Church (Online)
 - Imagine Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH)
 - Ministerio Jehová Luz y Esperanza (Atlanta, GA)
 - Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship (Grand Rapids, MI)
 - PEACE Mennonite Fellowship (Archbold, OH)
- **Expanded Support:** Launching a monthly pastor peer gathering to foster collaboration and connection among leaders of emerging communities.
- **Financial Assistance:** Missional Church Committee awarded \$41,500 in grants to emerging communities, enabling them to strengthen and expand their presence and mission.
- **Resource Development:** Creating resources for emerging communities including guides for naming emerging communities, insurance and community engagement.
- **Standardized Practices:** Developing policies and procedures for areas like financial management, grant applications, child safety, and onboarding/developing emerging communities and their leaders.
- **Collaboration:** Expanding partnerships and exploring collaboration opportunities with others in and beyond Mennonite Church USA including a monthly gathering of conference ministers focused on church planting and helping design new training with Mennonite Mission Network.
- **Established Community Revitalization:** Consulting with several established churches seeking opportunities and resources for revitalization.

Central District Conference is making significant progress in its mission to cultivate a vibrant network of emerging "communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world!"