

# Ministerial Committee

*Members: Brian Bolton (Shalom, Harrisonburg), Kevin Chupp (Mennonite Church of Normal, IL), Gayle Gerber Koontz (chair; Assembly, Goshen, IN), Ruth Guengerich (Eighth Street, Goshen, IN), Robin Walton (Columbus, OH), Matthew Yoder, (Grace, Pandora, OH), Doug Luginbill, Conference Minister (ex officio).*



**New member.** This year the Ministerial Committee was pleased to welcome Matthew Yoder from Pandora, Ohio, as a new member, adding to the years of congregational pastoral experience among us.

**Intercultural awareness.** Matthew has been serving as our representative on a Board-wide group reviewing ways to be more inclusive of diverse perspectives in our CDC work. In response to this concern, the Ministerial Committee decided to require completion of the Intercultural Development Inventory for all future ordination candidates and to cover the cost for this.

**Licensing and ordination.** This past year through March 2025 the Ministerial Committee completed two interviews of candidates preparing for ordination and four interviews of candidates recommended for licensing toward ordination. In response to a suggestion, we agreed that if a candidate for licensing toward ordination desires, they may invite a support person to join the interview. Including a support person has been standard procedure for ordination interviews.

**Educational Debt and Clergy Development grants.** We have been deeply grateful for the two anonymous donors who contributed \$50,000 and \$8,000 respectively for education debt relief for pastors, making it possible to create an Education Debt Grant fund this year. The Ministerial Committee developed a grant process that the CDC Board affirmed. We distributed 12 grants totaling \$36,000. The remaining \$32,000 in grants will be available this year. In addition, we approved three Clergy Development Grants totaling \$1084.

**Church Leadership trainings.** Twenty-five people participated in the Ministerial Committee-sponsored Healthy Boundaries Training 201 led by Michael Danner and Nancy Kauffmann on the Thursday before Annual Meeting last year. We will offer the training again on June 19. The Committee also supported the Our Whole Lives human sexuality curriculum training at Camp Friedenswald in November with 16 participants.

**Theological Education Graduates.** We warmly congratulate the four 2024 CDC Anabaptist Biblical Seminary graduates (Alaina Dobkowski, MDiv, Grand Rapids; Melika Hershberger, MDiv, Normal; Carrie Mast, Grad Certificate, Bluffton; John Zirkle, MA Christian formation, Goshen); and the two Journey participants who will graduate in June 2025 (April Lo from Chicago Community Mennonite Church and Rachel Stolpe from Milwaukee Mennonite Church).

Submitted by Gayle Gerber Koontz