

Central District Conference Missional Church Committee Highlights for 2025 Annual Meeting



Supporting Emerging Communities

- Consistently focused on supporting emerging congregations through funding, non-monetary resources, and mentoring. This includes providing grants to support their work and exploring best practices for their development and ongoing sustainability.
- Covered costs for emerging community representatives to attend the CDC Annual Meeting.
- Explored ways to connect emerging communities within the larger conference.

Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

- Noting that the emerging communities and newcomers desire to join a peacemaking tradition and that these folks are more diverse than long standing conference congregations, efforts were dedicated to advancing DEI education and awareness within the conference. These DEI efforts include recognizing subtle biases against persons who did not grow up in a Peace Church tradition or any Christian tradition.
- Reviewed and revised a DEI proposal, discussed implementation strategies, and formed a task group to continue this important work in consultation and collaboration with the Board and Ministerial Committee.

Policy Development

- Reviewed and updated various policies and procedures and secured legal review for:
 - The Fiscal Sponsor MOU Policy between CDC and MCUSA and Emerging Communities. This allows Emerging Communities to come under the CDC umbrella for bookkeeping, insurance, and 501c3 status until they are better established.
 - The Child Protection Policy for CDC and any entity under the fiscal sponsorship of CDC.

Grant Updates: Community Amount and Program Year

- Granted \$3,650 to other missional initiatives connected with the conference.
- Renewed four Emerging Communities Grants for a total of \$32,000 in grants matched with \$18,000 from the Emerging Communities.

Committee Functions and Changes

- Reviewed our overall work and priorities since Matt Pritchard joined in his role as Associate Conference Minister for Emerging Communities (January 2023). We've experienced new energy and focus.
- Our work entails imagining the emerging *future* church. It can be messy with a bit of ambiguity, experimenting with new models of being a Peace Church. We considered the gifts and talents necessary for committee members engaging in this work. This year, we will welcome 4 new members: 2 term limit replacements, 1 due to the resignation of Anton Flores with increased demands of immigrant ministry, and, sadly, 1 due to the death of Gary Martin.

Submitted by Elizabeth Kelly, Missional Church Committee Chair