

## ACC Announces New Staff Team

February 2016

As we move into a new year, Atlantic Coast Conference's Executive Committee is excited to announce new members and roles in our Conference Ministry Staff Team. In bringing this team together, we worked to identify candidates who would:

- Exemplify our shared Anabaptist Christian values
- Model the diversity of our Conference
- Bring skills and capacities to serve our congregations and our credentialed leaders
- Honor our history and heritage while being open to God's desired future for our life together

As part of Mennonite Church USA, Atlantic Coast Conference is experiencing the same transitions and challenges as other area conferences, and we believe this team will offer steady, wise, and effective leadership as we journey forward together.



### Merv Stoltzfus, Executive Conference Minister

Having served with ACC since 1991, Merv brings a depth and breadth of wisdom and experience to his new role as Executive Conference Minister. He desires to see pastors and lay leaders be successful in their ministry responsibilities, and encourages healthy practices for leadership teams so that they might lead effectively. Developing the gifts of all persons is a ministry priority. As Executive Conference Minister, Merv will relate with congregations and leaders, lead the staff team, and work closely with the Executive Committee to establish vision and priorities for Conference life. His role is full-time.



### Joanne Dietzel, Conference Minister

Joanne joins the Conference Staff team after 21 years with Lancaster Mennonite Conference, where she supervised staff, assisted with board work, coordinated annual meetings, and much more. A member of Ridgeview Mennonite Church, Joanne desires that pastors and lay leaders not only do their best in carrying out ministry responsibilities, but that they do so with joy and a passion for Christ's church. She holds a certificate in Pastoral Studies from Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and is energized by learning to know people and hearing their stories as well as encouraging people in their life journey. Her role is 1/2 time.



### Sylvia Shirk, NYC Conference Minister

For several years, ACC has provided oversight for our New York City churches through a collaborative effort with Lancaster Mennonite Conference. A shared strategic review identified some key weakness in that model, creating opportunity for more effective Conference ministry for New York City congregations. Sylvia Shirk, who serves as pastor of Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship, will serve as Conference Minister to several congregations in New York City on a marginal-time basis. She studied at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and graduated from Episcopal Divinity School and San Francisco Theological Seminary. Her fluency in Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole helps her effectively minister in diverse contexts.



### Dwight Rohrer, Conference Youth Minister

Some research suggests that the average youth minister's tenure lasts 18-24 months. Dwight has been active in youth ministry for several decades, serving Neffsville Mennonite Church since 1999. Dwight's experience and passion will be a wonderful asset as he resources congregational youth ministry staff and connects with MCUSA youth ministry activities. He loves youth and is passionate about seeing them become like Christ. He enjoys hunting, skiing, and carpentry. Neffsville has agreed to share a portion of Dwight's time with ACC and evaluate the arrangement after one year.



### Brook Musselman, Conference Coordinator

Having served ACC since 2014, Brook is increasing his time commitment to full-time and taking on additional administrative responsibilities for youth ministry. Brook is a 2012 EMU graduate where he studied Peacebuilding and Development and Business Administration. Brook helped coordinate the Mennonite World Conference Global Youth Summit in 2015, served in a variety of positions at Camp Men-O-Lan over six summers, worked as a community adviser at EMU for two years, and completed a nine-month term with EMM as a YES team leader in Kenya.



### Njoki Njoroge, Financial Secretary

Njoki and her husband Peter are originally from Kenya. They now reside in Ephrata, Pennsylvania with their two young boys. Njoki enjoys being part of the ACC family where she serves as the Finance Secretary, coordinating accounts payable, donations, and other financial record keeping. She notes that this role has deepened her knowledge and understanding of how God uses His people to minister to others in different capacities.



### Cindy Petersheim, CRM Council Coordinator

Cindy brings her background in charitable estate planning, major gifts, annual fund, and donor relations to her volunteer role with the Conference Related Ministries Council. The CRM Council works to develop and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships between Conference and agencies that work in human services, healthcare, retirement, education, Christian camping, and other areas of community service.



### Lois Ann Mast, Currents Editor & Resource Advocate

Lois Ann edits ACC's quarterly periodical, *Currents*, which helps to connect congregations to each other and to Conference. Lois Ann serves as Mennonite Church USA Advocate for ACC, working to raise awareness of denominational activities and resources. She also enjoys editing the quarterly Mennonite Family History, leading heritage tours to Europe, and the five grandchildren she and her husband, Lamar, share.