

Spring 2016 Atlantic Coast Conference Report to CLC

Centered in Christ    Building Connections    Sharing God's Love

**How would you describe the commitments you make to others to nurture the common life of your conference? How we try to be church / conference together?**

Building Connections is central to our existence. We find many informal ways to relate and connect with God and each other. Structurally we attempt to build ways to connect congregations through:

Cluster Groups. Our 32 congregations are gathered in five regional Cluster groups that meet regularly / monthly as a way for pastors and church leaders to share, support, inform, encourage and disciple each other. There is also a cluster group for retired pastors, youth and young adult pastors, and chaplains. Our Conference Ministers meet with each cluster to listen, learn and share about Conference Life. Each cluster has a "convener." Conveners meet quarterly with the Executive Committee to listen, learn and share together.

All congregations have delegates who gather two times a year for our (Saturday) Spring and Fall Conference Assembly. We often have a Fall Resource Day (Friday) for Leaders that accompanies the Fall Assembly. For the past several years we have had an overnight retreat for pastors / church leaders to retreat, encourage and get to know each other better.

Our Conference Ministers meet with our church pastors and leadership teams on a regular basis. We have part time CM's to relate with New York City churches and our Youth Ministers.

Executive Committee (7 members) meets monthly to share in the more "formal" business of the Conference. Conference Committees include Finance and Stewardship, Gift Discernment, Mennonite Women, Ministerial Leadership (Credentialing), Missions, Peace and Justice and Youth / Young Adult. Each committee has a chair who meets one time a year with Ex. Comm. to build relationships and communication.

The **ACC Currents** is our quarterly magazine that provides highlights and updates on the life of MC USA, conference congregations, conference life, individuals, etc.

Weekly Electronic Updates are sent to each pastor, church leader, and delegate with announcements regarding conference life, MC USA activities, and other Denominational Ministries, etc.

We have about 25 Conference Related Ministries, including camps, retirement communities, missions and schools that we relate with on an as need basis. Conference and CRMs support each other in numerous ways throughout the year.

More recently we have attempted to explore ways to "build connections" with Lancaster Conference churches who desire to remain connected to MC USA.