

# Annual Assembly Celebration

Saturday, October 28, 2017

## Minutes

Present: 145 including 93 delegates, 34 general attendees, six staff members and 12 children

### Welcome & Worship

1. **Welcome:** John Denlinger (Moderator, Ridgeview) and Bob Petersheim (Conestoga) gave an opening welcome and shared some details about the day.
2. **Worship:** Rachel Mast (Conference Secretary, Conestoga) led a time of opening worship:
  - a. HWB #6 Here in this Place
  - b. HWB #226 You Are Salt for the Earth
  - c. King of My Heart
  - d. 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

### Conference Reporting

3. **New Minister Introductions:** Catharine Frederick (Hope Community) and Bob Petersheim (Conestoga), members of the Ministerial Leadership Committee, introduced ministers new to ACC since the Spring Assembly:
  - i. Janet Breneman, retired, attending Witmer Heights MC
  - ii. D. Rohrer Eshleman, retired, member Landisville MC
  - iii. Darrel Hostetter, chaplain for New Person Ministries, member James Street MC
  - iv. Sherill Hostetter, Director of Clergy and Congregation Care with Samaritan Counseling Center, member James Street MC
  - v. Marilyn Kurtz, retired, member Rossmere MC
  - vi. Elizabeth Nissley, retired, member James Street MC
  - vii. Mona Sauder, active without charge, attending Blossom Hill MC
  - viii. Roger Steffy, Vice President for Programs, Tabor Community Services, member James Street MC
  - ix. Geroge Stoltzfus, retired, member Landisville MC
  - x. Sam Thomas, retired, attending James Street MC
  - xi. NanaSue Walker, Pastor of Lay Ministries and Young Adults, Neffsville MC

4. **Peace Mug Presentation:** Vonetta Storbakken presented the Peace and Justice Committee's 2017 Peace Mug to Malinda and Mark Clatterbuck (CMCL) who have led advocacy in the Lancaster area to resist a pipeline being installed nearby.
5. **Received 2017 Spring Assembly Minutes** (J.W. Sprunger (Akron), Clair Sauder (Neffsville), unanimous)
6. **Release of Holly Grove Mennonite Church:** John Denlinger shared a benediction of lament and blessing to Holly Grove as they seek new affiliation. With regret, delegates approved the release of Holly Grove (Jim Ralph (Ark), Bob Petersheim (Conestoga), unanimous).
  - a. John also noted that three emerging congregations are no longer functioning as active congregations: Ebenezer Evangelical Mennonite Church (Silver Spring, MD), Hiwet Legeta (Lancaster, PA), Radical Living (New York, NY).
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Ken Martin (Forest Hills, Conference Treasurer) shared the 2016-2017 year-end report. He noted an actual deficit for the year of \$9,423 as opposed to our budgeted deficit of \$4,100. Expenses were very close to budget, but income fell short.
  - a. Jim Ralph (Ark) noted that some new congregations were not included in this year's budget but they did contribute; our deficit would have been much higher without their contributions.
  - b. Received finance report (John Weber(Akron), Samantha Lioi (East Chestnut Street), unanimous)
8. **Report from August 26 Delegate Day:** Jon Carlson (Assistant Moderator, Forest Hills) shared about the Ministerial Leadership Committee's review of the credential of a pastor who had performed a same-sex marriage. An outcome of that review was a facilitated delegate conversation about our conference's polity and how we approach issues on which we disagree. Jon thanked all who participated in these conversations.
9. **Update on new leadership fund:** Merv Stoltzfus (Executive Conference Minister, Ridgeview) presented the development of a Congregational Leadership Fund that will provide assistance to congregations and individuals to strengthen leadership capacity within the conference.
10. **Update on Conference disaster outreach:** Elizabeth Soto Albrecht (Laurel Street) shared about her recent trip to Puerto Rico with MDS for disaster assessment. She and Becky Degan (Forest Hills) presented ACC's planned response to provide funds and labor to assemble and send 2,000 food parcels for emergency relief.
11. **2017 Leadership Slate:** John Weber presented the 2017 Leadership Slate and invited delegates to fill ballots to affirm the following individuals for new terms on conference committees. All individuals were affirmed by at least 90%.
  - a. John Denlinger (Ridgeview, Moderator, 3<sup>rd</sup> term)
  - b. Rachel Mast (Conestoga, Secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> term)

- c. Ken Martin (Forest Hills, Treasurer, 3<sup>rd</sup> term)
- d. Jannat Veras (Laurel Street, Executive Committee Member-at-Large, 1<sup>st</sup> term)
- e. J. Richard Thomas (Ridgeview, Ministerial Leadership Committee Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- f. Karyn Nancarvis (Akron, Youth Committee Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> term)
- g. Brook Musselman (Staff, Interim Peace & Justice Committee Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> term)
- h. Lyndell Thiessen (Blossom Hill, Gifts Discernment Committee Chair 1<sup>st</sup> term)
- i. Stan Shantz (James Street, Gifts Discernment Committee member)
- j. Nancy Stauffer (Landisville, Gifts Discernment Committee member)

12. **Reflection on church relevance:** Bob Petersheim, Nancy Kauffmann (MCUSA Denominational Minister), and Merv Stoltzfus shared a reflection on the day's theme of *Activated: the church engaged*, as it applies to our congregations, our conference, and our denomination. Bob led with a reading of 1 Corinthians 12:4-14.

- a. Congregation: Local congregations are local expressions of a global body, each commissioned to unique local ministry, empowered by God's Holy Spirit.
- b. Conference: As a conference body, we see different expressions of faithfulness in local contexts. Conference is people working together beyond the congregation to do what couldn't be done as local communities alone.
- c. Denomination: like conferences, our denomination pools resources to offer important services to our pastors, shares stories and gathers expertise from across the country, and helps educate our children, all to help express God's love for each of us.

13. **Workshops:** Before and after lunch, workshops were offered for delegates on the day's theme:

- a. Reaching out to our communities – examples of community engagement from ACC congregations (moderated by Harold & Mary Grace Shenk)
- b. Adapting worship while honoring tradition (Nathan Greiser)
- c. Naming what Anabaptists bring to the table (Nancy Kauffmann)
- d. Discipleship: Making fisherman and women (Scott Roth)

### **Afternoon Session**

14. **Nickels for Neighbors presentation:** Sam Wanjau (Missions Committee chair, African Community Church of Lancaster) introduced Jen Morales who represented this year's grant recipient, New Holland Early Learning Center, which is raising money to build a fence to separate their littlest children from the bike path. Sam announced that with a few checks yet outstanding, over \$7,000 has been raised this year.

15. **CRM interaction:** Cindy Petersheim (Conference Related Ministries Coordinator, Conestoga) introduced and interviewed two of our 22 Conference Related Ministries on the day's theme.

- a. Karen Horning from Tel Hai Retirement Community shared about the retirement community is interacting with the greater Morgantown area.

- b. Ryan Kellermeyer from The City School shared about the ways that TCS is growing and trusting in God's provision.
16. **Table Discussion:** Jon Carlson (Assistant Moderator, Forest Hills) opened a time of table discussion led by a set of questions. Table groups were encouraged to respond to these questions as a way to share about the different ways our congregations interact within themselves and with their communities.
17. **Closing:** Marilyn Henderson (Hebron), Dave Greiser (North Baltimore) and Bob Murr (Bethel) closed the day with a reflection on the weekend's events and interactions shared.

*Recorder, Brook Musselman*