

Spring Assembly Celebration

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Minutes

Present: 116 including 83 delegates, 25 general attendees, 8 staff members and 10 children

Welcome & Worship

1. **Welcome:** John Denlinger (Moderator, Ridgeview) gave an opening welcome and shared some details about the day. Kevin Kanagy (Hope Community) shared an opening reflection on the day's theme, Journey Forward and encouraged delegates to keep focused on moving toward Jesus and his example.
2. **Worship:** Kevin and Nan Kanagy and a team from Hope Community led a time of opening worship, followed by a time of offering for the ministry of ACC.
 - a. Strength will rise (Everlasting God)
 - b. Great are you Lord
 - c. My hope is built on nothing less
 - d. Come Thou Fount

Conference Reporting

3. **Nickels for Neighbors announcement:** Joanne Dietzel (Conference Coordinator, Ridgeview) announced the Radical Living Youth Garden as the recipient of the 2018 Nickels for Neighbors grant. Funds raised between April and October 2018 will go to support the work for urban youth in Brooklyn, which is supported by Manhattan Mennonite Church.
4. **Youth Committee report:** Dwight Roher (Conference Youth Minister, Neffsville) and Brook Musselman (Conference Coordinator, Zion) gave an update on the youth ministry of the conference, including bible quizzing, the annual youth retreat, and the resourcing of congregational youth leaders.
5. **Update on Congregational Leadership Fund:** Merv Stoltzfus (Executive Conference Minister, Ridgeview) shared that the current total of the endowment raised for training and supporting ACC congregational leaders is currently about \$116,000.
6. **Introduction of new Conference Related Ministries:** Cindy Petersheim (ACC Conference Related Ministries (CRM) Coordinator, Conestoga) introduced the three

recently approved ministries as new CRMs and gave their leaders a chance to share briefly about their work:

- a. The Shalom Project, introduced by board member Carmen Horst (James Street)
 - b. Wellspan-Philhaven, introduced by board chair George Stoltzfus (Landisville)
 - c. Eastern Mennonite University – Lancaster, introduced by staff member Brenda Martin Hurst (Frazer)
7. **Receive Fall Assembly 2017 Minutes:** John presented minutes from the previous Assembly. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented (George Stoltzfus, Jim Ralph (Ark)).
 8. **Presentation and vote on the 2018-2019 Budget:** Ken Martin (Treasurer, Forest Hills) presented the March 31 Year-to-Date budget update to share that the conference so far has a net gain of \$24,602 through the first nine months of the fiscal year, as compared to the budgeted surplus of \$24,491 for the full year. Ken shared a thank you from ACC leaders to congregations for their generosity to the work of ACC. He also shared the recommendation that congregations give 6-8% of their budget for this work. Ken then presented the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, 2018-2019. The goal for the next years will be to increase the financial reserve to 3 months of operating expenses. The 2018-2019 Budget was unanimously approved as presented (Ken Martin, Clair Sauder (Neffsville)).
 9. **Committee member vote:** Lynell Thiessen (Blossom Hill) presented a nominee for an additional Executive Committee member. A vote to approve Jennifer Bowman Sauder (Landisville) unanimously approved her for a 2.5 year term on Executive Committee beginning immediately.
 10. **Release of Pocomoke River Church & Iglesia Evangelica Menonita Eben-Ezer:** John Denlinger led a time of prayer and release for two congregations that had requested release from ACC membership. Pocomoke river Church and Iglesia Evangelica Menonita Eben-Ezer were released from membership and the credentials of their ministers released to the congregations.
 11. **MC USA reporting:** John Denlinger and Joanne Dietzel shared about their recent Constituency Leadership Council meeting in Lansdale, PA and some information shared with them including denominational leadership changes and about upcoming plans for MennoCon 2019 in Kansas City.
 12. **Quiz Match: 2018 quizzers vs. pastors:** Merv Stoltzfus served as quizmaster for a quiz match between four ACC pastors and five youth who participated in the 2018 Bible Quizzing program.
 13. **Employee Assistance Program overview:** Joanne Dietzel shared about the resource to ACC credentialed ministers and their families that provides several counseling sessions free of charge, among other benefits, through Wellspan-Philhaven.
 14. **Sharing on Israel-Palestine Resolution follow-through:** John Denlinger shared the resolution passed at the MC USA convention in Orlando to remind delegates of some of

the resources provided and the commitments made by passing the resolution. Jill Heine (Ridgeview) then shared how her Sunday School class has engaged with the document and has followed through with several of the listed commitments. A time of Q&A followed.

Afternoon Session

15. **Journey Forward process, part 1:** Jon Carlson moderated a process in which delegates had the opportunity to discuss the MC USA document *Renewed Commitments*, which is a set of statements that summarizes the feedback received from the Future Church Summit at the 2017 MC USA Convention. After a time of introduction, table groups were asked to read the document and respond to the following questions, after which tables were invited to share significant points of discussion with the larger group.
 - a. Are there any core beliefs that are central to our Christian witness and Anabaptist identity that need to be either added or expounded upon from your perspective?
 - b. In what practical ways can this document be used as a resource to your conference, agency, congregation or affinity group?

16. **Journey Forward process, part 2:** After a short break, delegates were given the option of a) writing their prayer for the church as we move through the Journey Forward process as a denomination, b) developing a dramatic reading of one of the scripture references for the *Renewed Commitments* document, or c) engaging in knot-tying blankets for a local ministry and writing notes to ACC-supported missionaries. After 20 minutes, delegates were assembled to listen to the five dramatic readings that were prepared by table groups.

17. **Closing:** All present members of ACC's Executive Committee shared a significant part of the day as they experienced it, followed by a closing prayer by Merv Stoltzfus.

Recorder, Brook Musselman