

Spring Assembly Celebration

Saturday, April 27, 2019 | 9:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Landisville Mennonite Church, Landisville, PA

Minutes

Present: 130 including 75 delegates, 45 general attendees, 6 staff members and 4 children

Welcome & Worship

1. **Welcome:** John Denlinger (Moderator, Ridgeview) gave an opening welcome and shared some details about the day. John noted how each congregation has a unique sense of who God is calling them to be as a community, and encouraged us to celebrate that diversity. Ron Adams (Landisville) shared an opening reflection on the day's theme, *Snapshots of ACC*, and who we are. He shared that we are a thriving organization as a conference and denomination, but more importantly we are a gift to the broader church, to our communities. We are members of God's new creation, God's beloved children, servants of the oppressed, disciples called to love, etc. Ours is a multi-faceted identity and we're part of something unimaginably big to bring about the healing of all things.
2. **Worship:** Jen Bowman Sauder (Executive Committee Member-at-Large, Landisville) led the singing of *Brethren we have met to worship*, Hymnal Worship Book #8

Session 1: Conference Reporting

3. **Nickels for Neighbors announcement:** Samuel Wanjau (Missions Committee Chair, African Community Church of Lancaster) announced CrossWay Church's Training Station Preschool as the recipient of the 2019 Nickels for Neighbors grant. Funds raised between April and October 2019 will go to cover costs associated with underground maintenance work and the renovation of the playground area covering the defunct plumbing.
4. **Church presentations:**
 - a. Dave Greiser (Ministerial Leadership Committee member, North Baltimore Mennonite Church) introduced a video that featured NBMC members sharing what the congregation means to them.
 - b. George Stoltzfus (Landisville) shared about a ministry of Landisville MC that includes a weekly visit to immigrants in a York County detention facility. George reported how members have shared God's caring with those being held.

5. **Worship:** Jen Bowman Sauder led the singing of *Praise the One who breaks the darkness*, Sing the Story #1
6. **Receive Fall Assembly 2018 Minutes:** John presented minutes from the previous Assembly. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented (Rolando Santiago, J.W. Sprunger, unanimous).
7. **Update on the Congregational Leadership Fund:** Merv Stoltzfus (Executive Conference Minister, Ridgeview) shared the vision of this growing fund to assist congregations build leadership capacity. The current balance is a little over \$172,000 after a year and a half. He also invited gifts to help grow this fund.
8. **Church presentations:**
 - a. Genero Cruz (Primera Iglesia Menonita de Brooklyn) shared about the health program that the congregation supports for Latin Americans in the Brooklyn community. (Soila Matute interpreting)
 - b. Leslie Homer-Cattell (Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster) shared a powerpoint introducing delegates to CMCL's ministry, values, space, and congregation.
9. **Worship:** Jen Bowman Sauder led the singing of *Somebody prayed for me*, Hymnal Worship Book #120.
10. **Church presentations:**
 - a. Samuel Wanjau shared a powerpoint and introduced the visitation ministries that he does, the evangelism the congregation does in the Lancaster community and the mission work they've done in Kenya, Haiti, and Alabama.
11. **Presentation and vote on the 2019-2020 Budget:** Ken Martin (Treasurer, Forest Hills) reported that for the current fiscal year, we are on track for a surplus of about \$34,000. He presented the proposed budget for the next fiscal year which projects a surplus of \$18,000 which will allow us to reach the target reserve amount. The 2019-2020 was approved as presented (Ken Martin, Jim Ralph (Ark), unanimous).
12. **2019 Leadership Solicitation:** on behalf of the Gifts Discernment Committee, Merv Stoltzfus invited delegates to complete the leadership solicitation form to nominate individuals for consideration to fill the leadership positions available Fall 2019.
13. **Conference Related Ministry presentation:** Cindy Petersheim (ACC Conference Related Ministries (CRM) Coordinator, Conestoga) introduced Pam Tieszen, Superintendent of Lancaster Mennonite School. Pam shared that she's energized by watching and helping LMS become something new as it transforms various ways that it functions as an organization.
14. **MennoCon19 Reporting:** John Denlinger welcomed Scott Hartman, of the Mennonite Church USA convention planning team, by video. Scott shared about plans and changes at the upcoming convention and invited all to attend in July.

15. **Worship:** Jen Bowman Sauder led the singing of *God, whose giving*, Hymnal Worship Book # 383.
16. **Closing:** Grace Miller (Landisville) gave instructions for lunch, and John Denlinger led a prayer of blessing and closed the session.

Session 2: Generational presentations and table discussions

17. Following brunch, Jon Carlson (Assistant Moderator, Forest Hills) gave a series of presentations on the four generations represented by our current Delegate Council: Millennials, Generation X, Baby Boomers, and the Radio Generation. He addressed formative world events and resulting perspectives and attitudes that are generally attributed to each age group. He also shared what each generally contributes to our congregations. After each generational presentation, Jon shared questions for table discussion to help us further consider and learn from the strengths and weaknesses of each generation.
18. To close the Assembly day, Joanne Dietzel (Conference Minister, Ridgeview) and Sylvia Shirk (Conference Minister, Manhattan) led communion and sending.

Recorder, Brook Musselman