

Fall Assembly Celebration

Virtual Delegate Session \ \ \ October 24, 2020

Minutes

The Fall Delegate Session was conducted online through a prerecorded video and electronic voting form, both of which were available to delegates April 17-19, 2021. Documents and action items were sent to delegates 30-days in advance with an invitation to send comments or questions beforehand.

Reporting from prerecorded delegate video:

1. **Welcome:** Cindy Petersheim (moderator, Conestoga) provided a welcome, review of the agenda, and reminder about the online voting form to be completed by delegates after viewing the video. She shared her appreciation for the way ACC congregations have continued supporting the conference and one another through the last few months.
2. **Nickels for Neighbors Presentation:** Sam Wanjau, (African Community Church of Lancaster, chair, Missions Committee) announced the close of the 2020 Nickels for Neighbors collection on behalf of this year's recipient, The City School, for new playground equipment at the Poplar Street campus. The total amount raised will be shared with congregations at a later date.
3. **Upcoming membership request:** Ruth Yoder Wenger, conference minister for New York, shared about an emerging congregation in New York City that will soon be requesting ACC membership. Ruth interviewed founding members of Grace and Peace Mennonite Church, Naomi Yoder, Rhonda Mitchell, Peter Castle, Anita Castle. Grace and Peace has plans to operate as a primarily virtual congregation to meet the needs of a diverse group of people. Members described different aspects of the congregation's ministry, commitment to one another, their congregational structure.
4. **Peace Mug Presentation:** Ron Adams (Landisville, Peace & Justice Committee chair) presented this year's peace mug to pastors Ron and Judy Zook and the Laurel Street Mennonite Church congregation for their response to a recent neighborhood tragedy. When a young man of color was shot and killed by police across the street from the church. The Zooks and the congregation worked for the peace of the community by extending care, love, and support for their neighbors and the grieving family of the young man. They have also worked to ask questions and seek solutions to ensure that this tragedy doesn't happen again. Ron and Judy Zook thanked the Peace & Justice Committee for the recognition and shared their experience of being at the center of this neighborhood trauma and their desire to respond. The congregation has formed a task force to utilize the Laurel Street MC campus to extend support and care for the neighborhood and to explore how the congregation can care for local mental health needs. Congregation members

Linda and Janelle shared about these two task force goals and Elizabeth Soto Albrecht shared about ways that the congregation is working with other local congregations at this work.

5. **Receive Spring 2020 Assembly Minutes:** Cindy invited delegates to review and receive the Spring 2020 Assembly minutes as presented by appropriately responding to the electronic voting form. Received unanimously.
6. **Year-to-Date Finance Report:** John Bomberger (treasurer, Neffsville) shared a financial update, referencing documents made available to delegates electronically:
 - a. Statement of Operations, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
 - i. John reported that, despite initial financial uncertainty due to COVID-19, the conference ended the fiscal year in a strong financial position. Congregational giving exceeded budget by \$6,997. Total income, with the help of the Payroll Protection Program exceeded budget by \$19,326. Expenses were \$15,085 under budget. The resulting surplus on the year was \$34,411 over budget. With gain on the sale of the Reservoir Hill House of Peace (RHHP) property in Baltimore, the total surplus was \$139,126.
 - b. Statement of Financial Position, June 30, 2020
 - i. The amount held in conference cash and checking increased by \$81,823. The amount of the interest free note for the sale of the RHHP building to North Baltimore Mennonite Church is \$207,900 on June 30. Total assets increased by \$162,0617 and stood at \$675,657 on June 30. Total liabilities increased by 23490. The reserve fund stood at \$205,297 on June 30. Total equity on June 30 stood at \$372,933.
 - c. John also reported on updates to the revised 2020-2021 budget based on updated giving expectations by congregations. Income was revised down by more than \$22,000. The result is a reduction in expected surplus from \$13,135 is revised to a deficit \$20,140. John encouraged individuals and congregations to assist with this projected deficit as able.
7. **Congregational Update – African Community Church of Lancaster:** Sam Wanjau shared about the congregation’s recent purchase of a new building for their worship and operations. He told of the congregation’s long journey of sharing buildings and raising funds beginning in 2018 to finally have their own space.
8. **Congregational Leadership Fund update:** Merv Stoltzfus (Ridgeview, Executive Conference Minister) shared that the purpose of the CLF is to offer resourcing to congregations in the area of leadership capacity. The fund is growing with a balance at \$260,000. Executive Committee approved four grants totaling \$4,000 in the past six months. We anticipate having \$7,000 to grant in the coming 12 months. Merv invited one-time or ongoing contributions to this growing endowment.
9. **Vote on 2020 Leadership Slate:** Lyndell Thiessen (Gifts Discernment Committee chair, Blossom Hill) presented the leadership slate being presented by the Gifts Discernment Committee. Each candidate would serve a two-year term. All were overwhelmingly approved by an electronic vote.
 - a. Jon Carlson, 3rd term as assistant moderator of executive committee
 - b. Brenda Martin Hurst, 3rd term as member-at-large of executive committee
 - c. Jen Sauder, 2nd term as member at large of executive committee
 - d. Bill Parson, 1st term as Gifts Discernment Committee

- e. Bruce Campbell-Janz, 1st term as Missions Committee
- f. Rod Yoder, 1st term as Finance Committee chair
- g. Nancy Beningus, 1st term as Gifts Discernment Committee
- h. Elaine Shirk, 1st term as Mennonite Women chair

10. ACTION: By electronic voting, the following actions were taken by the Delegate Council:

- a. Overwhelmingly approved all eight candidates on the 2020 Leadership Slate**
- b. Unanimously received the Spring 2020 Delegate Session Minutes**
- c. Unanimously received the Fall 2020 Finance Report**

11. **Closing:** The Mennonite Children's Choir of Lancaster shared a virtual performance of Praise His Holy Name. This performance was part of the Choir's 2020 Spring Covid-19 Virtual Choir Project.

Recorder, Brook Musselman