

Members: Naomi Engle (resigned during fall 2016 due to health issues), LaVonne Hartman, Dan Hooley (filling Naomi Engle's term), Andy Stoner, Vickie Yoder, Miriam Zehr. Staff: Ralph Reinford, Cliff Brubaker, Judy King

As noted in the Purpose Statement of the Ohio Conference, our primary purpose as a conference is to cultivate healthy congregations through the equipping of leaders in the areas of worship, faith and witness. The Credentialing Ministry exists to assure that the Conference congregations have suitable, approved, cared-for, accountable pastoral leadership. In 2016 our work included:

Licenses given:

Matt Weaver (Lockport) – licensing toward ordination
Sean Swanson (First Mennonite, Canton) – licensing toward ordination

License extensions given:

Alex Dye (Oak Grove, West Liberty)
Israel Aguilar (Good Shepherd)
Sheila Spencer (Lee Heights)

License deferral granted:

Emily Hedrick (Lima) until after ACA. Lima is a dual-conference congregation (Ohio Conference and Central District), and Emily has been licensed by Central District

Credential retention for pastors without active pastoral charge:

Mike Kelly

Ministry Inquiry sponsored:

Sam Black (West Clinton)

Credentials withdrawn for individuals whose churches left Ohio Conference:

Matt Hamsher (Longenecker)
Bob Wengerd (North Lima)
Randy Carr (Beaverdam)
Larissa Moore (Victory Community Church)
Todd and Rebecca Martin, Sanford Oyer, Justin Smith (Smithville)
Richard and Maxine Bartholomew (North Lima)

Transfer of Credentials:

Jeff Linthicum, Jerry Flueckiger, Timothy Sprunger, Curt Claassen, retired (Berne) to Lancaster Mennonite Conference
Jim Sutton (Ohio Conference Transitional Pastor) to Lancaster Mennonite Conference

We renewed our subscription to *The Parish Paper* as a resource for our pastors.

The Credentialing Ministry Team also planned two Pastors' Resource Events – one in the east (October) and one in the west (November). The subjects for these events were Pastoral Care in Crisis Intervention – Suicide, presented by Jon Bohley and Sara Gorr; and Pastoral Care in Bereavement presented by Vickie Yoder and Andy Stoner (both members of the Credentialing Ministry Team).

Mennonite Church USA is recommending training in healthy boundaries in the areas of sexuality, finances, and the use of social media. The denomination suggests that each area conference train up to three people to serve as healthy boundaries trainers who would then lead workshops in their area conference to inform every pastor about healthy boundaries from a proactive approach. CMT has affirmed this program and will assist in the facilitating.

While this past year has seen a couple of our Team members with significant health issues, we have strived to remain faithful to our task and are grateful to God for His leading and presence among us.

LaVonne Hartman, CMT Member