

Report to Ohio Conference 2017-2018
Central Christian School
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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! As I begin my role as Superintendent of Central Christian School (CCS), I am thankful for the good working relationship between CCS and Ohio Conference. Learning the history of this relationship has been an important part of my orientation to this position. Ohio Conference has supplied us with a good file of information documenting the beginnings of CCS. An early CCS document from 1961 includes this quote about the joint efforts of Ohio Conference members around the school:

“Coming together is a beginning,
Thinking together is unity,
Keeping together is progress, but
Working together is success.”

ACTIVITIES: As a school, we continue in the tasks of coming together, thinking together, keeping together and working together as a faith community in the midst of shifting affiliations in Ohio Conference. The historic name of “Central Christian” helps us to continue to envision CCS as a place that brings people together. In the midst of challenges, the school is a community that emphasizes faith formation in the way of Jesus and from a distinctly Anabaptist perspective.

On Sept. 17, 2017, the Corporation approved a revised Constitution for Christian Schools, Inc. One significant revision was to widen the circle of affiliated churches to include congregations that are not a part of Ohio Conference, but who can affirm the Anabaptist identity of the school. The Constitutional change was an opportunity to widen the circle to continue strong community ownership of CCS. The Corporation added three appendices as a key part of the document to ensure our Anabaptist identity. The documents include a board document, a philosophy of Anabaptist education from the Mennonite Schools Council, and the Shared Convictions document from Mennonite World Conference.

The Constitution included a structural change in the Corporation. It moves the relationship from a Corporation made up of individuals from Ohio Conference member churches to a Corporation made up of representatives of congregations who can affirm support for an Anabaptist identity. The constitution moves us from a corporation with many individual members personally interested in CCS to a smaller corporation made up of three representatives from each affiliated congregation. The Constitution also states that the historic roots of CCS were in Ohio Conference. The original vision still holds.

Our hope is that having a smaller number of individuals serving as Corporation members allows members to be more engaged as the accountability structure for Central Christian Schools. We envision holding future Corporation meetings as annual general meetings for public reporting with the smaller group of Corporation members as the voting body. Our next annual Corporation meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 5, 2018. This will be preceded by an Alumni Choir event.

AFFIRMATIONS: We have been thankful for the good working relationship with Ohio Conference. I have had several meetings with the Conference Leadership Team, our Board Chair has met with the leadership team, and Mel Hathaway came to speak with our Board in preparation for the Constitution revision. We also affirm the missional work of the faculty and

staff of CCS who give of their lives and talents in creating a learning environment shaped by the way of Jesus for the students who come from both Anabaptist and other backgrounds.

CONCERNS: This year, CCS has 336 students and an additional Central Christian Berlin Preschool. Annual giving from our constituents continues strong, but we see the need for future sustainability. CCS has partnered with Everence to help our constituents explore planned giving options and to help our community to grow our generosity.

ACTION: We now have an alumni connections volunteer who helps us to stay in touch with our 2,629 alumni from 1962-2017. If you are an alumnus or have information about friends or classmates, please contact the school to make sure we have your information. The alumni of CCS are a powerful source of energy and service in God's kingdom. If you have not visited the school recently, please come to see us. Stop by my office or attend a concert or athletic event. We welcome your feedback and counsel.