

CREDENTIALING MINISTRY TEAM 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Team Members: LaVonne Hartman, Vickie Yoder, Miriam Zehr, Jacob Dodson, Andy Stoner

The Credentialing Ministry Team held six meetings throughout 2017.

Our primary purpose is to cultivate healthy congregations through the equipping of pastoral leaders in the areas of worship, faith, and witness. We exist to help Conference congregations have suitable, approved, accountable and cared-for leadership.

Much of our energy this past year has focused on processing several pastoral misconduct charges following the adoption of the 2016 Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy, as recommended by Mennonite Church USA. This has been very time consuming, and it has been painful to persons/families/congregations. Our goal is for any disciplinary process to be redemptive and restorative.

We have also organized several training seminars for pastors and lay persons, focused on teaching pastors to establish and follow healthy boundaries in their actions and functions in pastoral ministry. We have been using the Mennonite Church USA recommended curriculum from FaithTrust Institute. We are requiring all active pastors and chaplains to take this training to maintain their credential. This is in line with what other area conferences are requiring as well.

We continue to provide scholarship assistance for continuing education training for pastors. We also approved support for a MIP intern at Toledo Mennonite.

The following ordination credentials were given:

- Jeff Hostetler (Berlin Mennonite)
- Marilyn Rossiter (Summit Mennonite)

The following license credentials were given:

- Jamie Rye (Millersburg Mennonite)
- Matt Reed (Beech Mennonite)
- Corben Boshart (Zion Mennonite)
- Matt Peterson (Midway Mennonite)

Credential transfers:

- Rene Mejia transferred to Conservative Mennonite Conference.
- Mona Sauder transferred to Atlantic Coast Conference.

Ryan Sprunger was approved for specialized ministry as a fire chaplain.

Rick Stoner's credential was terminated.

A Pastor-Spouse Retreat was held at Mohican State Lodge, Nov. 10-12, 2017, with Jim Lapp and Mim Book as resource leaders.

We appreciate your prayerful support and understanding as we pursue our purpose in equipping and credentialing pastoral leadership for our congregations and Conference. We trust that our leaders will help make congregational life a safe and nurturing place to be.

J. Andrew Stoner, Chair