

**Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA
Credentialing Ministry Team
South Union Mennonite Church, West Liberty, Ohio
Aug. 7, 2018**

Present: LaVonne Hartman (part-time), Ralph Reinford, Andy Stoner, Vickie Yoder, LaVerne Yousey, Miriam Zehr, Judy King (recorder)

Absent: Jacob Dodson

1. **Sabbatical.** Ralph gave a brief report of his time away and said that it was a real gift to him.
2. **Devotions.** Andy shared a devotional from *Jesus Calling*. We humans tend to want to know why bad or unexpected things happen. Instead of bringing peace, answers often bring more questions. Scripture instructs us to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” In our work, we try to have some degree of understanding. The ultimate understanding is beyond our ability and that leads us to trust. Andy led in prayer.
3. **Healthy Boundaries.** Judy distributed a list of active pastors that have not yet received Healthy Boundaries training. Andy reported that Central District Conference (CDC) is considering offering another training for CDC persons that still need it. He suggested offering an abbreviated version the day before Annual Conference Assembly (ACA), and there was affirmation for doing so. We will send out a written notice of this final training session with an explanation of what will happen if they don’t take the training. We will also send hard copies of the letter to congregational board chairs so they are aware of what will happen to pastoral credentials if training is not received.
4. **Update on misconduct case.** Cliff and Andy gave an update on the current misconduct case.
5. **Interview with Matthew Williams (South Union Mennonite).** Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker and Dick Barrett, who served as Matthew’s mentor, were present. Introductions were made, and Vickie led in prayer.
Matthew Williams was approved for ordination.
6. **Israel Aguilar’s license extension.** Cliff shared a request from Good Shepherd Mennonite requesting a license extension for Israel as he works towards ordination. His license had expired, but he has served at Good Shepherd for seven years. **Action. Credentialing Ministry approves the reinstatement of Israel’s credentials for one year. It was understood that within that period of time, ordination needs to occur.** The letter sent to Israel (and copied to the board chair) will include this explanation.
7. **Jeremy Patterson’s credential.** Jeremy Patterson was ordained by Southeast Mennonite Conference, but Jeremy now lives in Ohio. His credential status has been inactive for several years, and South Central took action to transfer his credential to Ohio Conference. Sonnenberg Mennonite, where Jeremy attends, has agreed to hold his credential, and Credentialing Ministry approved the credential transfer.
8. **Scholarship application.** The Credentialing Ministry Team received and approved an application for a scholarship grant.
9. **Psychological testing/assessment for licensed pastors.** SpringHaven and Shalom both submitted proposals that are fairly comparable. The goal is to make the process as easily accessible as possible for the pastors, which would mean doing the assessments regionally. Andy will contact both organizations and request that the same tests be used at both places. We will also make it known that it is very important that the assessments be completed in a timely manner. It was suggested that this testing be done during the second year of the licensing period.
10. **Interview with Ryan Harker (West Clinton).** Regional Pastor Cliff Brubaker was present. Introductions were made. Andy led in a prayer.

Approved Ryan Harker for licensing towards ordination.

11. **Next meeting.** The next meeting was scheduled for Oct. 30, 2018, at the Kidron office.
12. **Presentation on peer reviews.** As a board-certified chaplain, Vickie Yoder undergoes a peer review every five years and has found it to be a very valuable tool in self-care. She believes it would be a valuable experience for our pastors and shared an example of how the process works. It was suggested that this idea could be introduced at a workshop at ACA. Spiritual direction is another helpful avenue that hasn't been encouraged enough. Vickie offered to promote pastor self-care at a workshop at ACA.

Judy King, recorder