

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA
Credentialing Ministry Team
Zoom meeting
Aug. 25, 2021

Present: Dick Barrett, Dee Custar, Doug King, Myron Weaver, Vickie Yoder (chair), LaVerne Yousey, Judy King (recorder)

1. **Devotions/prayer.** Vickie opened the devotional time by sharing a devotional centered around Joshua 1:9. Read God's word, Claim his promises. Be positive. Press on. God will bring you through difficult situations. God is with you wherever you go. Vickie led in prayer.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the July 20, 2021, meeting were approved as presented.
3. **Healthy Boundaries training follow up.** Vickie and Dick provided an update on the pastors that had not yet taken any Healthy Boundaries training.
4. **Credential transfers.** Two pastors that moved back to Ohio were previously affirmed for transfer. Larry Rohrer's credential transfer has taken place. Sherah-Leigh is still not showing up on the Ohio Conference pastor list. Dick will follow up with the process for Sherah-Leigh. The credential status for both of these individuals is "Active Without Charge."
5. **Code of Ethics and Common Commitments forms.** Dick reported that there was very good conversation and feedback regarding these two forms, nearly all positive, at the pastors' meeting on Aug. 5. Dick will compile the feedback and share a summary at the next meeting.
6. **Interview with Meredith Caldwell.** (Salem, Waldron). Regional Pastor Tony Doehrmann joined the meeting for the interview. Introductions were made. Dick led in prayer.

Meredith was affirmed by all for licensing towards ordination. Vickie explained about the code of ethics form and common commitments form that she will be asked to sign. LaVerne explained about the pastoral scholarships that are available. Tony led a prayer of blessing and affirmation for Meredith and her ministry at Salem Mennonite.
7. **Interview with Brenna Harker.** (West Clinton). Dick Barrett serves as the regional pastor for West Clinton. Introductions were made. Vickie led in prayer.

Brenna was affirmed for licensing towards ordination. Vickie explained that Dick will find a mentor to work with Brenna. She will be asked to sign a code of ethics form and a common commitments form and to take Healthy Boundaries training. LaVerne explained about the pastoral scholarships that are available. Her desire to seek a spiritual director was affirmed and she was asked to be a part of pastor peer group, if possible. Dick led a prayer of blessing and affirmation.
8. **Document Review.** Dick reviewed the draft document, "Communication of Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Complaints." There is a question about what we will release for cases that were dealt with prior to 2016 when the new denominational guidelines were adopted. It was suggested that we seek legal counsel about this to make sure that what we disclose does not open the Conference to litigation. The team was asked to reflect on the draft and send feedback to Dick, to be considered again at the next meeting. Judy will look back to see what information was or was not published prior to 2016.
9. **Next meeting.** The next meeting was scheduled for Sept. 22, 2021, at 9 a.m. as a Zoom meeting.
10. **Adjournment.** Myron closed the meeting with prayer.

Judy King, recorder