

**Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA    DRAFT**  
**Credentialing Ministry Team**  
**Upper Sandusky Library, Upper Sandusky, Ohio**  
**July 12, 2023**

**Present:** Dick Barrett, Doug King (chair), Larry Rohrer, Rachele Lyndaker Schlabach, LaVerne Yousey, Judy King (recorder)

1.    **Welcome and minutes.** Doug welcomed us to the meeting.
2.    **Devotional.** Larry Rohrer shared and acknowledged the grief that we are all feeling at the loss of one of our team members. (Dee Custar resigned from the team.) Ruth Haley Barton talks about the season of letting go in her book *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*. She focuses on the end of ministry when something shifts, and we come to the point of realizing all of our dreams will not come true. Change comes. God draws us closer to himself. He also read from Deuteronomy about the end of Moses's ministry. God showed Moses the land of Canaan, where he died. God's presence was the promised land, and everything else pales in comparison. He led in prayer.
3.    **Minutes.** The minutes of the May 17, 2023, meeting were approved as presented. M/S/P
4.    **Interview with Valentine Iroha** (Good Shepherd Mennonite Church). Tony Doehrmann, regional pastor, joined the meeting for the interview. Introductions were made, and Doug led in prayer.

**Valentine was affirmed for licensing towards ordination.**

Prayers were offered by the Credentialing Ministry Team for Valentine and his ministry.

5.    **Interview with Hector Velez.** Hector serves as a chaplain to motorcycle gangs. Introductions were made, and Dick led in prayer. Hector was asked about his ministry.

**Hector was re-affirmed for a specialized license as a chaplain.**

Prayers of blessing were offered for Hector and his ministry.

6.    **Interview with Rosalind Young** (Presently from Lee Heights Community Church). Introductions were made, and Larry led in prayer.

**Rosalind was affirmed for licensing towards ordination.**

8.    **Leadership Team update.** Rachele reported that the Leadership Team met with our consultant in the review process, Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi and processed threats and opportunities moving forward. Jeanne is preparing to lead the credentialed pastors' meeting in August.
9.    **Conference Minister updates.** Dick reported that Shawn Hilliard has resigned at Martins due to an increased role at Central Christian School. Sean Swanson resigned at First Mennonite in Canton to move back to Indiana for a different ministry assignment.
10.    **Next meeting.** The next meeting was scheduled for Aug. 24, 2023, at 9 a.m. via Zoom.

Judy King, recorder