

Standing Committees

General Policies

Standing committees are accountable to the delegates through the Leadership Council. Standing committees provide annual reports of their work to the Leadership Council, which forwards the reports to delegates.

Except as noted, all terms are for two years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms per Committee. Exceptions to the six-year limit are at the discretion of the Leadership Council. For the purpose of continuity, terms should be staggered. Appointments are made by the Conference Assembly upon the recommendation of the Gifts Discernment Committee. Standing committees are accountable to the Leadership Council.

Spending plan requests for standing ministries are made by the Leadership Council. Expenses of these ministries are monitored and approved by the Stewardship Committee.

Credentialing Committee

1. Membership

The Credentialing Committee consists of a chairperson, up to four additional members and the Conference Minister.

2. Purpose Statement

The Credentialing Committee exists to assure that the Conference congregations have suitable, approved, cared-for, accountable pastoral leadership.

3. Relationship to:

- a. *Credentialed Staff* — The Credentialing Committee will work with credentialed staff in the credentialing of pastors for serving Conference congregations or other specialized ministries. Credentialed staff may attend Credentialing Committee meetings as needed.
- b. *Ohio Mennonite Conference Congregations* — The Credentialing Committee will work with congregations through credentialed staff.
- c. The Credentialing Committee has access to ministerial information and resources through the Office of Church Vitality of Mennonite Church USA.

4. Functions

- a. Credentials for Pastors
 - 1) It is the responsibility of the Credentialing Committee to establish policy and procedures for the credentialing of pastors called to serve Ohio Mennonite Conference congregations and/or other specialized ministries.

- 2) The Credentialing Committee will examine ministerial candidates, act upon congregational requests for licensure, ordination, and transfer of leadership credentials, and authorize the Conference Minister and/or another credentialed staff and/or a member of the Credentialing Committee to officiate on behalf of the Conference in such situations.
 - 3) The Credentialing Committee will oversee the implementation of disciplinary procedures in accordance with Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures.
- b. Education and Nurture
- 1) Establish educational requirements for credentialing and promote continuing professional development in consultation with the Leadership Council.
 - 2) Manage the Pastoral Leadership Development Fund, which provides financial assistance to pastors and pastors-in-training.
 - 3) Assist credentialed staff in offering guidance and care for retired pastors.
- c. Vision for the Future
- 1) Develop strategies to identify, nurture, and call prospective pastoral leaders from within the congregation.
 - 2) Provide financial support for the Ministry Inquiry Program of Mennonite colleges as it relates to the Ohio Mennonite Conference.