

**Ministerial Leadership Commission**  
**(May 2019 - May 2020)**  
**Brad Roth**

Members: Rachel Epp Miller (chair), Brad Roth, Dave Stevens, Peter Goerzen, Gail Graber (through July), Rachel Ringenberg Miller (beginning September), and Todd Schlosser (beginning September)

The Ministerial Leadership Commission has fulfilled its constitutional duties in the past year in the following ways:

**Credentialing candidates for ministry:**

Credential transfers: Out: Kay Schroeder, Terry Rediger, Richard Gehring, Barbara Krehbiel Gehring, Duane Beachey, Sylvia Klauser

Licensing toward ordination: David Richardson Spaite, Renee Reimer, Debra Sapp Yarwood (extension), Christina Manero, Scott Litwiller, Asia Frye, Graciela Tijerina

MLC also assigned mentors to individuals licensed toward ordination.

Ordination: Steven Wilcox, Peter Emery, Ben Woodward Breckbill, Roseanne Penner Kaufman

Credential changed to Active without Charge: Antonio Caceros

Credential changed to Retired: Duane Beachey

Terminated: Ted Regier

**Supporting personal and spiritual growth for pastoral leadership through counsel, personal evaluation, continuing education, and professional assistance.**

- Approved 19 education grants for credentialed ministers
- Awarded 6 sabbatical grants
- Granted 3 scholarships for transitional ministry training
- Awarded 3 grants to assist with pastor debt reduction from Everence/Lilly matching fund
- Approved 2 congregational grant requests toward conflict resolution.
- Interviewed or received letters from pastors who performed same sex marriage ceremonies. Following WDC procedures implementing the Rainbow Resolution, a note was placed on each pastor's MennoData record, the denominational ministerial data-base.

**Supporting a code of ministerial ethics in keeping with Mennonite Church USA documents.**

- MLC received and processed information about sexual misconduct by a minister that took place approximately 30 years ago in Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Pastor's credentials were changed from "Retired-Withdrawn" to "Terminated."
- MLC processed a ministerial sexual misconduct case. After the Investigative Committee completed their work, the Commission found that misconduct more likely than not occurred and moved to

change the pastor's credentials to Terminated. That sanction is pending, as the pastor has appealed, and the Appeal process is ongoing.

- Healthy Boundaries training for credentialed ministers, October 11, 2019 and April 17, 2020.
- Worked with Iglesia Menonita Hispana to compose and send letter to participants in former Healthy Boundaries trainings addressing former Associate Conference Minister Byron Pellecer's involvement in Healthy Boundaries training.

**Resourcing ministry teams that include pastors and deacons through workshops, retreats, and other appropriate events.**

- Healthy Boundaries Training
- Leadership Lunches
- Co-sponsored Transitional Ministers Training at Camp Mennoscah with South Central Conference
- Received a leadership training grant from Kansas Leadership Center
- Worked together with SCC to celebrate 5 years of collaboration and learning with the Kansas Leadership Center. A celebration event was delayed due to Covid-19.

**Undertaking policy work:**

- Continued to give counsel to Heidi Regier Kreider and process working document: "Review of Western District Conference Culture and Responsibilities."
- Explored ways to offer support to transitional pastors who move frequently between short term assignments.
- Created an information and application form for the Congregational Development Grant, a restricted fund administered by the MLC.