

Ministerial Leadership Commission
(covering May 2020-June 2021)
Brad Roth, MLC Member

Members: Rachel Epp Miller (chair), Brad Roth, Dave Stevens, Peter Goerzen, Rachel Ringenberg Miller, and Todd Schlosser

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

Credentialing candidates for ministry:

Credential transfers

Robert Yutzy - from WDC to Virginia Conference

Harold Dyck - from WDC to Mennonite Church Manitoba

Phil Schmidt - from WDC to Indiana/Michigan Conference

Gabriel Pennington - To WDC from South Central Mennonite Conference

Tim Schrag - To WDC from Illinois Conference and Central District Conference

Ordination Credential changed from Active Without Charge to Active:

Roger Neufeld Smith

Luann Yutzy

Randy Smith

Inactive Ordination Credential Reactivated:

Jim Unruh

License for Specific Ministry:

Susan Hart

License Toward Ordination Expired

Asia Frye

License Toward Ordination

Linda Lewis - License Toward Ordination (extended)

Michael Unruh

MLC also assigned mentors to newly licensed individuals.

Ordination

Debra Sapp Yarwood

John Garland

Kristine Regehr (Active Without Charge as of 5/31/21)

Sandra Montes-Martinez

Caleb Yoder
David Richardson Spaite
Renee Reimer

Active without Charge

Peter Emery
Anita Yoder Kehr
Blanca Vargas
Brett Klingenberg
Marshall Anderson

Retired

Lawrence Hart (9/30/19)
Rosie Jantz
Steve Schmidt
Julio Duenas
Rosie Epp
Gail Graber
Kathryn Goering Reid

Inactive

Jerry Truex

Withdrawn

D.A. Raber
Raymond Unruh
Robert Kaufman
Byron Pellecer
David Quiring

License for Specific Ministry Suspended

Terminated

Donald Steelberg

Deceased

John Gaeddert
Margaret Ediger
Jacob Friesen
Stan Bohn

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

- Approved 12 education grants for credentialed ministers

- No sabbatical grants were awarded during this period
- Granted 3 scholarships for transitional ministry training
- 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 database.

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

- Worked extensively with a congregation negotiating a complicated relational and employment matter and paid for multiple parties to enter a facilitated restorative process, which was ultimately unsuccessful.
- Processed a case of pastoral misconduct by a retired pastor that led to the pastor's credentials being terminated.
- Processed a report of pastoral misconduct that upon investigation was found to be unsubstantiated.
- Carried out policy requiring all pastors to take Healthy Boundaries training and followed up with pastors that did not take the training by placing them on probation.
- Discerned best practice for compliance to Healthy Boundaries for retired ministers.
- Members of MLC completed the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and worked through anti-racism training provided by Widerstand through MCUSA.
- In consultation with Executive Board, began discernment regarding credentialing LGBTQIA+ persons
- Began work on a draft of guidelines to use when WDC receives a *report* of misconduct (in contrast to when a formal complaint is lodged)

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

- Received and commended a proposal to offer leadership coaching to pastors and other congregational leaders.
- Worked with Heidi Regier Kreider to develop a proposal for pastors to apply for grants from the Hope Fund to be used for counseling, coaching, or therapy due to the stresses of the pandemic.
- MLC members cooperated to contact every WDC actively credentialed minister and express appreciation for them and their ministry.

Undertaking policy work:

- Communication of Credential Status.
- Reviewed proposed updates to MLC section of WDC policy manual
- MLC began meeting monthly for slightly shorter meetings to facilitate more "balcony time." We acknowledge that the past year has been particularly intense in regards to the number and complexity of pastoral misconduct cases.