Ministerial Leadership Commission Annual Report
(covering June 12, 2025-June 11, 2026)
Submitted by Samuel Voth Schrag, MLC Chair

MLC Members: Samuel Voth Schrag (Chair) Cynthia Neufeld Smith, Linda Ewert, Gilberto Flores, Elizabeth Melendez, Todd Schlosser

Staff liaison: Heidi Regier Kreider, conference minister

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

Tending ministers' credential status:
Key to credential status: A = Active, AWC = Active Without Charge, I = Inactive, R = Retired, W = Withdrawn

New or extended credentials (Ordination, Licensing Toward Ordination or License for Specific Ministry)
-10/8/25 - Peter Wintermote approved for License for Specific Ministry
-11/05/25 - William Cork approved for Ordination
-11/05/25 - Andrew Dungan approved for Ordination
-12/10/25 - Chris Weaver reestablishment of Ordination Credential
-3/11/26 - Tammy Duvanel Unruh granted License Towards Ordination
-5/20/26 - Luke Unruh approved for Ordination

Credential changes (Transfers, Active to Active without charge, Active without charge to Active, Active to Retired, Expired, Inactive, Change in assignment, Withdrawn, etc)

-4/10/25 - John C Murray ended as Resident Chaplain at Wesley Medical Center, Wichita, KS; A->AWC
-4/21/25 - John C Murray began as Chaplain at Valley Hope, Moundridge, KS; AWC->A
-6/30/25 - Sara Dick ended as Interim Pastor at Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS; A->AWC
-7/1/25 - Henry Duvanel Unruh began as Interim Pastor at Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS; his credential is held in Ohio Mennonite Conference
-7/7/25 - Sara Dick began as Sabbatical Coverage Pastor at Manhattan Mennonite Church, Manhattan, KS; AWC->A
-7/15/25 - Rosi Penner Kaufman ended as Interim Pastor at Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence, KS; continues as Associate Pastor at Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, KS; A
-7/21/25 - Ruth Harder began as Pastor at Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS; AWC->A
-8/30/25 - Wendy Miller's credential changed from Active without Charge to Inactive
-8/31/25 - Renee Reimer ended as Interim Pastor at Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, KS; A->AWC
-9/1/25 - Luann Yutzy began as Transitional Pastor at Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, KS; AWC->A
-9/30/25 - Elizabeth Schmidt ended as Pastor for Congregational Care at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS; A->E (LSM)
-10/7/25 - Sara Dick ended as Sabbatical Coverage Pastor at Manhattan Mennonite Church, Manhattan, KS; A->AWC

-10/8/25 – Tammy Duvanel Unruh began as Pastor at Salina Mennonite Church, Salina, KS; Not yet credentialed
-10/7/25 - Roger Neufeld Smith began as Interim Pastor at Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence, KS; R->A
-10/31/25 - Rosie Jantz ended as Interim Pastor at Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, KS; A->R
-11/1/25 - Sara Dick began as Interim Pastor at First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS; AWC->A
-11/3/25 - Peter Emery ended as Pastor at First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS; A->R
-11/5/25 - Micah Hurst applied for accreditation with Open Baptists in Australia, where he is pastor of Ashfield Baptist Church; AWC->Inactive
-9/30/25 - Clarence Rempel ended as Regional Ministry Coach of South Central District of LMC; A->R
-12/2/25 - Fernando Pérez transferred his Ordination credential from Mountain States Mennonite Conference. -7/1/25 - Began as WDC Hispanic Transitional Ministry Resource Co-Facilitator; AWC->A
-12/2/25 - Rebeca González transferred her Ordination credential from Mountain States Mennonite Conference; 7/1/25 - Began as WDC Hispanic Transitional Ministry Resource Co-Facilitator; AWC->A
-1/1/26 - Christopher Weaver began as Co-Pastor at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church; AWC->A
-1/1/26 - Alva Pérez González began as Co-Pastor at Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania; AWC->A
-1/1/26 - Mario Rocha Iglesias began as Co-Pastor at Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania; AWC->A
-1/14/26 - Wayne Albrecht's Retired ordination credential changed to Withdrawn per his request. R->W
-3/1/26 - Henry Duvanel Unruh began as Pastor at Grace Hill Mennonite Church. His Ordination credential was transferred from Ohio Mennonite Conference to WDC; A
-4/8/26 - Lee Lever's credential status changed from AWC -> R
-4/30/26 - Lauren Friesen transferred his Inactive ordination credential from Central District Conference to WDC; I
-5/31/26 - Roger Neufeld Smith ended as Interim Pastor at Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence, KS; A->R
-6/5/26 - Karen Andres ended as Chaplain at Kidron Bethel Village, North Newton, KS; A->R

Deceased
-12/9/25 - Ronald Allen Krehbiel
-2/20/26 - Moses Mast
-5/1/26 - Joan Bal

Supporting personal and spiritual growth for pastoral leadership through counsel, personal evaluation, continuing education and professional assistance:
-Approved 32 continuing education grants for credentialed ministers, totaling $2,570
-Approved 3 sabbatical grant, totaling $1,500
-Approved seminary scholarships for 4 individuals, totaling $1,606.13
-Approved ministry inquiry program scholarships for 2 individuals, totaling $375
-Approved 1 Kids Meet Christ Coaching Scholarship for $600
-Provided mentors for new ministers

-Supported congregations and pastors navigating conflict and change, and pastoral review, accountability and discernment processes, using our Congregational Development Fund.
· Carried out the policy requiring all ministers to take Healthy Boundaries training.

Resourcing ministry teams that include pastors and deacons through workshops, retreats, and other appropriate events:
· MLC sponsored a retreat for English speaking pastors in Wichita, May 1-2. A Spanish retreat is planned for the fall.
· MLC is planning a “come and go” reception for pastors at the Annual Assembly of WDC.

MLC has been working to create a process for credentialing pastors in congregations outside the US, including a Spanish language equivalent to the MLI and pathways to acquire appropriate background checks. Two congregations in Guatemala have joined WDC. MLC oversees the application process for coaching scholarships for the Kids Meet Christ program.