

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO PSMC

Committee members: Ken Seitz, chair; John Lawrence, Arizona; Minka Van der Zwaag, N. California; and James Brenneman, S. California. The three area ministers routinely meet with PLC and assist in its work. Since John Lawrence is out of the country indefinitely, PSMC Board of Directors has approved inviting Kathy Keener Shantz as a second Arizona representative to PLC until June 2001. Throughout the year the Committee met in Tuscon, Pasadena, and San Jose.

Conference bylaws assign the following responsibilities to PLC:

1. To be available to congregations and pastors (licensed or ordained) in their church-pastor relationships. The Committee offers support, counsel, and service in the best interests of all concerned. The Committee relates to all persons credentialed by it for ministry.
2. In cooperation with congregations and area ministers the Committee is responsible to examine candidates for the ministry and at its discretion grant credentials for ministry:
 - a. Commissioning--calling a person to a particular ministry task, usually limited both in time and geographically.
 - b. Licensing--licenses for ministry are granted to persons who are testing their call to ministry. Licenses are for a maximum of two years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the committee.
 - c. Ordination--recognition by the Conference and a congregation of a person's lifetime call to ministry.
3. The Committee seeks to provide opportunity for pastors and potential pastors, as well as others credentialed for ministry, for personal growth and personal improvement.

This year ministerial license has been granted to:

1. Stephen Penner, First Mennonite Church, Reedley, California
2. Cornelius Johnson, Jr., Los Angeles Faith Chapel, California
3. John McDaniel, Los Angeles Faith Chapel, California
4. Emmanuel Ogbonna, Los Angeles Faith Chapel, California
5. Claude Flowers, Family Mennonite Church, Los Angeles, California
6. George Attanonu, The Great Commission Deliverance Church, Los Angeles, California
7. Shermanita Camp, Hollywood Christian Center, Westchester, California
8. Windel Moody, Royal Dominion Family Chapel, Los Angeles, California

Two-year extension of ministerial license granted to:

1. Frank James, Upper Room Mennonite Church, Chinle, Arizona

Ordination recommended to PSMC Board of Directors:

1. Heather Bean, Peace House Fellowship, Claremont, California
2. Kathy Keener Shantz, Trinity Mennonite Church, Phoenix, Arizona
3. Mike Sherrill*, Pasadena Mennonite Church, California
4. Teresa Sherrill*, Pasadena Mennonite Church, California
5. Bert Newton*, Pasadena Mennonite Church, California

*** Indicates "Ministerial Associate" status. Such persons serve in a ministerial capacity as an extension of a congregation, but without assignment in the congregation itself.

Transfer of ordination recommended to PSMC Board of Directors:

1. Clement and Evenly Nwani, Foursquare Gospel Church Nigeria, Abundant Life Miracle Christian Center, Los Angeles, California
2. Doris Greer, Pentecostal Mission Church of Deliverance, Faith and Love Christian Center, Los Angeles, California
3. Femi Fatunmbi, Royal Dominion Worldwide Ministerial Association, Royal Dominion Family Chapel

The Committee also moved to reactive ministerial credentials for Brian Bauman serving as conference minister for Northern California following Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower's move to Indonesia in August 1999.

Other Matters

1. Without a functioning Evangelism and Church Development Committee, PLC does become involved in matters of church development. This is particularly the case when discussing pastoral leadership for emerging congregations. In essence, PLC serves a dual role in the conference committee structure. It works quite well, actually.
2. Jeff Wright, Brian Bauman, and Al Whaley requested PLC to have the title "conference minister" rather than "area minister," making the claim that the former is more descriptive of the tasks and responsibilities associated with this staff assignment. The Committee agrees to honor this request.
3. As various growing congregations, particularly in the Los Angeles area, seek to carry out the Great Commission in diverse ministries, leadership is being sought out and developed. This results in numerous requests for licensing to ministry; the Committee is inclined favorably toward these requests as an opportunity to test gifting for future leadership and meeting tremendous need where such congregations are located. (See Conference Bylaws for PLC, 2c [above]).

Finally, as a Committee, we rejoice in the Lord's calling many individuals to serve in pastoral leadership in this conference. It is a pleasure to help them and their congregations on their way.

Ken Seitz
May 24, 2000