

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO PSMC

Since Al Whaley, formerly a member of the committee representing Arizona, has become area minister for Arizona, it was necessary to replace him. We are grateful that John Lawrence, pastor of Koinonia congregation in Chandler, Arizona, has agreed to serve on PLC. Ken Seitz continues as chair; other members are James Brenneman, S. California and Minka Van der Zwaag, N. California. The three area ministers assist the committee in its work and routinely meet with the Committee.

Conference bylaws assign the following concerns 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 professional improvement.

This year ministerial licenses have been granted to :

1. Buddy Hananto, Indonesian Mennonite Church, Alhambra, California
2. Bert Newton*, Pasadena Mennonite Church, Pasadena, California
3. Meg O'Brien*, Pasadena Mennonite Church, Pasadena, California
4. Mike Sherrill*, Pasadena Mennonite Church, Pasadena, California
5. Teresa Sherrill*, Pasadena Mennonite Church, Pasadena, California
6. Arnie Bean*, Peace House Fellowship, Claremont, California

The following ministerial licenses have been extended for an additional two years:

1. Kathy Keener Shantz, Trinity Mennonite Church, Glendale, Arizona
 2. Tina Schlabaugh, Shalom Mennonite Church, Tuscon, Arizona
 3. Will Friesen*, Mennonite Community Church, Fresno, 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.

One ordination was recommended for approval by the Conference Board:

1. Albert Asante, Labor for Christ Ministry, Los Angeles, California

Over the course of this year's work, the committee has advanced in its efforts to relate to the steps for ministerial credentialing as provided in the purple resource packet for Mennonite Churches. We continue to be blessed and challenged with various aspects of our work, including the multi-cultural nature of the ministerial leadership group in PSMC.

Ken Seitz
April 27, 1999