

Summary report on the Faith and Life Commission Meetings of August 31 and October 19, 2018

EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE MINISTER'S reports included the following:

- **Spring Credentialed Leaders' Consultation.** Clyde is working on a May 2019 Credentialed Leaders' Consultation focusing on opioid addiction. Unlike most forms of addiction, opioid addiction often begins with medically prescribed medication that users find themselves unable to wean themselves from. This creates unique ministry challenges.
- **Revitalizing Congregations.** Clyde is planning a resourcing event on February 16, 2019 after the FLC meeting, with Michael Danner facilitating. Michael is MC USA's associate executive director for church vitality and engagement. Clyde is accountable to Michael, who succeeds Terry Shue, former denominational minister for MC USA.

RESTRUCTURE FOR MISSION. Conference Moderator Elroy Miller presented the Restructure for Mission Committee's draft paper "An Overall Design for VMC." Under this proposal, FLC will remain as is with the exception of credentialing. FLC will continue to provide credentialing guidelines but a new Ministerial Leadership Credentials Committee will do the actual credentialing work.

The "Overall Design" uses the term "credentials misuse", which Elroy defined as a credentialed leader who deviates from conference guidelines related to faith and practice. Elroy stated that the document considered feedback from Summer Assembly 2018, and from district discussions since Assembly. The final paper will be introduced at Winter 2019 Delegate Session.

NAVIGATING MISCONDUCT. Members discussed the document "Navigating Misconduct" and the summary of feedback from districts. Increasingly misconduct investigations focus on three key questions:

- What did you know?
- When did you know what you know?
- What did you do about it?

Clyde also reported that the MC USA Executive Board rescinded their action approving the Sexual Abuse Panel's document, "Prevention and Response: Sexual Misconduct and Non-credentialed Leaders", as policy. They then took action to indicate that the document is now merely a recommendation.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES: Robert Wenger resigned from his role as chair of the Credentials Committee for family reasons. Kathy Hochstedler, Carl Mericle, and Dawn Monger were reappointed to serve on that Committee, and Kathy succeeds Robert as chair. Craig Maven was appointed to the Committee as well.

Beryl Jantzi will serve on the Placement Committee.

Aldine Musser (chair), Gloria Diener and Beryl Jantzi are reappointed to the Leadership Enrichment Committee.

Oversight Leader Updates. Carl Mericle was reappointed as oversight minister for Eastern District. Spencer Bradford concluded his time as oversight minister for Eastern Carolina District. Kevin Gasser accepted the role of teaching cluster leader, and Pearl Hartman accepted the role of chaplains cluster leader. Each will serve as interims for one year.

SHARED UNDERSTANDINGS... FLC members spent considerable time discussing the MC USA document *A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership*, which VMC uses for ethics training, when interviewing candidates for credentialing, and orienting new credentialed leaders. FLC affirmed using *A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership* (2017) as a framework for equipping pastors.

UPDATE ON HEALTHY BOUNDARY TRAINING A Healthy Boundary training was held on November 3, 2018 at Calvary (C3 Hampton). This training is mandatory for all active (assigned and unassigned) credentialed leaders.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Hange
Acting FLC Chair