

**Congregational Life Commission
Virginia Mennonite Conference
Report to Winter Delegate Session
February 2, 2019**

The Congregational Life Commission serves as a liaison between several ministries that are represented on the Commission. Currently they include Mennonite Women of Virginia, and Virginia Mennonite Missions. Other ministries that are represented on the commission when there is an appointee are the Peace Advocate, Mennonite Men of Virginia, and youth.

Virginia Mennonite Conference Youth Council

For several years there has been an informal youth council representing several churches in the Harrisonburg area. Micah Hurst serves as its spokesperson. The Commission affirmed the role of the council and Micah. The council will continue to function and report to the CLC on a regular basis as its link to VMC. The CLC has asked Micah to create a "Memo of Understanding". When complete VMC will be able to hold and distribute funds for the council which they have received through donation.

The CLC has asked the youth council to expand its reach to include all churches in VMC, which they did for the junior high and senior retreats last year. We are excited to see this ministry come to fruition during this time without a conference youth minister

Mennonite Men of Virginia

There has not been an active men's ministry in VMC for the past four years when the last leader resigned. The CLC actively sought someone to pick up the role as leader. No one was found.

The Commission created a survey to assess the level of interest in a conference wide men's ministry. Eleven churches responded. The results of the survey clearly suggested that at this time there is not a strong call for a conference wide men's ministry in VMC.

Therefore, the CLC recommended to Conference Council that the CLC no longer pursue a leader and that Mennonite Men of Virginia be discontinued until someone with a passion for the ministry comes forward. The following action was taken by the Conference Council on November 17, 2018:

Action. *On motion Council members, upon the Congregational Life Commission's recommendation, discontinue Mennonite Men of Virginia until a leader with a strong passion for a men's ministry within VMC comes forward.*

Mennonite Women of Virginia

Mennonite Women of Virginia held their fall retreat in October. It was attended by 135 women and represented a wider geographic area than usual. An offering exceeding \$1500.00 was received for the Mennonite Women USA Scholarship Fund. A retreat is planned for October 25-27, 2019.

The annual mission's day, now called "Women Encouraging Women through Prayer" will be held on February 21 at Ridgeway Mennonite Church. An emphasis is being made to encourage women from the VMC Hispanic churches to attend.

Due to logistical issues, MWV was not able to host their annual prayer breakfast during the 2018 VMC summer assembly at Hampton, VA in July. One is being planned for the 2019 summer assembly.

2018 Summer Assembly Workshops

The CLC planned and coordinated the summer assembly workshops. The following four were offered: Prayer - Hearing God's Answer; Perils of the Legacy Church; Evangelism Aversion Recovery and Altering the 3D Experience of Digital Screen Technology on our Faith. The workshops were well attended and appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

James Musser, Chair