

Leadership Discernment Committee (LDC) Report to Delegates – Kansas City 2015



Every biennium the LDC begins its work anew. We have before us the open board positions of the Mennonite Church USA agencies and the Executive Board. We then spend the next year plus considering the needs of the boards with the names that come to us from you: congregational members, pastors, area conference ministers and area conference leaders.

The most challenging position to discern is moderator-elect. The LDC is very pleased that David Boshart has accepted the nomination for moderator-elect.

The LDC members meet together in person at the beginning of the biennium and then work by conference calls (usually 20-22). We spend our time praying, listening, talking, and ultimately discerning and trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our goal is always to discern gifted, skilled people who are passionate about serving God through Mennonite Church USA.

Your suggestions and recommendations are essential to the work we do on behalf of the church. We thank all of you who have helped by giving us thorough and honest references and we encourage you to continue submitting names of persons who might serve on churchwide boards.

We are rolling out a new system so that you can give suggestions online. Just go to the Mennonite Church USA website, www.mennoniteusa.org.

Every biennium approximately half of the board members' terms expire and the LDC is charged with discerning people to nominate. This biennium 14 nominees were discerned for delegates to consider: eight incumbents agreed to be nominated for another term and six new candidates agreed to be nominated.

Also during the biennium, the Executive Board made six EB appointments of three incumbents and three new appointees. In addition, the Executive Board appointed four members to complete unexpired terms of board members who resigned. You will find all this information in the notebook on your tables.

Additional thoughts from the LDC:

- We received many positive responses from incumbents willing to serve another term. We give thanks for their contributions and their willingness to continue serving.
- Many people have responded to new calls for consideration to serve Mennonite Church USA. We thank them for agreeing to help our churchwide agencies in this way. Others were invited, but they discerned the need to decline at this time. We also thank them for considering the invitation.
- The Mennonite Church USA bylaws continue to guide the LDC in ensuring board representation:
 - A ratio of 50/50 women to men.
 - A ratio of 20/80 Racial/Ethnic members to Anglo members.

Leadership Discernment Committee Report to Delegates – Kansas City 2015

- The LDC considers age and geographical region in order to hear from the different voices of the church. We have sought to include younger persons along with those who have many years of experience and we attempt to include representatives from across the U.S.
- While it is no longer a bylaw requirement, we remain mindful of a 40/60 former General Conference to former Mennonite Church balance. More and more these lines are fading, especially with leaders who do not come from either former denomination, but instead are from Mennonite Church USA.

Again, I wish to express my appreciation to LDC members, not just for their time commitment, but also for their willingness to fully invest themselves in the hard work of discernment. We give thanks to God for leading us in this work.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Leadership Discernment Committee,

Horace McMillon, chair

LDC members:

Dionicio Acosta, Lancaster, Pa.
Kim Vu Friesen, Minneapolis, Minn.
Horace McMillon, Jackson, Miss.
Paula Brunk Kuhns, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Edie Landis, Telford, Pa.

George Stoltzfus, Landisville, Pa.
Sharon Waltner, Parker, S.D.
Executive Board staff members
working with the LDC:
Terry Shue and Kathryn Rodgers