

BYLAWS New York Mennonite Conference

Article I: Name, Scope, and Office

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization is NYS Fellowship of the Mennonite Church, Inc., dba New York Mennonite Conference.

Section 2. Scope. This organization is established with the member Mennonite congregations, and is known as a conference within the Mennonite Church USA. A conference is defined in the Bylaws for Mennonite Church USA, Article IV, Section 1, which Bylaws were adopted by the Mennonite Church USA General Assembly in Nashville, Tennessee, July 2001.

Article II: Purpose

The New York Mennonite Conference is formed for the following purposes:

1. To provide resources and a spiritual atmosphere conducive to growth of individuals and other local autonomous fellowships and congregations within our conference.
2. To examine and interpret unique Mennonite and/or Anabaptist beliefs within rural, urban, and suburban settings, to witness to the truth of Christianity in our conference, and to support Christian activities throughout the world.
3. To aid individuals and/or groups of Christians in discovering their God-given gifts and provide, as is feasible, the environment and resources necessary to employ these gifts for God's glory in meeting the needs for which these gifts were granted.
4. To undertake services and to provide programs covering the broad spectrum of spiritual, emotional, physical, and human-social needs. Programs would include supplying personnel and funds for specific and general projects, as deemed necessary to meet the particular identified need, as is feasible.
5. To promote a spirit of Christian unity and fellowship among the members and congregations of the Mennonite churches, and a recognition of the unity and fellowship of Christ which transcends group boundaries.
6. To enable congregations to join in serving needs that must be met from a broader base of resources than a single congregation or cluster of congregations can supply.
7. To provide a context for development of appropriate leadership for the church's life at all levels of its relationships.
8. To provide channels of communication between all levels of church life on a two-way basis effectively relating the programs and organizations of the church to the wishes, needs, and mission of the congregation.
9. To promote evangelism and the building of the church of Christ to achieve significant and continuing growth in members and congregations, and to inspire a vision of the worldwide nature of the church.

Article III: Membership

The congregation is the basic unit of the New York Mennonite Conference organization. For the purposes of this document any congregation qualifies to be a member of the New York Mennonite Conference if it fulfills the following criteria:

1. Guided by the biblical faith as expressed in the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995) as well as statements of faith noted in the introduction to this 1995 document.
2. Guided by A Shared Understanding of Church Leadership: A Polity Manual for Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA or its successor document as adopted by Mennonite Church USA as a guide that informs NYMC's understandings of church leadership and congregational practice.

3. Maintenance of a membership roster or affirmation of covenanting participants.
4. Keep Jesus Christ at the center of their faith and action.
5. Affirm commitment to congregational discernment that is biblically based, Christ-centered, and Spirit-led.
6. Regular participation in conference gatherings, giving and receiving counsel, providing regular financial support, and willingness for congregational members to serve in conference leadership positions.
7. When applicable, follow MC USA guidelines for changing conference affiliation.

Article IV: The Congregation

Section 1. Role and Function. The congregation is God's people meeting for reconciliation, witness, worship, service, discernment, mutual fellowship, admonition, and discipline. The congregation finds broader meaning as it becomes a part of the larger brotherhood beyond itself, but this larger relationship must not inhibit or deny the congregation's centrality in the life and witness of the New York Mennonite Conference. Any agency or program beyond that of the congregation, undertaken in our state, is intended only to assist and facilitate the congregation in fulfilling its function.

Section 2. Relationship. The congregations meeting the requirements set forth in Article III may seek membership in the New York Mennonite Conference. Membership is sought voluntarily on the part of the congregation and may be terminated by the congregation or the Conference at any time based on guidelines noted in Appendix F. Congregations may seek the status of Observers or Friends of New York Mennonite Conference, which status will avail them of listing on the website and welcome attendance at Conference gatherings, not to include voting rights in the Delegate Assembly.

Section 3. Conference Minister focused leadership:

1. Each congregation shall have a designated Conference Minister appointed by the Coordinating Council. (See also Article VI, Section 1, Item 5).
2. The duties of the Conference Ministers are outlined in Appendix D.

Article V: Delegate Assembly

Section 1. Role and Function. A Delegate Assembly shall be constituted as a conference body representative of the constituency through congregational or fellowship delegates. The assembly shall function in the following ways:

1. Provide opportunity for representatives of the church to speak their voice in the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies.
2. Provide opportunity for representatives of the church to assemble for worship, fellowship, acquaintance and understanding, and to deepen Christian commitment.
3. Receive reports from the Coordinating Council, its commissions and committees, and any additional program boards. Reports shall be presented in writing and shall include financial accounting.
4. Act on annual budgets and programs as recommended by the Coordinating Council.
5. Elect members of the Coordinating Council.
6. Elect a layperson to the Leadership Commission and affirm members to other commissions as noted in Appendix E.
7. Approve appointments made by the Coordinating Council to fill unexpired terms of any members retiring from the offices listed under 5 and 6 above.

Section 2. Representation. Each member congregation is eligible to send delegates to the Delegate Assembly as follows:

1. Each congregation with membership of 20 or greater shall appoint two congregational delegates, in addition to the pastoral delegate. If the congregation's membership is greater than 100, one additional congregational delegate

for each 100 members or fraction thereof shall be appointed. Congregations with less than 20 members shall have 1 delegate, in addition to the pastoral delegate.

- a. The pastor of a member congregation, as outlined in Article III, shall be a pastoral delegate of this Delegate Assembly. Congregations having no designated pastor may still choose a pastoral delegate to fill that role at Delegate Assemblies/ meetings. Those having a pastoral team shall designate only one individual as the pastoral delegate. (Note: other pastors may fill the role of congregational delegates at the discretion of the congregation).
 - b. Other pastors who are carrying a specific leadership charge from the conference shall be considered voting delegates.
2. Each delegate to the Delegate Assembly should be a member of their congregation, who ideally is well informed of all congregational needs within their congregation. The congregations are encouraged to appoint or elect delegates who are interested in the church's work at the conference level and who have the time and energy necessary to involve themselves in the life of the church at this level. However, each congregation shall itself determine who may be its delegates and by what method its delegates shall be selected. Each delegate shall be willing to attend the Assembly meetings and should have the leadership skills to represent the congregation to the Delegate Assembly and to represent the Delegate Assembly to the congregation.

Section 3. Officers and Duties. The Delegate Assembly shall elect members to the Coordinating Council, as outlined in Article VI, Section 2. This committee shall be the official representative of the Delegate Assembly, taking the initiative in providing leadership to promote the interests and welfare of the Delegate Assembly. Listed below are specific duties:

1. The moderator of the Coordinating Council shall preside as chair at all delegate sessions. Additional duties of the moderator are listed in Appendix B.
2. The assisting moderator shall, at the request of the moderator or in the moderator's absence or disability, exercise the responsibilities of the moderator. Additional duties of the assisting moderator are listed in Appendix C.
3. The secretary shall be responsible for serving at all Delegate Assembly meetings and shall record the minutes, maintain records, and conduct official correspondence on behalf of the Delegate Assembly.
4. The treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining records of the Conference's finances.

Section 4. Meetings.

1. The Delegate Assembly shall meet at least twice each year in regular session. Meeting notice will be sent to pastoral delegates 6 weeks prior to the meeting date. Pastoral delegates are responsible to notify congregational delegates.
2. Special sessions of the Delegate Assembly may be called by:
 - a. the Coordinating Council.
 - b. the written request of the delegates from 30% of the congregations in the New York Mennonite Conference.
 - c. providing 3 weeks notice of such sessions (as noted in a. and b. above).

Section 5. Consensus.

1. Consensus, as a model for decision-making, provides opportunity for all voices to be heard. It is a sign of affirmation by the gathered body to proceed in a particular direction or to settle on a particular resolution. While it demonstrates the willingness of all those gathered to remain "at the table" together, it may not be a sign of unanimity of voice.

Section 6. Voting Procedures. Decisions at the Delegate Assembly will generally be made on the basis of a consensus of the delegates at the Assembly meeting. However, the following provisions will be honored:

1. Each Assembly delegate, except observers, shall be eligible to cast one vote. There is no provision for proxy voting or absentee ballots.
2. A quorum for conducting official business of the Assembly shall be the delegates present.
3. When a vote is desired, the majority of votes cast (greater than 50%) shall determine the matter unless otherwise agreed upon by those delegates present. Decisions for bylaw amendments, conference affiliation (for example, membership in MC USA or merging with another area conference), or dissolution require a two-thirds majority vote.
4. Floor privileges may be extended to any person in attendance as recognized by the chair of the Delegate Assembly.
5. Non-delegate attendees, including members of Coordinating Council or staff persons, are not eligible to vote. Staff persons who are also pastors are allowed to serve as delegates from their congregations.

Article VI: Coordinating Council

Section 1. Role and Function. Coordinating Council shall be organized to serve the Delegate Assembly as follows:

1. To serve as the Board of Directors of the New York Mennonite Conference, as chartered under section 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law in New York State, and exercise full legal responsibility for the corporation.
2. To carry out the policies and programs established by the Delegate Assembly.
3. Review the work and plans of the commissions and committees, and prepare recommendations to the Delegate Assembly in regard to program priorities, annual budgets, fundraising procedures, and major innovations and modifications of church programs.
4. Appoint and/or recommend for approval members to commissions to fill vacancies resulting from expired terms as provided in the bylaws and vacancies resulting from members retiring prior to an expired term. Appoint and/or approve appointments to standing committees and ad hoc committees as needed and as provided in the bylaws.
5. Employ and evaluate one or more Conference Ministers and other staff as appropriate for program execution as outlined in the selection process noted in Appendix D.
6. Exercise final responsibility to the Delegate Assembly for implementation of budget priorities, expectations of giving from congregations, and fundraising.
7. Fulfill other duties as outlined in the Appendix E section on Coordinating Council Responsibilities.
8. May appoint an event planning committee to assist with the annual planning of Conference events, which typically include Celebration, Leadership Seminar, and Ministers' Retreat.

Section 2. Coordinating Council Members.

1. The Delegate Assembly shall elect a moderator, assisting moderator, treasurer, secretary, communications team representative, member at large, and Leadership Commission representative as outlined in Appendix E to serve on the Coordinating Council. Additional members include the Conference Minister(s).
2. The term of office for members shall be four years. Election will be held at Delegate Assembly every two years or as warranted by vacancies to positions. Voting should be staggered in such a manner as to prevent a complete turnover in leadership resulting from a single delegate session.
3. All Coordinating Council members shall be active participants in good standing of a congregation recognized as a member of the New York Mennonite Conference or a recognized church plant or ministry, listed on the conference website.

Section 3. Officers and Duties.

1. The moderator will serve as chair of the Coordinating Council for a term of four years and will preside at all meetings of the Coordinating Council (as well as the Delegate Assembly).
2. The Secretary of the Coordinating Council, in addition to duties specified under Article V, Section 3.3, shall record the minutes of all Coordinating Council meetings, and shall be its official correspondent.
3. The chief administrative officer of the corporation shall be the moderator of the Coordinating Council. The moderator's duties shall be to conduct the administrative affairs of the Coordinating Council, serve as its executive officer, and supervise any employees of the Coordinating Council.
4. For legal purposes, the Chair (moderator) and the Secretary shall act as President and Secretary of the Corporation and shall be authorized to sign documents requiring such official signatures.
5. The Coordinating Council shall be responsible to appoint other staff as appropriate for program execution.
6. Each member of the Council who is elected by Delegates shall serve a four-year term. The Conference Minister, as a staff representative, will only vote on such issues as the Moderator deems appropriate.

Section 4. Meetings.

1. Regular meetings of the Coordinating Council shall be held at least four times annually with intervals not exceeding four months at such time and place as determined by its membership.
2. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the Moderator on five days' notice to each member, either personally or by mail, telephone or email. Special meetings shall be called by the Moderator or Secretary in like manner and on like notice on the written request of a majority of the membership of the committee.
3. A majority of the members of the Council shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
4. A simple majority vote of the members present shall be required to transact official business.
5. Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Council may be taken without a meeting if a consent or consents, in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all the members and shall be filed with the Secretary of the Council.

Section 5. Appointments. The Coordinating Council is responsible for the following appointments:

1. Appointments as detailed in other portions of these bylaws.
2. The New York Mennonite Conference's representatives to the Biennial Delegate Assembly of Mennonite Church USA.
3. Any New York Mennonite Conference's representatives on any regional or general church agency seeking such representation.

Article VII: Administration

The Coordinating Council shall assume the responsibility of providing general services for the Delegate Assembly, the various Commissions, committees, and its staff. These services shall include such things as business and facilities management, communication, budget, finances and accounting, and personnel services.

Article VIII: Staff

Section 1. Employment and Evaluation. The Coordinating Council will oversee the hiring and evaluation of conference staff.

Section 2. Positions. The following positions will provide minimal staffing for the conference;

1. Conference Minister(s). Selection process, qualifications, term of office and job description are recorded in Appendix D.

Section 3. Salary. The commensurate salary and benefits for each shall be determined by the Coordinating Council and approved by Delegates as part of the annual budget approval process.

Article IX: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the Delegate Assembly, the Coordinating Council, and its various commissions shall be October 1 to September 30.

Article X: Relationships

Section 1. Inter-Mennonite. New York Mennonite Conference is a member conference of Mennonite Church USA and will, therefore, seek to work cooperatively with other area conferences and program agencies within MC USA and will participate in the planning and decision making of the denomination through representatives to the MC USA Delegate Assembly and Constituency Leaders Council.

Section 2. Interdenominational.

1. Relationships with other Christian groups, denominations, and agencies may be developed for purposes of counsel, coordination, and cooperation.
2. When interdenominational or interagency relationships need to be implemented formally, the Coordinating Council is responsible for such decisions subject to approval of the Delegate Assembly.

Article XI: Purposes and Limitations of Corporate Authority

Section 1: Purposes. New York Mennonite Conference (the Corporation) is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or a corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law, referred to below as the "Code"). More specifically, the Corporation, as a subordinate organization of Mennonite Church USA, is organized to promote community among congregations, to serve as a resource for pastors and congregations, and to facilitate the reign of God by providing channels through which congregations and pastors may work.

Section 2. Limitations of Corporate Authority.

1. The Corporation, being organized exclusively for religious purposes, may make distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Code.
2. No part of the net earnings of Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 1 above.
3. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.
4. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (1) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code or (2) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

5. Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Coordinating Council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation, exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Code, as the Coordinating Council shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the appropriate court of law of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes.

Article XII: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by the Delegate Assembly which shall seek to proceed by consensus. Formal adoption, however, requires a two-thirds majority vote which may be taken at any regular or special session of the Delegate Assembly, provided a notice setting forth the substance of such amendment has been given in writing to all the delegates three weeks in advance. The bylaws may be amended at any regular session without prior notice by unanimous vote of delegates present providing they constitute a majority of the delegates.

Appendices may be amended by Coordinating Council with notice given to Delegates at the next Delegate Assembly.

Adopted at regular Delegate Assembly meeting-December 14, 1974.

Amendments:

Article V, Section 2, Item 3: December 1, 1979

Article V, Section 3: January 14, 1984

Article VI, Section 2: January 14, 1984

Article VI, Section 3: January 14, 1984

Article IV, Section 3: September 12, 1987

Article VI, Section 2: May 14, 1988

Article V, Section 3: March 11, 1995

Article VI, Section 2, Item 1A & B: March 11, 1995

Article VI, Section 2, Item 2: March 11, 1995

Full document revision: April 2, 2004

Full document revision: April 21, 2012

Article VI, Section 2.1, April 16, 2016

Article VI, Section 2.3, April 29, 2017

Article VI, XI, Appendices A, D, & E, September 14, 2020

Full document revision: April 15, 2023

APPENDIX A

Not Used

APPENDIX B

Position: **Moderator**

Job Description:

1. Chair of the Coordinating Council; sets agenda and convenes meetings
2. Chairs Council to set agenda and convene delegate meetings
3. Works with the Assisting Moderator to oversee staff persons, especially the Conference Minister, by providing accountability and support
4. Works closely with the conference Treasurer and the Finance Commission to mind stewardship of conference resources
5. Works closely with the Conference Minister(s) and the Chair of the Leadership Commission in planning conference-wide events
6. Serves with the Conference Minister(s) as a key link to the broader denomination
7. Makes effective use of denominational and conference resources
8. Cultivates personal spiritual maturity through individual and corporate spiritual disciplines
9. Attends and supports conference functions

Term: Two year term following two-year Assisting Moderator term. Sequence is renewable after satisfactory evaluation by Leadership Commission

Qualifications:

1. Member in good standing of a NY Mennonite Conference congregation for a minimum of three years
2. Demonstrates mature spirituality through personal spiritual discipline
3. Is able to hear, support and/or challenge diverse views and to be proactive with respect to these views rather than being merely reactive
4. Demonstrates an ability to collaborate with other leaders and to equip and encourage individuals who are developing gifts in ministry
5. Demonstrates an ability to see the broad scheme of God's purpose in His church and to interpret/articulate the Anabaptist perspective on faith with respect to this broader view
6. Demonstrates loyalty to the conference by embracing its vision, participating in and supporting its programs, and working cooperatively within its accountability structures

Selection Process: Nominated by the Leadership Commission, affirmed by the Coordinating Council, and brought to Delegate Assembly for election.

APPENDIX C

Position: **Assisting Moderator**

Description:

1. Assists Moderator in planning and convening meetings of the Coordinating Council and delegate meetings
2. Works with the Moderator to oversee staff persons, by providing accountability and support
3. Makes effective use of denominational and conference resources
4. Cultivates personal spiritual maturity through individual and corporate spiritual disciplines
5. Attends and supports conference functions

Term: Two-year term as Assisting Moderator followed by a two-year term as Moderator. Sequence is renewable after satisfactory evaluation by delegates and Coordinating Council.

Qualifications:

1. Member in good standing of a NY Mennonite Conference congregation for three years
2. Demonstrates mature spirituality through personal spiritual discipline
3. Is able to hear, support and/or challenge diverse views and to be proactive with respect to these views rather than being merely reactive
4. Demonstrates an ability to collaborate with other leaders and to equip and encourage individuals developing gifts in ministry
5. Demonstrates an ability to see the broad scheme of God's purpose in His church and to interpret/articulate the Anabaptist perspective on faith with respect to this broader view
6. Demonstrates loyalty to the conference by embracing its vision, participating in and supporting its programs, and working cooperatively within its accountability structures

Selection Process: Nominated by the Leadership Commission, affirmed by the Coordinating Council, and brought to Delegate Assembly for election.

APPENDIX D

Position: **Conference Minister**

Job

Description:

Two (2) individuals will be selected as follows. The two roles are intended to be equal, and titles are intended to be descriptive rather than convey hierarchy:

1. Conference Minister of Leadership Development: Lead Pastoral Development and Spiritual Growth within NYMC
 - a. Serves as staff person to the Leadership Commission, which provides for credentialing and continuing education for pastors, working with the Ministerial Leadership Information process.
 - b. Works collaboratively with Coordinating Council and Leadership Commission to provide effective conference leadership and clarity of vision. Articulate the conference vision and minding the conference system.
 - c. Provide leadership in defining themes, securing speakers, and planning structure of conference events.
2. Conference Minister of Denominational Relations: Serve as NYMC's primary link to the denominational ministerial leadership office.
 - a. Attend and actively participate in Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) meetings, typically twice annually.
 - b. Attend and actively participate in denominational Conference Minister meetings and gatherings. Meetings vary but may include monthly conference calls. Gatherings may include annual Conference Minister/Regional Minister (MC Canada) on-site retreat.
 - c. Communicate denominational updates regularly to NYMC community, and facilitate participation from constituency.

Both Conference Minister Roles will include the following responsibilities:

1. Provide focused leadership to half of NYMC congregations.
 - a. Regularly connect with congregation leader(s) and participate in church meetings and worship. Approximate average expectation of 4 hrs per month with each congregation.
 - b. Assists congregations in developing healthy patterns of body life and effective ministry through nurturing new leadership, goal-setting and long-term planning.
 - c. Acts as a pastor to pastors; assists pastors in developing and implementing personal growth plans for effective leadership.
 - d. Provides guidance for congregations and their leaders during times of special challenge, e.g., pastoral transitions, body life crises, reviews/evaluations.
 - e. Facilitates groups of pastors/congregations as they develop healthy patterns of mutual support, discernment, and cooperative ministry.
 - f. Assists congregations in establishing expectations for pastoral responsibilities.
 - g. Assists pastors in negotiating salaries and in pursuing continuing education.
 - h. Encourages and nurtures those in pastoral and church planting ministry or those with potential to serve in these roles.
2. Work closely with Coordinating Council by attending and actively participating in meetings as an ex officio member.
3. Cultivate personal spiritual maturity through spiritual disciplines and the development of gifts related to effective ministry within the conference.
4. Make effective use of denominational and conference resources.
5. Meet regularly (typically monthly) with moderator and assistant moderator for oversight, accountability, and support.
6. Attend and support conference functions.

Term: Three-year initial term, renewable in five-year terms after satisfactory evaluation by moderator, assisting moderator, and Coordinating Council members

Qualifications: 1. Ordained person with significant pastoral experience

2. Demonstrates mature spirituality and gifts of the holy spirit
3. Is able to hear, support, and/or challenge diverse views and to be proactive with respect to these views rather than being merely reactive.
4. Demonstrates an ability to collaborate with other leaders and to equip/ encourage individuals developing gifts in ministry.
5. Demonstrates an ability to see the broad scheme of God's purpose in the church and to interpret/ articulate the Anabaptist perspective on faith with respect to this broader view.
6. 'Demonstrates loyalty to the conference by embracing its vision, participating in and supporting its programs, and working cooperatively within its accountability structures
7. Cultivates a life of spiritual discernment through prayer, study of scripture, and meditation

Staff Support: per annual budget

Selection Process: Search committee appointed by Coordinating Council leading to a recommendation by the Coordinating Council, and offered to the Delegate body for affirmation.

APPENDIX E

COUNCIL & COMMISSION

Membership and Responsibilities

[Note: Ex officio members serve by virtue of the office held and may or may not have voting privileges.]

Coordinating Council

Membership: (terms of office and voting privileges are outlined in the Bylaws)

Elected by delegates: Moderator (*Chair*), Assisting Moderator, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Team Representative

Ex officio: Leadership Commission Representative and Conference Minister(s)

Responsibilities:

1. Develops Conference vision, including conference mission and goals, with the affirmation of conference delegates
2. Provides connections to the broader denomination for individuals and congregations
3. Develops the goals and principles guiding conference budget process
4. Oversees the planning of Celebration and Delegate Assemblies. May form committees for this purpose.
5. Appoints representatives to denominational meetings and groups, and provides appropriate guidelines for representing the NYMC at all such gatherings
6. Provides general oversight and accountability for the various commissions of conference
7. Coordinates the formation and work of the various commissions to facilitate the conference vision and to service leaders and congregations of the conference
8. Hires and evaluates conference staff

Leadership Commission

Membership: (terms of office and voting privileges are outlined in the Bylaws)

Elected by Pastors: a pastor from a conference congregation (1-2 members)

Elected by Delegates: a lay person (1-2 members)

Ex officio: Conference Minister(s)

*** Chair and secretary positions shall be chosen by members of this commission.*

Responsibilities:

1. Administers the credentialing system by interviewing and credentialing new pastors, and by maintaining the credentialing database.
2. Plans annual Leadership Seminar. Ministers' Retreat including choosing the theme, speaker(s), and managing logistics.
3. Appoints, assembles, and activates a Mediation Team and/or Incident Team.
4. Serves as a nominating committee for conference.
5. The term for each member of the Leadership Team will be 4 years.

Finance & Stewardship Commission

Membership:

Recommended by Treasurer and approved by Coordinating Council: usually consists of at least three (3) people, including the Treasurer (chair) and bookkeeper.

Responsibilities:

1. Advise Coordinating Council in establishing fiscal policies
2. Develop proposed annual budget for conference based on faith estimates from congregations
3. Present proposed budget to Delegate Assembly; monitor and report to Delegates regarding adherence to approved budget during the year.
4. Communicate with Coordinating Council, Delegates, and congregations regarding the financial health of conference
5. Collaborate with other commissions and/or Coordinating Council to facilitate special stewardship opportunities

Communications Team

Elected by delegates following recommendations from Coordinating Council:

Responsibilities (to be divided among team members):

1. Serves as the local contact person for information and questions about practical resources available from Mennonite Church USA agencies.
2. Helps congregations strengthen their Mennonite theology by encouraging the use of Anabaptist materials.
3. Provides a MennoMedia book and resource table at conference assemblies and leadership seminar.
4. Prepare eNewsletter on schedule and special news emails. Maintain landing page and distribution list for eNewsletter.
5. Set up and communicate online registration for Celebration.
6. Photograph significant Conference events and generate other content as needed.
7. Manage NYMC website.
8. A representative from the Communications Team serves on Coordinating Council.

APPENDIX F

Changing Conference Relationship:

When a NYMC congregation wishes to alter conference membership within MC USA, the NYMC Conference Minister and Coordinating Council will process with that congregation on the basis of MC USA Guidelines.

Congregation Ending Conference Relationship:

If a congregation wishes to end membership in NYMC and MC USA, the Conference Minister, in consultation with the Coordinating Council, will establish with the congregation the appropriate steps that provide for giving and receiving counsel, for communication within the congregation and with the congregations of NYMC, and for delegate recognition of the congregation's decision to leave the Conference.

Conference Ending Relationship with Congregation:

TBD