

Ministry Commission Report

Ministry Commission:

John Jackson, chair
Bill Haldeman-Scarr
Janelle Keeling
Karen Pierson

ex-officio members: District Executive Minister;
Moderator; Board Chair

The Ministry Commission oversees and coordinates the work of the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC), Mentor Overseer, Training in Ministry (TRIM) & Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH) Coordinator, and works in concert with our District Executive to call, credential, and support our licensed/ordained ministers and their families.

We have recognized, professional education programs for our licensed ministers. Our TRIM and SeBAH (Hispanic) training programs are tailored for second career “students” for whom relocating to Bethany Theological Seminary would not be possible. We support our TRIM/SeBAH student with a grant that covers 75% of their costs of education. We are grateful to Jim Martinez for overseeing these two programs.

Additionally, all of our Licensed Ministers are supported by a carefully selected Mentor to help guide them in discerning their call. We are blessed to have Pastor John Price as our Mentor Overseer. Both Jim and John coordinate their work with our wonderful Nurturing and Credentialing Committee which make recommendations to the Ministry Commission about discerning a candidates calling into the Licensed or Ordained Ministry. Pastor Janet Ober has provided us with tremendous leadership as she chairs this committee.

Bethany Seminary also has our support. Currently we have one student at Bethany, Dylan Haro, who we are supporting with a grant of \$3,000 a year. If Dylan does not enter a recognized Brethren Ministry then the grant converts to a zero interest loan. This Bethany Grant is available to all qualified PSDW students who attend Bethany Seminary full time on site.

The “All Ministers Workshop” and the “Pastor/Spouse Retreat” events not only support our clergy and their families, but encourage us “...to remain open, as we listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit, working to mutually support and encourage our various ministries.” (PSWD Unity Statement as

adopted by the 2007 District Conference.)

The “All Ministers Workshop” in 2011 was an unqualified success. Leadership, music, prayer, fellowship, meals, and fun all came together to make it a rewarding time. With over 40 in attendance it became a time of renewal and healing for many. Next year’s “All Ministers Workshop” will be held in the same location, Franciscan Renewal Center, near Phoenix from Monday March 26 to Wednesday March 28, 2012. We already have Stephen & Kathryn Reid lined up to provide leadership.

Encouraging was the “Pastor/Spouse Retreat” held near Yosemite. While the attendance was not as high we had hoped, it was very much appreciated by all who attended. In 2012 the event will be held at the Serra Catholic Retreat Center in the hills above Malibu, CA. This event will be held from Monday June 4, to Thursday June 7, 2012. The retreat this year will include two worship services and daily times for meditative prayer. Of course the renewing of our pastors who serve our churches, chaplains, and their spouses is our emphasis for this event.

We are continuing to explore how PSDW might coordinate health care options for our pastors who are having trouble finding and/or affording adequate medical care.

At the “All Ministers Workshop” the ministers recited the 2007 Unity Statement part of which says - “Not focusing on our differences, but in the spirit of love and acceptance, we choose to focus on Christ.” This is our goal and prayer for 2012.

Pastor John Jackson
Ministry Commission Chair

The Ministry Commission extends our gratitude to those appointed by our commission:

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:

#2013 Chair, Janet Ober
2012 Jerry Davis
#2014 Elizabeth Rowan
2015 Erin Matteson
x2011 Kate Spire (*through 3/16/2011*)
x2011 Elvis Cayford (*started 3/16/2011*)

Ex-Officio: Ministry Commission Chair,
District Moderator, District Board Chair,
District Executive Minister

Mentor Overseer: John Price

TRIM / SeBAH Coordinator: Jim Martinez

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee

The Nurturing and Credentialing Committee is the interview and review subcommittee of the District Ministry Commission, overseeing the credentialing process for all licensing and ordination candidates within the Pacific Southwest District. Our current membership is made up of Janet Ober, chair (La Verne), Elvis Cayford (Glendale), Jerry Davis (Pomona Fellowship), Erin Matteson (Modesto) and Elizabeth Rowan (Pasadena). Brenda Isaacs (Bakersfield) and Kate Spire (Circle of Peace) also served this past year but have completed their time of service. Our number often includes the District Executive Minister, Don Booz, and can include any member of the Ministry Commission and/or the District Moderator.

Since District Conference 2010, we have met twice: March 18 & 19 and September 23 & 24 to meet and discern with candidates for licensing and ordination. In September, we also reviewed annual reports from each of our licensed ministers and their mentors. This past year, we have implemented a new format for all our interviews, asking candidates to lead us in either devotions (licensing) or Bible Study (ordination) at the start of their interview. This has often been inspiring and has offered us wonderful insights into the spirits of each of our candidates.

The work of the NACC requires a great deal of prayer and preparation. We take very seriously our call to be a place of discernment and nurture for ministerial leadership within our district. I am grateful to all of you who serve as well as those who uphold us with your encouragement and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Ober, NACC Chair

Mentor Overseer

As your district Mentor Overseer I am pleased to report that the district now has eighteen people in the licensing program of the PSWD. In the last year I have matched four licensees with mentors. I have also helped inform licensees and mentors of Ministry Commission requirements and reporting. I have not done as much checking on progress of the licensee and mentor as I had hoped to do. I know of no problems with mentors and licensees. I assist the Ministry Commission and the Licensing and Credentialing Committee in their duties regarding licensed ministers in our district.

Yours sincerely,
John E. Price, Mentor Overseer

TRIM: Training in Ministry SeBAH: Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano

This past year PSWD had four students enrolled in TRIM. We currently have two new students who have completed their orientation week at Bethany Seminary. We are equally represented having two students from Arizona, two from Southern California, and two from Northern California.

We are excited to announce that we had seven students go through a week long orientation for SeBAH. This is a training program for Spanish speaking prospective pastors. Our denomination has developed the SeBAH program with the Mennonites to fill the ordination training needs of our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters. To learn more about TRIM or SeBAH visit the PSWD web site.

Jim Martinez
District Coordinator for TRIM & SeBAH
