

Ministry Commission Report

Ministry Commission:

- Norma Sexton, chair
- Erik Brummett, vice-chair
- Cindy Slaughter, secretary (*died 8/5/2020*)
- David Flores
- Jeremiah Irizarry
- Richard Zapata

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

It’s been a privilege to serve this year as chair of the Ministry Commission. A great big ‘THANK YOU’ is due to my commission members listed above. “The Ministry Commission gives counsel and guidance to all ministerial matters in the District” (from the District By-Laws, 2018 ed.) This encompasses the ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers in our District. A large portion of our tasks this year has been the review of ordinations that occurs every 5 years. Communications to and reports from the ministers and the churches where they are serving constitute the review process.

Praise God for the blessing of the abundance of ministers in training in our District! We currently have 14 persons licensed and engaged in training programs with 6 more expressing interest in entering the licensed ministry. The Ministry Commission is pleased to support these ministers in training by approving grants requested for tuition and equipment needed during their training. I appreciate the service of the persons on the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC) that perform the licensing and ordination interviews of applicants. I want to recognize the service as chair of NACC by John Price who resigned from his term of service and thank Peggy Redman for assuming that position for the remainder of this year. Recommendations have been made for a person to be appointed to serve the balance of John’s term. (NACC terms are 5 years.)

Needless to say, this year has had its challenges due to the shutdown as a result of the pandemic. The Pastor-Spouse Retreat was cancelled but the deposit we had paid is being applied toward the 2021 event that is scheduled for July 26-30, 2021 at the Serra Retreat Center. Also, as District Conference was moved online, the pre-conference ministerial event was cancelled. However, it is our pleasure to announce that our presenter for 2021 will be Bethany Seminary Professor of Preaching & Worship, Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm. Early in the shutdown the commission sponsored a Zoom workshop focusing on Compassion Fatigue presented by Dr. Melissa Hofstetter, a licensed Clinical

Psychologist and ordained Mennonite minister, attended by 14 participants.

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28 NRSV) As churches moved their services online, though we may have missed in-person socializing, many congregations have experienced increased attendance for worship services. “To the glory of God and our neighbor’s good” (near and far)! “Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out.” (Isaiah 54:2a NRSV) “You will be My witnesses ... to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Norma Sexton, Chair
PSWD Ministry Commission

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

TRIM Supervisor Report. Russ Matteson
See District Executive Minister report on page 13.

SeBAH, EFSM, EPMC Report. . . . Gilbert Romero
See Ministry Training Coordinator report on page 13.

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:
2023 Peggy Redman, Chair (*start June 2020*)
#2022 John Price, Chair (*until June 2020 when he resigned from NACC*)
x2022 vacancy (*start June 2020*)
2020 Susan Boyer
#2021 Don Shankster
#2024 John Katonah
Ex-Officio: Ministry Commission Chair,
District Moderator, District Board Chair,
District Executive Minister

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee

The NACC Committee is a sub committee of the Ministry Commission. We provide guidance and legwork in the licensing and ordination process for the Pacific Southwest District. We oversee the process in licensing and guide licensees toward the goal of ordination. We meet twice a year, in the fall and in the spring. Our meetings include interviews for those entering the licensed ministry, interviews of those who have completed their training and are ready to receive a call to ministry-ready for ordination, and the annual progress review of all licensed ministers in their movement towards ordination, especially their education requirements. This is usually done during our Fall Meeting. Our meetings and interviews this year are

District Board of Administration: continued

by Zoom video because of Covid. We make recommendations to the Ministry Commission who then review our process and recommendations and make the final decision on each case before them. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of this process as we

bring new people into our district to serve as licensed and ordained ministers among us.

Peggy Redman, NACC Chair