

Planting New Seeds

Delegate Assembly Report - 2022

By Ryan Koch, Conference Moderator

Excited and exhausted - that is what I'm feeling after the Delegate Assembly and the Hope for New Growth conversation. I'm exhausted because it takes a lot of work both getting ready for delegate assembly and running it. Robert's Rules of order are complicated, y'all! But I'm also really excited because it feels like our conference has a clear sense of direction for the future and because I heard so much passion and saw so much energy for the work of our conference in Denver.

I'm so thankful that all the initiatives passed this year with such affirmation. For those who were not able to attend assembly, Amy and I presented Amy and the Leadership Board's dreams for the conference. Besides continuing to expand the Future Anabaptist Leaders program, the two new initiatives were presented: prioritize church planting while also creating a social enterprise initiative which will provide a new revenue stream for the conference while also acting ethically in ways that share our Mennonite values with the world.

As we explained, the conference was unexpectedly blessed with a large estate gift that will help fund both initiatives. Part of that estate gift will enable Amy to move from 3/4th's time to full time, starting in July of 2023 for two years. Amy will be spending these hours supporting these new initiatives as they really begin their work.

The next step will be for the Leadership Board to form two task forces which will be in charge of providing the vision for these initiatives and overseeing the beginning of this work. If you know of people connected to our conference who you believe have gifts to help support our endeavors of church planting and starting a social enterprise to benefit the work of the conference, please let anyone on the Leadership Board or Amy know.

Also, during the Delegate session, the Delegates strongly affirmed a new ministerial ethics covenant. This covenant is for all credentialled leaders in the conference and is a way for us to continue to practice relational accountability while also further prioritizing the health and safety of our pastors, our churches, our passion ministries, and the entire conference. This document grew out of a task force which first convened last fall to look at our bylaws and to find ways to promote healthier congregations. The ministerial council and the leadership heard their ideas and created this document together.



Lastly, I'm really looking forward to working with Kim Kauffman and Connie Rempel on the Leadership Board starting next year. I'm also thankful that Maytia Moua will be joining the Ministerial Council next year. A special thank you to Zach Martinez and Debbie Miller for serving on conference committees these last four years. We greatly appreciate your wisdom, your gifts and all the time you have given to help our conference.

I'm looking forward to serving as the conference moderator for another two years. I hope to see you all at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp for next year's assembly which will take place on July 21-23.