

Leadership Development Committee Report

John 13:12-15

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

“Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them.

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

The Leadership Development Committee of the Missouri Mid-South Conference is largely charged with: cultivating and nurturing Conference leadership; ensuring the Conference fulfills its covenantal leadership obligations, including with other church ministries: and promoting the Conference's relationship with the church's historically related Seminaries, etc.

The committee, pursuant to the Bylaws and working with the associations, local churches and via the *eCourier*, solicited and **identified qualified leadership** candidates for various leadership needs, including election to the Conference Council. The names of those elected at the Conference Annual Gathering in June 2015 can be found in the minutes of that meeting and, separately, those being proposed for election in June 2016. Time was spent on identifying potential leaders, with particular attention on reflecting the diversity and demographic base of our congregations and their membership. The committee also considered individual professional expertise and experience which might be beneficial in fulfilling the legal and fiduciary duties, and accountability practices of the conference. We are blessed with having a wide range of individuals willing to accept the call to leadership.

The Missouri Mid-South **Conference Deacon program** offers another wonderful opportunity to serve our conference. We see great potential with this program enhancing our connectedness within the conference and expect to see wonderful things happening in 2016. This program is one where time is the main commitment - and it is only required several times a year. Conference Deacons are unique individuals who serve because of their spiritual, emotional and ecclesial maturity and willingness to act as “connectors” within the body. The conference leadership recognizes the Deacon program is fundamental in nurturing the relationships with the Conference, by creating a rapport between congregations and individuals (rather than congregation connections solely with Conference staff). A workshop will be offered at CAG to share in more depth the role and importance of Conference Deacons. **Won't YOU serve?** Training and ongoing support is provided. Contact the conference office for more information.

As mentioned above, cultivating leadership for the Conference continues to be an ongoing duty of the Leadership Development Committee. With our conference so geographically wide-spread we are seeking tools that can make us more accessible and meet in more efficient and effective ways. We can use help in identifying software or programs that can manage these tasks. If you have any suggestions or are willing to serve on a task force please contact Laura Dierberg Ayers.

THIS IS OUR CHALLENGE TO YOU:

It is important we each share in the work of the ministry of the Missouri Mid-South Conference. Focus on what you do uniquely. Consider your abilities and talents. Look for ways to get involved. We want you – we need you. A shared ministry is a strong ministry! And a strong conference.

Are YOU willing to accept the joy of serving? Please feel free to contact any of us – or better yet – stop by our table at the Conference Annual Gathering!

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