

## Conference Council Moderator Report

*Habakkuk 2, vs. 1-3*

*I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd.<sup>2</sup> And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.<sup>3</sup> For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*

### Conference Council Moderator's Report

It is hard to believe that another year has passed in the life of the MMSUCC Conference—a year of moving forward with many positive signs of a time when we are working together to do the work that God has called us to do. This has not and will not happen with the actions of just a few but with the love and efforts of many (lay and pastors) who feel they are called in various settings (conference, association, local church) to step up and be in covenant with one another to fulfill God's wishes.

Much has happened in our communities that are troublesome. Yet we are still blessed each day with new beginnings and opportunities to be the Church we are called to be.

Your Conference Council made a commitment this fall at its October meeting to work with Associations and local churches in Sacred Conversations on Race. Under this umbrella are many facets. Churches within our conference are in varying stages, but we want to be sure that all have the opportunity to be involved wherever they are in this journey.

The Vision Team, under the leadership of our chair, Rev. Dr. Paul Koch and expert guidance from our consultant, Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm are ready to move us into the future with "Our 2020 Future Story". This has been presented briefly at our Association meetings, shared on our webpage and will also be a part of CAG. We are excited in moving forward in our planning and bringing the work of this team in to fruition.

Our Conference Minister Search Committee co-chaired by Rev. Dr. David Mehl and Rev. Laura Mignerone as of this writing are in the process of interviewing candidates and prayerfully hoping that we will have a candidate for conference approval sometime this summer.

The council conducts much of its business through four (4) standing committees:

- Leadership & Development (Laura Dierberg Ayers. Chair). This Committee is responsible for providing our annual slate of nominations for the Conference Council, General Synod delegates, special task groups and committees; i.e., Vision Team, Conference Minister Search Committee. This is an intense responsibility always striving to create a balance of skill sets, diversity, and association representation.
- Finance & Administration (Carl Phillips, Chair) A priority of this Committee is to prepare the annual budget working with our Treasurer, Ken Ulmer. Our conference, for the first time in 13 years, is financially in the black. This is due to the hard work of

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many. Our Treasurer and Finance and Administration Committee have worked very hard to keep the Council aware of where we are each month. In addition to the budgeting, this team also prepares various policies and procedures as needed.

- Local Church Ministries (Donna Smith-Pupillo, Chair) This committee coordinates and oversees the Covenanted Local Church Ministries of the Conferences and reports back to the Council with updates and/or the need for the council to develop new ministries based on the needs of the conference.
- Wider Church Ministries (Cindy Moeller, Chair). This committee coordinates and oversees the Covenanted Wider Church Ministries of the Conference and reports back to the Council with updates and/or the need for the council to develop new ministries based on the needs of the conference.

Outdoor Ministries are an integral part of what we are called to do. Thanks to the leadership of Jeremy Force and Jeff Fulk for the wonderful work that continues to be done to serve members and community members in our conference.

Several new requests for Covenanted Ministries are in the process of being developed—Social Concerns, Church Vitality, OCWM, etc. Each year your council will review each of the Covenanted Ministries to determine effectiveness; changes needed, and also determine the need for others as part of our annual strategic plan. Your input and feedback is important in this process.

I want to express my gratitude to our acting Conference Minister, Allen Fluent, ACM, Dale Parson, and the Conference Office staff (Renee Cordes, Lorraine Brooks, Kris Scott, and intern, Josh Gibson) and to each member of this year's Conference Council. The work of the conference could not be done without their hard work and support.

I would be remiss if I did not express my sincere appreciation of the steadfast support of the Conference Executive Committee:

Rev. Dr. David Mehl, Vice Moderator  
Dr. Linda Stenger, Secretary  
Rev Ken Ulmer, Treasurer  
Rev. Dr. Allen Fluent, Acting Conference Minister (Ex-Officio)

It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to have them as a part of the team.

And last, but not least, thanks to the 2015 Conference Annual Gathering Team for all the hard work that has been done to hopefully provide each member attending a feeling of covenant and commitment to God and each other as we move forward in 2015.

God's Blessings to each of you.

Joyce Bathke,  
Conference Moderator