

Eastern Network Conference Call Minutes
September 25, 2014

Sixteen people from 13 churches and ministries joined in the bimonthly MCC Eastern Network conference call on Thursday, September 25th at 12 noon.

In attendance were the Rev. Cathy Alexander and lay delegate Cecilia Hayden-Smith from MCC Washington DC; Rev. Miller Hoffman and lay delegate Adam DeBaugh from Open Door MCC; lay delegate Joanne Ludie from MCC Baltimore; lay delegate Bruce Brooks from New Light MCC, Hagerstown; Bishop Allison Abrams from Empowerment Liberation Cathedral, Silver Spring; the Rev. Candy Holmes from the UFMCC People of African Descent Program; the Rev. Emma Chattin from MCC of Northern Virginia (NoVa), Fairfax; the Rev. Gail Minnick from Shenandoah Valley MCC, Winchester; the Rev. Mark Bird and the Rev. Jim Whalen from New Life MCC, Hampton Roads, (Jim Whalen is also on staff of the People of Faith for Equality in Virginia); lay delegates Clinton Gibbs and David Wilson, from MCC Richmond; the Rev. Joe Cobb from MCC of the Blue Ridge, Roanoke; and the Rev. Dusty Pruitt from MCC Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Rev. Cathy Alexander, David Wilson, Rev. Emma Chattin, and Adam DeBaugh also make up the Eastern Network Team and Adam DeBaugh also represents Chi Rho Press. Missing on this conference call were Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ and Capitol Caring Hospice in Washington, DC, and Holy Redeemer MCC, College Park.

The conference call opened with prayer led by Adam DeBaugh. Cathy Alexander and David Wilson then followed with an update on the MCC Eastern Network Gathering on Saturday, October 18, 2014, with the theme, "We Gather Together." The gathering will be at New Life MCC of Hampton Roads, 1126 Norview Ave. Norfolk, VA.

The Agenda will include:

9:00 A.M.	Doors Open
9:30 A.M.	Gathering Registration/Verification
10:00 A.M.	Welcome and Warm-Up
10:15 A.M.	Check-In (churches, groups, org.)
11:15 A.M.	Round Table Discussions (Pastors, Non-Parish Based Clergy, Lay Delegates, Ministry Leaders)
12:30 P.M.	Lunch Gathering
1:30 P.M.	Music Plenary Presentation
3:15 P.M.	Break
3:30 P.M.	We Gather Together In Worship
4:30 P.M.	Closing and Sending Forth

Call participants had a few questions that were answered by Cathy, David, and Mark Byrd, host pastor. There are no events scheduled for Friday evening. The cost of the Gathering will be \$25. The registration can be found [HERE](#).

All are welcome and encouraged to attend the gathering, including spouses and anyone else who is involved in any kind of ministry at your local church.

Breakfast will be available at the church starting at 9 am and the church will also provide lunch as part of registration.

MCC Baltimore is renting a bus and if anyone would like to ride it will cost only \$17.00 plus the cost of the conference. Contact Rev. Victoria L. Burson, Senior Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church Baltimore, seniorpastor@mccbaltimore.org, voice mail [817/891-8455](tel:817/891-8455), or at the church, 410/NOW-MCCB (410-669-6222).

We can't emphasize enough that all are welcome from each congregation!

Next on the agenda were updates from church representatives and non-parish based clergy. People talked about upcoming events, building issues, Pride events, resources needed, and social media usage. Eastern Network Communications lead Adam DeBaugh reminded participants to send him all special events, concerts, classes, and celebrations at their home churches (to Adam@ChiRhoPress.com) for the Joint Eastern Network Calendar.

The Eastern Network calls are in odd months on the last Thursday of each month from 12 noon to 1 pm and the next call will be nd November 20 (moved up a week because of Thanksgiving).

Closing prayer was an enthusiastic Amen! from Cathy Alexander.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam DeBaugh
MCC Eastern Network Communications Lead