

Eastern Network Conference Call
January 28, 2016

On the call: David, Adam, Rev. Dusty, Rev. Mark, Rev. Miller, Bruce, Jane, Rev. Cathy

The meeting opened in prayer by Rev. Miller Hoffman

MCC of Northern Virginia - Jane Bennett-Bailey Lay Delegate
Transgender ministry is going great "First Friday". They're holding membership class this Sunday with 6 people and worship participants training and looking forward to the future. Intend to share the recent slate of Moderator candidates with the congregation soon.

MCC of the Blue Ridge - Rev Joe Cobb
Note from Rev Joe: In terms of our ministry here,, we're launching a series of Worship Training Events covering The Ministry of Hospitality and Welcome (Greeters, Ushers, Welcome Ministry), The Ministry of Sacrament (Communion, Baptism, and our Rites), the Ministry of Sound and Multi-media, the Ministry of Word (speaking in worship). We're also planning a new training series for our Deacon ministry and Children's ministry. All of this is designed to empower and engage our ministers (all of us). It's also designed to help prepare and sustain ourselves during my upcoming Clergy Renewal Leave (provided through a grant from the Lilly Foundation for Clergy Renewal) from April-June.

MCC Rehoboth - Rev Dusty Pruitt
The church now has 63 members and about another 8 awaiting membership class. Her contract is over in 2017. In contact with Office of Church Life and Health to find an appropriate time to move forward in some type of pastoral search. Just hired a P/T admin/secretary for 12 hours per week. Hope to move to FT by next year. Have bonds and mortgages that are currently being worked on to pay back.

MCC Richmond - David Wilson, Lay Delegate
Have a new first Lay delegate, Chris Kopczynski, Rev Carolynn and Rev Adrain will be leaving on the 31st, and there is a celebration of her time there this Sunday 1/31. MCCR is taking submissions for a pastoral call. Please go to their website for additional information.

MCCDC - Rev Cathy Alexander, congregant
Rev Cathy shared...there was no church past Sunday due to the blizzard. MCCDC is celebrating our 45th Anniversary throughout this year with culminating events May 21-22, Ash Wed services in 2 weeks and we are joyfully prepping for Easter.

New Life MCC of Hampton Roads - Rev Mark Byrd
MOPP team Messaging, Outreach, Promotion and Publicity for a presence
MAD making a difference team focusing on planning and calendar work
New congregational care team with 5 team members to provide care and support to the congregation. Planning for VA day of action 2/9 sponsored by Equality VA.

New Light MCC Hagerstown - Bruce Brooks, Lay Delegate
Still digging out, did not have church last Sunday. Feb 7th Robert Griffith is guest preacher for 20th anniversary celebrations. Continue to struggle yet are making their way, numbers are between 20-30 on any given Sunday. People are stepping up for different responsibilities, doing the work to try to bring a pastor in.

Open Door MCC - Rev Miller Hoffman, Adam Debaugh, Lay Delegate
No church last Sunday, digging out from snow. Especially pleased with the way congregants moved to help each other before and during the storm. They are looking forward to Network Gathering in April.

Shenendoah Valley MCC - Rev Gail Minnick

Note from Rev Gail: SVMCC is holding its own although our attendance had dropped dramatically.

MCC Christ the Liberator - Rev. Dr. Tom Bohache

Note from Rev Tom: Driving back from Tom Simmons mother's funeral in Ga. Please keep us in your prayers.

Rev Candy Holmes

Note from Rev Candy: Diversity Institute on Sunday at GC and that registration can be accessed via the GC webpage. The Keynoter (Dr. Carla Sherrell) has been confirmed.

EASTERN NETWORK ONLY- In light of the winter storm that affected worship/attendance for the UFMCC attendance snapshot scheduled for 24 JAN 2016, please use and report attendance numbers from 17 JAN 2016 instead.

The group brainstormed about topics for the April Network Gathering: Presenting information that will be brought before the Business Meeting at General Conference; Moderator Election, Governing Board Elections, Adoption of the new Statement of Faith and presenting other business to our local churches.

The closing prayer was offered by Rev Dusty Pruitt