

Board of Faith and Life Report

The role of the Board of Faith and Life is “to resource our Director of Church Ministries and our churches in matters of Biblical theology, ethics and unity.” It has been my privilege to serve alongside the other members of the Board of Faith and Life over the past year as we have endeavored to give leadership in this important area of church life.

Some of the things this includes are: approving candidates for pastoral roles in our churches on the basis of theological and personal preparedness, affirming pastors for ordination, resourcing churches in the area of church conflict management, supporting and assisting our pastors as they endeavor to minister in their specific context, as well as providing systems of accountability for the pastors.

There were a few key issues that arose this past year that merited our attention as a board. There was a call from the Canadian Conference for a study conference to be held in each province regarding the topic of women in ministry leadership. That took place in Saskatchewan on September 25 at West Portal and was attended by approximately 37 people from the different churches – 20 male and 17 female. The purpose of the day was to study a few key passages of scripture regarding this issue and give feedback to the Canadian Conference on the basis of the discussion that took place. In our response we recognized that there was a diversity of belief within our board and also within the conference but that the majority would believe that we should stand firm in regards to our current position. We also stated that we were unified in believing that whatever decision was made it would not soon affect Saskatchewan.

Another issue that has been front and center this year has been the same-sex marriage legislation that our provincial government has implemented. Our board has been in discussion regarding this decision. At this point in time we have decided to take a wait and see approach to the legislation. While voicing our concerns to the justice department, we have decided that it would not be in our best interests to boycott their registration process.

In regards to ordinations we processed two requests. We chose to accept Brian Wiens’ ordination which he received through the Alliance Church of Canada. As well we approved Keith Pankratz for ordination. Keith is currently the associate pastor at Pleasant Hill Mennonite which has no denominational affiliation at this time.

The board has consisted of Tony Martens (Vice-Chair), Menno Martens (Secretary), Clarence Peters, Ray Ulriksen, Terry Froese, Neil Krahn and of course Ralph Gliege. They have all given immeasurable time and wisdom to serve in this capacity, and I wish to thank them for their efforts!