Beachy Amish-Mennonite Ministers' Business Meeting Minutes April 2-4, 2013

Beachy A-M churches of the greater Holmes County area and eastern Ohio, held at the Fairlawn Mennonite Church, Apple Creek, OH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2013

2:45pm: Moderator/ Introduction of the Newly Ordained—Phil Miller (Messiah A-M F)

Name	Office	Church	Location	Date
David Raber	Bishop	Nathaniel Menn.	Suceava, Romania	2011 Mar-15
Daniel Fisher	Bishop	Shade Mountain C.F.	Mifflin, PA	2012 May-30
David Wittmer	Bishop	Mt. Olive Beachy	Daviess Co., IN	2012 Aug-12
David Yoder	Bishop	Grace Haven F.	Holmes Co., OH	2012 Sept-27
Dave Nisly	Bishop	Faith Christian F.	Catlett, VA	2012 Nov-04
Paul Weaver	Bishop	Still Waters (Jackson)	Jackson, OH	2013 Feb-24
Eli Troyer	Bishop	Farmville C.F.	Farmville, VA	2013 Mar-17
Josh Yoder	Deacon	Grace Haven F.	Holmes Co., OH	2011 Oct-30
Rod Musser	Deacon	Cold Spring Menn.	Abbeville, SC	2012 Apr-22
Kenny Yoder	Deacon	Trinity C.F.	Arthur, IL	2012 Nov-18
Arlyn Nisly	Minister	Center A.M.	Hutchinson, KS	
Tyrannus Troyer	Minister	Shalom F.	Holmes Co., OH	2012 Apr-01
Marvin Yoder	Minister	Faith Haven C.F.	Danville, AL	2012 Apr-22
Loren Yoder	Minister	Valley View A.M.	Belleville, PA	2012 May-06
Nathan Bange	Minister	Weavertown A.M.	Lancaster Co, PA	2012 June-10
Roman Miller	Minister	Fellowship Haven	Harlan, IN	2012 Jun-24
Gary Burkholder	Minister	Maple Lawn A.M.	Nappanee, IN	2012 July-22
Simon Helmuth	Charged	Hicksville C.F.	Hicksville, OH	

Prayer for the ordained by John U. Lapp

Those who wished to leave were dismissed and ushers distributed ballots to those who had not received them yet.

2:59-3:40PM: Amish Mennonite Aid—Alvin Stoltzfus (Mine Road A-M)

Alvin introduced the five-member board. Earl Peachey's term has expired and he has asked to be replaced; Alvin thanked him for his service. The following nominees were voted on by ballot:

✓ Jonas Beiler, Ebenezer A-M Brotherhood, Malta, OH John E. Glick, Pequea A-M Church, Lancaster County, PA Merle Beachy, Faith Mission Fellowship, Free Union, VA

Secretary-Treasurer's Report—Ivan Beachy:

Financial reports are on display, and if you would like copies, ask Ivan and he will mail one to you. In December, \$40,000 was needed to close the year, and in the last half of the month the need was met. \$349,000 was carried over into 2013. About 59% of the \$2.47 million total dispersal last year went to Kenya, the largest project. The love-offering in the account last year this time was \$153,493.40 and presently is \$139,752.80.

Faith Mission Home—Paul Beiler.

Seven of the eleven families at Faith Mission Home are leaving though the rest of the year. One family is needed by this summer for Oakridge cottage. Last year FMH was going to send out a signed liability agreement to the churches, but the board decided to put together a letter that explains the situation instead of getting commitments. When FMH opened, there were few programs for the mentally disabled; now there are many more, including provisions from public school, so there is less demand for FMH's service. There are 57 residents presently; full capacity is 62. Paul shared several stories about the staff. Prospective staff reference letters are important, so thank you for filling them out honestly.

Belize and El Salvador—Alvin Stoltzfus

More natives are being ordained, meaning less stateside support is needed.

Belize—Paul Beachy

The Pine Ridge churches commissioned Stephen Schrock as bishop. In two to three years we will reconsider the charge in recognition of national members. Paul recognized Lester Gingerich's involvement in Belize for half century, as well as Edwin Weaver's past involvement. Lester will no longer be involved due to health reasons. Virgil Kanagy is currently providing oversight, which will decrease in coming years as the Belize churches look for a permanent bishop.

Paraguay—Alvin Stoltzfus

One of the clinics in Paraguay is closing in the end of June; contents will be auctioned. Around 45 years ago, the colony Beachy A-M church welcomed AMA to open this clinic. Now 14,000 births later, fewer people come (because of unmentioned reasons in the community. The facility will likely become a nursing home. The demand for La Belleza clinic services is growing.

Kenya—Earl Peachy

There are now 15 churches established and others waiting to be reached, 22 ordained and commissioned brethren, and around 850 members. There are both opportunities and challenges. Earl, his wife Edna, and Ivan Beachy recently went on a delegation trip. Harmonious staff relations in Nakuru and Kisumu pervade.

Staff Report—Ray Stutzman

At orientation a week ago, everyone there was preparing for Kenya. Present needs include a unit leader couple and a fill-in couple for May/June in Belize City, an extra ADM worker and couple in Kenya, and a minister couple in Kisumu.

Closing—Alvin Stoltzfus

Thanks are given to Christian Aid Ministries, which is supplying financial needs for ADM. AMA through this program supports 1,500 orphans and other projects.

3:40-3:46pm: Penn Valley Christian Retreat—Simon Schrock (Pilgrim C.F.)

Simon extended thanks for all the support; last year there were around 2,500 registrations. Ray Yutzy is the new administrator (as of February). Finances have been good for 2012, though some loans still need to be paid, including for chapel renovations and maintenance items. In 2013-2014, 26 seminars are scheduled. Ballots will be sent for a new board member around May 1st; please return ballots quickly. Last year only 33% of the churches returned ballots.

On behalf of Ken Miller and the Pilgrim church, thanks for prayers and financial support for Ken's legal case. While he was detained, he received many letters, setting a new high record for any inmate in that facility. The future now is uncertain. Ken is under supervision and prefers not to push for permission to come to this meeting. Please continue prayers and encouragement.

3:46-3:55pm: CAM Billboard—Johnny Miller (Christian Fellowship)

Johnny shared a conversation he had with an agnostic, "Laura," and "Natalie," a woman whose husband walked out on her and she is thinking of remarriage. Literature is available at the CAM booth, including a booklet about homosexuality produced by TGS.

3:55-3:56pm: Prayer for Ken Miller—Phil Miller

The group stood in a moment of silent prayer for Ken; Phil closed audibly.

3:56-4:21pm: Missions Interest Committee—Lorne Keupfer (Center A-M)

John D. Hostetler was elected recentlyto the board. Lorne offered thanks for support.

Hillcrest Home—Ken Nisly

What is life like at Hillcrest? Constant change: new residents coming and passing, new staff joining and terminating. Ken is terminating in the near future, and Hillcrest is looking for a replacement. Stories are told. The unit is constantly looking for female CNAs as the female/male ratio needed is 2:1. Hillcrest also needs a teacher in the near future. The new building is being framed with hopes of finishing by year's end. Hillcrest has in the past raised its own funds, but in the near future they are looking to buy the house Leonard Mast has stayed in nearby.

Secretary-Treasurer Report—Marvin Weirich

Marvin extends appreciation for counsel, support, and finances. MIC presently has around \$395,000 of free funds, including \$200,000 transferred from Hillcrest from CDs with low returns. Boone County owns the Hillcrest facility; MIC leases it. Because of the increased capacity through expansion, the leased payments will about double to about \$5,400/month, though the building will not be fully occupied until later next year. Some of the funds will have to go back to Hillcrest.

Believer's Fellowship—David Herschberger

Forty communities are accessible by plane, and David has visited around 18 with the book ministry. Booklets are available at the MIC stand. A school administrator and teacher is needed in Sioux Lookout. Ushers distributed a paper about Believer's Fellowship, giving a summary of mission activity. David is available to present about MIC at local churches.

Dunmore East Christian Fellowship & Comeragh Wilderness Camp—John D. Hostetler:

Of Dunmore East, Dan Yoder has been the only long-term minister in Ireland since Ken Miller left in 2011. Several ministers have been in Ireland in rotation to cover. The Wendell Hostetler family is moving there in June to fill the need. John gave summaries of the annual family conference, the church school, and the local bakery/gas station.

John is the MIC board member that represents Comeragh. Since November 15, 2012, camp has been in full operation. Three boys are there now and two more are coming in. A kitchen/dining room building is being assembled over the next few months. Being in Ireland, volunteer labor is

more difficult to get. MIC is looking for a long-term director. MIC needs \$23,000 to finish the kitchen/dining room; around \$15,000/month is needed just to operate the camp.

4:21-4:23pm: **Bishop Committee Election—Phil Miller**

Philip Miller's term has expired. The following nominees were voted on by ballot:

✓ Steve Miller, Woodlawn A.M., Goshen, IN Elmer Stoltzfus, Bethesda Fellowship, Plain City, OH Howard Kuhns, Pleasant View Church, Arcola, IL

Stand to sing, "To God Be the Glory."

4:23-4:32pm: Faith Builders Educational Programs—Steven Brubaker

Faith Builders recently hosted REACH, a convention of plain Anabaptist ministries (Beachy A-M sponsored organizations were represented). Materials about Faith Builders programs are available at their booth. Former student Chris Miller described his experience there. Gary Miller shared about Faith Builder's contribution to churches.

4:32-4:38pm: Youth Fellowship Meetings—Luke Stutzman (Agape C.F.)

The report from last year's meetings is that they were well attended and everything went well. The five upcoming locations are:

Northeast Pending

Northwest Rosewood Fellowship, Shipshewana, IN Southeast Cross Hill Mennonite, Cross Hill, SC

Southwest *Pending*, Hutchinson, KS

North central *Pending*

Wayne Nisly's term has expired. The following nominees were voted on by ballot:

✓ Ken Kanagy, Calvary Mennonite Fellowship, Blackville, SC Wayne Yoder, Light of Hope Christian Fellowship, Wytheville, VA Eric Stutzman, Pleasant View Mennonite, Zephyr Hills, FL

A proposal for change: Mt. Olive Beachy is in the southwest district and requests transfer to the northwest district (which is closer). In the past, we approved such a request with a hand raise. With a hand raise vote, the proposal passed without expressed opposition.

4:38-4:56pm: **Book Promotion—Simon Schrock (Faith C.F.) & Elmer Glick (Slanesville M.)** Simon Schrock and Elmer Glick reviewed books offered by Kingdom Books, Sharing Joy Hymn and Book table, Leroy Beachy (*Unser Leit*), Victory Music, Choice Books, and Christian Light Publications. Victory Music is making the meeting messages available.

4:56pm: Announcements—Phil Miller

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013

2:50- 2:58pm: Singing—Joel Gingerich (Christian Fellowship)

2:58pm-3:02pm: Moderator—Paul Leroy Miller (Maranatha F.)

Paul noted what few people were in the auditorium at this time (about 80-100 people present). Paul led in prayer. Ushers distributed ballots to those without agendas or ballots.

3:02-3:34pm: **Bishop Committee—David Yoder (Center A-M)**

The peace and service committee requested direction from the bishop committee about who shall research the new health care law; the bishop committee requested them to do so.

David read the report, a paragraph at a time, with comments interjected [refer to report, injected] comments summarized below]. On paragraphs one to two, David feels the statement from last year about radio may have been read variously; he attempted to clarify, concluding with: "we encourage ... constructive ways to working with our people, the issues that surface for them." At MMA last year, the question of the radio came up, and the MMA chairman came to David, who recommended MMA bring the radio bylaw up for discussion in that group. Regarding constituency size, David does not want to divide along ideological lines because he prefers the unity of diversity. On paragraph three, the statement from last year has changed descriptive names several times over the past two years based on what the statement is trying to do. The bishop committee handed the statement back over to the committee that had written the initial one for further considerations. On paragraph five, David wants to look at what builds relationships among ministers. On paragraph six, David said the bishop committee is not trying to eliminate the annual ministers' meeting. David wants dividing to be along geographical, not ideological, lines. If others want to leave this body, they may, he said. On paragraph seven, David emphasized that ministers should honor and respect each other.

Feedback should be channeled through each church's bishop in preparation for the December bishops' meeting. There is a Beachy bishop email list; the bishop committee is developing an electronic infrastructure for direct communication.

A period of open questions was given. No response. Other bishop committee members were offered a chance to speak. None spoke. David needed to leave immediately after the presentation.

3:34-3:43pm: Peace & Service/Cons. Anabaptist Service Program—Tim Miller (Dinwiddie) David L. Miller's term has expired. The following nominees were voted on by ballot:

Arlen Mast, Arlington Amish-Mennonite, Hutchinson, KS

✓ Dan Byler, Lighthouse of Faith Fellowship, Huntsville, AR Anthony Miller, Dayspring Christian Fellowship, Hiddenite, NC

Ushers distributed a report. There is no update on the possibility of a draft. Registration is important for consideration of CO status. Tim gave a report on the CASP project in Kansas this year. The committee is interested in doing projects in other areas; you may offer suggestions. Of funding, \$2,000 is still needed to cover this year's expenses. Expenses were \$13,783.39 and income was \$10,194.00. Next year's expenses will be \$12K-\$15K. Additional finances would be used for a brochure. Two terms are offered for 2014 in Kansas, from January through February. Thanks is expressed to David L. Miller for his committee work; he is now an emeritus member.

3:43-3:53pm: Conservative Anabaptist School Board Institute & Calvary Publications—Nathan Yoder (Faith Mission F.)

Calvary Publications has coordinated CASBI for seven years. CASBI was held at Valley View A-M in March with 55 schools represented. Christian education is facing new issues, especially loss of vision, lack of qualified teachers, challenges of including high school, and adequate funding. Calvary Publications suggest organizing a committee to oversee CASBI. A period of open comment was given; no response. [Later, ministers approved the board with a hand-raise.]

3:53-3:54pm: **Song—Joel Gingerich**

3:54-4:17 pm: Calvary Bible School—Paul A. Miller (Crosspointe M.)

Paul A. Miller's term has expired. The following nominees were voted on by ballot:

✓ Joel Gingerich, Christian Fellowship Amish-Mennonite, Minerva, OH Perry Beachy, Cornerstone Mennonite, Burgettstown, OH Duane Troyer, Faith & Light Christian Fellowship, Leesburg, OH

Wendell Hostetler is leaving for Ireland and needs to be replaced. The following nominees from the two remaining candidates in 2011 were voted on:

✓ Anthony Miller, Dayspring Christian Fellowship, Taylorsville, NC Duane Weaver, Pilgrim Christian Fellowship, Stuarts Draft, VA

Financial Report—Stan Nisly

Beginning balance: \$1,449.31. Receipts: \$191.7K, disbursements \$187.5K. Ending balance: \$5,693.99. Finances are needed through the summer for routine support. 55.55% of costs are covered by tuition, which is approximately their target. Students cost \$195.26/week. Facilities are available during the summer for events on a donation basis.

Principal's Report—Rodger Byers

Rodger extends thanks for support and input. Non-monetary donations are on the decline, so please consider donating in this way (such as food). This year has been good; thank you for filling out references. Students may come unsure about self, only beginning to come to in-depth understanding of what they believe and why. CBS helps assist churches understand what we believe. Time is moving on and the new generation is removed from our own past experiences.

Miscellaneous & Building Report—Paul A. Miller

Marvin Kauffman is retiring as academic dean; Melvin Stoltzfus has replaced him. If churches need more handbooks (or need fewer), contact the board. The young men's discipleship training course was not held last year, but will be held again this year in the Alleghany Mountains in Pennsylvania. Brochures are available. Sewage capacity must be expanded before further renovation/expansions can be made.

Norman Kauffman is chairman of the new building committee. The main building is undersized at this point. Renovations are needed for the future, which are anticipated for 2013 or 2014. Funds for the renovations are welcome (marked for this need). The Young Men's Discipleship Training Course conducted by Ernest Eby had been canceled for 2012. The board anticipates resuming this in 2013, to be held in western Pennsylvania.

Final Comments—Floyd Stoltzfus

Floyd shared some reflections of his work and departure, including the increasingly rapid pace of change. Today, youth think differently, but their problems are still the same, though they have accelerated, especially pornography and moral issues.

4:17-4:24pm: Anabaptist Financial—Richie Lauer

Richie presented an overview of the programs. AF can accept investments from Kansas, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Gifts for 2012: AMA (\$125K) and MIC (\$54K). Seminars are being offered in different settlements.

3:24-4:34pm: Amish-Mennonite Historical Association—Enos Stutzman (Bethesda F.) AMHA is pursuing a facility rental agreement with the Amish& Mennonite Heritage Center (Behalt), Berlin, OH, as an archives location. AMHA has non-profit status in Ohio and has nearly completed federal recognition 501(c)3 status. Bylaws have been changed slightly from what was emailed out earlier; prohibition on radio and television "ownership and use" has been changed just to "use;" provision for by-law amendments was added. Revised bylaws will be emailed again (ushers distributed copies to those interested).

AMHA made three requests:

- (1) *Church Representative*: After selecting your church representative for AMHA, please send his name, address, telephone numbers, and email address to Steven Troyer (Secretary), 3014 SR-39, Millersburg, OH 44654, ph. (330) 893-3184 [h] (330) 893-3037 [c], vbms@earthlink.net
- (2) *Finances*: AMHA seeks approximately \$10,000 to start. Donations and offerings should be written out to Amish-Mennonite Historical Association and sent to Leon Zook (Treasurer), 721 Semmie Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23457, ph. 757-544-4810 [h] 757-426-6170 [c], leon@kempsvillecabinets.com
- (3) *Materials:* AMHA is interested in many materials related to our heritage (see section nine of the bylaws). Acquisition terms can be arranged, including special consideration for sensitive materials. Artifacts and materials for AMHA may be sent to Cory Anderson (Archivist), 28539 SR-751, Newcomerstown, OH 43832, ph. 330-897-1426, cory@beachyam.org

4:34-4:41pm: Calvary Publications—Nathan Yoder

Three books, two tracts, and the monthly periodical are available. Last year, Calvary Publications was low on funds, but enough donations came in. Calvary Publications requests Enos Stutzman to stay on the committee; his term is up. By a hand raise, the ministerial body approved a new term. David L. Miller and Paul L. Miller will need to be replaced in the near future; the committee is pursuing people to fill those spots.

4:41-4:53pm: Book Promotion—Simon Schrock & Elmer Glick

4:53pm: Announcements—Paul Leroy Miller

Amish Mennonite Aid

Alvin Stoltzfus Chairman
Philip Beachy Vice chairman
Ivan Beachy Secretary-Treasurer

Jonas Beiler* Member Paul Beachy Member Ray Stutzman Personnel

Daniel Bontrager Honorary member

Outgoing: Earl Peachey

Amish-Mennonite Historical Assoc.

Enos Stutzman Chairman
Stephen Russell Vice Chairman
Steven Troyer Secretary
Leon Zook Treasurer
Cory Anderson Member

Beachy A-M Bishop Committee

David Yoder Chairman
Ivan Beachy Secretary
Laban Kauffman Member
Tim Miller Member
Steve Miller* Member

Outgoing: Phil Miller

Calvary Bible School

Marvin Kauffman	Chairman	
Anthony Miller*	Vice chairman	
Mel Stoltzfus	Academic dean	
Norman Kauffman	Secretary	
Stan Nisly	Treasurer	
Joel Gingerich*	Member	
Norman Kauffman	Building Chair	
Robert Byler	Building Member	
Thomas Mast	Building Member	
Anthony Miller	IT Chair	
Duane Weaver	IT Member	
Michael Mast	IT Member	
Rodger Byers	Principal	
Outgoing: Paul A. Miller & Wendell		

Hostetler

Calvary Publications

Nathan Yoder Chairman Elmer Glick* Vice-chairman Enos Stutzman Secretary David L. Miller Member
Ralph Miller Member
Manferd McGrath Member
Paul L. Miller Editor

Mark Beachy Treasurer-Circulation

Ministers' Meeting Coordinator

Mark Webb

Missions Interest Committee

Chairman
Vice chairman
Secretary-Treasurer
Board Member
Board Member

Peace & Service/CASP Committee

Tim Miller	Chairman
Merv Lapp	Member
Elmer Miller	Member
David S. King	Member
Dan Byler*	Member
David L. Miller	Emeritus

Penn Valley Christian Retreat

Alvin Beachy	Chairman
Loren Yoder	Vice-chairman
Paul Beachy	Secretary-Treasurer
Ervin Hostetler	Member
Ivan Swarey	Member
Phil Stoltzfus	Member
Paul Sommers	Member
Simon Schrock	Ministerial Board
David S. King	Ministerial Board
Homer Zook	Ministerial Board
Ray Yutzy	Administrator

Youth Fellowship Meetings

Luke Stutzman	Chairman (NC)
Dan Byler	Secretary (SW)
Ken Kanagy*	Member (SE)
Lamar Ropp	Member (NW)
Jason Smoker	Member (NE)

Outgoing: Wayne Nisly

^{*}Newly elected or re-elected member