

Beachy Amish Minister's Meeting Business Sessions April 3-5, 2007

Wednesday April 4, 2:15-4:30

Moderator; Oren Yoder

2:20 Introduction of the newly ordained

The following 12 newly ordained brethren introduced themselves giving their office, date and place of ordination

1. Lamar Ropp, ordained to the office of minister at Sharon Bethel Amish Mennonite Church, Kalona, IA, on 9/17/06.
2. James Stolfus, ordained to the office of deacon at Bethel Christian Fellowship, Gordonville, PA, on 9/10/06.
3. Willard Mast, commissioned to serve in Las Delicias, El Salvador, in August of 2000.
4. Aaron Yoder, ordained to the office of minister at Clay Street Amish Mennonite, Bourbon, IN, on 1/14/07.
5. Dean Miller, ordained to the office of minister at Woodlawn Amish Mennonite, Goshen, IN on 9/10/06.
6. Wayne Lapp, ordained to the office of minister at Cornerstone Mennonite Church, Burgettstown, PA, on 5/14/06.
7. Mervin Yoder, ordained to the office of minister at Trinity Christian Fellowship, Arthur, IL, on 12/3/06.
8. Jason Miller, ordained to the office of deacon at Antrim Mennonite Church, Antrim, OH, on 11/13/05.
9. Dean Miller, ordained to the office of deacon at Cornerstone Mennonite Church, Harrison, AR, on 4/30/06
10. Jonathon Miller, ordained to the office of minister at Lighthouse of Faith, Huntsville, AR, on 3/12/06.
11. John David (Jay) Yoder, ordained to the office of minister at Oak Grove Mennonite, Aroda, VA, on 5/14/06.
12. Laverne Miller, ordained to the office of deacon at Center Amish Mennonite, Hutchinson, KS, on 4/3/03.

Mark Gingerich, Mountain View, AR, introduced Chad Lee, a former Baptist minister who lives in Northern Louisiana. He has come to some Anabaptist conclusions by reading the Bible and is looking for like-minded fellowship. He invited anyone to come encourage them with a visit and to pray for them.

Mark Gingerich prayed a blessing on the newly ordained.

2:34 AMA Presentation

1. Board member election

The present board members of AMA are Ivan Beachy, Daniel Bontrager, Vernon Miller, Earl Peachy and Alvin Stolfus. Alvin Stolfus' term is expiring in 2007. Slate of candidates are Alvin Stolfus (Mine Road Church, Oxford, PA), James Beachy (Maranatha Fellowship, Holmes Co. OH), and Paul Beachy (Grace Mennonite Fellowship, Bastrop, TX). Alvin Stolfus re-elected to a four year term.

2. Faith Mission Report

Earl Peachey introduced the new Faith Mission director, Paul Beiler. Paul expressed appreciation for the staff sent by the churches and asked that we pray for Faith Mission.

3. Recruiter's Report- Ray Stutzman

Shared some of the responses he got in the last year. Expressed appreciation for the good responses

he gets most of the time. Some needs mentioned were two male school teachers for Belize, a single fellow for maintenance/Agape program in Kenya, and a couple in Kenya. Encouraged to give suggestions for mission staff.

4. Secretary's Report- Ivan Beachy

If you would like to be on AMA's email list or were on it and have changed your email address, please contact them to add or update your address. This list is used to let people know of special needs. Worker's love offering has not been dispersed yet, currently is about \$20,000 less than usual. A financial compilation is available. The board would like to hear from you if you think greater financial accountability is necessary. An overview of the 2006 finances includes income of \$1,900,000 and expenses of \$1,785,000 allowing them to keep over \$200,000 in savings. Sent a container with lots of literature and other goods over to Kenya at an expense of about \$35,000. Thanked the churches for their support.

5. Overview- Earl Peachey

Ordained the third native pastor in the church at Kasonga with the idea of starting an outreach from this church. Ordained Justa Jara at the church in La Belleza, Paraguay. Ordained Stevie Eichorn at the Luz Y Esperanza church. The former children's home in El Salvador is being used in a ministry to the deaf. AMA is open to coming and sharing with our churches about the mission of AMA and about missions in general. Earl shared some experiences of their time in Kenya and the opportunities that exist in other African countries. Challenged us to reach every person in the world with the Gospel.

3:06 Nominations for Bishop Committee Slate- Oren Yoder

The current Bishop Committee is Joe Peachey, John U. Lapp, Tim Miller, Roman B. Mullet, and Glenn Miller. Glenn Miller's term expires in 2007 and by policy an outgoing member is not available for re-election for two years. Nomination were taken by ballot to select a slate that will be voted upon at tomorrow's business meeting.

3:09 MIC Presentation- Lorne Kuepfer

Expressed appreciation for the prayer and support from the congregations. Introduced Marvin Weirich as the new secretary replacing Mel Gingerich.

1. Ireland Report

Requested prayer for the mission there. The group there is small and would welcome visits of encouragement.

2. Belgium Report

The mission in Belgium has faced many difficulties one of which is getting permanent visas for the workers there. The difficult decision was made to focus the MIC's efforts in other fields. There is no timetable at this time for leaving Belgium. Requested prayer for the board and for Paul and Conrad Yoder's.

3. Canada Report- Darrell Nisly

Expressed appreciation for the support they feel. Wayne and Edna Schrock moved to Northern Virginia. Merle and Edith Burkholder have moved to Sioux Lookout. A leadership mentoring program has been started with eight men enrolled. They are looking for brothers to stand with these men. If you are interested in being a supporter, contact Darrell. A few needs mentioned were a male teacher at Sioux Lookout, a couple at Red Lake, a couple at Sioux Lookout, and a couple to take Gerald Yoder's place as they go on sabbatical in October. Requested prayer especially for the family relationship's in the units.

4. Hillcrest Report- Ken Nisly

Reported a good year, they have been able to keep their census around 90 thanks to adequate personnel. Their needs include more female CNA's, also will need a Dean of Men and a Dean of Women in the next six months. Excited about working with the leaders of tomorrow. Continue to pray for Hillcrest.

3:33 Nominations for Minister's Meeting Coordinator- Oren Yoder

Mark Yoder is currently serving as coordinator, but is resigning after five years because of a planned move to Thailand. It was proposed that we take nominations today to come up with a slate of three men to be voted on tomorrow. This person would serve a five year term, with the possibility of consecutive terms if re-elected. This proposal was approved by a hand raised vote and nominations taken.

3:35 Calvary Bible School Presentation– Aaron Lapp

1. Board member election

Current Board members are Aaron Lapp, Tim Stolfus Marvin Kauffman, Ken Miller and Paul A. Miller. Marvin Kauffman term is up and the three candidates on the slate are Marvin Kauffman (IA)(re-election), Verlynn Yoder (MN), and Donald Miller (KS). Marvin Kauffman was re-elected to a five year term.

2. Principal's Report– Floyd Stolfus

Blessed by sincere young people. This year they had a focus on evangelism including a Saturday of going out on the streets and talking to people and handing out literature, was a real blessing. This year had 118 three week students, 64 six week students, 32 nine week students, and 2 twelve week students, for a total of 226 different students. Expressed appreciation for the donation of food and for all the support both spiritual and physical. Sense a need of discipline in the lives of the students—needs to start at home. Also encouraged us to challenge the parents of our churches to speak to their sons and daughter about personal purity. Appreciates the responses on the pastor's questionnaire, encouraged to go over the CBS handbook with the prospective student and be familiar with the handbook.

3. Input on six week term– Aaron Lapp

Three years ago combined 3rd and 4th terms into one six week term. The board feels there has been a positive response and is recommending to continue the six week term. After some discussion, the board was affirmed by a hand raised vote.

4. Financial Report– Tim Stolfus

Ending balance on 3/31/07 of \$18,732, which is higher than sometimes. Thanked the congregations for their support. A detailed financial statement is available by contacting Tim or Floyd. Tuition was reviewed, CBS tuition is about half of comparable Bible Schools, half of CBS' income from church offerings. Ohio churches donated finances and labor to replace siding on main building.

4:10 Book Promotion– Simon Schrock, Elmer Glick and Gary Miller

4:32 Announcements and adjournment

Thursday, April 5, 2:15 to 4:30 pm

Moderator: Gary Miller

2:18 Bishop Committee Presentation– John Lapp

1. Slate for bishop committee

Lester Gingerich, Raymond King, Bill Mullet. Raymond King was elected to the bishop committee.

2. Statement from the bishop committee

Handed out a statement that was requested several years ago on dealing with pastors who are failing significantly in their role as leaders and how to deal with moral failure in the life of a leader. The bishop committee is asking for input concerning this statement. They would like to have this input within the next month. Contact any of the committee. Mentioned that this statement is not intended to be critical of how situations were handled in the past.

2:29 Calvary Publications– Nathan Yoder and Elmer Glick

1. Election of board member

Present board is Glenn Yoder, Ralph Miller, Enos Stutzman, Nathan Yoder, and Elmer Glick. Elmer

Glick's term is expiring in 2007. Cast ballots for the new board member between Mark Gingerich (AR), Mark Webb (VA), and Elmer Glick (WV) (re-election). Elmer Glick was re-elected.

2. Presentation

The board confirms David L. Miller as honorary member, Mark Beachy as circulation manager, and Paul L. Miller as editor. Purpose of Calvary Publications is to serve the needs of the constituency, Calvary messenger, information booklets and other special projects. Appreciation was expressed for the various of the Calvary Messenger, especially the youth section. Encouraged our people read the articles. A complete financial statement is available, but it was pointed out that their ending balance is over \$6,000 less than their beginning balance and they would appreciate being considered in our giving. Subscriptions cover the cost of printing and shipping. Donations cover the compensation for the editor's. Haven't received a subsidy from MIC for six years and don't want to this year either. Circulation last year was 4,810.

2:39 School Board Institute-- Nathan Yoder

Last year at the minister's meetings it was affirmed to go ahead with a School Board Institute which took place February 2,3 at Antrim Ohio with about 200 people attending. They are considering having it every year and changing the location to allow more people to attend. Would encourage especially new board members to attend. Those on the committee are Daniel Lapp, Jonas Sauder, Nathan Yoder and Elmer Glick. Suggested that the hosting community would add one member. Would like to go beyond the boundaries of this constituency for board members and hosting communities. Open to suggestions for either. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, contact Elmer Glick.

2:45 Fellowship Meeting Coordinator-- Delmar Bontrager

Present five man committee is Delmar Bontrager (term expiring), Titus Wagler, Luke Stutzman, Donald Miller, Simon Bender. Nominees to replace Delmar Bontrager were Willis Bontrager (IL), Clyde Stoll (IN), and Verlynn Yoder (MN). Verlynn Yoder was elected. Challenged us to take time to develop relationships with our youth. The date for the meetings in 2007 are July 20-22. Three communities are hosting their first fellowship meetings. The sites for 2007 are Paris TN, Kokomo IN, Hartville OH, Mission Home VA, and Abbeyville SC. Encouraged young people to attend and put their hearts into it.

3:00 Peace and Service Committee-- Elmer Miller

Men serving on this committee are Marvin Beachy (term expiring), Raymond King, and Elmer Miller. The slate of nominees for the board opening are Marvin Beachy (re-election), Norman Troyer, and Mark Beachy. Marvin Beachy was re-elected. Don't know that there will be a draft, nobody seems to want it, but it keeps being talked about. Thought it would be prudent to prepare before that time is upon us. We shouldn't assume that the issues are settled. Checked into setting up a service opportunity with CAM, they were open to that and have set up an interim board to look into these matters. That board is Marvin Yoder, Lyle Hostetler, Lynn Miller, Eli Weaver and David L. Miller. Marvin Yoder reminded us of the young men lost to the pressures of the 1-W program and asked how many of our young men today could stand up under those pressures. The government wants to respect true CO's but also weed out those who are not. Earlier if you were a part of a peace church you would be excused on that basis, but the program in place now would examine each person individually.

3:26 Penn Valley Christian Retreat-- Homer Zook

Men on the three man pastoral committee; David S. King, Elmer Schrock (term expiring), and Homer Zook. The nominees for this position were; David A. King, Jonathan Stolfus, and Elmer Schrock, who was re-elected. The pastoral board is in place to ensure that the teaching of PVCR remains scriptural and is accountable to the larger ministerial group. More people from outside our constituency are attending and encouraged us to attend and to encourage our people to attend. Would like to do some renovation to the building, including enlarging the chapel and adding an elevator. They would like to start the first phase of this project in August. They are relying on donated funds and labor to complete

this project. The first phase is projected to cost \$75,000 with the second phase projected to cost \$25,000. They have a building fund in place and your consideration would be much appreciated. The annual board meeting is on June 22nd, all contact people and ministers are invited to help plan the seminars in the coming year. They are planning to have two youth seminars and two marriage seminars, since the previous ones were always full.

3:37 Master's International Ministries– Nathan Yoder

Not as well known as other mission organizations, but we were encouraged to become informed and involved. MIM work is mainly church planting in the Ukraine and Russia. Also are involved in self help programs, a seed distribution, and a clinic. Appreciation expressed for financial and personnel support. They are available to give a presentation in our churches, contact one of the board members if you are interested.

3:44 Australian Christian Brotherhood– Eli Kauffman

Mission was the vision of William McGrath, who was in contact with a few christians in Australia. The Jason Kauffman family is currently serving there. A five man board oversees the work there, they are: Lee fisher, John Smucker, Ken Kauffman, Phil Hershberger, and Eli Kauffman. They have a vision to have tent crusade in Australia. Asking if there would be people from our constituency with a vision of reaching the people of Australia for the kingdom with evangelists, singing groups, funds and equipment. Presentations and information are available.

4:00 Minister's Meeting Coordinator Election– Gary Miller

Nominees for this five year position were: Philip Beachy, Jason Gingerich, and Paul A. Miller. Paul A. Miller was elected.

The community of Arthur, Illinois has invited us to come to their community for the 2008 minister's meeting. Due to a conflict with the facility, they are scheduled for the last week of March. Appreciation expressed for the invitation.

4:06 Faith Builder's Report– Julian Nisly

Faith Builders is an educational program serving the Conservative Anabaptist churches. Two year program with a teaching or ministry emphasis. In between the spring and fall semester they have a summer term geared toward teachers and in the winter they have term geared toward ministry. They have one Teacher Apprentice Program and eight Ministry Apprentice Program opening for the fall semester. Julian attended the five week winter term and would encourage anyone to attend and gave a hearty endorsement of the their program.

4:11 Anabaptist Vision Meeting– Chester Weaver

Planning an Anabaptist Vision Meeting on the afternoon of June 18 through June 20 at SMBI. Young people have expressed interest in a meeting like this but it is open for anybody not just young people, would like to see some older people there. Paul L. Miller and Chester Weaver are coordinating this event. More announcements coming in the Calvary Messenger.

4:15 Book Promotion– Simon Schrock, Elmer Glick, and David L. Miller

No book stand for CLP but they will offer free shipping if you call in a order and mention that you heard the announcement at the minister's meeting. To order call 1-800-776-0478.

4:36 Announcements

Mountain View also need female CNA's and funds for their building project.