

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

To: delegates

From: Missional Leadership Team

Subject: Advisory Council Recommendation

Preview for delegate meetings Feb-Mar 2018, intended for action at Annual Sessions 2018

In June 2016 delegates approved the following recommendation:

That the Advisory Council (AC) be suspended for two years and that this action be evaluated at the end of that time.

During this time:

- Missional Leadership Team released all Advisory Council members from their commitments and encouraged involvement in other leadership teams.
- Gifts Development Team invited leadership teams to identify a college age person to come on as an “intern” to introduce them to conference work. To date, we are not sure any teams have successfully implemented this idea.

During this time of suspension, Missional Leadership Team (MLT) has received no comments about missing Advisory Council. We recognize Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) has 25 fewer congregations than when Advisory Council began. MLT sought counsel several times through area councils and the Michigan Leaders/Pastors Summit, places where staff have made a point of connecting. We recognize leaders and delegates directed most of our energy toward the Unity and Variance process and the vote on *Renewing a Vision*. Conference leadership people met with congregations and staff met with area councils. We have not heard lament about the Advisory Council suspension.

Missional Leadership Team recommends that Advisory Council be discontinued as part of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference structure. We hope that as congregations live into *Renewing a Vision*, bonds of relationships continue to grow and we live into the Revelation 7 vision of all nations and languages gathered around the throne and the Lamb.

This action will require a change in the Bylaws. This change and a number of other bylaw revisions will be addressed in the coming year and come to delegates in 2019.

MLT Recommendation for action

That the 2016 delegate action to suspend Advisory Council become permanent and that the Advisory Council be discontinued as part of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference structure.

Approved by MLT on November 18, 2017 to present to delegates