

Relationships and Responsibilities of the Bishop Overseer

A. In Relation to Congregations in the District:

1. Visit each congregation regularly.
2. Preach in each congregation periodically.
3. Participate, as possible, in congregational life activities.

B. In Relation to Ministerial Leaders as Individuals:

1. Pray regularly for congregational leaders.
2. Provide pastoral care to the leaders.
3. Meet regularly with pastors and other leaders for fellowship and for review of their goals, growth areas, overall direction in their ministry and to help arrange action plans for meeting the goals and growth needs of leaders.

C. In Relation to Congregational Leadership Teams:

1. Work with the leadership team in the spiritual shepherding of the congregation.
2. Direct the calling, training, licensing, ordaining, or commissioning of the persons needed to lead the congregation and work through the termination of their ministry in the congregation as necessary.
3. Oversee the functioning of the leadership teams.
4. Assist in shaping congregational vision, goals, and development of programs.
5. Oversee congregational and pastoral reviews and evaluations.
6. As needed, assist in resolution of conflicts.

D. In Relation to District Leadership Groups:

1. Focus and communicate an overall vision for the district.
2. Arrange for scheduling and leadership of regular meetings of the district leadership group.
3. Resource ministers, deacons, and elders for their spiritual oversight of the congregations.
4. Coordinate mutual accountability within the district.
5. Coordinate district activities.
6. Arrange for district appointments to boards and committees.
7. Lead in vision and planning for district outreach, such as church planting.
8. Arrange with district leadership group for periodic review of the bishop's role and work.

E. In Relation to Bishop Board

1. Participate in monthly Bishop Board meetings.
2. Serve on committees as requested by Bishop Board.
3. Assist other bishops in their work as requested.
4. Be accountable to the Bishop Board and the local district for the conducting of all aspects of the bishop's work.
5. Honor commitments made in "Commitment to Relationships" document.

F. In Relation to Lancaster Conference:

1. Attend Spring and Fall Conference Assemblies.
2. Attend Celebration of Church Life in March.
3. Actively promote Conference programs and agencies.

G. In Relation to Mennonite Church USA:

1. Keep informed on the life and activities of the broader church through reading denominational publications and attendance at church-wide conferences and seminars as possible.

H. In Relation to the Missional Church Vision:

1. Promote and support a church planting vision among the district leadership and churches.
2. Guide the emerging congregation and its leadership toward full integration into the Lancaster Mennonite Conference.
3. Promote and support revitalization of existing congregations.