

**2025 Modertaor’s Report**

**Conference Minister Search**

At the 2024 annual meeting, the conference minister search committee reported there were very good prospects for a pastor to step into the staff position of IMC Conference Minister. (IMC had been without a conference minister since June 2022.) As the year unfolded, three IMC pastors responded to IMC’s call for a conference minister. Through conversations with the search committee, everyone agreed to go forward with a Conference Executive Minister team of 3, quarter time pastors (1/4 FTE each). (At least three other area conferences have conference minister teams.)

The MLT and pastors agreed to a Memo of Understanding. Bryan Miller began serving September 1: Cal Zehr, November 1: Eric Potter, January 1. We are grateful for these pastors’ willingness to serve the churches of the conference together as a team.

**Credentialing Proposal**

After hearing discussions around two credentialing proposals at the 2024 annual meeting, the MLT decided to present a single proposal to congregations for their acceptance or non-acceptance. (This *at variance* proposal is reprinted in the 2025 meeting materials.) Responses from churches are the basis for IMC accepting or not accepting this practice. 7 churches responded with acceptance. 3 churches responded with non-acceptance. (2 progressive, 1 conservative reasons) 1 church formally abstained.

Received responses stretched from April through October. Any church not responding had received 3 invitations to respond (April, June, & October) We respect the situations and reasons of churches who decided not to respond. Interestingly, the number of churches responding is about the number of churches represented at the last two in-person annual meetings, after the zoom meetings during Covid.

The MLT decided to adopt the *at variance* credentialing practice at their November meeting. However imperfect this practice is, it is an attempt to demonstrate mutual accommodation across our conflicting views about same sex marriage.

**Grants**

At the time of the 2024 annual meeting, some governors of southern states had been bussing immigrants to Chicago. At that meeting, Sergio Nava reported on efforts by some of the churches to assist these unsettled migrants in the Chicago area. Sergio mentioned Sonido de Alabanza could use a vehicle that could transport several people at a time. MLT approved $10,000 to assist with those efforts.

IMC, again, supported Olak Sunawar’s ministry of mentoring and leadership development to Nepali leaders across the Midwest and beyond with $12,000.

**Leadership teams**

Over 2020 – 2022 Gifts Discernment and MLT had unsuccessfully invited 14 people to serve on IMC teams. It is not uncommon to hear from other area conferences that it is hard to find individuals to serve on conference teams. And conferences do not want to take any leaders away from serving in their own congregations. Some conferences have cut back on the number of positions they need to operate.

MLT asked for nominations from congregations in 2024 and asks again this year. The constitution allows for nominations from the floor at delegate meetings. MLT invites nominations at the annual meeting of individuals who have agreed to serve. Contacting the MLT with the names of interested individuals ahead of the meeting is appreciated.

Darrel Miller IMC moderator