

Sunday, September 17, 2017

24 Farnsworth Street, Chapel
MFC Sunday Business Meeting

Members: Nick Allen, Jackie Clement, Jan Devor, Jennifer Hamlin-Navias,
Jesse King, Don Brunnuell, Michael Lyde, Shana Lynngood, Joetta Proust,
Maddie Sifantus, Kristen Harper, Greg Ward, Shawn Newton,
Staff: Sarah Lammert, Alicia Forde, David Pettee, Marion Bell
Liaisons: Gary McAlpin, Pratima Dharm, Eileen Wiviott

PUBLIC SESSION

Candidacy Working Group

1. Catherine Clarenbach has shared with the Committee information about the fee for service MFC preparation that she is offering to candidates. Paper has been sent to all MFC members.

Points raised during discussion:

We already have free resources available.

Should this be in the Ways because of ethical reasons?

No one on current MFC shouldn't engage

Should we have a check box on packet noting third party help?

Do you mean only if they had "paid" review?

What is it about the process that is making a market for this?

Those that can afford that is getting a set up... and have a better chance?

There are those who have very strong networks who can help them with prep.

What would happen if someone asked uua for \$ to take this opportunity?

What kind of impact would this have on her renewal paperwork?

With the MFN every candidate has an opportunity to connect with colleagues.

It sets up a standard that leaves out poor, disenfranchised, people of color,

2. Currently, the length of aspirant status is seven years. The MFC considers the length of candidacy status to also be seven years. Someone could move through seven years of aspirant status before moving through seven years of candidate status. The Ministerial Credentialing Director encourage the Committee to consider setting seven years as the length of the credentialing process that commences with the granting of aspirant status. Requests for an extension will be considered as is the process now.

CWG recommends that an individual's formation be limited to seven years, with the time beginning when the person receives aspirant status.

Current: MFC Policy 12. Length of Candidate Status and Removal of Candidate Files.

Candidate Status is limited to seven years from the date that candidacy was granted. Any Candidate file which has been inactive for seven years may be destroyed by the Ministries and Faith Development Staff Group.

Recommended: MFC Policy 12. Length of Aspirant/Candidate Status

The period for holding Aspirant/Candidate Status combined is limited to seven years from the date Aspirant Status was granted. After seven years, Aspirant/Candidate Status will be revoked. Application for an extension must be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee for review.

Tabled. TBA with the CWG

3. Oxford Document Management is unable to provide a criminal background check for candidates who reside in Canada. Shall I look for a Canadian vendor? CWG recommends that David Pettee follow up accordingly. **Shana and Shawn will do some research and will make a recommendation.**

4. Sofia Betancourt (one of the two consultants hired by the MFC to prepare the MFC Reading List) is suggesting that the new Skinner House Book, "Centering: Navigating, Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry" be added to the MFC Reading List. Referred to PWG.

Point raised – doing piecemeal additions and removals, isn't helpful. Also, we want to revisit shortening the reading list.

5. Given the new MFC Competencies, does the M. Div Equivalency process need to be updated?

Here are the current expectations:

-Ministerial Arts (liturgics, preaching, etc.)	3 courses
-Theology	2 courses
-History of Christianity	2 courses
-Hebrew and Christian Scriptures	2 courses
-World Religions	2 courses
-Social Theory/Social Ethics	1 course
-Human Development	1 course
-Pastoral Care	1 course
-Leadership and Organization	1 course
-Administration and Management	1 course
-Religious Education	1 course
-Personal/Spiritual formation	1 course
-Anti-racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism	1 course
-Electives	5 courses
TOTAL	24 courses

Refer to PWG with the suggestion this could be a joint PWG-CWG project. In addition, the CWG had a conversation about their own process in making decisions about M. Div Equivalency requests. There were a significant number of requests this meeting that were recommended for approval. While the CWG affirmed most of these request, they noticed that they were spending too much time developing the plan. The CWG has determined that moving forward they will refer M. Div Equivalency requests without an adequate plan back to the aspirant or candidate for resubmission at a later date.

CWG will start a discussion on what it might look like and work with PWG. Needs to be cross-referenced with the new competencies.

Kristen, Jackie, and Shawn will work together on this for December's meeting.

6. The CWG requests that the PWG consider how we handle candidates coming before us who have not completed the courses required in the new competencies. Similar to missing items from the Reading List, do missing courses result in an automatic Category II, or do we test for equivalent knowledge? Testing for equivalency might take the form of questioning during the interview, seeking a waiver from the CWG before the in-person interview, or an equivalency experience form submitted as part of the packet or another mechanism.

Settlement Working Group

Maddie gave a brief update on the progress of the updates to the renewal forms to align with the new competencies. The SWG will have a conference call in October to finalize a draft for the full MFC vote in December. Maddie also proposed that the MFC should review the MFC Policies and Rules for revisions that will be more welcoming and supportive for community and entrepreneurial ministries.

Process Working Group

MFC Decision Process:

Nick gave a report on the PWG's discussion regarding MFC's use of 'categories' as outcomes for MFC interviews. The PWG will bring proposals for revisions to the December 2017 meeting.

Noted conversation on the number system:

All feedback should be part of their formation – every decision should include counsel/encouragement.

There should still be a "NO" option if the number system is replaced, as one of the MFC's roles is to protect our congregations.

Could the decision be:

Ready for search/not ready for search?

We see a minister/we see a minister but...:

All letters that are sent out should be more prescriptive

Improvements to the New Competency packet:

The PWG will make edits based on the feedback that has been received so far on the new competencies and will have a draft ready for the December meeting. The online document submission process will be reviewed with Mark Steinwinter to see what the timeline looks like for rolling out that process.

By March 2018 the PWG hopes to have version 2 of approved competencies online.

Other Items:

Is it possible to have some further suggested reading on the development plan for the renewals?

PWG is working on proposed revisions of the Policies and will have a draft reading for a vote at the December 2017 meeting.

Can we schedule a tour for the historical sites in Boston as part of our meeting?

OTHER BUSINESS:

Motion: to approve the March 2017 meeting minutes (Nick, Greg 2nd). Approved, 1 abstention.

Due to the demand, we will also have a third panel for the March 2018 meeting.

Future Dates confirmed:

[Spring 2019](#)

Wednesday, March 27- Sunday, March 31, 2019
Fall 2019
Wednesday, September 18 – Sunday, September 22

A brief reminder on scheduled MFC DATES:

WINTER 2017

Wednesday, November 29 – Sunday, December 3 2017 (Exec meets on Wed. Nov 29)

SPRING 2018

Wednesday, March 21 – Sunday, March 25, 2018 (Exec meets on Wed. Mar 21)

FALL 2018

Tuesday, September 25 – Sunday, September 30, 2018 (Exec meets on Tue; all day continuing ed on Wednesday, September 26)

WINTER 2018

Wednesday, November 28-Sunday, December 2 (Exec meets on Wed. Nov 28)