

CDM ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

FALL 2018

The CDM Meets in the Spring and Fall

The Committee on Diaconal Ministries (CDM) meets face-to-face two times each year: once in the spring and once in the fall. Otherwise, much of the work of the CDM is carried out by its subcommittees which communicate by email and conference calls continually throughout the year.

This is the report on the 2018 fall meeting, which took place November 1-2, 2018, at the OPC Administrative Offices in Willow Grove, PA.

New Members

The CDM welcomed two new members: Rev. Chris Cashen, who is currently serving as an Evangelist to the refugee communities in Clarkston, GA, and Deacon Joel King, who served this past year as the Regional Disaster Response Coordinator for the Presbytery of the South following Hurricane Irma.

New Officers

With President Lendall Smith's retirement from the CDM after more than a decade of service, this meeting began with the election of a new president. Rev. Nathan Trice was elected as the new president of the CDM. Elder Seth Long was elected Vice-President. Deacon John Voss, Jr, was elected to continue his service as Treasurer. Rev. Chris Cashen was elected as Secretary, taking over the duties from long-time secretary, Rev. Ron Pearce, who is now entering what he anticipates to be his last year of service on the CDM.

Review of the Past Decade and Planning for the Next Decade

Since much of the work of the CDM was carried out effectively by the subcommittees since the last meeting, the CDM had a lighter docket than usual this fall. As such, in God's providence, the CDM was able to allot some time to reflection and vision-casting. We discussed where the CDM was ten years ago, how the work has developed over the past ten years, and where we would like to focus the aim of our labors in the next decade. This was merely the beginning of these considerations, yet we could not help but give thanks to the Lord for his guidance in developing the work of the CDM over the years.

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The following are some of the changes/developments that the CDM has seen in the past decade.

Committee Make-Up and Operation

- Adding two more deacons to the CDM, growing the committee membership from seven to nine.
- Dividing the work into six subcommittees:
 1. Administration and Finance
 2. Aid Request
 3. Disaster Response
 4. Diaconal Training
 5. Missionary Deacon
 6. Ministers and Widows (recently transferred to the OPC's new Committee on Ministerial Care)
- Developing a written CDM Operating Manual
- The hiring of an Administrator / Disaster Response Coordinator and the hiring of his assistant.

Disaster Response

- Recouping the responsibility of coordinating Disaster Response, which had been taken over by the Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension in 2005.
- Heading up OPC Disaster Response efforts following the impact of the following disasters:
 1. The Earthquake in Haiti (2010)
 2. The Tsunami in Japan (2011)
 3. Hurricane Sandy in NY and NJ (2012)
 4. Hurricane Harvey in TX (2017)
 5. Hurricane Irma in FL (2017)
 6. Hurricane Maria in PR (2017)
 7. Hurricane Florence in NC (2018)
- Engaging the church in the area of ministry to refugees, at home and abroad.

Diaconal Training

- Creating the Mercy Minute – A quarterly e-newsletter for OPC Deacons
- Adding content, useful to OPC deacons, to the CDM's page on OPC.org
- Hosting three National Diaconal Summits
- Hosting three Presbytery Diaconal Summits

Missionary Deacons

- Meeting with the Committee on Foreign Missions annually to discuss matters of mutual concern
- Participating in the support of missionary deacons and missionary doctors.
- Visiting and encouraging missionary deacons on the field.
- Providing funds for equipping missionary deacons to carry out their labors.

Ministers and Widows

- Providing a one-time gift annually to retired OPC ministers who have served the OPC for 10 or more years and their widows
- Mobilizing the Presbytery Diaconal Committees to attend to the needs of retired OPC ministers

Upcoming Summit

The CDM plans to host the fourth Presbytery Diaconal Summit in the Chicago area on October 10-12, 2019, and invites each presbytery diaconal committee to send four representatives. All travel expenses will be covered 100% by the CDM.

Disaster Response in North Carolina

The CDM acknowledged the OPC Disaster Response efforts underway in North Carolina toward those impacted by Hurricane Florence, affecting OPC families in both New Bern and Wilmington, NC. The CDM contemplated ways to overcome the shortage of volunteers, and how to encourage diaconates to consider ways in which they might facilitate volunteers to assist in North Carolina.

Next Meeting

The spring meeting of the CDM is scheduled for March 28-29, 2019, at Matthews OPC, in Matthews, NC. Please pray for your committee in its many labors.

Respectfully submitted,

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