

## Events & Announcements | Dec. 29, 2010

*Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference*

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**Discernment on location of Mennonite Church USA's 2013 convention.** You may be aware that leaders of Mennonite Church USA have been discerning whether or not to hold the 2013 convention in Phoenix as planned. Across the church, people have raised concerns that Arizona's new immigration law (SB 1070) will mean that some constituency groups would not feel safe traveling to the convention. In response, Mennonite Church USA leaders have sent a delegation of church leaders to meet with city and convention officials and church leaders in Phoenix; invited feedback from all parts of the church; and arranged for discussion of the issue in various settings, recognizing that the underlying issues call us to work more diligently on growing toward the biblical vision of being one people from all tribes, languages, peoples and nations gathered together by Jesus. The Executive Board, which anticipates making a final decision at its Jan. 7-9 meeting, has released an update on the process and the current direction and invites your prayers in this final period of discernment:

[www.mennoniteusa.org/Portals/0/Convention2013](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/Portals/0/Convention2013). Thank you for your support and prayers!

*--Executive Committee of the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA*

**Michiana MEDA annual business tour Jan. 15.** There will be a presentation about the history of Essenhaus and an Essenhaus foods factory tour by Lance Miller and Jim Fisher at Das Dutchman Essenhaus, Middlebury, Ind., on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 8:30 a.m. Das Dutchman Essenhaus has been a successful restaurant for forty years. During that time its business plan has diversified to include gift shops, an inn and conference center, and a food production facility. Lance and Jim will share their experience of how a family business can succeed in today's business environment. Breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by the presentation at 9:30 a.m. and the tour at 9:50 a.m.

**RSVP by Wednesday, Jan. 12**, by phoning 877-787-6332, e-mailing [reservations@michianameda.org](mailto:reservations@michianameda.org), or filling out the **RSVP form** online. (If you don't receive a confirmation e-mail or phone call, please let us know.) Meal and program costs are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members and \$5 for students. Please note any special dietary needs with your reservation. The meal is payable at the event. *--Renee Hochstetler, Michiana MEDA*

### **Deadlines approaching at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary:**

- **Pastors Week and Leadership Clinics**, scheduled for Jan. 24-27.
- **Kentucky Holy Land Pilgrimage** with Marlene Kropf. The trip will be May 22-29, but registration is due by Feb. 10.
- **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth**, summer 2011. This Christmas holiday may be an ideal time to talk to a junior or senior student in your congregation, encouraging him or her to participate this summer. (See a video--**!Explore: What are your questions?--on YouTube**.)
- **Lent Planning webinar**, Feb. 3.

**MCC accepting applications for young adult service opportunities.** Mennonite Central Committee calls the young, curious, ready and restless to SALT – a one-year, cross-cultural service experience for Christian young adults from the United States and Canada. Serving and Learning Together (SALT) volunteers live more-with-less, simply and “green” in another country as they do practical service and watch God at work. A complete listing of openings can be found at [salt.mcc.org](http://salt.mcc.org), along with information and an application. Submit applications by Feb. 15, 2011, to ensure consideration for assignments that begin in August 2011. Participants need to be single, 18 to 27 years old, Canadian or U.S. citizens, actively participating in the life of a Christian church and committed to nonviolent peacemaking. To learn more about MCC's other short-term programs, visit [mcc.org/gsl](http://mcc.org/gsl). *-- Ed Nyce, media and education coordinator, MCC*

**Stewardship resources available to congregations (see attached outline and flyer).** Some of you may have noticed the article in the Mennonite Weekly Review recently highlighting a stewardship seminar for pastors, conference leaders and pastoral studies students held at Hesston College (see attached outline).

In addition, I am including information on a new resource focusing on holistic stewardship which is available as a free download (see attached flier). The financial challenges of the last two years continue to linger and impact all areas of life for those in our churches. We hope this six-session study can help people re-evaluate how we might organize our lives to better serve Christ and the church with all of our being and resources. If you have questions about either of these resources please feel free to be in touch. They can be adapted to your context and setting as desired. Feel free to forward the information about the small group study, "Stewards of Grace," to persons in your conference and churches who work with these issues. To download a free copy of "Stewards of Grace" go to [www.everence.com](http://www.everence.com) and type "Stewards of Grace" in the search box or call 800-348-7468, ext. 3269.--Beryl M. Jantzi, *stewardship education director, Everence Financial, 540-437-7422 or 800-442-7930, [beryl.jantzi@everence.com](mailto:beryl.jantzi@everence.com)*

**Volunteers needed at Mennonite Church USA building site in Elkhart.** Opportunities exist for volunteers of various skill levels to help with the construction of Mennonite Church USA's office building in Elkhart, Ind., between now and the fall of 2011. Those directing the building project hope to save \$275,000 through the participation of hundreds of volunteers. Volunteers with general carpentry and masonry skills (ages 18+) are needed. Local volunteers can help with hosting. Also, youth groups (ages 14-18) and adults (18+) are needed to help with site cleanup.

To follow construction progress and learn about volunteer opportunities, see [www.mennoniteusa.org/joiningtogether](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/joiningtogether) or contact Grace Swartzendruber: [graces@mennonitemission.net](mailto:graces@mennonitemission.net) or 574-523-3043 (toll-free 1-866-866-2872 ext. 23043). --Mennonite Church USA News Service

### **Upcoming workshops sponsored by the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.):**

*Engaging in Faithful Ministry* with Michael Dash is 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1660 Kessler Blvd. E. Dr., Indianapolis; Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011, at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 6606 Maplecrest Road, Fort Wayne, Ind. Congregations are invited to reflect on ministry and leadership at this workshop. Pastor and author Michael Dash examines and explores with participants their current leadership attitudes, activities and practices. Dash will help congregational leaders to see different perspectives on ministry and leadership and to think about doing ministry in specific contexts. [Click here for additional information and on-line registration.](#)

- The cost is \$30 a person (or \$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more).
- The fee includes lunch and a copy of Dash's book *The Shape of Zion*.

*Marketing 101* with June Miller is 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (central time), Thursday, March 17, 2011, in northwest Indiana (specific location information to be available soon); 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (eastern time) on Friday, March 18, 2011, in Lafayette (Tippecanoe County---specific location information to be available soon). Congregations are invited to think about marketing at these luncheon workshops. Participants will learn about marketing as the management of perception, marketing tools, creating a clear and consistent message about your congregation, tips for identifying audience and making a plan. Workshop presenter June Miller shares marketing ideas that participants will be able to use immediately. [Click here for details about the northwest Indiana workshop](#) and [click here for information about the Lafayette workshop](#).

- The cost is \$10 a person.
- The fee includes lunch and a copy of the book *Church Marketing 101* by Richard Reising.
- Advance registration is required.

*Lunch and Learn series* for northeast Indiana congregations Feb. – April 2011 in Fort Wayne, Ind. You are invited to a series of luncheon programs on various topics of interest to northeast Indiana congregations:

- *How to Build the Band* with Greg Graham, Tuesday, Feb. 8, St. Joseph United Methodist Church, 6004 Reed Road
- *Marketing 101* with June Miller, Wednesday, March 16, Dupree Memorial Church of God in Christ, 1231 Hayden St.
- *The Art of Being a Healing Presence* with Jim Miller, Thursday, April 7

Each session features practical and relevant information with plenty of take-home ideas. [For additional information and on-line registration, click here.](#)

- The cost is \$10 a person for each luncheon.
- The fee includes lunch, presentation and a book on the topic.
- Advance registration is required.

Upcoming Center for Congregations meetings listed in Dec. 1, 2010, *Events & Announcements*:

- *A Place of Welcome: Meeting and Connecting Newcomers in the Congregation* with Gary McIntosh, Thursday, Feb. 17, in Indianapolis
- *Essentials of Church Finance (Part 1)* with Vonna Laue, Wednesday, March 9, Fort Wayne

### News from MCC Great Lakes:

- January is meat canning season. The cost of turkey is up 40 percent over last year, so please consider making an extra donation this year to your canning committee to help cover the extra costs. Canning dates for our region are: Berne – Jan. 13 & 14; Goshen – Jan. 17 – 27; Montgomery, Ind. – Jan. 31– Feb. 1. Thanks for your consistent support in volunteer hours and financial donations.
- The MCC Great Lakes sponsored **learning tour to Guatemala** has been rescheduled for the end of April/beginning of May. The emphasis is on meeting returned immigrants from the U.S. and visiting MCC Guatemalan projects. If interested, please contact Saulo Padilla for details at [spadilla@mcc.org](mailto:spadilla@mcc.org) or visit [www.greatlakes.mcc.org/guatemalallearningtour](http://www.greatlakes.mcc.org/guatemalallearningtour).
- Please plan to attend our **MCC Great Lakes annual meeting**, Feb. 25 – 26, 2011, at Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend, Ind. Friday evening will be a hymn sing with Mary Oyer and Saturday will have workshops on current MCC initiatives with Arli Klassen, MCC Executive Director, speaking at the afternoon worship service.

### Resources from MCC:

- **HIV and AIDS web information updated**  
MCC has updated the HIV and AIDS information on its website. Learn about MCC's generations initiative that helps people living with HIV/AIDS, supports children orphaned by the disease, teaches prevention and addresses the poverty and injustices that perpetuate the spread of the disease.  
>> [aids.mcc.org/](http://aids.mcc.org/)
- **AIDS Action Toolkit now available**  
This updated toolkit explains HIV and AIDS from a Christian perspective and shows how churches around the world are courageously responding to the global AIDS pandemic. The toolkit resources are intended to increase understanding about the root causes and prevention of the disease and the education and compassionate response that is needed. The \$30 toolkit includes curriculum for adults and youth and for children, in addition to an activity calendar, storybook, DVD, stickers, resources and more. To order the toolkit in Canada, contact your local MCC office at [canada.mcc.org/about/contacts](http://canada.mcc.org/about/contacts). In the U.S., order with a credit card at [secure.mcc.org](http://secure.mcc.org)

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*Events & Announcements* serves to connect the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference. It is published every two weeks. To submit items for publication please mail to [imoffice@im.mennonite.net](mailto:imoffice@im.mennonite.net).

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