

Events & Announcements | July 20, 2011

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

- *Benefit concert by Gene Van Accordion Orchestra Aug. 5*
- *26th annual Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education (RELE) golf benefit Aug. 27*
- *MCC Bike Michiana Sept. 16 – 18*
- *Widening the Welcome conference Sept. 29 – Oct. 1*
- *Your feedback needed for Shaping Your Family's Future curriculum*
- *Help drought stricken East Africa with MCC*
- *Upcoming workshops from the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations)*

Benefit concert by Gene Van Accordion Orchestra Aug. 5. On Friday evening, Aug. 5, the Gene Van Accordion Orchestra will perform a free benefit concert at Kern Road Mennonite Church, 18211 Kern Road, South Bend, Ind., at 7 p.m., entitled "Accordions Extraordinaire." The concert is sponsored by the Michiana Performing Arts Association. Esther Lanting and Heidi King of Hudson Lake Mennonite perform with this group. Donations are welcome to raise funds to benefit Mennonite Disaster Service and the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism 'Climb Project.' It will be recorded and made available for purchase on DVD and CD at a later date, with proceeds from the sales directed to Mennonite Disaster Service and the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism 'Climb Project.' If you would like to place an order or have any questions regarding the upcoming concert, please contact Gene Van at 574-262-0212 or online at genevanmusic@yahoo.com.

Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education golf benefit Aug. 27. The 26th annual IN-MI Mennonite Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education (RELE) golf benefit, hosted by Mennonite Education Agency, will take place on Saturday, Aug. 27. The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Timber Ridge Golf Club in Millersburg, Ind. The entry fee of \$70 per person includes lunch. Proceeds go to African-American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American students in leadership training for churches in Mennonite Church USA. Request a registration form from Mennonite Education Agency by phone, 574-642-3164, or e-mail info@mennoniteeducation.org. Everyone is welcome. —Rachel Nussbaum Eby, director of communications, MEA

MCC Bike Michiana Sept. 16 – 18. Join Mennonite Central Committee and Amigo Centre for a great weekend of bike riding in southern Michigan and raise money for relief efforts around the world with MCC. MCC Bike Michiana has raised over \$119,000 in eight years to help our neighbors around the world. Come ride, fellowship, and support MCC Sept. 16 – 18. Lodging is available at Amigo Centre. For more information go to www.amigocentre.org/Retreats/MCC_Bike_Michiana.

Widening the Welcome conference Sept. 29 – Oct. 1. Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet) invites you to attend **Widening the Welcome II: Inclusion for All**, a conference in Columbus, Ohio, focused on developing the life of congregations to include persons of all abilities from Sept. 29 – Oct. 1. This national conference is open to people from all denominations, under the sponsorship of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries and UCC Mental Illness Network. ADNet Program Director Christine Guth will be a keynote speaker. Details and registration are available at www.wideningthewelcome.com.

Your feedback needed for Shaping Your Family's Future curriculum. Shaping Your Family's Future, a curriculum helping individuals take stock of the influence of their families of origin on their parenting styles, is testing whether to create a DVD format. The curriculum targets newly expectant parents.

"This demographic seems to be more at home with DVD rather than print curriculum," says Burton Buller, producer of a new pilot that explores how the content of the curriculum may be represented in DVD form.

Philhaven, a Mt. Gretna, Pa. based non-profit behavioral health services agency that created the original curriculum, has contracted with Buller to create the pilot. Philhaven is affiliated with the Mennonite Church. MennoMedia will serve as an eventual distributor for Shaping Your Family's Future curriculum.

You can view the 18-minute pilot online at www.shapingyourfamily.org/SYFF_video and take a survey that will help decide the viability of the project. "This survey is essential to this project moving forward," says Buller. —Melodie Davis, MennoMedia

Help drought-stricken East Africa with MCC. Mennonite Central Committee is appealing for donations to support its response to the drought and food crisis in East Africa that has left about 11 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Please consider a gift to help fund initial efforts in Ethiopia and Kenya to provide supplemental food for at-risk groups, and to support food-for-work projects. To donate, visit www.mcc.org or contact the MCC Great Lakes office at 574-534-4133. We encourage you also to pray for people in the region. —Jennifer Steiner, communications coordinator, MCC Great Lakes

Upcoming workshops from the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations): *A Celebration of Giving: Stewardship Strategies for Your Congregation* with Melvin Amerson will be held Wednesday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Eastern Time), at Barnes United Methodist Church, 900 W. 30th St., Indianapolis, Ind.; Thursday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Central Time) in Merrillville, Ind. (place TBD). Celebrating generosity is an important part of congregational life. This workshop explores the practice of a weekly offering, strategies for cultivating year-round stewardship, and the relationship between clarity of vision and increased generosity. Workshop facilitator Melvin Amerson is the author of *Celebrating the Offering* and *Stewardship in African-American Churches: A New Paradigm*. He is an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church and is a stewardship consultant with the Texas Methodist Foundation. The cost is \$30 a person (or \$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more). This fee includes lunch and a copy of Amerson's book *Celebrating the Offering*. [Click here for additional information and online registration.](#)

Essentials of Church Finance (Part 2) with Vonna Laue will be held Wednesday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Eastern Time), at Covenant United Methodist Church, 10001 Coldwater Rd., Fort Wayne, Ind. Vonna Laue, co-author of *Essential Guide to Church Finances* and partner with the accounting firm Capin Crouse, will lead participants through workshops covering topics of congregational accounting practices, planning and budgeting, internal controls and risk management and financial reporting. Part 1 of this workshop was offered in the spring of 2011. Although congregational leaders are encouraged to attend both parts of the workshop, Part 1 is not a pre-requisite for Part 2. The workshop content from spring to fall is interrelated, but not required. 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 Laue's book, *Essential Guide to Church Finances*. Those who attended Part 1 and already have a copy of Laue's book will receive a copy of *The Business of the Church* by John Wimberly. [Click here for additional information and online registration.](#)

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.

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