

Events & Announcements | Sept. 28, 2011

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

- *AMBS workshop with Jack Suderman Oct. 13*
- *Hesston College Bel Canto Singers concert at College Mennonite Oct. 15*
- *Wilderness Wind 25th anniversary celebration Oct. 22*
- *Men's retreat at Camp Friedenswald Nov. 11–13*
- *MCC alumni potluck Nov. 12*
- *Music and worship leaders' retreat Jan. 6–8 at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center*
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- *Upcoming workshops from the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations)*

AMBS workshop with Jack Suderman Oct. 13. “Difficult Issues--Congregational Discernment--Faithful Living,” will be presented at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary on Thursday, Oct. 13, by Robert J. (Jack) Suderman.

How do pastors and leaders give spiritual guidance to congregational process and decisions? This one-day seminar will explore the vocation of discernment in congregational life. It will focus on discernment as a normal and necessary part of being a Christian community. Paul's letter to the Philippians will serve as one of the sources of wisdom as Jack leads us in understanding the dynamics of agreement and disagreement in the life of the congregation. We invite you to join us for this workshop in cooperation with Indiana-Michigan and Central District Conferences.

Jack Suderman's 42 years' experience as a pastor, teacher, missionary and administrator make him an exceptional resource for pastors and other leaders dealing with the wide variety of issues we confront in our desire to be a faithful church in the twenty-first century. [Get details and register by Oct. 3.](#)

Hesston College Bel Canto Singers concert at College Mennonite Oct. 15. The Bel Canto Singers of Hesston College will present a program of sacred choral music Saturday, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m., at College Mennonite Church, 1900 South Main Street, Goshen. The program entitled *Attributes, Actions and Adulation*, features music as diverse as renaissance motets, music from Brazil, African American spirituals and other works composed in North America. The 22-member, mixed chamber choir is directed by Bradley Kauffman.

The Wilderness Wind 25th anniversary celebration will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, at Assembly Mennonite Church (1201 S 11th St, Goshen). This event includes a silent auction (beginning at 6:30 p.m.); a buffet dinner by Bread and Chocolate (7 p.m.); a display of writing and photo contests; and opportunity to learn about new ventures at WW. Please RSVP by responding to: wildernesswind25thanniversary@gmail.com or call 574-400-5175 prior to Oct. 12. *—Brenda Sawatzky Paetkau, Wilderness Wind board*

Men's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald Nov. 11–13. Men's Retreat is a space where men from the church can come to relax, have fun, get to know other men of faith and be challenged and supported in our walk with God. Many activities, great food and lively conversation make this a great time for all who attend. Men ages 12 and up are encouraged to attend this weekend. This year we will enjoy the words and music that Chuck Neufeld will share with us. Retreat costs are \$125 with discounts for students. You can register online at www.friedenswald.org or call the office at 269-476-9744. *—Eric Martin, program coordinator, Camp Friedenswald*

MCC Great Lakes alumni potluck Nov. 12. Please mark your calendars for Nov. 12 and plan to join us for an alumni potluck. Doug Amstutz, recently returned Mennonite Central Committee country representative from Ethiopia, will join us to share more about the famine situation in East Africa. More details will follow. *—Les and Gwen Gustafson-Zook*

Music and worship leaders retreat at LMCC Jan. 6–8. Celebrate 25 years of music, worship and community at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center (Mt. Pleasant, Pa.) Jan. 6–8, 2012. Registration for this popular event is now open but is limited to the first 200 participants. Find out more at www.Laurelville.org/mwlr or by calling 724-423-2056. *—Brian Paff, director of communications, LMCC*

Bethlehem Bible College conference in March 2012. *Christ at the Checkpoint: Hope in the Midst of Conflict* is a unique conference next spring in Bethlehem of local and global evangelicals seeking to equip the church to understand scripture in light of current realities of the Holy Land. Speakers include Tony Campolo, Ron Sider, Lynne Hybels and Jonathan Kuttub. In conjunction with Mennonite Church Canada, Glenn Witmer is offering a two-week tour (Feb. 25-March 9) including the conference. For more information visit www.mennojerusalem.org.

ADNet intern available for preaching, teaching and storytelling. Jason Greig is a second-year M.Div. student at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, performing his ministry internship this year with Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet). ADNet is seeking opportunities for Jason for preaching, teaching and storytelling in local congregations. He has a particular interest in bringing the Word into connection with the lives of people with disabilities. He is willing to preach from the lectionary texts or other texts of the congregation's choosing, or to supply readings himself. Jason is available to speak to adult education groups or to give a reflection at a Sunday evening gathering. Jason's engaging storytelling draws frequently on his eleven years of living in L'Arche communities with people with intellectual disabilities. To learn more about Jason, read his theological reflections on ADNet's blog, blog.adnetonline.org. To extend an invitation, contact him at jason@adnetonline.org. Questions? Contact ADNet program director Christine Guth at christine@adnetonline.org or 574-535-7053.

MCC Washington office announces 13th annual high school essay contest. The Washington Office of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S. is inviting submissions for its 13th annual high school essay contest. This year's grand prize is \$300. Three honorable mention winners will each be awarded \$100.

Students can choose to write on one of the following four topics: domestic violence; the wealth gap in the United States; global poverty; and faith, values and voting. All essays must be submitted by January 27, 2012. The contest is open to Mennonite, Brethren in Christ and other Anabaptist youth of high school age and to all youth who attend Mennonite high schools in the U.S. Immediate family members of MCC staff or board members are not eligible for the contest.

More information, including instructions for where to send completed essays, is available at www.washington.mcc.org/advocate/essays..

Upcoming workshops from the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations)

Youth Activities that Teach and Reach with Ritch Hochstetler and Betsy Houser of uLEAD will be held Thursday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Central time), in northwest Indiana (location TBA). Youth leaders know the importance of finding engaging and fun activities that provide meaningful instruction for their teens. In this luncheon workshop, participants will be introduced to games and activities that are engaging, fun and support their ministry message. uLEAD opens its game and activity closet to youth workers and student representatives for a full two hours of high-energy, soul-searching entertainment and information, showcasing its best experiential methods for building authentic relationships and growing in faith. uLEAD is a nonprofit training organization offering experiences for leadership, growth and change.

The cost is \$10 a person. This fee includes lunch, conversation and participants' choice of the book *99 Thoughts for Youth Workers* by Joshua Griffin or *99 Thoughts for Smaller Church Youth Workers* by Stephanie Caro. [Click here for more information or online registration.](#)

Congregations On-Line: Using Facebook and Twitter will be held Wednesday, Nov. 16, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (EST), at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2417 Getz Road, Fort Wayne, Ind. Are you interested in using Facebook and Twitter in your congregation? Do you want to learn more about these social media platforms and how they can help market your church?

Presenter Laura Edwards, senior director of development from Purdue University, will showcase tools that can directly help your organization highlight programming and activities, raise money, create platforms for advocacy, and help you connect with members, visitors and new volunteers. Whether you are new to social networking or Tweet and update your Facebook status regularly, this luncheon workshop provides practical information to help you understand how these websites work and how they can assist your congregation in updating its communications plan. Participants will:

- see examples of how others use these social media tools to effectively communicate
- understand what target audiences utilize Facebook and Twitter
- learn to market their Facebook pages or Twitter accounts to draw followers

The cost is \$10 a person. This fee includes lunch, conversation and workshop materials. [Click here for more information or 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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