

Events & Announcements | March 20, 2013

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite
Conference

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Note: An asterisk (*) indicates an item listed in a previous Events & Announcements. A plus sign (+) indicates updated/new information for a previously listed item.

Click on a heading to go directly to an article:

Strengthening Your Small Congregation+	1
Laurelville Mennonite Grief Retreat+	1
Workshop: Service and Faith Formation in the Congregation	2
MCC Gun Trafficking and Violence workshop and discussion.....	2
Community discussion on Hand Guns Trafficking	2
Pastors workshop on Gun Trafficking and Violence.....	2
Business Leaders and Pastors: Partners in Leadership and Ministry?	2
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month	2
Bethany Cross Country Coach Needed.....	3
Goshen College Community Fair	3

Strengthening Your Small Congregation+

If you are a pastor or lay leader of a small congregation, consider attending the Strengthening Your Small Congregation workshop on April 13, 2013. Spend a day with leaders who know what it's like to do church in a congregation of 25, 50, or 75, and who believe that small churches are key to what God is doing in the world!

- Benefit from the experience of congregational consultant and former American Baptist pastor Margaret Marcuson on *Leaders that Last: Sustaining Yourself in Small Church Ministry*.
- Choose from breakout sessions on discerning the future of your congregation, worship and music, Sunday school & Christian formation, leadership structures, community outreach, and sustainable finances, all geared to the strengths and challenges of the small congregation.
- Network with small congregations in your geographical area for resource sharing and support.

This event is co-sponsored by IN-MI Conference. IN-MI pastors can apply for a registration scholarship, and two or three registrants from the same congregation will get a registration discount. The event will be held from 8:45am to 4:00pm at Camp Mack (Church of the Brethren camp in Milford, IN). Find more details at www.brethren.org/training/small-churches.html and register online by April 5. View the flier [here](#).

Laurelville Mennonite Grief Retreat+

On April 19–21, 2013, join Rachel Nafziger Hartzler and Angela Dietzel for a weekend retreat on “Grief, Spirituality and Sexuality: Life after Losing a Spouse.” Designed specifically for widowed people and those who walk with them, the weekend will include sessions on loss, lament, spirituality, sexuality, and hope. Two optional sessions will be offered: one for pastors and other caregivers who journey alongside people who are grieving; and a session for those who want more time to explore issues related to going on with life after a loss. Contact Laurelville at 800-839-1021, find a detailed schedule and registration brochure at

www.laurelville.org/programs/called-to-care/grief-retreat/, or contact Rachel at 574-370-8186 or rach@maplenet.net.

Workshop: Service and Faith Formation in the Congregation

Friday, March 22, 2013 in Fort Wayne, 9am-4pm. Faith and outreach are closely connected in spiritual development. Congregational life, faith practices and service to others shape children, teens, adults and families. In this interactive workshop, well-known family scholar Diana Garland explores these basic concepts, reveals research findings, discusses strategies and leads participants in creating their own congregational plans of action. For additional details and on-line registration, visit www.centerforcongregations.org/workshop/service-and-faith-formation-congregation.

MCC Gun Trafficking and Violence workshop and discussion

Community discussion on Hand Guns Trafficking

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is sponsoring a community gathering on Hand Guns Trafficking on Saturday, March 23 at 7pm at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church in Elkhart, IN. Discussion will be led by Fred Kauffman, MCC Philadelphia Program Coordinator. Join in exploring the problem of illegal trafficking of hand guns and discussing ways to work for peace in our communities. The event will include a statistical analysis with information on gun violence and the availability of guns in Elkhart County. This event is open to the public and all are welcome. For information, contact Jorge Vielman, MCC Peace & Justice Coordinator, at jvielman@mcc.org or 574-534-4133.

Pastors workshop on Gun Trafficking and Violence

MCC invites Pastors to a workshop on Gun Trafficking and Gun Violence in Elkhart County with Fred Kauffman, MCC Philadelphia Program Coordinator. The workshop will be Saturday, March 23, 2013, 9am-2pm at MCC Great Lakes office at the Depot, 1013 Division St., Goshen, IN. Join Fred and local pastors in exploring the epidemic of illegal gun trafficking and ways to work for peace in our communities. The event will include a training session with information on gun violence and the availability of guns in Elkhart County. After the training, the group will divide into small groups to visit local gun shops to dialogue with owners about business practices and illegal activities they've encountered. The groups will then return to the MCC office for lunch and storytelling. Please bring your own lunch (or you can purchase it from the Rolling Scones at the Bag Factory). For more info, contact Jorge Vielman (jvielman@mcc.org) or Les Gustafson-Zook (lmg@mcc.org), or call 574-534-4133.

Business Leaders and Pastors: Partners in Leadership and Ministry?

As followers of Christ, both business leaders and pastors want to work for God's purposes in the world. Yet despite this common desire, business leaders and pastors sometimes encounter barriers to pursuing a shared vision. David B. Miller, professor of missional leadership development at AMBS, will present and lead a discussion on Saturday, March 23, 8:30am-12:30pm at Everence in Goshen, IN (optional lunch following). Sponsored by AMBS Church Leadership Center. Join us for a conversation! Get details and register at www.ambs.edu/churchleadershipcenter/Business-Leaders-and-Pastors.cfm.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Dove's Nest, a non-profit organization working to provide child and youth protection awareness, provides resources to help Mennonite Church USA congregations protect children and youth in their homes, churches, and communities during Child Abuse Prevention Month. Dove's Nest has developed a resource kit for faith communities to use, which can be accessed at <http://www.dovesnest.net/CAPMonth>. For more information, contact [Jon Stanton](mailto:JonStanton@DovesNest.net), Program Coordinator, 402-577-0866, Jon@DovesNest.net.

Bethany Cross Country Coach Needed

Bethany Christian Schools is looking for a high school cross country coach for Fall 2013. For more information, contact Benji Hurst, athletic director, at bjhurst@bethanycs.net or 574 534-2567.

Goshen College Community Fair

Goshen College invites the public to an open house to explore the newly renovated Union Building space, which includes a new welcome center, the recently established Center for Intercultural and International Education, and a revamped radio station for 91.1 WGCS The Globe. March 24 from 2-4pm.

Events & Announcements serves to connect the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference. It is published every two weeks. To submit items for publication please e-mail communications@im.mennonite.net

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