



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite Conference

weLink

connecting the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference

February 10, 2016



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Upcoming Conference Events

[REGIONAL MEETINGS](#)

Delegate meetings are just around the corner!

The northern delegate meeting will convene on Saturday, March 5 at [Calvary Christian Reform Church, Wyoming, MI](#).

The southern meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 12 at [Howard-Miami Mennonite Church, Kokomo, IN](#).

If either of these meetings are postponed due to inclement weather, March 19 will serve as the snow date. Please refer to the list of congregations found on the

conference website to know which delegate meeting your congregation is scheduled to attend.

ANNUAL SESSSIONS

This year, Annual Sessions will be held in Elkhart, IN at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) and is being hosted by the Elkhart Area Council. The meetings will be held Thursday, June 16-Saturday, June 18. The theme for these sessions is “Restore Our Joy”. Each worship service will focus on a variation of this theme.

More information will follow at a later time for these meetings.

We invite you to participate in each of the upcoming events!

Update from Leadership Retreat

Conference leaders from most leadership teams gathered at Amigo Centre on January 22 and 23 to discern a new vision for Indiana Michigan conference. This new vision will be presented in draft form at our regional delegate sessions in March and will come to delegates at the Annual Sessions June 16 and 18. Feedback from delegates will be a significant part of our work together at these upcoming events.

As we talked at tables at the retreat, there were many expressions of affirmation for conference charting a new direct and planning a new way forward for congregations and members to be part of this conference body.

One of the most significant parts of our time together was reflecting on the words that most closely describe the conference we want to be a part of. Below is a “WordCloud” that presents those words. The size of the word indicates the importance it held in value for the group.

Conference leaders desire Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference to be:

Centered on **Jesus**

Guided by the **Holy Spirit**

Acting through **Grace and Love**

In the spirit of **Peace**



Connecting

Dan attended the Northern Michigan Pastor/Spouse retreat in mid-January. Fifteen people experienced excellent input by Evan Miller and Sara Von Gunten. Dan visited with two search committee chairs and attended a 90th birthday party at Wildwood for Richard Miller. Dan also connected with several individuals at the beginning and end of the trip.

Several area councils have begun discussing the six core competencies in anticipation of beginning the “Framework for Pastoral Growth” in the fall. The Leadership Enhancement Team expects to have materials ready for Annual Sessions so pastors can begin planning growth goals.

Missional Leadership Team meets February 20, to set plans for [March delegate meetings](#). This includes reviewing recommendations from Unity and Variance Task Group and integrating them with a vision for the future. Invitations have already been sent to delegates. Contact the conference office if you are a delegate and have not received an invitation with RSVP request. Watch for more information on this as delegate meetings get closer. Delegate meetings on March 5 and 12 provide excellent networking opportunities. Connect with others from other congregations. Share testimonies.

Sharon continues coverage for Doug as he is on sabbatical. She can be contacted at cplt@im.mennonite.net, or by calling the office. Sharon and Dan attended Pastors

Week at AMBS. Sharon met with MDiv students over lunch one day. Dan met with conference ministries and seminary administrators.

Fourteen participants and mentors from IN-MI Conference will attend the Journey Weekend Learning Event, February 26-28. Who in your congregation could you mentor in Journey?

Celebrating

We celebrate the positive leadership gathering at Amigo Centre on January 22-23. Missional Leadership Team received strong affirmation for the vision conversation that has started.

We celebrate new energy and creativity in recent conference leadership team meetings.

We celebrate the opportunity in Lent to prepare for resurrection.

Credentialing and Leadership Development

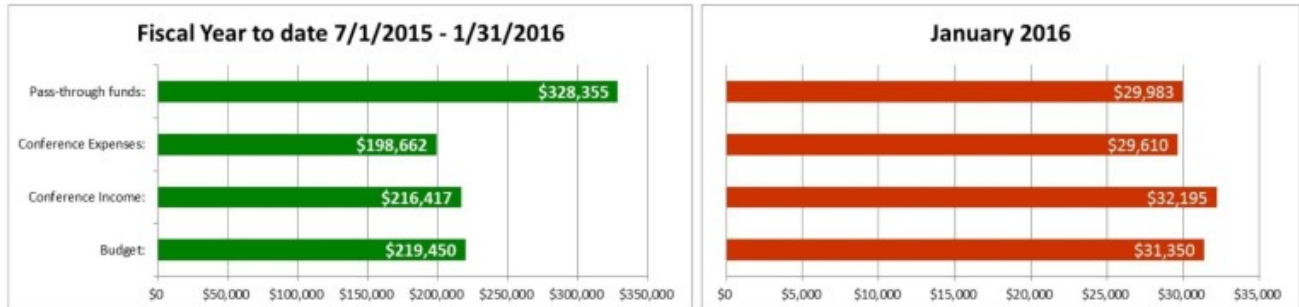
Ministry Credentialing Team visited two Chin congregations in Indianapolis on February 6. Mara Christian Church of America, Indianapolis applied for membership in 2013. Emmanuel Christian Living Church connected with IN-MI Conference through Andre Gingerich Stoner at Mennonite Church USA.

Leadership Enhancement Team (LET) is developing plans for leadership resourcing related to "[A Framework for Pastoral Growth](#)." Watch for information in coming months. LET plans to have all information available by Annual Sessions in June.

No upcoming credentialing services are scheduled.

Financial Report

We are grateful for the generosity of congregations in this year of adjustment. For January, income of \$32,195 exceeds expenses of \$29,610 with a resultant balance of \$1,585. For July through January, income exceeds expenses by just under \$16,000. Thank you, and thanks be to God.



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for some volunteers willing to cover the front office during times when Vanessa takes vacation. Please contact the office to inquire.

Bethany Christian Schools

Visit Bethany on Feb. 15: Students in grades 6-10 interested in exploring Bethany Christian Schools can shadow a Bethany student on Monday, Feb. 16, (President's Day) 8:50 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Parents are invited to a 8:45-9:15 a.m. coffee and conversation. Parent tours are available at 9:15 a.m. This is a great way for prospective students and families to discover Bethany! For more information, to register, or to schedule a visit on another date see bethanycs.net.

Bethany Seeks Softball Coach: Bethany Christian High School (Goshen) seeks a varsity softball coach for spring 2016. For more information or to apply, contact athletic director Gary Chupp at glchupp@bethanycs.net or [574 534-2567](tel:5745342567).

Job Opening: Bethany Christian Schools invites applications for the position of

groundskeeper, to begin in March. This is a seasonal position, part-time from mid-March through mid-November each year. For information about the position and an application form, visit www.bethanycs.net/jobs or contact Head of School Tim Lehman at 574 534-2567 or tlehman@bethanycs.net.

Mini-bus for sale: Bethany Christian Schools has a 2003 mini bus for sale, 14-passenger, approx. 83,000 miles. Chevy chassis and Collins body. \$6,500. Please contact Brent at bdmiller@bethanycs.net or [574-534-2567](tel:574-534-2567).

Amigo Centre

Amigo Centre has availability for groups to rent the Retreat Center & West Shore Lodge for the weekend of February 12-14. For more information please call (269) 651-2811 or email reception@amigocentre.org

Emily Miller, Guest Services Coordinator

www.amigocentre.org

Renewal Worship with Glen Guyton

Everyone is invited to join First Mennonite of Middlebury on Saturday, March 12th at 6:30 pm for a Renewal Worship Event with Glen Guyton of Mennonite Church USA. Glen currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer for the denomination and also leads the convention planning process. Glen has spoken to thousands of youth and adults throughout the United States, Jamaica, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Ghana. He has helped to organize many community service events in Virginia, Texas and throughout the U.S. Glen brings a passion for people and a passion for Jesus to all that he does. We hope you'll join us March 12th for RENEWAL – The Meetings, and you're welcome to attend on Sunday, too! Email Kent Miller (kent@firstmennonite.net), pastor of First Mennonite, Middlebury, if you'd like more information.

[RENEWAL Poster](#)

weLink connects IN-MI Conference congregations to each other, to the conference organizations Amigo Centre, Bethany Christian Schools and to the wider church. It is published on the second Wednesday of each month. **weLink** issues are archived on the conference website at im.mennonite.net/welink-archive/.

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

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