



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite Conference

weLink

connecting the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference

March 10, 2016



Contents

- [Office Closings](#)
- [Connecting](#)
- [Celebrating](#)
- [Credentialing and Leadership](#)
- [Financial Report](#)
- [Journey Program](#)
- [Amigo Centre](#)
- [Bethany Christian Schools](#)

Office Closings

The Conference office will be closed on Monday, March 14 following the southern delegate meeting on Saturday, March 12. The Conference staff will resume regular office hours on Tuesday, March 15.

We are looking for some volunteers willing to cover the front office when Vanessa takes vacation on April 4 through April 7. Please contact the office to inquire.

Connecting

Staff availability was impacted this month by the weather, which forced a closing

of the office one day this month, and by sickness.

Dan preached at Bonneyville on the first Sunday of Lent. Sharon continues providing coverage for Doug as he is on sabbatical. She can be contacted at cplt@im.mennonite.net, or by calling the office. Doug returns to the office on April 12.

Missional Leadership Team met Saturday, February 20, to set plans for [March delegate meetings](#). A big part of the day included receiving and discussing recommendations with two representatives from the Unity and Variance Task Group, and integrating them into a larger piece being called “Pieces of a Vision.” The north delegate meeting took place this last Saturday in Grand Rapids. **Many thanks to Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship for their generous service as host congregation.** The south delegate meeting is to be held at Howard-Miami Mennonite Church, Kokomo, this coming Saturday.

Fourteen people, eight participants and six mentors from IN-MI Conference attended the Journey Weekend Learning Event, February 26-28. It was an energizing and challenging weekend with input on biblical interpretation by Safwat Marzouk, PhD. There are already two people planning to begin Journey in the fall – who in your congregation is trying to discern a call to ministry, or would like some help to strengthen their leadership skills? Encourage them to consider Journey.

Paula Killough and Dan are attending Constituency Leaders Council this week. Shannon Dycus, the third representative, is unable to attend this time. The three days are good opportunities to strengthen relationships between conferences. Agenda this time includes work on CLC role as “elders for the church,” and considering what kind of covenant conferences have with each other, and how we might live into our missional future.

Celebrating

We celebrate Jim Norton’s return from a month in Mexico visiting his son.

We celebrate the productive interactions among delegates at tables in the first delegate meeting.

We celebrate Mary Mininger’s ministry among the congregation of the southern

region, especially in some recent situations requiring extra sensitivity.

We celebrate the life and service of Esther Yoder, one of our volunteers, who died last week.

Credentialing and Leadership

Sharon has been working with several congregational committees in active pastoral searches and resourcing a few congregations with transitional coaches and/or pastors. No credentialing services are scheduled at this time.

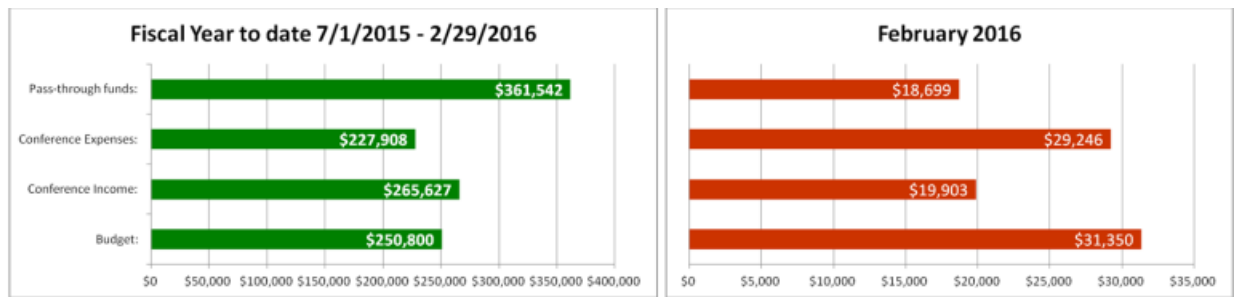
John Powell continues planning for a webinar/phone conference leadership event for Michigan churches in April.

Leadership Enhancement Team continues planning for a fall resourcing day in November, which this year will replace Pastoral Leadership Team Weekend. Goals are to have an inspiring day that connect people with Jesus, their center.

Dan and Sharon joined a webinar about a \$1 million grant Everence has received to work at financial planning, retirement preparation, and debt reduction over the next three years. Work with Everence has begun, to plan several events for Indiana-Michigan pastors who are working in a congregational setting.

Financial Report

Expenses for February remained under budget. We received \$19,903 in contributions resulting in a \$9,343 shortfall. We encourage continued support as we move toward the last quarter of the fiscal year. As always, your prayers, participation and contributions are appreciated.



Journey Program

When God calls someone to ministry, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Indiana-Michigan Conference invites you to join Journey: A Conference-based Leadership Development Program. This program is for pastors and other congregational leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to pastoral ministry. The deadline to apply for fall 2016 is July 15. For more information visit www.journeyprogram.net or contact your pastor, or Dan Miller at dan@im.mennonite.net or at 574 534 4006.

Amigo Centre

Friends of Amigo Banquet: Yellow Creek Mennonite Church is hosting our Friends of Amigo banquet this year on March 31. Meet and greet the staff and board at 6:00 pm, followed by the dinner at 6:30 pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Amigo by March 21 either by phone or email. Let us know who is coming. This year there is no fee for tickets to attend the banquet, but we will ask for donations to support the camp ministry at Amigo. 269-651-2811 or info@amigocentre.org or www.amigocentre.org

Amigo Scrapbook, Crafting, and Sewing Retreat April 8-10 (or come early on the 5th). Whether you scrapbook, sew, quilt or craft, Amigo invites you to join us for a relaxing weekend filled with good food and fellowship. Come alone or bring friends or family. The beautiful surroundings of Amigo and the creativity of others

at this retreat will inspire you! We provide the space, lodging, food and just the right amount of focused input to allow you time to balance your productivity with time to rest, restore and refresh your body and soul. Call or register online! 269-651-2811 or program@amigocentre.org or www.amigocentre.org

Mother-Daughter Retreat – April 9-10 (or come on the 8th). Krista Daniels and her daughter Lindsey, are hosting our spring Mother-Daughter Retreat. Come spend some quality time with family and friends at Amigo. Whether you scrap, craft or sew – bring your projects along with your daughter, mother, aunt, grandmother... This weekend is designed to include the younger generation in a priceless tradition. Our retreat will be held in West Shore Lodge. We will include a special afternoon “tea” so bring your dress up clothes if you would like! Call or register online! 269-651-2811 or program@amigocentre.org or www.amigocentre.org

Summer Camp is just around the corner! (It will be here faster than you think...) Summer camp registration is now available online . This summer our theme is “**One Body: Many Members**” based on I Corinthians 12:12-13. See your church bulletin board for our poster and brochures or visit our Web site for dates and registration information. Help create some wonderful memories for those special children in your life. Call or register online!

269-651-2811 or program@amigocentre.org or www.amigocentre.org

Save the Date! **Know Jesus** is July 29-31, 2016, on the campus of Goshen College. This Junior High event happens every other year – so plan now to attend. More information coming soon or contact Amigo at program@amigocentre.org

Amigo Centre has **facilities available** (Retreat Center and West Shore Lodge) **on Mother’s Day weekend**. Meals would be available on Saturday only for groups of 10 or more. Call for details. 269-651-2811.

Bethany Christian Schools

Visit Bethany on March 21: Students in grades 6-10 interested in exploring Bethany Christian Schools can shadow a Bethany student on Monday, March 21, 8:40 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Parents are invited to an 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!

Contact us to explore visit options for younger children as well. For more information, to register, or to schedule a visit on another date see bethanycs.net.

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/.

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