



Contents

- [Celebrating](#)
- [Connecting](#)
- [Credentialing and Leadership Development](#)
- [Financial Report](#)
- [Amigo Centre](#)
- [Bethany Christian Schools](#)
- [Author of Conference History Book Available for Appointments](#)

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Past Issues

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We celebrate with Mennonite Mission Network, the vibrant communities of faith in Congo. We have much to learn from our sisters and brothers around the world. (We recently received Mission Network's mission banks resource and encourage churches to use this in the congregation.)

Connecting

In the last month, the congregation at Forks Mennonite made the difficult decision to close the church. The congregation continues to meet as plans are being made. We invite your prayers for them as they find their way in this time.

The office received communication from three congregations about their affiliation with Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.:

- Burr Oak ended their affiliation as of September 1. Their leadership had indicated for some time this would happen when the congregation had decided what new connection they would move toward.
- Michigan Avenue has decided to end their affiliation as of the end of December 2016.
- Howard-Miami is processing their affiliation and hopes to have a decision as early as November or as late as spring.

John Powell hosted the [third Michigan Leaders Summit](#) on September 8 in Midland, MI. (you might have to sign into Facebook to see post about this)

MLT will host a conference call next week to hear from staff and congregational coaches about how to live into "Renewing a Vision," especially the spiritual practices.

Tim Lichti, John Powell and Dan Miller will participate in a consultation later this month, called by [Mennonite Disaster Service](#), to consider a long-term project in Detroit that would be a cooperative effort between multiple Mennonite agencies.

Credentialing and Leadership Development

Doug Kaufman will license and install Katie Johnson Misz as pastor of family life at Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, on September 25. Dan Miller will install Bob Brown as pastor at First Mennonite Church, Indianapolis, on October 16

The fall Journey event took place last weekend with input on Christian formation by Gilberto Flores. It was a challenging and hopeful weekend. IN-MI had 12 participants and mentors at the weekend. Journey is a three-year conference based leadership development program.

Congregational Coaches will meet with Lee Schmucker in October to learn more about leading from within through understanding the DiSC profile.

The mid-states conferences (Central District, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana-Michigan) have begun planning a joint training for spring 2017 on responding to accusations of clergy sexual misconduct.

Financial Report

Our income for the month of August was \$14,568 below budget and for the year to date \$19,254 below budget. Our expenses for the month of August were \$2,398 below budget and for the year to date \$5,117 below budget. Our expenses do not change as greatly as our income and will probably remain in this range. Last month I mentioned that we our income is normally low at the beginning of the year but this seems a bit unusual. We were aware of a decrease in income due to some congregations leaving but we are concerned about this amount of drop. This is a concern for prayer.

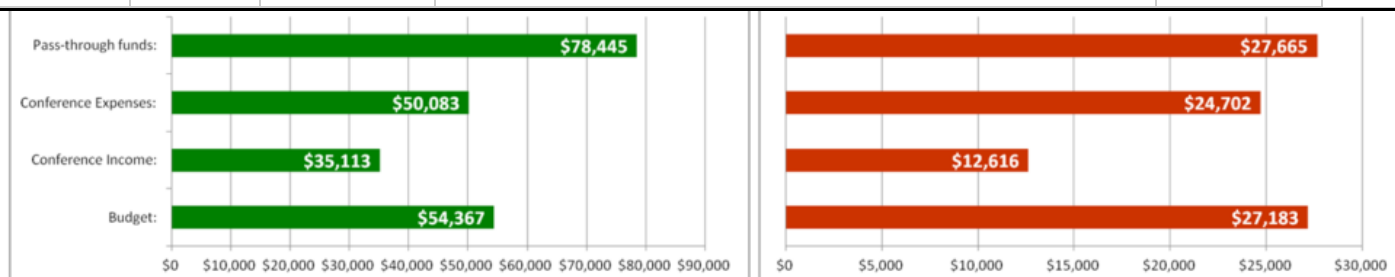
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Amigo Centre

- Thanksgiving Special: If you are thinking of a larger area for your family's Thanksgiving or if the ladies need a weekend retreat while the guys are hunting, we have our West Shore Lodge open for the entire Thanksgiving weekend. It's a beautiful location to enjoy the view, use the hiking trails or the activity center and just relax and enjoy. Thanksgiving price offer: 3 Days/2 Nights for the entire lodge only \$700. 00. (November 25-27, 2016)
- **E3 Mentors needed** Do you have 2 1/2 hours once a month that you are willing to invest in an outreach opportunity? Do you feel called to work with an at-risk junior high guy? If so, please consider being a mentor for the E3 Survival Skills Program that is coordinated through Amigo Centre in Goshen. Check out the Amigo website for more details.
- Winter Youth Retreat- note date change
January 13-15 – Jr High weekend 1
January 20-22 – Jr High weekend 2
February 17-19 – Sr High weekend! note change

Please note that we have moved the Senior High weekend to February. Our speaker for Senior High weekend is Leonard Dow, from Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, in Philadelphia, Penn. More information will be coming in the mail soon!

- Ladies and girls, the annual Fall Retreat is scheduled for October 7-9 at Amigo Centre. Register by September 21 to avoid a \$10 late fee! The theme is "Side by Side: Walking by Faith in the Midst of the Jungle" and the speaker is Jane Ross Richer. This year we are once again encouraging young girls (8 and older) to join us for a fun-filled weekend! Worship will be led by Emily Hostetler

from Yellow Creek Mennonite Church. Information and registration available at: <http://www.amigocentre.org/in-mi-mennonite-womens-fall-retreat.html>

- Plan now to join us for all or part of Celebrate Amigo, October 14-16, 2016 As always, we will have a silent and live auction to raise funds for needed improvements. If you have items you would like to donate, contact us – or drop them off anytime. We will also pick them up. Thank you in advance! Watch for more details to come.
- Attention Pastors! Do you need some time away from your busy life? Come walk our trails, go canoeing or sit by a fire. Our rates are \$30 for the first night and \$25 each additional night. Meals can be added if we have guest groups. We only need a couple of days notice, Give us a call at [\(269\) 651-2811](tel:2696512811) or send us an email at info@amigocentre.org to make your reservation.

Bethany Christian Schools

Alumni Reunions at Bethany Christian Schools: Bethany Christian Schools in Goshen will be hosting class reunions and activities for its alumni and their families on Saturday, Sept. 24. The following graduating classes will hold their reunions Saturday: 1956, 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011. Reunion classes will meet Saturday afternoon/evening at Bethany for visiting and a catered dinner. Alumni interested in attending should register by Sept. 15. More details are available at www.bethanycs.net/reunions.

Three New Board Members at Bethany Christian Schools: One former and two current Bethany parents joined the Bethany Board this

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Author of Conference History Book Available for Appointments

Rich Preheim, author of the IN-MI Conference history book, *In Pursuit of Faithfulness*, is available to schedule times to meet with your congregation to talk about the book. To schedule an appointment, please contact him at richpreheim@aol.com or 574-293-5314.

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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