



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite Conference

weLink

connecting the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference

October 12, 2016



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Pastoral Family Assistance Program (PFAP)

The Pastoral Family Assistance Program (PFAP) provides support for pastors and families stressed by life developments. Philhaven, a mental health center with whom we are contracted, recently became part of WellSpan Health. We held a webinar in August about the expanded benefits now available through the WellSpan EAP (Employee Assistance Program). [Click here](#) to see an updated brochure. Please note a change in the toll-free number to 1-800-673-2514.

Celebrating

Staff are grateful for the fall retreat this past week.

We give thanks for transitional pastors working in various settings across conference. The support group met at the conference office on September 15 and will meet again in December.

parties safe.

We give thanks for the many years of ministry given by Mario Bustos, who retired in August. Mario served two congregations in IN-MI Conference, Hudson Lake and Valparaiso. He also served on various leadership groups, including Executive Committee and Advisory Council.

We are also grateful to God for new young leaders coming into conference: Naomi Yoder (East Goshen) and Katie Misz (Waterford).

Connecting

John Powell led a Michigan prayer call on September 15. Participants prayed for Michigan churches, including congregational and personal needs. The next call will be in November. Paula Killough, Shannon Dycus and Dan Miller will participate in the Constituency Leaders Council meeting October 17-19 in Hesston Kansas. Please pray as conference representatives gather to offer an eldering function for Mennonite Church USA.

Annual Sessions 2017 at Amigo Centre, June 15-17. The SwaNee Lake Area Council is hosting and accepted Amigo Centre's invitation for a location. Amigo staff will provide children's programming. Invite others and plan to attend. Put the dates on your calendar and watch for more information in coming months. Members of conference leadership teams will meet November 4-5 for the Teams Retreat. Agenda includes *Renewing a Vision* implications for the work of leadership teams, and addressing intercultural competence.

Credentialing and Leadership Development

CANCELLED. The Hope event schedule for November 12 has been cancelled. Leadership Enhancement team regrets this development and will continue to find ways to support pastoral and congregational leadership. Dan will host about 30 people at "A Weekend Away" in Shipshewana, Ind., October 28-30. Thanks to those delegates who encouraged their pastor to participate. This event is related to the Lilly grant Everence received to address financial stresses of pastors.

pastors and costs are underwritten by the grant to Everence. Several additional events will be planned in other areas.

Doug Kaufman will install Robert Brown at First Mennonite Church, Indianapolis, IN, on Oct 16.

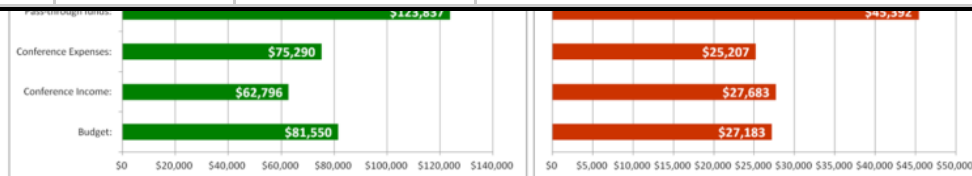
Doug Kaufman will ordain Anne Mitchell for chaplaincy November 6 at Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, IN.

Doug Kaufman will ordain Phil Bontrager at Kern Road Mennonite Church, South Bend, IN, on Nov 13. Phil is a member of Kern Road and serves as interim pastor at Grand Marais Mennonite Church, Grand Marais, MI.

Doug Kaufman will be joining Joel Pontius in leading “Waters of Eden, Waters of Elkhart” at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center in Wolf Lake, IN on Saturday, October 22, 9 am – 12 pm. This adventure in spiritual geography brings together Biblical study of the headwaters found at Eden in Genesis 2 and experiential study of the headwaters of the Elkhart River found at Merry Lea. This will be a chance to learn about Doug’s sabbatical study this winter in Toronto, a study that finds its roots in the Benton congregation’s practice of baptizing people in the Elkhart River. Through the years he and the congregation have learned about how to keep the water healthy and clean, since the river sometimes has too much manure for safe contact. Dr. Pontius is faculty at Merry Lea and director of its Sustainability Leadership Semester. This is co-sponsored by the Mennonite Creation Care Network. Cost is \$20; \$5 for students. Register by calling 260.799.5869 or visiting <https://www.goshen.edu/merrylea/2016/09/waters-of-eden-waters-of-elkhart/>

Financial Report

Our income for September was \$500 above budget for the month but \$18,754 below budget for the year. In relation to our expenses our income for September was \$2,476 above expenses but for the year is \$12,494 behind expenses. Our expenses were actually \$6,260 below budget expenses. Thank you for your contributions for September.



Amigo Centre

- Amigo Centre is accepting applications for Assistant Cooks. This position would assist the Food Director in preparation of meals, maintaining equipment and adhering to State of Michigan rules regarding food service. Must have the ability to work without direct supervision. Amigo Centre strives to provide a place where people can come to relax and reconnect with God, creation and each other. If you wish to learn more about the position please contact Amigo Centre either by email at info@amigocentre.org or by phone at [\(269\)-651-2811](tel:(269)651-2811).
- Amigo Centre has two remaining **Scrapbooking, Crafting and Quilting Retreats** remaining for this year. November 11-13 and December 2-4. We provide the opportunity to balance your productivity with time to rest, restore and refresh your body and soul. Registration is now available online. Check our web page or call for details. <http://www.amigocentre.org>
- 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 activity center and just relax and enjoy. Thanksgiving Special Price Offer: 3 Days/2 Nights for the entire lodge only \$700.00. (Nov 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 Survivor Skills Program that is coordinated through Amigo Centre in Goshen. Check out the Amigo website for more details.
- Our Winter Youth Retreat weekend planning is underway and we have all three speakers committed to each event. T Mounsithiraj, Josh Golden (Local Youth Pastor) and Leanord Dow will be our guest speakers for the event. We will have more information coming via USPS soon. Please be in prayer for us as we plan these events.
- Winter Youth Retreat – Information to be mailed this week!

January 20-22 – Jr High weekend 2

February 17-19 – Sr High weekend!

- 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!
Call if you have questions!
- 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.

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

109 E. Clinton St., Suite 100 | Goshen, IN 46528

Phone: 574-534-4006 or 800-288-8486

Email: imoffice@im.mennonite.net | Website: im.mennonite.net



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