



May 13, 2015



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## Administrative Team Report

### Administrative Team

As always at this time of year, attention turns toward Annual Sessions. The Conference Program Planning Committee is coordinating the overall planning, and Frank Kandel as local coordinator, is overseeing the team of people working in Indianapolis. Annual Sessions give us an opportunity to encounter God and see how God is at work in the city of Indianapolis. **Make sure to register and make your hotel reservation before the prices expire on May 15!** Check the website

regularly for new information.

Broadway United Methodist Church will be a beautiful setting for Annual Sessions worship. The congregation at Broadway is being transformed by mission. The next Gospel Evangel features some background about this congregation, and ways it is joining God in the neighborhood. Let's come with an intention to learn from one another.

The Ministry Credentialing Team report of its credential review of Karl Shelly was announced on April 6, 2015. Conference has received a lot of feedback about this decision, representing the breadth of conviction across conference. We encourage everyone to engage the Unity and Variance Discernment Process as it continues through June 2016.

Missional Leadership Team (MLT) meets this Saturday, 8am-4pm. Please pray for them as they meet. MLT member Steve Miller resigned last month following announcement of the credential review. We are sorry to see him go. With Bob Yoder leading an SST unit in Nicaragua, the board will be missing two people at this meeting. That's a lot when there are seven to begin with. A little known detail from the bylaws is that all leadership groups are accountable for their work to MLT, so annual reports are submitted to the MLT. Those reports are shared with delegates, to whom the whole structure is accountable. Make sure to check out the work of conference leadership groups in the report book, available on the conference website at <http://im.mennonite.net/calendar/annual-sessions>.

Gifts Development Team continues working diligently to fill the slate for conference leadership groups. Information about individuals nominated to fill different positions is also in the report booklet.

Several years ago conference leadership commissioned an update of conference history. Mary Swartley has faithfully tended the project over the last number of years. The current target publication date is summer 2016.

David Zehr, a Goshen College student from Elkhart, will be doing research this summer about Mennonite Church Minority Ministries Council and efforts to welcome people of color. Since this story significantly overlaps with Indiana-Michigan (IN-MI) Mennonite Conference, Dan has agreed to supervise David. In the fall David will offer reflections on IN-MI Conference history, through articles and/or presentations.

As staff we are aware that in 1½ months, staffing changes. The Conference Administrator and 3 regional pastor positions will be discontinued at the end of June: Greg Sommers, Brent Eash, David Araujo and Russell Jensen. Dan, Doug, John, Mary and Vanessa will continue, as will the new bookkeeper Jim Norton. We have

begun learning and shifting responsibilities, hoping to work out major glitches before they leave. When staffing changes, the administrative team will cease to exist, and the emphasis will be on having one staff team.

In April, Philip Leichty, pastor at Burr Oak Mennonite Church, chaired his last meeting of the Journey board. Philip has been a faithful fan for Journey since the beginning, and the longest serving Journey board chair. He mentored three participants, and two of them joined the pastoral team at Burr Oak. Thank you Philip for your love for Jesus and your passion for leadership development! The board is actively seeking a new chair.

Because this will be a big summer with Annual Sessions, plus Mennonite Church USA convention and Mennonite World Conference, there has been some suggestion that IN-MI Conference hold a special meeting as we enter the fall. With congregations considering their Mennonite Church USA and IN-MI ties, it might be useful to take stock. Sometimes extra meetings are unwelcome intrusions and other times we wish for extra connections as we navigate uncharted waters. The administrative team welcomes your thoughts.

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## **New Beginnings**

Doug and overseer Leonard Wiebe will ordain Marcella Hershberger as pastor May 17 at Bonneyville MC.

Dan will install and license Kenzie Intemann May 31 as associate pastor at Marion MC.

Doug and overseer Mike Zehr will ordain Veva Mumaw as associate pastor at Olive MC June 14.

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## **Hilltop Mennonite Fellowship Closing Celebration**

**Hilltop Mennonite Fellowship (Petoskey, Mich.) Plans Closing Celebration**

Members of Hilltop Mennonite Fellowship have voted to close, and have scheduled

a celebration service for Sunday, August 23, 2015 at 3pm. Watch for more details in coming months.

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## **Conference Leadership Retreat set for August**

### **Conference Leadership Retreat set for August 21-22 at Amigo Centre**

Missional Leadership Team is planning to build on our experience of last fall with a gathering of conference leadership teams. Save the date and watch for further details.

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## **Office Closed on Memorial Day**

The IN-MI Mennonite Conference office will be closed on Monday, May 25 in honor of the Memorial holiday.

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## **April Financial Report**

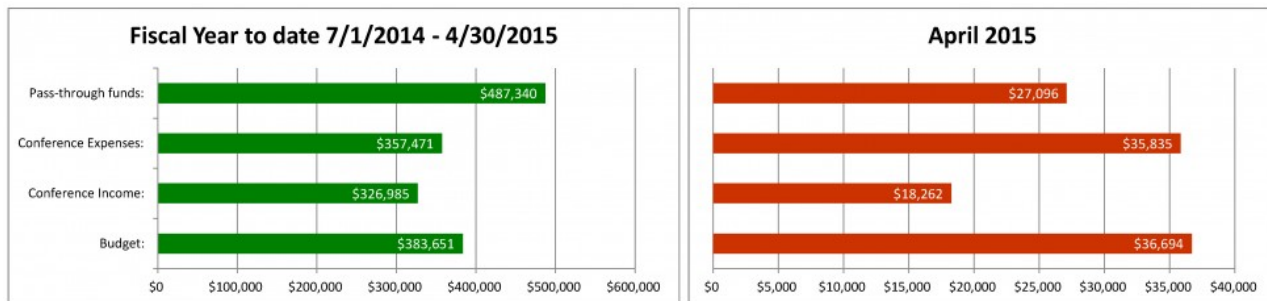
Conference has been blessed by opportunities to encourage congregations and leaders over the past few months. We awarded \$39,500 in a matching fund grant for churches Hopewell to expand and update facilities. The church is now running a child care, which has increased community awareness of the congregation. Conference still has over \$500,000 available for grants to churches.

In addition to this capital grant fund, conference is encouraging church planters by using several thousand dollars from the newly-established PLANT Fund to send them to a church planting conference in Chicago. As you may remember, the PLANT Fund was established using 10% of the proceeds of the sale of North Pointe Fellowship in Warsaw (a former church plant).

Net income for April was negative \$17,573. The spending plan anticipated a shortfall

of \$3,889 for April, and a negative \$17,733 balance at this point in our fiscal year. Despite spending \$26,180 less than planned fiscal year to date, decreased financial support has left conference \$30,486 in the hole so far. Using income and expense patterns from the five most recent years, we predict a loss of \$17,674 at the end of fiscal year 2014-2015 (based on the end of April figures).

Contributions through conference to other local, regional, national and international ministries continue to be a blessing. Thank you for your support to and through conference.



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## IN-MI Mennonite Women Spring Gathering

IN-MI Mennonite Women will hold the Northern Region Spring Gathering on Saturday, May 16, at Rexton Mennonite Church in Naubinway, Michigan. Activities begin at 9:00 AM EST. The theme for the morning is "From Messy to Magnificent". Brenda Browning will speak on the topic "Messy Love". Gwen Black will share cleaning tips and Kathy Miller will share organizational tips. A noon luncheon will be provided by the Rexton Mennonite Church. An offering will be received to cover expenses for the day and also to provide scholarships for women. For further information contact Kathy Miller at 906-477-8090.

[Rexton May 16 2015 Poster \(2\)](#)

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## Wilma Bailey to speak at IN-MI Women's Luncheon at Annual Sessions

IN-MI Mennonite Women will host a luncheon at the 2015 Annual Sessions in

Indianapolis. It will be held Saturday, June 20, at 11:30 AM. The location will be the library of Broadway United Methodist Church at 609 E. 29th St, the site of conference. Wilma Bailey will speak on the topic: "A Story of Two Sisters". To register for the meal, please call Shirley Bustos at 219-462-0526 or email her at [SABustos@comcast.net](mailto:SABustos@comcast.net). RSVPs are required. The cost of the meal is \$13, payable at the door. After June 12, the cost will be \$15.

[Poster Wilma Bailey summer luncheon 2015](#)

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## **Journey Leadership 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 2015 is August 1. For more information visit [www.journeyprogram.net](http://www.journeyprogram.net) or contact your pastor, or Dan Miller at [dan@im.mennonite.net](mailto:dan@im.mennonite.net) or at [574 534 4006](tel:5745344006).

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## **Isaac Villegas to Speak at College Mennonite Church**



College Mennonite Church will host guest speaker Isaac Villegas for two special presentations on Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17. At 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, Villegas will present on the theme of “God as Mother,” with a discussion time to follow. During the worship service beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17, Villegas will bring the morning sermon focusing on Jesus’ parable of the merchant and the pearl in Matthew 13:45-46. Both presentations, held in the sanctuary, are free and open to the public.

Isaac S. Villegas is pastor of Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship in Chapel Hill, N.C., and teaches classes in prisons with Project TURN. He serves on the executive committee of Mennonite Church USA and is a member of the governing board of the North Carolina Council of Churches. He is the co-author of *Presence: Giving and Receiving God*. He has a B.A. from Westmont College and a M.Div. from Duke Divinity School.

For more information about these services or other church ministries, call 535-7262 or check the College Mennonite Church website [www.CollegeMennonite.org](http://www.CollegeMennonite.org).

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## Upcoming Events at Amigo Centre

### GOLFERS!

Put together a **team of four** , enjoy a morning on the beautiful **Klinger Lake Country Club golf course** and a **meal at Amigo Centre**, all while helping a deserving child have a life-changing week of camp. **The Amigo Centre Camp Scholarship Golf Scramble, June 6, 2015** will enable children from families with limited resources receive scholarships for a week of summer camp at Camp Amigo. Register by phone (269.651.2811) or online at [www.amigocentre.org](http://www.amigocentre.org) Business owners can also register to be a sponsor. Thank you for investing in children!

### CAMP AMIGO

We are once again preparing for one of the most exciting times of the year at Amigo Centre – Summer Camp! Our theme for 2015 is L.I.F.E. Living for God; Intity in Christ, Overcoming Ears, Engage Culture. Our early registration discount is available through May 1 – so don't delay to register your children or grandchildren! More information is available at: [www.amigocentre.org](http://www.amigocentre.org) .

### AMIGO CENTRE FACILITIES AVAILABLE

**FAMILIES!** Can Amigo Centre serve you and your family this summer? Some dates are still available for groups, family gatherings, and retreats. Amigo would love to welcome you to this place and facilities that belong to the IN-MI Conference churches. Call 269.651.2811 for details.

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## Upcoming Events at Bethany

**Bright Time Summer Camp**, June 8-12, has more than 50 athletic, fine arts, science, and all kinds of fun camps for age 4 through rising grade 8. Camps are \$30-\$40. Additionally, Shine On Campcare will provide a place for children for before, between, and after their camps. View camp listings and register online at [www.bethanycs.net/BrightTime](http://www.bethanycs.net/BrightTime). Online registration closes May 31.

Bethany Christian High School's performing arts troupe, Emmaus, will presents its



final public program of the 2015 season at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 17 in Bethany's chapel. Shared in area elementary schools and other public venues, this year's show is entitled "Life's Lemons." Life doesn't always give us what we expect or want. The "lemon" moments of life are often the ones that provide valuable lessons for us. The performance uses music, drama and dance, and includes familiar stories (such as "Mike Mulligan's Steam Shovel") and songs (such as "Zip-a-dee-doo-dah" and "I'm On Top of the World").

Bethany Christian Schools grades 4-8 music students will present spring concerts on Tuesday and Thursday, May 19 and 21, in the school chapel. Choral groups will perform on Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m.; instrumental groups will perform on Thursday with beginning instruments at 6:30 and band/orchestra groups at 8:00. There is no admission charge and all are welcome to attend.

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## Job openings

**Enrollment Counselor Positions, Goshen College.** Full-time Enrollment Counselors to participate in the full range of recruitment and admissions efforts. Bachelor's degree required with 2 years' experience in college admissions, advising or related field preferred. For further details and to apply, see the position announcements at [www.goshen.edu/employment](http://www.goshen.edu/employment).

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*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/](http://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](mailto:imoffice@im.mennonite.net) | Website: [im.mennonite.net](http://im.mennonite.net)



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