



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite Conference

weLink

connecting the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference

June 10, 2015



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Conference office closed for Annual Sessions

The Conference Office will be closed June 17- 22 for Annual Sessions, and also June 25.

Administrative Team Update

We look forward to seeing many of you at Annual Sessions next week. Frank Kandel, local planner, and many volunteers are preparing so that we can worship, confer and fellowship. We invite you to pray for our time, that we can be attentive to God's spirit in all our activities. This is an unknown time for us (think of the biblical term of wilderness). The wilderness is dangerous and teeming with possibilities. From beginning to end we want to hold both realities before God and one another.

The [Delegate Preparation page](#) on the website continues to be updated with information for Annual Sessions, including updates about congregational closures and affiliation. Final versions of documents will be in delegate packets upon arrival, so there is no need to print items out; but this is a good way to prepare.

Following Annual Sessions, staff will have our annual archiving day, organizing records of the last year. Dan and Doug will attend convention in Kansas City, and Mennonite World Conference in Pennsylvania.

This is the last Administrative Team update in weLink. With staff changes the Administrative Team no longer exists. Our goal is to function as one staff team serving the conference using the three Missional Leadership Team staffing priorities:

- Credentialing and leadership development,
- Connections with staff, between congregations and with the world, and
- Celebration.

Though the staff changes won't officially take place until July 1, we already had our first staff meeting and began imagining ways to move into this new reality. The staff team beginning July 1 is Doug Kaufman, Vanessa Kelleybrew, Dan Miller, Mary Miner and John Powell.

Last week we said goodbye to Greg Leatherman Sommers, conference administrator. He ended a little early in order to have down time before beginning his new job with MDC Goldenrod on July 1. Thank you to all who wrote words of appreciation and farewell to him last week! David Araujo, Brent Eash and Russell Jensen will finish their work with conference at the end of this month. Those who come to Annual Sessions, please take opportunity to express appreciation and say goodbye to them as staff people. As pastoring people they will continue to be present within conference in various capacities.

From Isaiah 12: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Offering Opportunities at Annual Sessions

There will be three opportunities to share financially this year at Annual Sessions. All three of them will take place on Friday, but at different times.

Travel Pool – the normal travel pool offering will take place at the end of Friday morning’s worshipful work session. Those traveling more than 150 miles one way are invited to submit expenses. The rest are invited to contribute \$20. Monies received will be prorated among those who submit expenses.

Care and Prevention Fund – growing out the Mennonite Church USA discernment group, the Care and Prevention Fund has three goals:

- 1) to recompense, at least in some small measure, the material costs that persons victimized by Yoder or another credentialed leader of Mennonite Church USA undertook on their road to healing;
- 2) to provide tangible care for persons who have experienced sexual abuse;
- 3) to assist in prevention of sexual abuse.

More about this fund can be found [here](#) and [here](#). The Missional Leadership Team has designated \$10,000 from the general fund, and we are hoping to significantly increase Indiana-Michigan’s contribution. All monies will be forwarded to Mennonite Church USA before convention so that it can contribute to the overall total there.

This offering will be received during Friday’s late afternoon session.

Annual Sessions expenses – Registration fees do not cover all expenses related to having our annual gathering. We depend on this offering to help cover expenses. Any balance left after paying all expenses helps to defray expenses of future years. This offering will be received during the Friday evening worship service.

Please consider how you can participate in each of these opportunities.

Thanks to our new volunteer, Cindy Steiner

Vanessa and Dan discussed utilizing more volunteers with the new staffing configuration, and were just getting ready to publicize an invitation for interested persons, when Cindy Steiner approached us offering that she would like to volunteer in the office. A volunteer before we even asked! Thanks, Cindy.

We are especially looking for people who can tend the front desk while Vanessa is

working with bigger projects. If others are interested in volunteering, please contact the office.

Congregational Coaches available

As they finish their time as regional pastors, David Araujo, Brent Eash and Russell Jensen have expressed openness to serving as congregational coaches (formerly called overseers). If your congregation has been considering getting a congregational coach, here are three possibilities. If you are interested, contact Leadership Enhancement Team (Jeff Mumaw, Brenda Yoder, Rhonda Yoder, Marshall Anderson, Suella Gerber)

“Come and See” representatives identified

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference has been invited, along with Central District Conference and MCC Great Lakes, to send representatives to Israel/Palestine on a learning tour. Trip objectives are:

1. Meet Mennonite partners in Israel/Palestine including Palestinian Christians
2. Develop a deeper understanding of the realities of occupation
3. Hear a variety of Jewish/Israeli perspectives
4. Visit sites that are important to the Biblical story

People going from our conference are: Randy Detweiler, Gwen Gustafson-Zook, Leighton Miller, and David Sutter. Thanks to Gene Hartman in helping with arrangements.

Beginnings

Sunday, June 14, Dan Miller, Conference Pastor, and Mike Zehr, congregational coach, will ordain Veva Zimmerman Mumaw at Olive Mennonite Church, Elkhart, IN.

Sunday, July 12, 1:30 pm, Doug Kaufman, Conference Pastor for Leadership Transition, will ordain Rod Hollinger-Janzen as director of Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission at Waterford Mennonite Church. Siaka Traore of Burkina Faso, chair of the AIMM board, will be the guest preacher.

Sunday, July 19, Doug Kaufman, Conference Pastor for Leadership Transition, and Lois Kaufmann of Central District Conference, will ordain Rebecca Kauffman as pastor at Paoli Mennonite Church, Paoli, IN.

Funk Fest 2015

In celebration of John Funk, founder of Prairie Street Mennonite Church,

John Bell of the Iona Community in Scotland—prolific composer, teacher on worship and music—will speak at **Prairie Street Mennonite Church** (1316 Prairie St, Elkhart, IN) on **Saturday, June 13, 9am–4pm**.

Topic: “The engaged spirituality of Jesus.” Cost: \$20.

Bring your own lunch or eat out.

Registration at the door only, starting 8:30am. [funk fest 2015 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/.

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