



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite Conference

weLink

connecting the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference

October 14, 2015



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Celebrating

This month we celebrate the pastors among us. You are part of this Jesus movement, sharing from your own experiences of God's challenging grace and walking with others as they respond to their life opportunities. Growing in love for the faith community and for the world God loves, listening for the winds of the Spirit in scripture and in life, living with human limitations. Changing and adapting to the present realities while becoming more deeply attached to Jesus. Thank you for responding to the call and embarking on this journey. We pray for you and desire to walk together as we joyfully follow Jesus. May God strengthen and sustain you this month, and throughout the year.

Vanessa completed the 2015-16 conference directory this month. Each delegate should receive a directory through their church office.

We are grateful for God's provision of finances for the work of conference in this unknown time. Thank you to congregations who continue to pray for and contribute to our mission of joyfully following Jesus and engaging the world God loves. (see the financial report for more details)

We celebrate the history project manuscript was sent to the publisher, Herald Press. Rich Preheim wrote the history, which is scheduled to be available in the summer of 2016. Mary Swartley shepherded this project along the way since its beginning. Vernard Guengerich did research for the vast appendices covering congregations, pastors, conference moderators and staff. Watch for publicity next year. Thank you!

Connecting

Next week Dan, Paula Killough and Shannon Dycus will attend a meeting of the Constituency Leaders Council along with representatives of other conferences and of constituent groups.

Pastors and congregational leaders are invited to a weekend with Gilberto Flores, retired church planter, pastor, academic, and denominational leader as he reflects with us on leading from a healthy soul. Originally from Guatemala, he has returned to his home country following retirement at the end of 2014.

Dan began attending area council meetings across northern Indiana. His goal is to be present at least once per quarter, and hopefully more often. He is however, having trouble connecting with the SwaNee Lake Council due to multiple schedule conflicts! John Powell remains available to Michigan congregations and Mary Mininger to southern region congregations.

Dan presented September 24 to a Road Scholars group of about 20 people at Amigo Centre. The group was learning about Amish and Mennonites, and Dan presented on present-day Mennonites. Most of the group began the week knowing almost nothing about these two groups.

Over a weekend Doug connected with congregations in Paoli, Bloomington and Indianapolis. In Paoli he presented on Anabaptist ministerial leadership, drawing on study done during his 2012 sabbatical.

Several pastor events were also held this last month.

40 people attended the Pastor Sabbath Day on September 21 at Kern Road. The morning was spent in blocks of silence, singing, sharing and prayer. After a magnificent lunch hosted by several hospitality volunteers, Jewel Gingerich Longenecker helped us reflect on how transformative Bible study might become a practice that binds us together.

John Powell met September 24 with 13 pastors and leaders from nine Michigan congregations to be renewed in ministry, share about their congregational contexts, and explore ways to support one another in being an Anabaptist presence in their communities. New Hope Community Church of Midland hosted the group and provided lunch.

Credentialing and Leadership Development

Sunday Nov. 1 at 4 pm: Conference Pastor, Dan Miller, will ordain pastor Shawn Lange and associate pastor Tyrone Taylor at New Foundation United in Christ Mennonite Fellowship, Elkhart, IN.

Sunday Nov. 8 at 9:30 am: Conference Pastor for Leadership Transitions, Doug Kaufman, will ordain associate pastor Brent Siegrist at Walnut Hill MC, Goshen, IN.

Sunday Nov. 22 at 10:45 am: Conference Pastor, Dan Miller, will license and install Mike Yordy as a church planter at Waterford MC, Goshen, IN.

Doug spent a week in September at the Toronto School of Theology taking an exam and being oriented for this Master of Theology program (Th.M.) in theology and ecology. He will spend his January to April sabbatical in full-time study there.

Leadership Enhancement is assuming responsibility to find mentors for new pastors who are licensed toward ordination. We appreciate pastors sharing their experience and faith with those who are beginning ministry. They are also available to assist in finding congregational coaches.

First quarter financial report

Thanks to your generosity September contributions are only about \$300 less than last year. With expenses \$5,700 less than September 2014 we are running a small deficit of \$2300. Overall in the first quarter of the fiscal year, contributions are slightly ahead of this time last year. It appears that this is the slow time of the year for contributions so it seems that we should be looking better as the year progresses.



Amigo Centre

After five years of service as Executive Director at Amigo Centre, Cliff Brubaker has submitted his resignation to the Amigo Board. The Board and Cliff have targeted January 1, 2016 as the time of transition of leadership. The Search Committee seeks resumes' from interested candidates with these desired qualities:

- *Administrative skills*
- *Experience or training in finance and budgeting*
- *Experience or training in camp operations*
- *Good people skills*
- *Live in the Amigo Centre community (Sturgis, MI)*
- *Previous camp work experiences*
- *Organizational management skills*
- *Highly motivated*
- *Committed to Mennonite core values and to Amigo Centre's mission*

Please send resume' and letter of interest to: gibson1960.sy@gmail.com

- Now is the time to register for Pastoral Leadership Team Weekend, November 13-15, 2015. Our speaker is Gilberto Flores, speaking on "Soul Care." Brochures have been mailed and are available online

<http://www.amigocentre.org/pastoral-leadership-team-retreat.html>

- Amigo Centre has one final Scrapbooking, Crafting and Quilting Retreat remaining for this year, December 4-6, with early arrival starting Tuesday, December 1. 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/scrapbooking-crafters-retreat.html>

Amigo Centre Winter Youth Retreats

- Remember to save the date of Amigo Centre Winter Youth Retreats on your calendar.
 - **Junior High Retreats:** January 8-10 or February 12-14
 - **Senior High Retreats:** January 15-17 or February 19-21
 - Watch for additional details. We hope to see you here!
-

Bethany Christian Schools

Fish Fry at Bethany: Bethany Christian High School's Senior Class Fish Fry on Friday, Oct. 30, is less than two weeks away! Come between the hours of 4:30 and 8 p.m. for an evening of fellowship, homemade pie, and all the fish you can eat. Tickets are available from all Bethany seniors or at the door. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children in grades 1-6. Preschool age is free. Carryout is also available with adult tickets only.

Denise Risser Administrative Assistant Bethany Christian Schools
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What is The Gathering Place?

The Gathering Place is an interactive website for Anabaptist youth leaders to find connection, resourcing, networking, mentoring, and spiritual formation.

In essence, the Gathering Place is...YOU!

Visit the website [here](#).

Join in the webinar with MICHELE HERSHBERGER, Hesston College, titled, “Intergenerational, Intentional Discipling,” Michele has mentored thousands of youth and young adults over the years to consider their faith and is now experimenting with some new models. You don’t want to miss it! Thursday, October 15, 11am-12pm EST

Visit the website [here](#).

Job Opening

Eighth Street Mennonite Church is accepting applications for the position of Administrative Assistant for Finance. This is a part-time position (approx. 18-20 hours per week) and includes tasks in bookkeeping, computer tasks, 8th St Preschool Treasurer, and other office tasks. Conversational Spanish is an asset. Training to begin Dec of 2015 with full duties to be assumed Jan 1, 2016. For a job description please contact office@8thstmennonite.org. Resumes to be sent to same email.

Brenda Sawatzky Paetkau, Pastor

Eighth Street Mennonite Church

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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