



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite Conference

weLink

connecting the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference

April 13, 2016



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Online Registration Open

Online registration for Annual Sessions is open!

You can access it through the Annual Sessions page on our website. [Click here to go to the Annual Sessions Page.](#)

Connecting

Staff are happy to reconnect with Doug as he returns from Sabbatical this week. He and Sharon will overlap some as she wraps up and hands projects over to Doug.

connect with people from across conference. Both meetings filled the room with energy as delegates considered elements of a vision for IN-MI Conference. Since the gatherings, several delegates indicated they shared the documents with their home congregations. This is great as we hope each congregation can affirm the vision and consider how it will participate.

Staff sent a mailing to Missional Seeds members, and a number renewed their contribution. Thank you!

In April Dan will meet with Lois Kaufmann, Michael Danner and George O'Reilly for the semi-annual mid-states conference ministers retreat day. This is a day of retreat and of sharing about our common work.

April 21-25, John Powell, Tim Lichti and Dan Miller will take a networking trip to the greater Detroit area to connect with leaders of the two IN-MI Conference congregations there, with two church planters, with the large Mennonite Disaster Service project in Detroit, and with old and new Anabaptists in the area. There are no specific new initiatives expected to come immediately from this trip; but with John and Tim along, imagining possibilities will definitely be part of the experience!

Celebrating

We celebrate resurrection and the continual impact Christ's life is having in the world.

We celebrate Doug Kaufman's intellectually stimulating time on sabbatical, and his return to conference work this week. We also celebrate and give thanks for Sharon Yoder's work to cover during Doug's time away.

We celebrate the interactions among delegates at March delegate meetings and the conversations beginning in congregations.

Credentialing and Leadership

Pastors and congregational leaders!: Leadership Enhancement Team continues planning a November resourcing day on November 12. Speakers will address engaging locally and globally. Area councils are invited to gather locally and connect to the video input. Mark your calendars and watch for more information.

Staff renewed the Pastoral Family Assistance Program through Philhaven for the coming year. Because this program offerings include more than four free counseling sessions, the coordinator is offering an orientation webinar for pastors. This will be finalized soon.

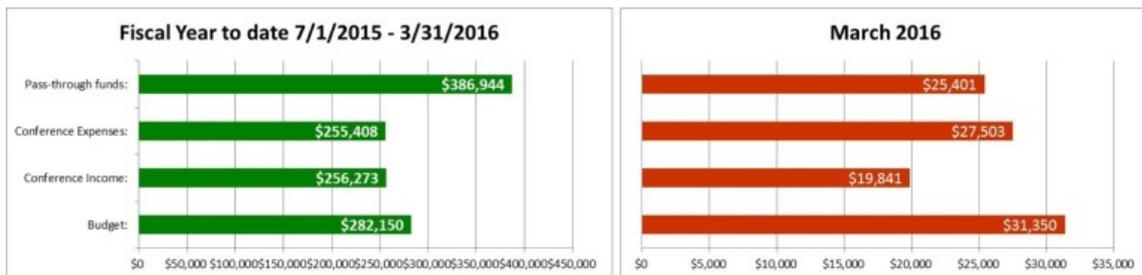
Staff will lead a review of search, credential, and supervision processes in order to reflect on systemic patterns of racism.

Credential/installation services:

- Matt Ropp – Dan represented conference at commissioning service for Matt’s work at Amigo Centre on March 31 at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church.
- Sarah Thompson – Sharon officiated a licensing service for her work as executive director of Christian Peacemaker Teams on April 10 at Prairie Street.

Financial Report

February and March have been financially challenging months. We are especially grateful for congregational contributions that we have received. Thank you!



MLI Update

With the reduction of personnel at the Conference office we were aware that some services offered by the office would need to be changed or discontinued. Below is a list of changes or services discontinued to date.

- Planning for Annual Sessions delegated more to local planners (trial)
- Affiliation sheets much more automated
- Website marginally maintained
- Creative time and new initiatives work greatly reduced
- Gospel Evangel writing and editing contracted out
- Closing the office when no staff is present (holidays, Vanessa vacation, retreat days, etc)
- Delegate meeting worship planning delegated to local hosts
- Staff not available to walk with closing congregations disposing of buildings
- Reduced supervision and staff meetings

Gene Hartman, Conference Moderator

Offices for Rent

The conference office has two furnished offices available for sub-lease. In addition to bathroom and staff lounge areas, the sub-lease can include wireless internet, phone/voicemail, and copier. If interested, contact the office at 574-534-4006.

Office Closings

Unfortunately, we did not have extra volunteers to cover during staff absences, so the office was closed some extra days during the first week of April.

Amigo Centre

for June 4 at the beautiful Klinger Lake Country Club. Put together a team of four to enjoy a morning of golf and lunch at the Country Club, or sponsor a child (\$300 Camper Sponsorship). See material sent to your congregation or register online at www.amigocentre.org

Summer Camp is just around the corner! (It will be here faster than you think...) Summer camp registration is now available online. This summer our theme is “**One Body: Many Members**” based on I Corinthians 12:12-13. See your church bulletin board for our poster and brochures or visit our Web site for dates and registration information. Help create some wonderful memories for those special children in your life. Call or register online!

269-651-2811 or program@amigocentre.org or www.amigocentre.org

Save the Date! **Know Jesus** is July 29-31, 2016, on the campus of Goshen College. This Junior High event happens every other year – so plan now to attend. More information coming soon or contact Amigo at program@amigocentre.org

Bethany Christian Schools

Apr. 22 Fish Fry: Bethany Christian High School’s junior class fish fry is 4:30-8:00 p.m., Friday, April 22. Come for an evening of fellowship, homemade pie, and all the fish you can eat. Tickets are \$10 for adults and carryout and \$5 for children K-6 (preschool-age free). Tickets may be purchased from any Bethany junior or at the school (534-2567).

Bright Time Summer Camp, June 6-10, 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.

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Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

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