

July 13, 2016

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# Connecting

Dan attended the commissioning service on June 12 for Ang Rem as pastor of the four Mara Christian Church of America congregations (Indianapolis, Atlanta, Baltimore and Charlotte)

Dan preached at Walnut Hill on June 26 to connect with the congregation's emphasis on spiritual practices.

# Celebrating

Participants had a joyous time at Annual Sessions last month. We celebrated God's goodness to us in the worship, fellowship and work sessions.

We are grateful for the Elkhart planners and their enthusiasm for the gathering.

We are grateful for Joe Pendleton's photos that recorded the time. (Watch for the new gospel Evangel coming out soon!)

Vanessa had a well-deserved vacation July 1-11. We celebrate with her the many tasks accomplished in preparing for Annual Sessions, and for completing another year in her Masters studies!

#### Credentialing and Leadership

Leadership Enhancement Team is looking forward to the fall resourcing day on November 12, 2016!

Hope: The Difference is Jesus! Watch for more details and how you can connect.

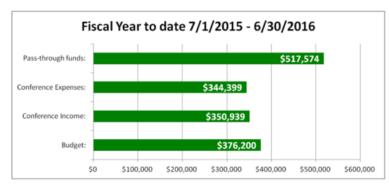
Doug was at Lake Bethel on July 10 to ordain Mike Brudney.

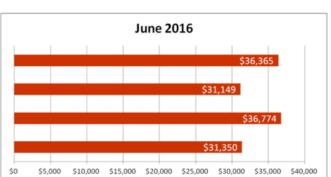
Doug will be at Waterford on July 24 to ordain Velma Swartz as pastor of senior ministries.

Doug will be at East Goshen on August 14 to install Naomi Yoder as pastoral team leader.

# **Financial Report**

Again we wish to thank you for your generous support. We were able to end the year in the black much to our surprise and due to the end of the fiscal year giving. For the month our income was \$5,624 above expenses and \$5,424 above budget. In June congregational giving amounted to \$32,394 of our income and Missional Seeds giving amounted to \$4,378 of our income. A special thank you to each one of our Missional Seeds partners for that strong end of year contribution. For the year to date our income was \$6,540 above expenses. Although our income for the year was \$25,261 below the budget we were able to decrease our expenses to end the year in the black.





# **Annual Sessions**

133 people attended from 32 congregations.

Recordings of various events are available on the Annual Sessions page on the conference website.

#### **Amigo Centre**

- 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. This year our speaker is T Mounsithiraj and music will be led by Nathan Grieser and friends. Due to technical difficulties with online registration, the Early registration price though June 15 pay \$139.50 per person. Full cost of \$150 will be effective June 16. Registration deadline is July 15. Information is in the mail and available online. You may also contact Amigo at program@amigocentre.org.
- Join us September 16-18, 2016, for MCC Bike Michiana. Enjoy a weekend of riding, fellowship and raising funds for Mennonite Central Committee. Come join the bikers in riding between 70-100 miles over two days pedaling the beautiful lake and farmland region of southern Michigan and northern Indiana. Fellowship and worship included! If you are not a biker, consider donating on behalf of someone who is participating or become a sponsor. This year the project is raising funds for Palestine and Israel project. Brochures and additional information available online or call for details. <a href="http://www.amigocentre.org/mcc-bike-michiana.html">http://www.amigocentre.org/mcc-bike-michiana.html</a>
- Amigo Centre has three Scrapbooking, Crafting and Quilting Retreats remaining for this year. September 23-25, 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. <a href="http://www.amigocentre.org">http://www.amigocentre.org</a>

above) to join us for a fun-filled weekend! Worship will be led by Emily Hostetler from Yellow Creek Mennonite Church. Packets of brochures were mailed to churches and participants who came last year. Information and registration available at: <a href="http://www.amigocentre.org/in-mi-mennonite-womens-fall-retreat.html">http://www.amigocentre.org/in-mi-mennonite-womens-fall-retreat.html</a>

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. Watch for more details to come.

Looking for a place to hold a retreat or family gathering this year? Amigo Centre has the following openings:

August 5-7 - West Shore Lodge (special rate of\$400 for entire facility, per night)

August 18-21 - West Shore Lodge (special rate of\$400 for entire facility, per night)

October 21-23 - Retreat Center is available

Dec. 9-11 - all facilities are available

Dec. 16-18 – all of West Shore Lodge is available

Dec. 19-25 – all of West Shore Lodge and the Retreat Center lower level are available

Contact info@amigocentre.org or call 269-651-2811 for information.

#### Offices for Rent

The conference 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.

### **Delegates We Need Your Help!**

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference announces "A Weekend Away" on October 28-30. We are looking for 30 pastoral couples to attend this gathering at Farmstead Inn of Shipshewana, Indiana. But many pastors feel guilty for missing a Sunday morning. We are asking for your help in advocating for your pastor(s) to attend.

The weekend begins with an optional 1pm theater presentation of *Josiah for President*. Saturday includes three educational sessions, lunch at the Blue Gate Restaurant and time to wander around Shipshewana. Sunday concludes following a time of worship.

Will you encourage your pastor to attend, and help congregational leaders find other options for that Sunday morning? Encourage your pastor to take "A Weekend Away" on October 28-30. Why would they want to miss it?

## **Training Opportunities with Lombard Mennonite Peace Center**

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center has various training and educational offerings through next spring.

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders will be offered three times between now and the end of March. The next training is in Ferguson, Missouri on October 3-7, 2016. See brochure for details.

<u>Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process</u> is designed to enhance the ability of participants to function as self-differentiated leaders within their own ministry setting. <u>See brochure for the 2016-17 session.</u>

• teaching sessions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, biblical peacemaking, conflict transformation, and church leadership from a family systems perspective, and

• devotional reflections on the iconography related to the pilgrimage sites being visited as found in Christian art from the Early Christian and Byzantine eras, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and Baroque era.

See flyer to access further details.

**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 <u>im.mennonite.net/welink-archive/</u>.

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