

Naubinway Christian Fellowship Withdrawal

Naubinway Christian Fellowship Church, Naubinway, MI in the Upper Peninsula, was started in 1943. In 1998 they partnered with Rexton Mennonite Church in calling Tim Miller of Goshen, IN, as their pastor. He has served them well ever since. Many know Tim for his worship leading at conference sessions and his engagement with other leaders in the conference.

Naubinway Fellowship is actively seeking ways to witness to marginalized people. Its focus on Anabaptist understanding of community has helped people accept Jesus as their savior. Each member is respected and valued as part of the congregation regardless of their social or economic status.

The congregation has been working together with Rexton Mennonite Church to align their mission and vision to more effectively witness to the two communities. God has been blessing this endeavor.

The congregation has been discerning its conference membership for some time. Tim responded with dismay to the Ministry Credentialing Team April 2015 credential decision. In response to a pastor performing a same sex marriage, the MCT decided to note in his file his variance with MC USA and IN-MI teaching positions.

In a letter dated June 4, 2015 the conference received this communication from the leadership:

This letter is to inform you of the recent decision by Naubinway Christian Fellowship Church to withdraw from the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference effective June 1, 2015.

Following a lengthy congregational process, a vote was taken by members of NCF on Sunday May 31, 2015 regarding our affiliation to IN-MI Conf. & MCUSA. The vote was over-whelming in favor leaving IN-MI Conf. and MCUSA.

NCF will continue to live faithfully in the Anabaptist tradition and will remain independent until another affiliation is found with a target date of August 2016.

The Ministry Credentialing Team will acknowledge their withdrawal at our next meeting, planned for June 20, 2015. While we are saddened by their decision, we also want to bless them as they seek another affiliation.

Submitted by Doug Kaufman, conference pastor for leadership transitions, and John Powell, regional pastor