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Delegate meetings

Each meeting was a wonderful expression of the congregations in those areas, focused on living into conference vision. The Missional Leadership Team (MLT) organized the day as a worship service, and included some community business. Missional Leadership Team (MLT) began each day with introductions around tables, worship and prayer using Romans 12, and communion.

Community business included:

- * updates on living into conference vision
- * hopes for Tanzania connections as Dan and Paula go to explore relationship possibilities,
- * preview of the recommendation regarding relationships with Amigo and Bethany,
- * Stewardship update with a draft spending plan, and
- * recommendation regarding Advisory Council, and update on Dawning of a New Day.

Following lunch MLT led a World Café process utilizing several questions from the November Pastors Summit.

The day ended with worship that included anointing for returning to our places of

mission and ministry. Prayer cards offered opportunities to commit to prayer for the Tanzania trip, to donate for Tanzania expenses and to contribute to the Leadership Development Fund.

The compilations of feedback from conversations will be distributed to delegates in the coming weeks. Missional Leadership Team (MLT) will review the feedback at their April 7 meeting, and use that to plan delegate work at Annual Sessions.

Here are some statistics from the meetings

Attendance:

South: 24 attended from 11 congregations and 1 organization

North: 11 attended from 7 congregations

Central: 65 attended from 21 congregations and 1 organization

Offering:

26 people committed to prayer for the Tanzania trip -Thank you!

37 people gave a total of \$1408 toward Tanzania expenses.

8 people gave a total of \$305 toward the Leadership Training Fund. With the matching challenge amount, this becomes \$700.

Staff Opening

Indiana-Michigan is looking for an administrative coordinator. Click [here](#) for the job posting. (If using Microsoft Edge, you must save the file and open in adobe reader.) Direct interested parties to the conference office for a job description. Interviews begin this week. Please pray for a good outcome.

Celebrating

Cindy Steiner and Nedra Gnagey are doing a wonderful job in the office during this interim time! They managed all the details of the three delegate meetings the last three Saturdays.

We give thanks for three successful Saturdays of delegate meetings. Thank you to Mara Christian Church, Ninth Street Community Church, Bethany Christian Schools, and all who were involved.

Connecting

Now that the delegate meetings have completed, attention is turning more toward a trip to Tanzania, and preparations for Annual Sessions.

Dan attended the February 17 inauguration of Rebecca Stoltzfus as president at Goshen College. He discovered Rebecca, and Goshen College, have connections with Tanzania that might invite some future cooperation.

Financial Report

Again thank you for your generosity. Giving for February continues to be above budget by \$1,467 for the month and \$12,882 for the year to date. Expenses for February were \$2,779 below budget for the month and \$10,398 for the year to date. -Jim Norton, Bookkeeper

Doug Kauffman update

The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions is partnering with Mennonite Creation Care Network in appointing Doug Kaufman as its director of pastoral ecology. Doug was former conference minister for pastoral transitions at IMMC. He will develop curriculum and lead learning experiences that enable church leaders to teach, preach, and lead in ways that respond to climate change, and to integrate creation care more fully into the life of the church. Doug will continue to hold his part-time pastor role at Benton Mennonite Church. We pray God's blessing upon Doug as he begins this new position. The news release is available at <https://www.sustainableclimatesolutions.org/2018/02/15/cscs-to-hire-director-of-pastoral-ecology/>.

URGENT NEED FOR HOUSEWARMER PROJECTS!

Mennonite Women USA partners with Mennonite Disaster Service to provide hand-crafted wall-hangings for each re-built home dedication. Because of extremely high demand, the supply of wall hangings is depleted. The wall-hangings become a treasured, beautiful reminder of the way MDS and MW USA care for those who have struggled with disaster. Please find full instructions for sewing and sending a quilted wall-hanging [here](#) or visit mwusa.org/housewarmer.

A Family Fun Event-Don't Miss Out

Kern Road Mennonite Church is hosting a square dance, pie auction, and cake walk at the church on Saturday, March 17 from 7-9 pm. Snacks and beverages will be served at 6:45 pm with dancing to start at 7. This is a fun family-friendly event free and open to the public. Proceeds from the pie auction and cake walk will benefit the church's MYF's SWAP trip this summer. More information can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/183170865627242/>

Mennonite Women Seeking a New Executive Director

Executive Director: Mennonite Women USA seeks a strong, visionary leader and fundraiser to direct the overall mission and vision of empowering women and women's groups within the Mennonite Church. The Executive Director supervises dispersed staff and coordinates and develops the various ministries, programs, publications and promotional material. This full time position requires working independently, but also part of a team; excellent verbal and written skills, including public speaking; and ability to build relationships with persons of diverse backgrounds. Involves travel. See job description at mwusa.org/staff. Send resume and three references to Kathy Bilderback, board chair at kabilderback@cableone.net by April 30.

May 2018 Call for Submissions: Love Across Borders

The Mennonite, Inc., welcomes your original submissions for our May 2018 print magazine issue and corresponding online content focusing on Love Across Borders.

Borders can be national borders that separate countries as well as economic or cultural borders that keep people apart. In the United States today, government officials are increasingly targeting and deporting undocumented immigrants, including “dreamers,” who were brought here as children by undocumented parents. Many of our Mennonite congregations include undocumented immigrants, sometimes referred to as undocumented immigrants, given the current context.

Submissions may consider these and other prompts/questions related to the theme:

- How is your congregation responding to the needs of undocumented immigrants?
- How does the church love those deemed undocumented or undocumented within an unjust immigration system?
- How do those of us who are technically immigrants (meaning those not indigenous to this land) live with and welcome those who are recent immigrants?
- What does God say about “aliens” and welcoming them into our lands, hearts, presence?
- If you are an undocumented or recent immigrant, how have you experienced the presence of Mennonites in your story?

Submissions are due to Editor@TheMennonite.org no later than March 19, 2018.

We welcome written reflections—personal stories, biblical or theological reflections, poetry and more (800-1,200 words)—as well as original photography, multimedia products (including but not limited to original music recordings, music playlists and videos) and artwork on the theme.

Please note we are committed to anti-oppression reviews as part of our editorial process. We have pulled together a list of anti-oppression guidelines for writers to consider as they are developing their piece. You can also review our full editorial guidelines.

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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