



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite Conference

weLink

connecting the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference

December 14, 2016



Contents

- [Office Closing](#)
- [2017 Regional Meeting Schedule](#)
- [Celebrating](#)
- [Connecting](#)
- [Northern Region Area Council](#)
- [Southern Region Area Council](#)
- [Credentialing and Leadership Development](#)
- [Financial Report](#)
- [Amigo Centre](#)

Office Closing

In light of the holidays, the conference office will be closed December 23-January 3. Dan Miller can be reached at (574) 238-1883 in case of emergency.

2017 Regional Meeting Schedule

There are three Regional meetings scheduled for 2017:

- The southern meeting will be held on Saturday, March 11 at Shalom in Indianapolis, IN;
- The final meeting is scheduled on Saturday, March 25 at New Hope Community Church of Midland in Midland, MI.

Please mark the dates on your calendars. More information will follow with details for registration.

Celebrating

We give thanks for:

- God's gift of grace in sending Jesus, and the many whose lives have been impacted by the good news of Jesus.
 - opportunities to celebrate significant relationships with family and friends over the holidays
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Connecting

- We invite your prayers for several pastors who have experienced significant losses this fall: Frances Ringenberg, whose son died; Mark Schloneger, whose sister died unexpectedly; Jane Stoltzfus Buller, whose mother-in-law died suddenly. [You may click here to view the obituary for Ross Ringenberg](#)
 - With help from Laurie Robinson and from pastors, staff is posting a story of a congregation changed by engaging their community. The story is placed on the website and notices posted to Facebook and Twitter. Some of these stories are then printed in Gospel Evangel. Follow us to learn how other congregations are engaging the world God loves.
 - Doug and Dan met with area/conference ministers from Canada and the United States the week after Thanksgiving, November 30-Dec 3.
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The pastors of Michigan congregations are preparing for a united preaching on **Sunday, January 1, 2017**. The focus is preparing congregations for the coming year, given the divisive events that have happened in 2016. The preaching/teaching will focus on “**God Is Doing A New Thing!**” (**Isaiah 43:18-19**).

John Powell

Southern Region Area Council

- The two area pastors' councils in the Southern Region continue to meet together for challenge, change, and encouragement of each other.
- Camfell in Indianapolis was treated to a Burmese lunch by Ang, from the new Mara congregation at its November meeting!
- This past fall saw the re-organization of the Ft. Wayne area pastors council after several transitions in the past year

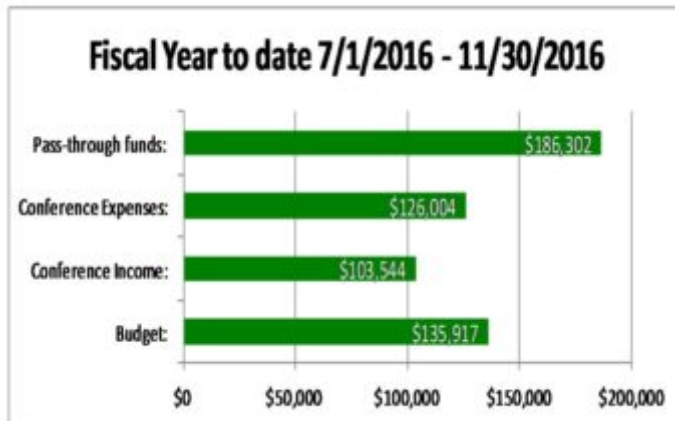
Mary Mininger

Credentialing and Leadership Development

- Dan Miller is ordaining Frank Kandel at Shalom Mennonite Church, Indianapolis, IN at 4 pm on Sunday, January 29.
 - This is a reminder for pastors to continue working on learning goals for the year. The **Framework for Pastoral Growth** is a project of the Leadership Enhancement Team. More information will be coming in 2017 about sending a spring progress report.
 - Leadership Enhancement Team has begun planning for a pastor retreat in 2017.
 - This is a reminder that IN-MI offers scholarships for Mennonite continuing education and so if pastors go to EMS or AMBS for SLT or pastors week we can provide support.
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Financial Report

At the end of November, almost half-way through the fiscal year, contributions were \$32,373 behind projections and \$22,460 behind actual expenses. It appears that in addition to congregations leaving, remaining congregations are decreasing their financial support. Conference leaders continue monitoring the financial picture and listening for the Spirit's direction as we seek to become the community of churches Jesus calls us to be.



Amigo Centre

- The end of 2016 is upon us. Amigo Centre is looking to finish the year strong financially. Please consider a contribution that supports the summer program or the maintenance of a space and buildings that foster and build relationships. Now more than ever retreating from our everyday lives is an important part of a healthy life. Your prayer, gifts of time, items and money make what we do possible. All of the staff and board of directors wish you a Merry Christmas.
- Amigo is still hiring for an Assistant Cook position. We are looking for someone who is excited and able to help in a local ministry. All of our meals are buffet style. We need someone who is independent, confident and willing to go above and beyond for guests. Amigo Centre strives to be a place where people can come to experience God either through Fellowship or through his awesome creation. If you are interested email us at info@amigocentre.org or call the office at (269) 651-2811.

January 6-8 – Jr High – Speaker: T Mounsithiraj; Band: Abandoned

January 13-15 – Jr High – Speaker: Josh Golden; Band: Chosen Dust

February 17-19 – Sr High weekend! – Speaker: Leonard Dow; Band: Chosen Dust

Visit our web for more information: <http://www.amigocentre.org/winter-youth-retreats.html>

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/.

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

109 E. Clinton St., Suite 100 | Goshen, IN 46528

Phone: 574-534-4006 or 800-288-8486

Email: imoffice@im.mennonite.net | Website: im.mennonite.net



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