

gospel evangel

connecting the congregations of
indiana-michigan mennonite conference

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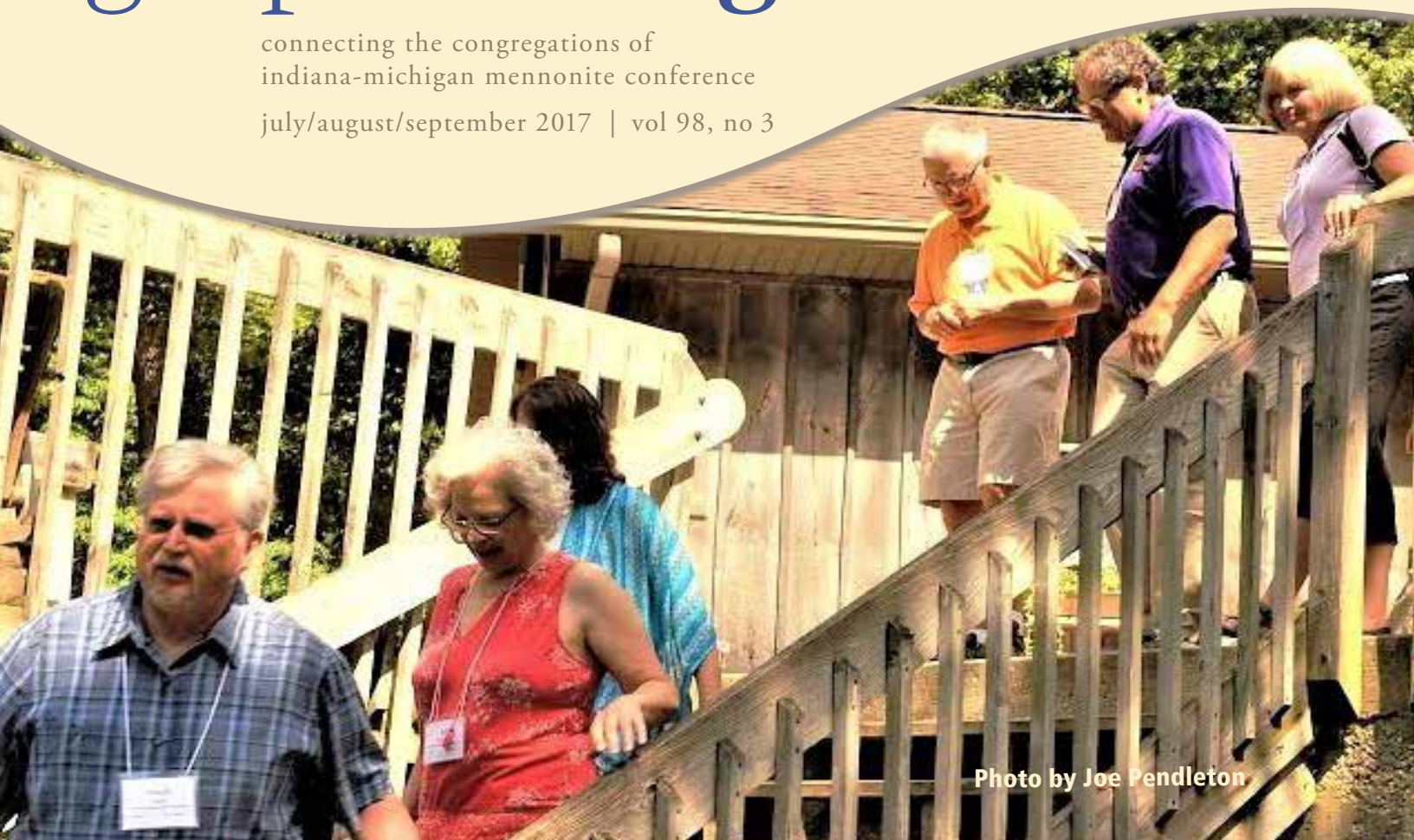


Photo by Joe Pendleton

Participants at IMMC's Annual Sessions at Amigo Centre do lots of walking between events at the gathering held June 15-17 in Sturgis, Mich.

The way is made by walking Annual sessions at Camp Amigo provides path

By Laurie Oswald Robinson, editor

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) is learning to trust that its way is made by walking with God -- one step at a time -- into an unknown future.

This trust in the Lord was exemplified during IMMC Annual Sessions held June 15-17 at Amigo Centre in Sturgis, Mich. That's where member congregations and conference leaders took next steps in faithfully following Jesus in the eye-opening spirit of the first disciples' Emmaus Road experience.

In its bulletin welcome, the Annual Sessions' planning team invited participants to walk the Way of Jesus Christ together, empowered by his spirit in the midst of ongoing challenges and discernment. The planners wrote, "We as a community of congregations will find renewal and new

ways of relating to one another as we seek to live into the dream God has for the world."

In walking together, participants experienced heart-felt worship, including inspiring messages from Alex Awad on Israel-Arab relations and Karla Minter on adaptive change.

Delegates, with a 78 percent positive vote, adopted *Renewing a Vision*. They welcomed a new member congregation (see back page). And they continued to grieve the loss of congregations discerning a different direction for their futures.

The inside photo essay (photographer Joe Pendleton) reflects how participants' eyes were opened to God's presence at Amigo and renewed their desire for walking with Jesus.

inside

2 cont., **Walking**

3 cont., **Walking**

4 **Journeying** with our pastors

the way is made ...



Page 2: Clockwise from L to R: 1. Karla Minter of Mennonite Mission Network, and a former member of Olive Mennonite Church, presented twice in Friday worship sessions. 2. Izzy Mujica, Yellow Creek Mennonite 3. Three Bender girls came with their father, Darren, from Paoli, Ind. 4. From left, Naomi Yoder, East Goshen Mennonite Church, Mariah Martin, Waterford Mennonite Church, and Katie Misz, Waterford, partake of the women's tea. 5. From left, Tyrone and Tantra Taylor with Leandra and Shawn Lange, New Foundation in Christ 6. Robert Hunt, pastor of Dawning a New Day, a congregation in Elkhart, Ind., and First Lady Earlene Hunt, introduce their church that is seeking IMMC membership. **Page 3:** clockwise from L to R: 1. Marilyn Rudy-Froese, Berkey Avenue Mennonite, and Amos Muhagachi, a bishop from Tanzania, visit during a break. 2. Participants prepare for communion. 3. Kent Miller, First Mennonite, Middlebury, leads singing around a campfire at Amigo, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary. 4. Enjoying fellowship is Brad Yoder (right), Shalom Mennonite, and Dave Sutter, pastor of Kern Road Mennonite. Sutter was a member of the Annual Sessions planning team, led by SwaNee Lake Area Council Churches: Holdeman, Hudson Lake, Kern Road, North Main Street, Olive and Yellow Creek. 5. Bob Yoder, IMMC moderator-elect, reflects during delegate sessions.



This issue is available online:

im.mennonite.net/gospel-evangel



Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference—a conference of Mennonite Church USA—is a community of congregations in Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky, gathered together for mutual encouragement in kingdom mission and inspiration to joyfully follow Jesus.

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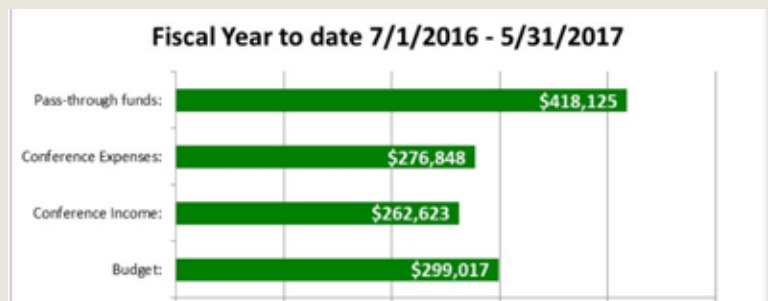


financial report

By **Jim Norton**, IN-MI treasurer

Most recent financial report

We thank you for your generosity this month. After 11 months of the fiscal year, we are about \$14,225 behind expenses.



journeying with our pastors



Dan Miller, IN-MI conference pastor, shares highlights of this year's Annual Sessions at Amigo Centre.



Amigo Centre was a beautiful setting for this Annual Sessions. The camp provided a natural setting for worship, hikes and campfires. Karla Minter provided timely words about adaptive change, living in the uncomfortable middle and moving ahead before the details are clear. As a person who grew up at Olive Mennonite, Karla was able to speak as an inside outsider, and many appreciated her input.

Alex Awad, Palestinian Christian pastor, Bible teacher and peacemaker, gave a brief history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jonathon Brenneman previewed the resolution coming to Mennonite Church USA delegates in July.

About half the delegate time was dedicated to preparation for voting on *Renewing a Vision*, which was affirmed. Delegates welcomed Emanuel Living Christian Church (Indianapolis) as a member congregation. Ministry Credentialing Team introduced Dawning of a New Day Ministries, which is an Elkhart church seeking membership with IMMC. There were several congregational changes acknowledged, including Assembly Mennonite's decision to singly affiliate with Central District Conference. Pastors Karl Shelly and Lora Nafziger were present on behalf of that congregation. Delegates said goodbye to John Powell and Mary Mininger, whose regional pastor positions end at the end of June.

Many thanks to Amigo Centre for their hospitality, to the SwaNee Lake Area Council for their hard work and excellent planning and to the Holy Spirit for enlivening our time together!

Annual Sessions next year will be June 14-16 in Indianapolis, hosted by the CAMFELL area council. Put these dates on your calendar and plan to participate.

ministry transitions

Beginnings



Randall C. Miller, left, was installed by Doug Kaufman on May 21 as transitional pastor at Sunnyside Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Ind.

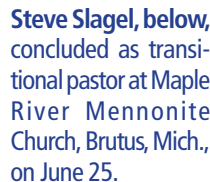
Endings



Marilyn Rudy-Froese above, concluded as pastor at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind., on June 30.



Frank Kandel, left, concluded as transitional pastor at Mennonite Fellowship of Bloomington (Ind.)



Steve Slagel, below, concluded as transitional pastor at Maple River Mennonite Church, Brutus, Mich., on June 25.



Orlo Fisher, above, retired as pastor at Talcum (Ky.) Mennonite Church on May 31 after almost 55 years of ministry there.

Terry Zehr, not pictured, concluded as pastor at Sunnyside Mennonite Church, Elkhart, Ind, on April 30, after almost 20 years of ministry there.