

gospel evangel

connecting the congregations of
indiana-michigan mennonite conference

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Photo by Anna Buck

Paula Killough, IMMC moderator, discusses the voting process during Annual Sessions 2018 at First Mennonite Church, Indpls, IN.

“Offering Ourselves to God’s Renewing”

Annual Sessions 2018

T rue “transformation involves both human willingness to offer ourselves for Divine purposes and for God’s gift of renewal” (CAMFell Invitation). The weight of this truth was felt in tangible ways as pastors, delegates, and church representatives gathered together for Annual Sessions 2018. As we experienced the words of Romans 12:1-2 in a variety of ways, it became clear that God is calling congregations of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference to extraordinary things.

Annual Sessions were held June 14-16th at First Mennonite Church in Indianapolis, IN. Members of the CAMFell area council worked diligently to create opportunities to engage with our six spiritual practices through worship, fellowship, and engagement with the community. During worship services we heard from Pastors Mũthoni Gladys Maina (Morning Star, Muncie, IN), David Miller (AMBS, Elkhart, IN), Dan Miller (Conference pastor) with Jeremiah Chiuah as interpreter (Emmanuel Living Christian, Indianapolis, IN) and Shannon Dycus (First Mennonite, Indianapolis, IN). Participants absorbed teachings that highlighted different aspects of the weekend’s scripture including: Offering Ourselves for God’s Renewing for **Worship**, for **Transformation** and for **the World**. As you look at the pictures inside, we hope you find encouragement and inspiration to offer your own lives to God’s renewing.

“¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

-Romans 12:1-2

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Offering ourselves

From top to bottom, clockwise, 1. The praise team from Mara Christian Church leads congregation in worship on Friday night. 2. Dan Miller, Conference Pastor and Paula Kilgough, Moderator, present on Tanzania Trip. 3. from left, Darren Beauregard-Bender, Paoli Mennonite, Merle Hostetler, East Goshen, Brian Bither, Shalom Mennonite Indianapolis participate in prayer and fasting. 4. from left, Arnie Burkhart, Maple River Mennonite, Paula Kilgough, Moderator, Suella Gerber, Fellowship of Hope, listen to Marjorie Rush Hvode, First Mennonite Indianapolis, describe her artistic depiction of Romans 12:1-2. 5. Wilma Bailey, Shalom Mennonite, fellowships with Lois Longenecker, Prairie Street Mennonite Church, during a break. 6. From left, Rachel Yoder, Fairhaven Mennonite, Chhaki Khaimi, Mara Christian Church, Jeremiah Chiuha, Emmanuel Living Christian connect between sessions.



Offering ourselves



photo by J. Daniel Hess



photo by Frank Kandel



photo by J. Daniel Hess



photo by Frank Kandel

Clockwise, from top to bottom, 1. Rebecca Kaufman, Paoli Mennonite Church, sings and plays djembe. **2.** Jon Brown, Church Without Walls leads others in prayer over Robert Hunt, Dawning of a New Day. **3.** Bob Brown, First Mennonite Indianapolis, and Rebecca Kauffman, Paoli Mennonite, welcome attendees to sessions. **4.** Youth from Mara Christian Church and Emmanuel Living Christian joined in sessions, Thursday-Friday (photo by J Daniel Hess). **5.** Karla Minter, MMN, chats with Zenebe Abebe, Shalom Mennonite.

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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photo by J. Daniel Hess

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journeying with our pastors



Dan Miller, IMMC pastor, reflects on Annual Sessions, held June 14-16 at First Mennonite Church in Indianapolis.

What a treat the CAMFELL planners put together for us this year, with the theme “Offering ourselves to God’s renewing.” A most amazing thing happened as we engaged the spiritual practices – God showed up! Now, this should not be amazing, because followers of Jesus know that God is always present. Yet there was something energizing and awe-inspiring as attendees engaged in worship, prayer, fasting, generosity, Bible study, hospitality, etc. I describe that something as what happens when God shows up and graciously meets us.

Planners thoughtfully and prayerfully worked the “shared spiritual practices” of *Renewing a Vision (RaV)* into the fabric of Annual Sessions. *RaV* says “we believe that by committing ourselves, together, to work at these spiritual practices, God will bring transformation toward Christ-likeness and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

The photos in this issue present just a glimpse of the rich time in Indianapolis.

What happened there can happen across conference as congregations engage the shared spiritual practices. God will bring transformation. Muthoni Gladys Maina, in her opening sermon, compared the transformation God will bring to the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly. “I believe God is doing something good and great among us. . . . Let God do the transformation.” Yes!

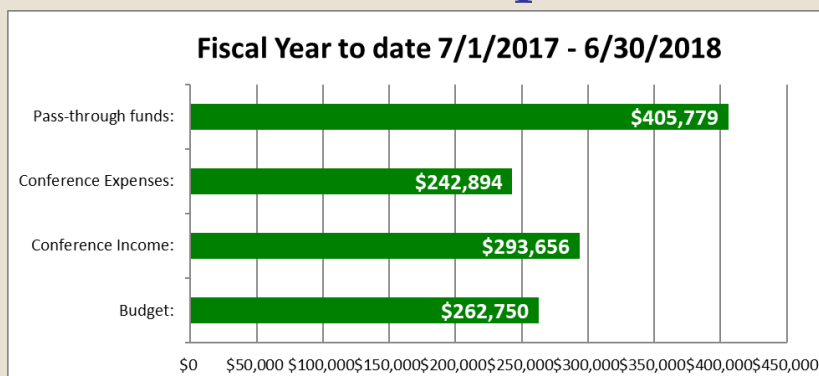
We are a community of congregations
Centered on Jesus
Guided by the Holy Spirit
Acting through Grace, Love and Peace
Engaging the world God loves.

SAVE THE DATE

“Pathways into Faithful and Fruitful Ministry”

This year’s Pastor Gathering will be held at Amigo Center on Monday, Nov. 5th– Wednesday, Nov. 7th. More information will be available on the conference website: im.mennonite.net.

financial report



ministry transitions

Beginnings & Endings



Phil Yoder, above, was installed on April 15th as teaching pastor at First Mennonite Church, Middlebury.



Rebecca Kauffman, above, concluded her time at Paoli Mennonite Church on June 30th.



Kent Miller, above, concluded his time at First Mennonite Church in Middlebury on April 30th.