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## Conference Update

From Our Interim Conference Pastor, Tim Burkholder

### Welcome back Dan Miller

The time has come to welcome Dan Miller back who returned on November 1, 2018 from his recently completed sabbatical. While he was away Sharon Yoder and I have worked with the Conference Teams and the congregations in our mutual work that is "conference." During this time, we were saddened by the transfer of True Vine Tabernacle and Yellow Creek Mennonite Church to LMC – a fellowship of Anabaptist churches, formerly known as Lancaster Mennonite Conference. We extend our blessing to them in their new relationship. At the same time, we were privileged to experience the leaders of our conference in supportive ways. With Renewing a Vision (RaV) and the recently adopted Case for Support, we have together laid a foundation for being a community of congregations centered on Jesus; guided by the Holy Spirit; acting through Grace, Love and Peace and engaging the world God loves.

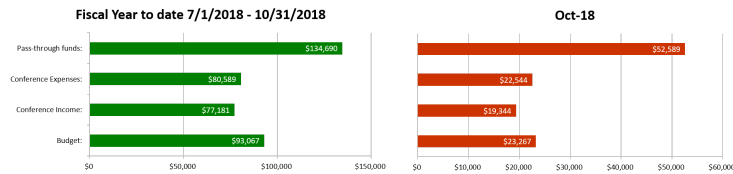
As your interim leaders, we are encouraged by the kind of leadership our pastors are providing in our congregations. We have observed a healthy ebb and flow with some pastors retiring and relinquishing their leadership to others in respectful ways and with a good number of younger leaders entering into pastorates – the most recent being Mariah Martin installed at Bonneyville Mennonite Church.

### Thank you for the opportunity to serve

I want to personally thank Sharon Yoder for her excellent work as Interim Conference Pastor for Leadership Transitions and I want to thank you, the constituency, for the trust you have extended in welcoming me into this interim work. I trust we have been an encouragement in each of the areas we served with each of those with whom we were able to work with in person. I am encouraged by the spirit of the many volunteers that help to make our conference work – Leadership Teams, Search Guides and Congregational Coaches to name a few.

I hold this time as a personal privilege and I continue to pray for a spirit of joy in the work of conference in mutual support of and with our congregations. May the communities served by the congregations that make up this conference be touched by the Kingdom work that we have committed to.

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Income for the month of October was \$3,923 less than the budget and \$3,200 less than expenses. For the year to date it was \$15,886 less than the budget but \$3,408 less than expenses. While that the income has been less the spending has also been less. —*Jim Norton, Bookkeeper*

## News from Bethany Schools

### Visit Bethany

on Nov. 12 or 14:

Students in grades 5-10 are invited to shadow a Bethany middle or high school student on Monday, Nov. 12; and on Wednesday, Nov. 14, students K-4 are invited to visit grade 4 and 5 classrooms with a parent for the morning. This is a great way for prospective students and families to discover Bethany! For more information, to register, or to schedule a visit on another date see [www.bethanycs.net](http://www.bethanycs.net).

### *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas*

*Goose* will

be presented Nov. 16-18 at Bethany Christian Schools. This is a family friendly holiday show. Join Sherlock and Watson in this caper around the streets of London, and be ready to join in a little caroling!. Tickets, \$9

for adults and \$7 for students, may be reserved at [bethanycs.net/tickets](http://bethanycs.net/tickets).

Online sales will close at noon on Friday, Nov. 16.

**Shop Ten Thousand Villages** in Goshen (206 S. Main St.) Nov. 26-Dec. 1 and support Bethany Christian Schools. Tell the cashier that you are shopping for Bethany and 20 percent of sales will be donated to Bethany. Your loved ones will enjoy the creative handcrafted gifts you purchase and artisans will receive vital, fair income as you support Bethany.

*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/](http://im.mennonite.net/welink-archive/).

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