

Contents

- [Conference News](#)
- [Financial Update](#)
- [Bethany Christian Schools](#)
- [Amigo Centre Updates](#)
- [AMC Annual Pastor & Leader Spring Study](#)
- [Mennonite Men- Love Crosses Borders Conference](#)
- [LMPC-Mediation](#)

Conference News

Practicing Our Hope: *Annual Sessions 2019* takes place June 13-15 at Amigo Centre. Hear stories from Michigan congregations about how they are experiencing God in their communities; attend worship and listen to engaging sermons; and attend three of the [15 seminars/activities](#) offered by representatives from our associated organizations. Check out the [website](#) for more information.

Celebrating

Staff celebrated Anna's birthday and Sharon's beginning as Conference Pastor for Leadership Transitions with a lunch outing.

MLT celebrates the way details for speakers and seminars are coming together for Practicing our Hope, Annual Session 2019.

Alternate activity resource materials for the regional meeting sabbatical made available to congregations at the end of February.

Fifteen individuals from IMMC attended the Healthy Boundaries 101 training at AMBS in February.

Connecting

This week Dan will attend the CAMFELL area council in Indianapolis, and a gathering of northern Michigan churches on Saturday. He will preach at Cedar Grove March 17.

Dan will be present at Olive Mennonite on March 24.

About a dozen individuals attended the March 6 lunch gathering for retired pastors. Conference updates were shared and there was good back and forth conversation. This was the first gathering like this in recent memory, and those present encouraged occasional gatherings like this.

Dan was present February 17 at Holdeman Mennonite to recognize the new relationship with congregational coach Tim Lichti, and February 24 at North Goshen to preach.

Sharon officiated at the February 17 installation service for Mark Schloneger as one of the pastors at Berkey Avenue Mennonite.

This week Sharon joined the quarterly meeting of transitional and interim pastors.

Sharon and Dan attended the Pastors and Leaders Wednesday lunch with MDiv students.

Bob Yoder, Shannon Dycus and Dan Miller attended Constituency Leaders Council on February 28-March 2 in Hesston, KS.

See [Mennonite Church USA News](#) for coverage.

Sharon connected with 4 congregations and 12 potential candidates in the past month.

Dan was part of a small group of individuals that met February 14 with Michael Gulker to hear about developments and the newest curriculum at Colossian Forum.

Credentialing and Leadership Development

For those still needing Healthy Boundaries 101 training before the end of the year, it will be available at [MennoCon19](#) for a greatly reduced price of \$30. It will be available in Spanish and English.

Paula Killough, Gary Martin and Dan Miller will participate as presenters at Transitional Ministry Training the first week in April, at Amigo Centre.

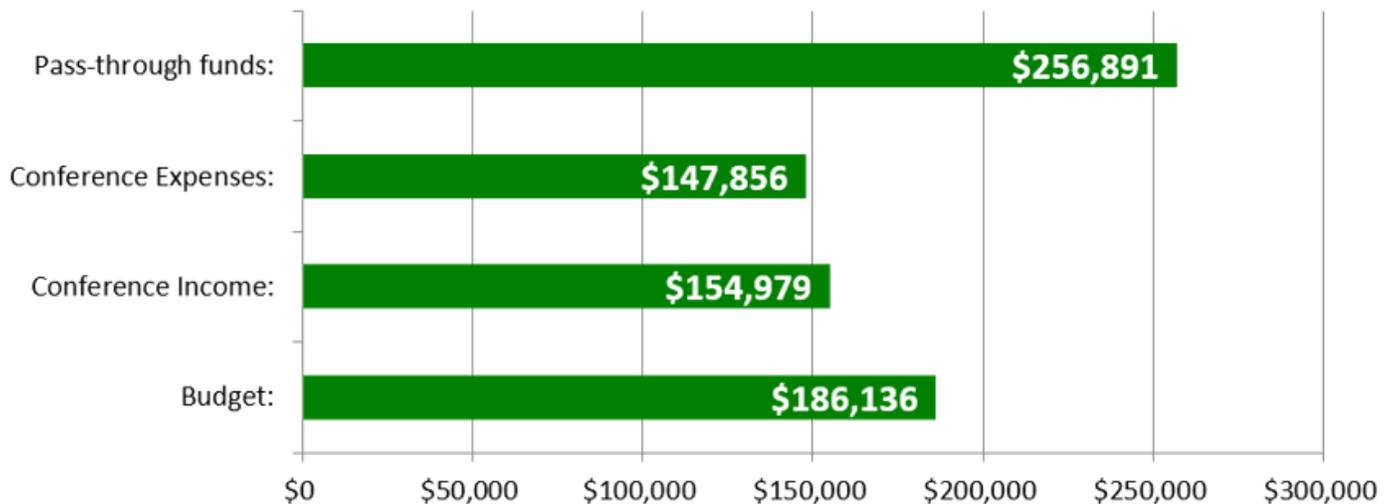
An ordination service for Brian Bither is scheduled on April 7 at Shalom Mennonite in Indianapolis.

Pastors, mark your calendars for the third Pastor Gathering at Amigo Centre, November 11-13, 2019. Watch for more details.

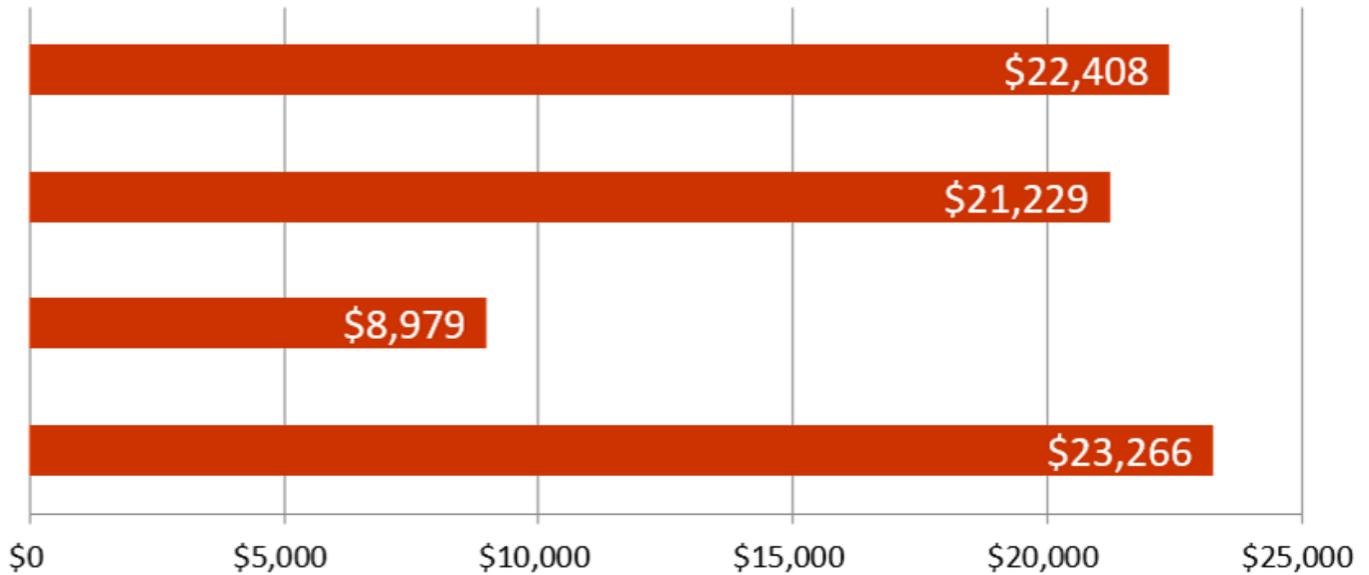
“Save the date for the first ever Youth Creation Care Summit from Sunday, June 28 – Friday, July 3, 2020. Elkhart County Mennonite pastors and leaders are planning a local learning and service trip about creation care and climate change for youth groups in the area. The week will include a mix of worship, bible studies, field trips, service projects, and fun. We are working very hard to keep this low cost. At this point, we are not asking for commitment, only interest. If you would like to receive updates as this event takes shape, please email Ben Bouwman at ben.whmc@gmail.com“

Financial Update

Fiscal Year to date 7/1/2018 - 2/28/2019



February 2019



Income for the month of February was \$14,288 below budget but for the year to date was still \$7,123 above expenses. In February the contributions were lower than normal with expenses somewhat higher than normal but we are still within a positive bottom line for the budget. Thanks for your contributions. –*Jim Norton, Conference bookkeeper*

Bethany Christian Schools

Habitat for Humanity Panel Build March 16: Bethany Christian Schools is hosting a Habitat for Humanity panel build on Saturday, March 16, and students are raising \$10,000 to help with the cost of materials. Anyone interested in volunteering at the build or donating money towards the build should contact the school (574 534-2567)—more information available online at bethanycs.net/habitatbuild2019.

Amigo Centre Updates

Amigo Centre – Connecting People to God, creation and each other

AMIGO SUMMER CAMP is coming! Think warm!! Camp runs June 16-July 26, 2019. Some weeks fill earlier, so sign up soon to hold your spot. Amigo Centre summer camp registration is available online. Help create some wonderful memories for those special children in your life. Call or register online! 269-651-2811 or dave@amigocentre.org or www.amigocentre.org

Amigo Summer Camp job opportunities. We are looking for youth that want to make a difference in the lives of children, while making new friends and earning a bit of money too! If you know of youth in your family or community that would be interested in summer employment at Amigo in 2019, contact Dave@amigocentre.org or apply online. We are also looking for a few staff to help in maintenance, dining hall and housekeeping. If you know someone who would be a good fit for Amigo, please direct them our way!

Amigo Scrapbook, Crafting, and Sewing Retreats... Whether you scrapbook, sew, quilt or craft, Amigo invites you to join us for a relaxing weekend filled with good food and fellowship. Come alone or bring friends/family. We provide the space, lodging, food and just the right amount of focused input to allow you time to balance your productivity with time to rest, restore and refresh your body and soul. **Maximum of 90 people for each event. If you want to come, sign up soon!**

April 2-7 (weekend plus come early Tuesday-Thursday night additional options)

80 already registered!

Fall/winter dates include: September 20-22, October 4-6, and December 6-8. Sign up early!

Call or register online! 269-651-2811 or mandy@amigocentre.org or www.amigocentre.org

NEW DATE: Transitional ministry offers a unique gift in a congregation's life. Whether a change in pastor comes because of conflict, retirement, shrinking numbers and weariness, or questions of congregational viability, transitional ministry walks alongside a congregation while it answers questions of mission, courage and transformation. **April 1-4, 2019, Amigo Centre hosts a Transitional Ministry Training retreat** for individuals interested in pursuing this type of ministry. Visit tmt.amigocentre.org for additional information, or contact Amigo Centre at [269.651.2811](tel:269.651.2811) or mandy@amigocentre.org

Amigo Centre wood splitting and workday will be on **April 13th**. We have a lot to do in preparation for the summer. Rain or shine we'll be tackling projects all over camp. If you are interested in helping prepare campfire wood and cleaning up areas of the timber we'll be cutting and splitting firewood. Please RSVP by calling 269-651-2811 or emailing info@amigocentre.org

SAVE THE DATE! 22nd Annual Camper Scholarship Amigo Centre **Golf Scramble** will be **June 8th**, 2019 at 8 am. Registration to come soon. If you're interested in joining and want registration information feel free to contact Amigo Centre at 269-651-2811 to have your name added to the list.

AMIGO FACILITIES Has it been awhile since your congregation has had a **church retreat**? Are you considering trying to get one up and running? Give us a call to find out how we can help facilitate your retreat. There is some availability in the Spring and Early Fall 2019.

Attention Pastors! Do you need some time away from your busy life? Come walk our trails, go canoeing or sit by a fire. Our rates are \$30 for the first night and \$25 each additional night. Meals can be added if we have guest groups. We only need a couple of days notice, Give us a call at [\(269\) 651-2811](tel:269.651.2811) or shoot us an email at info@amigocentre.org to make your reservation.

AMC Annual Pastor & Leader Spring Study

Allegheny Mennonite Conference (AMC) invites pastors and leaders of Indiana Michigan to be a part of our Annual Pastor & Leader Spring Study. This is a four day/three night time of retreat and study. Pastors will stay together at the Laurelville Retreat Center lodge. Each of the days will include time of collective and interactive study lead by Rebecca Barrett-Fox, PhD about how churches can counter the hate that is growing in our culture. There also will be substantial space made for rest and fellowship.

Food and lodging is included in the \$185 price. For more information about the teacher and curriculum see this: <http://www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/promotional-material.pdf>

Mennonite Men- Love Crosses Borders Conference

Love Crosses Borders-an *immersion experience with immigrants*

July 28 to Aug 3, Mennonite Men will journey to Georgia and connect with Casa Alterna, a hospitality house devoted to faithful acts of mercy and justice alongside its first-wave immigrant neighbors, mostly from Guatemala.

For more information, see the [Flyer](#) and the [Information Sheet](#).

LMPC-Mediation

What: *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders (MSTI)*

When: May 13-17, 2019

Where: Utica United Methodist Church in Sterling Heights, MI

Who: Clergy and lay leaders who are interested in learning skills to help deal more effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict

Please note that the deadline by which to register and receive a \$200 tuition discount is April 12, 2019.

Please join us for this exceptional interdenominational workshop, and discover for yourself why a previous participant once described *MSTI* as “the Golden Globe winner of conflict resolution programs”! Even if you cannot participate, we would appreciate it if you would be so kind as to forward this message to colleagues who you believe might benefit from this training, or post an ad on a denominational website or in a regional newsletter.

For complete details, please consult this [brochure](#).

To register online, go to [Brown Paper Tickets](#).

For more information about the mission and programs of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, we invite you to visit our website at www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

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

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