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IMMC Office Updates

[ANNUAL SESSIONS 2019: Practicing Our Hope](#)

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. Check out the website for more information.

The Early-Bird registration fee ends May 1st, so don't forget to [register!](#)

CELEBRATING

We give thanks for the work Gifts Development Team is doing in filling conference leadership positions for next year.

We give thanks for the congregational coaches who are offering insight and counsel to congregations.

We pray for safe travels for our administrative coordinator, Anna Board, and she and her husband leave for their honeymoon on April 8, 2019.

We give thanks to Nedra Gnagey and Cindy Steiner for filling in at the office for Anna while she is away.

CONNECTING

Delegates materials for Annual Sessions will be sent mid-April. Because of the sabbatical this year from delegate meetings, this will be the first viewing of a draft spending plan and bylaw changes. Be sure to attend one of the webinars for information about the worshipful work agenda.

Dan was unable to preach at Cedar Grove on March 17, due to illness. He hopes to reschedule.

Dan was present at Olive Mennonite on March 24 to recognize the congregation's choice to affiliate with Evana Network.

Sharon and Dan connected several times in March with leaders at First Mennonite Church in Indianapolis.

Sharon connected with six congregations and a number of potential candidates. One search process was completed, and there are five processes continuing.

CREDENTIALING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Paula Killough, Gary Martin and Dan Miller were presenters at Transitional Ministry Training at Amigo Centre on April 1-4. Eleven people from Kansas to Virginia participated in the training.

Brian Bither was ordained on April 7 at Shalom Mennonite in Indianapolis by Dan Miller.

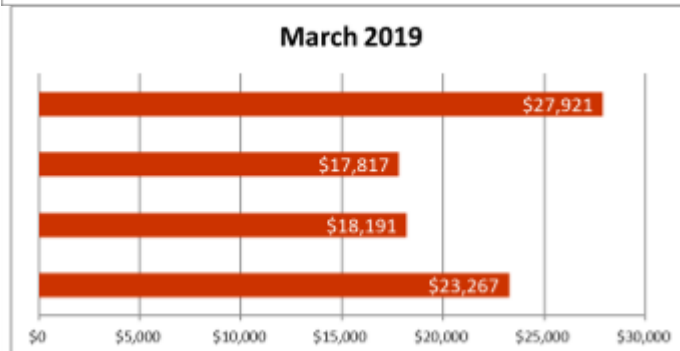
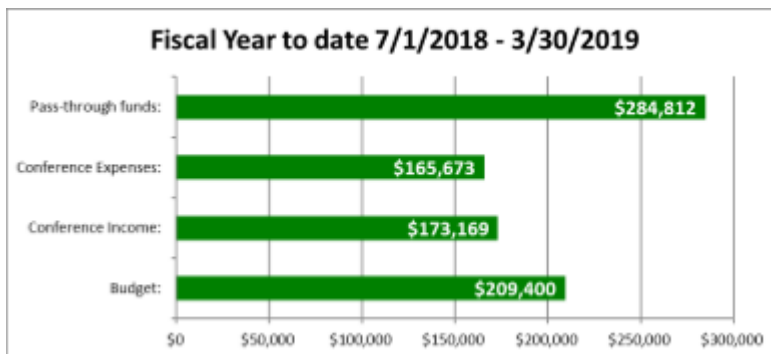
Mark Stahl was installed as pastor at Parkview Mennonite Church on March 31 by Sharon Yoder.

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.

Pastor Gathering at Amigo Centre, November 11-13, 2019. Watch for more details.

Financial Update

While the income for the month of March was \$5,076 below budget it was \$374 above expenses. And though the year to date income was \$36,231 below budget it was \$7,496 above expenses. Thanks to your continued support and careful spending we continue to operate in the black. -Jim Norton, *IMMC Bookkeeper*



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.

During the month of March, Sharon connected with 8 congregations and 12 potential candidates. One search process was completed, and there are 5 processes continuing. Sharon attended the quarterly meeting with transitional and interim pastors on March 12.

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”

Bulletin Announcements from AMBS

Announcement for IN-MI congregations:

When God calls someone to leadership, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Indiana-Michigan Conference invites you to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, and other emerging leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to ministry. The early registration deadline to apply for fall 2019 is July 16 with the final registration deadline on August 6. For more information visit www.ambs.edu/journey, or contact your pastor, or Dan Miller at dan@im.mennonite.net or at [574 534 4006](tel:5745344006).

Announcement for dually affiliated congregations:

When God calls someone to leadership, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Indiana-Michigan and Central District Conferences invite you to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, and other emerging leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to ministry. The early registration deadline to apply for fall 2019 is July 16 with the final registration deadline on August 6. For more information visit www.ambs.edu/journey, or contact your pastor, or Dan Miller at dan@im.mennonite.net or at [574 534 4006](tel:5745344006); or Doug Luginbill at confmin@mcusacdc.org or at [574-534-1485](tel:574-534-1485).

Bethany Schools

Apr. 26 Fish Fry: Bethany Christian High School's junior class fish fry is 4:30-8:00 p.m., Friday, April 26. Come for an evening of fellowship, homemade pie, and all the fish you can eat. Tickets are \$12 for adults and carryout and \$6 for children grades 1-6 (Kindergarten and younger eat free). Carryout window opens at 4:00. Tickets may be purchased from any Bethany junior or at the school (2904 S Main St, Goshen).

Bright Time Summer Camp, June 3-7, has more than 60 athletic, fine arts, science, and all kinds of fun camps for rising grades 1-8. Camps are \$35-\$40.

Additionally, Shine On Campcare will provide a place for children for before, between, and after their camps. View camp listings and register online at www.bethanycs.net/BrightTime.

Updates from Amigo

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

AMIGO SUMMER CAMP is coming! Think warm!! Camp runs June 16-July 26, 2019. This year's theme is "Live It Loud" – based on Ephesians 2:8-10 and I Timothy 4:12. Some weeks are already filling up, 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 Centre wood splitting and workday will be on **April 13th at 8:30am**. Rain or shine we'll be tackling projects all over camp. Projects include but aren't limited to mulching and cleaning flower beds, preparing and light repair work on cabins, wood splitting for summer camp fires, organizing and preparing facilities for the busy season ahead. Work starts at 8:30am, Brunch at 10:30 and finish up around 2pm. 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, please contact Amigo Centre at 269-651-2811.

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 latter half of 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:2696512811) or shoot us an email at info@amigocentre.org to make your reservation.

Amigo Road Scholar Programs

If you are over 50 and looking for additional learning experiences, Amigo runs several Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) programs. Check out the programs online at www.roadscholar.org. These programs run from Sunday evening through Friday morning. You may commute or stay at Amigo.

Program #12343 – A Study in Shared Heritage: The Amish and Mennonites – John Sharp is leading three weeks of this program – June, September and October.

Program 20986 – Amish-Mennonite Quilt Series – Carol Honderich is leading the final “Women of the Bible quilt program in May and in September. Janis Nelson will be leading the “Shipshewana Blessing” quilt program in October.

Program 22518 – Discover Your Family’s Roots – a program doing research in genealogy – with the help of several Amigo staff as well as the staff from the Allen County Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne.

If you have questions, please contact Mandy at Amigo. mandy@amigocentre.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

PO Box 702 | Goshen, IN 46527

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

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



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