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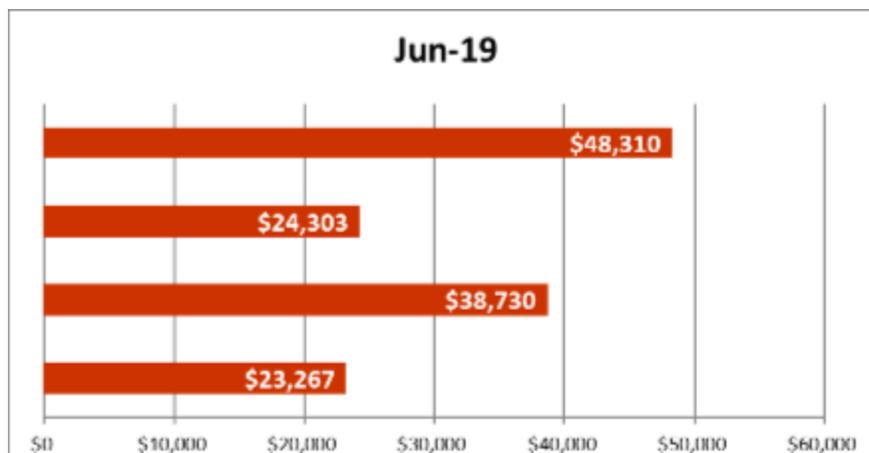
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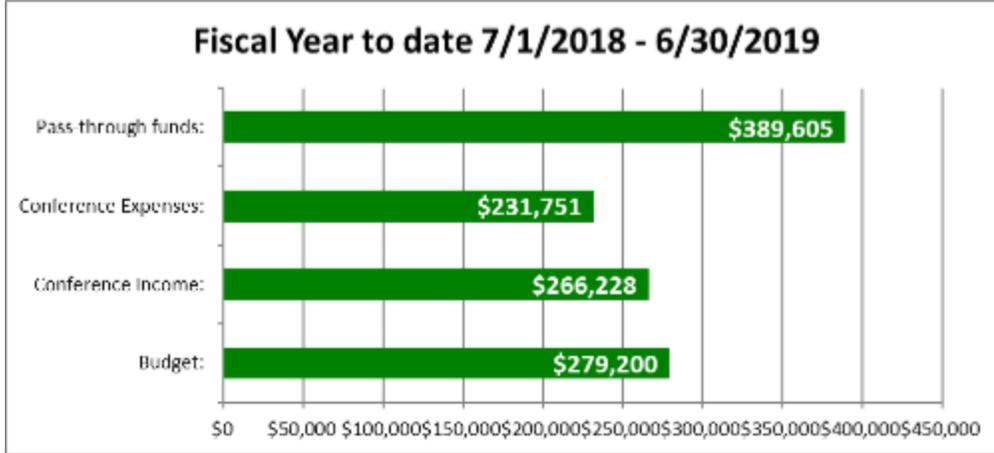
Colossian Way Training

A leader training for [The Colossian Way](#), is being planned for August 8-10th at East Goshen Mennonite Church. In this program from the Colossian Forum, “Participants in The Colossian Way take up the practice of gathering together and loving God and one another while engaging challenging issues.” If you or your congregation might be interested in participating, please contact info@colossianforum.org.

More information available here: [“the Colossian Way experience.”](#)

Financial Updates





We end the year with a good report thanks to your generous contributions. Our income for the month of June was \$15,463 above budget. Although our expenses for the month of June were above budget our income for the month was \$14,427 above expenses. Our expenses for the year were \$47,449 below budget.

IMMC Updates

This has been a unique month since the June weLink. Annual Sessions took place at Amigo Centre on June 13-15, hosted by Missional Leadership Team. Be sure to check out recordings on the website:

<https://im.mennonite.net/events/annual-sessions/>

At Annual Sessions, we previewed a new conference video highlighting some of the benefits available through our community of congregations. You can find the video on the IMMC homepage at im.mennonite.net.

Tanzania task group:

We are still looking for those who are interested in joining the Tanzania task group to help

At Annual Sessions on June 14 Bess Fitzgerald and Dan Miller shared a bit about what draws them to consider the invitation to relationship we have received from Bishop Kateti of Shirati Diocese in the Tanzanian Mennonite Church.

We are wondering who might join this group to lead the discernment process for IMMC. Are you, or might someone in your congregation be interested? We would like to hear from you. Please contact Bess Fitzgerald bess.fitzgerald@gmail.com by July 17 (or 24).

Celebrating

Staff celebrated a successful archiving day. Around the end of each fiscal/program year, staff take time to file documents/records of the previous year, and organize for the coming year. Jason Kauffman, from the Mennonite Church USA archives came to remind staff of retention schedules for various documents

such as financial, personnel, conference teams' minutes. Scheduling an archiving time could be a good practice for congregations as well. Talk with staff for their reflections.

IMMC was well represented at MennoCon19 in Kansas City. In addition to the congregational delegates, IMMC sent Wes Beck (Step Up), Randy Detweiler, Dan Miller, Addie Leaman, Shin Ye Tan, Bob Yoder and Rachel Yoder. Although Anna Board wasn't a delegate, this was a great introduction to the larger church, and it was great to have her there. Feel free to check in with any of these people about their experience. Each delegate will write short reflections on their time, and they will meet later this month to debrief the experience, and reflect on connections with IMMC priorities. Information about MennoCon19 is available at <http://mennoniteusa.org/kcsauce/>.

Connecting

- July 6-7 – With – On the way home from MennoCon19 Dan circled around to Charlotte, NC to be with the four congregations of Mara Christian Church of America (MCCA) for their fourth biennial pakhyi (assembly, pronounced pah KAY pee). Dan gave a “short speech” on Sunday morning. A dozen guests came from Mara Christian Church of Victoria in Australia, and three people from Myanmar.
- July 21 – Dan will preach at Cedar Grove, Manistique, MI. There may be some yet-to-be-scheduled visits along the way.
- July 26-27 – Missional Leadership Team (MLT) meets for their Annual planning retreat. Pray for them as they plan for the next 12-24 months. This will be their first meeting without Wilma Cender, who died last month.
- July 28 – Dan will preach at North Main in Nappanee for their final public worship service.
- August 12 – Dan Miller and Bob Yoder meet with conference ministers and moderators of other mid-states conferences (Illinois, Ohio and Central District)

Credentialing, Transitions and Leadership Development

- June 4 – Sharon Yoder joined the quarterly meeting of transitional and interim pastors at IN-MI Conference office.
- July 12 – Sharon will travel to Saginaw, MI to lead a credential interview with pastoral candidate Rex Jones at Ninth Street Community Church.
- July 14 – Sharon will attend Walnut Hill, Goshen to lead an installation service for Jane Miller as interim pastor to join with Ben Bouwman on their ministry team.
- July 14 – Dan will attend First Mennonite, Indianapolis, to preach and lead an installation service for Gary Martin as transitional pastor.
- There are currently 13 congregations in various stages of transition.
- Sharon Yoder is working with 4 active pastoral searches.
- In June, Sharon connected with 13 congregations and 14 potential applicants.

Grieving together

Wilma Cender, a member of the Missional Leadership Team, died on June 29, 2019. If you were at Annual Sessions two weeks ago, you might remember that Paula Killough shared an update about Wilma's situation and had a time of prayer for her. I (Dan), again, invite your prayers for Karl, their children, and all those who loved Wilma.

Wilma was a solid contributor at MLT meetings. She brought spiritual wisdom to our meetings, and prayed for conference. She and her husband have been long-time members at Valparaiso Mennonite Church, and had recently become members at Kern Road Mennonite Church to stay with Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. She will be missed. (For those who have been around awhile, you might also remember that Karl has also contributed greatly to IMMC life, serving in the early 2000's as conference treasurer.)

We claim that God is with us in the celebrations and the pains of this life. I (Dan) believe God was with Wilma as she walked these last few years.

An obituary is available at

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nwitimes/obituary.aspx?n=wilma-jane-cender&pid=193283013&fhid=4974>.

A Word From the Moderator

“My Encounter with the Holy Spirit” Bob Yoder, IMMC Moderator

On Friday afternoon, June 14, 2019, during Worshipful Work of IMMC Annual Sessions, I literally could not utter the following words: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

I'm not exactly sure what happened. A few minutes before I told the assembled body that my favorite aspect of the Triune God is the Holy Spirit. Then I mentioned that my favorite part of *Renewing a Vision* we adopted two years ago is the Conclusion.

I then proceeded to read the Conclusion's two paragraphs. But when I came to that last sentence a wave of emotion came over me and I could no longer continue. As an experienced public speaker, I have had occasions when emotion “hits me,” but then I compose myself and move on.

This time was different. I literally could not speak that final sentence. Eventually, I told the group to read it for themselves because I could not.

Later in the day a friend approached me, “Bob, you told us that the Holy Spirit is your favorite part, so the Holy Spirit took ahold of you.” Hmmm...maybe so. I want to claim that explanation.

I continue to ponder “what happened?” and “what did that mean?” I have some thoughts, BUT I’d welcome your input! Please email me (bobyoder72@gmail.com) your thoughts BEFORE July 26 when the new Missional Leadership Team begins a two-day retreat for a time of goal-setting:

What might the Spirit be saying to IMMC? Who might “the least of these” be in our midst?

Full Conclusion to *Renewing a Vision*:

Jesus sent his disciples out in his name and they returned to report all they had done. Our hope is that when we gather as a community of congregations it will be a time to share all that we have done in Jesus’ name, and a time to support and equip one another in how the Spirit is leading.

As a conference, we want to live in such a way that when we stand before our Lord and humbly ask, “When did we see you hungry and thirsty?” that we will hear the words, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me?”

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/.

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