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A Word from the Moderator...

The Missional Leadership Team (MLT) gathered for our annual retreat at the end of July where we reflected on the past year and considered the future. It was also time of orientation for our new members; three of five of us are new!

Members include: Bob Yoder (moderator, College), Brenda Meyer (moderator-elect, Benton), Duane Yoder (treasurer, Fairhaven), Bess Fitzgerald (Kalamazoo), and Randy Detweiler (Holdeman). (Pending delegate approval, Naomi Yoder (East Goshen) will be a sixth MLTer.)

We shared personal stories and our experiences with IMMC, reflected on the strengths and challenges of our conference, and identified aspirations for our future. We also set goals for the upcoming conference year to guide our focus, which include:

- Leadership of the future (i.e. youth, teams, pastors, etc.),
- Effective and transparent communication with congregations and leaders,
- Strengthening congregation-to-congregation relationships, and
- Engaging some immediate matters, including covenant and financial stewardship.

More will be shared in the upcoming months at our All Teams Retreat (Sept), Pastor Summit (Nov), Regional Gatherings (Feb/Mar), and Annual Sessions (June), as well as through WeLink and other platforms.

We are all excited to serve in this way and trust in God's Spirit as we anticipate the future. As a fairly new group of leaders, we invite your prayers and counsel throughout this year. May God continue to journey with us all so that God's dream can be more fully realized on this earth.

IMMC Staff Updates

Beginning September 1, Anna Board began working remotely on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Anna is physically in the IMMC office on Mondays and Wednesdays, and can be reached by phone Monday through Thursday by calling 574-534-4006 during office hours. As part of this experiment, Anna hopes to connect with IMMC congregations.

Pastors, plan to attend the Pastor Summit on November 13 at Amigo Centre. All pastors in congregational assignments are invited to attend. Expenses for the day are covered by IMMC. While you are coming, why not come for the whole Pastor Gathering, November 11-13? This event consists of three events held consecutively, to reduce travel:

- * Healthy Boundaries, sponsored by Ministry Credentialing Team
- * Pastor Retreat, planned by Leadership Enhancement Team
- * Pastors Summit, sponsored by Missional Leadership Team.

To reduce registration costs, IMMC is covering a large portion of the costs. Conference leaders hope you can attend! If the cost is still prohibitive, contact Dan Miller, about a scholarship. See the conference website, or [click here](#) for more information.

Retiring Pastors. Retirement is a big step. Adjusting one's role is challenging work, giving the retiring pastor a chance to "clean out their closets" and release a past identity in order to embrace what is emerging. If you have retired in the last three years or are retiring in the next year, consider walking with a group of peers in a confidential facilitated conversation. The group is limited to 8 members and will meet biweekly. Regular attendance and confidentiality are expected. IMMC is helping with the cost.

Celebrating

We celebrate . . .

. . .the years of ministry in Nappanee by North Main Street Mennonite Church.

And we pray for those looking for a new church home. North Main Street Mennonite Church held their final service August 18. Randy Miller completed his work there at the same time. A small team is managing the details of selling the building to another group and distributing assets.

. . . Tanzania affinity group met August 29 to begin their task of helping IMMC respond to the invitation to relationship with Shirati Diocese.

. . . Merv Reist and Ellen Morey, who along with their mentors attended the Journey Weekend Learning Event at Amigo Centre on September 6-8.

Connecting

Sharon Yoder will join the quarterly Transitional Pastors meeting on September 17.

Conference leadership teams and staff meet September 20-21. MLT has invited Rick Stiffney to facilitate the sessions.

Dan and Anna will attend the Michigan Pastors/Leaders Summit in Saginaw, MI on September 12.

Dan will attend the Colossian Forum Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Sept 12-14. Several other IMMC individuals are also planning to attend.

Dan attended the first fall meetings of Camfell, Swanee Lake Plus and Goshen Mennonite Ministers area councils. The Goshen pastors have begun planning for Annual Sessions 2020.

Credentialing and Leadership Development

Sharon and Search Guides are engaged with four active pastoral searches. Sharon has also been in touch with five additional congregations in various stages of leadership transitions.

In August Sharon communicated with 10 potential applicants for ministry positions.

Dan will install Kevin Yoder as pastor at Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship on September 15.

Terry Zehr will be installed as pastor or senior ministries at Waterford Mennonite on September 22. Dan will officiate the installation service.

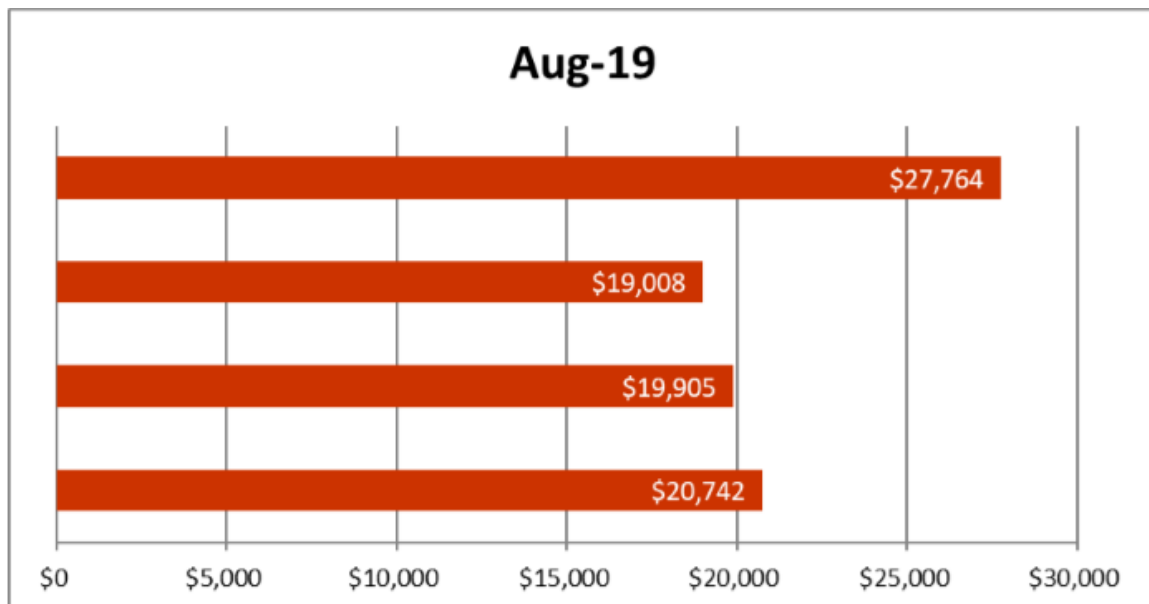
Sharon will lead an ordination service for Ben Bouwman at Walnut Hill Mennonite on October 27.

Sharon led a spiritual retreat for Michiana Anabaptist Youth Workers at Amigo Centre on August 22.

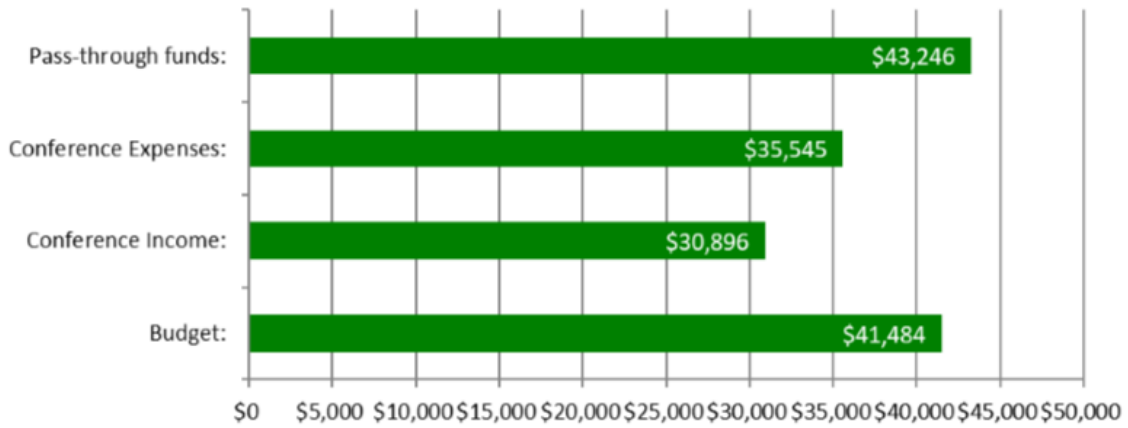
Two years ago, Volunteer Search Guides were trained to offer support to congregations during pastoral searches. Sharon resources the Search Guides as they walk with Search Committees and scheduled a refresher meeting with them for November 19.

For more details or to express interest, contact Dan Miller at dan@immennonite.net or 574-534-4006.

Financial Update



Fiscal Year to date 7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020



Income for the month of August was \$897 above expenses but \$837 below budget. For the year to date we are \$4,649 in expenses over income. We are trusting that in the coming months this will continue to improve with your help. Thanks for your generosity. –*Jim Norton, conference bookkeeper*

Updates from Bethany Schools

House for rent next to Bethany campus: Bethany Christian Schools has a spacious single family home for rent next to the school campus. \$1300/month, plus utilities. Available now. 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath, with beautiful hardwood floors and historic woodwork. Laundry on site. Includes the use of a garage with room for one car and storage. No pets. Please send inquiries to business_office@bethanycs.net. Thank you!

Music on the Lawn: Bethany Christian High School's band, orchestra, and choir will perform their annual Music on the Lawn concert on Friday, Sept. 20. A fundraiser dinner will be served prior to the concert (5:00 dinner, 6:15 concert). BBQ pulled pork sandwiches (vegetarian/gluten free option available), chips, veggies/dip, fruit, and Rise'n Roll pie—all for \$8! Funds raised will help defray expenses for music festivals and trips. Ask any Bethany musician or contact Stacey Farran for tickets (safarran@bethanycs.net) by Tuesday, Sept. 10. Meal and concert will be held in the Friendship Garden (weather permitting). Come ready to enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and music!

Alumni Reunions at Bethany: Bethany Christian Schools in Goshen will be hosting class reunions and activities for its alumni and their families on Saturday, Sept. 28. The following graduating classes will hold their reunions Saturday: 1959, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, and

2014. Reunion classes will meet Saturday afternoon at Bethany for visiting and a catered dinner. Alumni interested in attending should register by Sept.

17. Registration and details available at bethanycs.net/reunions.

Amigo Centre

- **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:269-651-2811) or shoot us an email at info@amigocentre.org to make your reservation.
- **Amigo 5K Trail Race:** If you're looking for a trail oriented course, you've found your race. This race takes place on the property of Camp Amigo just north of Sturgis. The only running that takes place on the edge of a road is about a 300 foot section. The rest of the run consists of trails, boardwalks and pure wilderness. The KID Fun Run is the first mile of the course. This first mile does not include the section of road. Signup on Amigo Centre's website or by giving us a call.
- **"She is a Tree of Life"** is the theme for the **Retreat for Women and Girls** at Amigo Centre, **October 11-13**, We look forward to a weekend full of fellowship and learning together, along with an opportunity to retreat from routine distractions. This year we are again inviting young girls (third grade and older) to come with an adult for a fun-filled weekend. We will have activities designed specifically for them. Our speaker is Sabrina Falls from Shalom Mennonite in Indy. Happy is the one who finds wisdom and whoever finds wisdom finds life (Proverbs 3:13, 8:35). Register online, or your congregation should have brochures available. Contact Amigo if you need additional information or brochures.
- **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 Call or register online! 269-651-2811 or mandy@amigocentre.org or www.amigocentre.org

*****December 3-11 (early and late options along with the weekend)**

Save the dates: Winter Youth Retreat

- Senior High Retreat– January 10-12: Katie Misz, Speaker
- Junior High Retreat– February 7-9: Colton Eby, Speaker
- Peace Camp– February 14-16: Saulo Padilla, Speaker

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 20986 – Amish-Mennonite Quilt Series – Carol Honderich is leading the final “Women of the Bible quilt program October 27-November 1.

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. This program runs September 29-October 4.

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

Composting & Recycling Volunteers at Relief Sale

The Relief Sale Composting and Recycling Committee is excited about the growing commitment at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale to maximizing good (“sharing God’s love and compassion for all in the name of Christ”) while also minimizing the negative impacts of unnecessary waste to the Elkhart County Landfill. We are especially grateful to the Relief Sale Board for their commitment to purchasing compostable food containers, which makes this initiative possible.

Volunteers are needed to assist Relief Sale-goers with proper composting, recycling, and waste placement. Contact Aaron Gerber at agerbman83@gmail.com to sign-up for the following times:

Friday, September 27

5:30-7pm

7-8pm

8-9pm

Saturday, September 28

10-11:30am

11:30-1pm

1-3pm

3-5pm

Together we can care for God's creation. Please join us!

Thanks,

Composting & Recycling Committee

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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