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A word from MLT...

We met as a Missional Leadership Team all day on September 20 at the Conference office. Bob Yoder is moderator, Brenda Meyers, new this year, is moderator elect and will be in leadership next year for a three year term. Randy Detweiler is a third year member. Duane Yoder, Bess Fitzgerald and Naomi Yoder are just beginning three year terms. We met to get to know each other better, care for Conference finances, personnel oversight, read a book together with an eye to improving our leadership skills and look hard at our Conference goals and the best ways to achieve them.

The big news from Dan was an ambitious plan to do one-on-ones with every pastor in our Conference in the next year. That is about 80 visits for care and accountability! We were persuaded that he has made provision for some of his current work to be delegated, making space and that the fruit of such an investment of time and energy will be worth the big effort. Please add your prayers to this ministry!

We spent time focusing on ways to improve communication within the Conference Churches and ways to knit the churches together in line with our vision.

After supper, we welcomed the members of the Conference action teams for meetings to dive deeper into our Renewing a Vision document and think afresh about each team's part in accomplishing the whole. Rick Stiffney energetically facilitated the discussions, both then and all Saturday morning. I was grateful to get to know the team members and their duties much better. A great thank you is due to all who graciously gave their time, good minds and talents to Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Thanks, also to God, who showed up with inspiration from his word and a sense of the Holy Spirit moving throughout our time together. *—Bess Fitzgerald, MLT member (Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship)*

Connecting

Brenda Hostetler Meyer, Arianna Perez Diener and Dan Miller will attend Constituency Leaders Council, October 17-18 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Gary Martin and Paula Killough will lead a Transitional Ministry Training in Kansas, October 21-24. Sharon Yoder will attend this training. Another training is being planned for the spring at Amigo Centre.

Dan Miller will be away from the office Oct 14-16, before attending Constituency Leaders Council, and then going on a borderlands tour. He will return to the office October 24.

Credentialing and Leadership Development

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

In September Sharon communicated with 15 potential applicants for ministry positions.

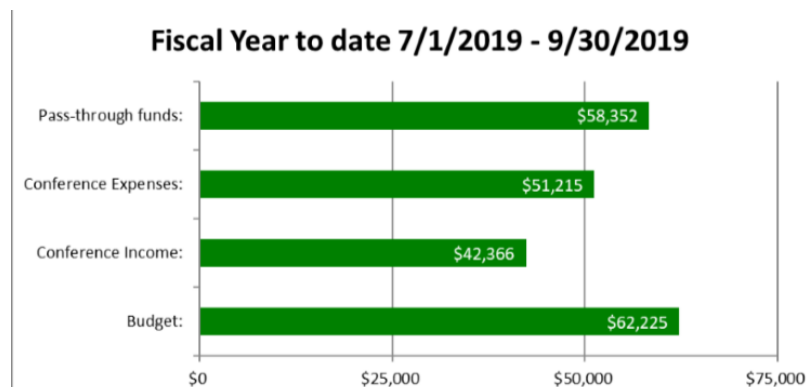
Sharon will lead an ordination service for Ben Bouwman at Walnut Hill Mennonite on October 27.

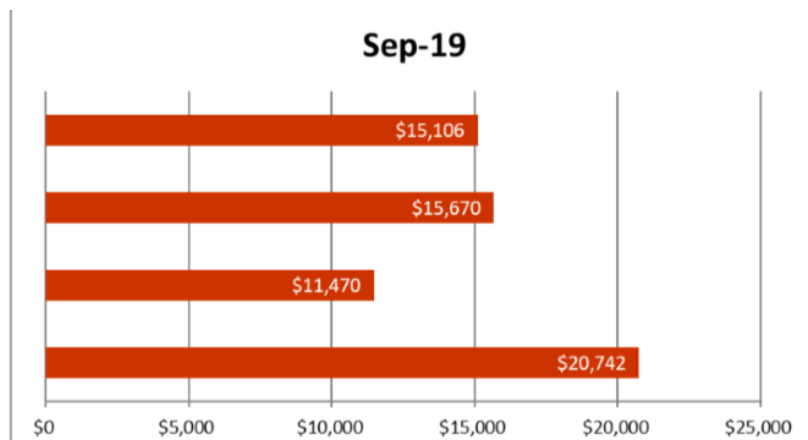
Two years ago, Volunteer Search Guides were trained to offer support to congregations during pastoral searches. Sharon resources the Search Guides as they walk with Search Committees and scheduled a refresher meeting with them for November 19.

IMMC Save the Date

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference warmly invites your congregation to participate in a Conference Sunday in Spring 2020. More information, including a resource packet, will be sent out at the end of October. The packet will include both worship resources and several options for adult education. This day will be a celebration of the work God is doing in your congregation and in the larger body of IMMC. More information is available here: <https://im.mennonite.net/news-events/conference-sunday/>

Financial Updates





Income for the month of September was \$9,272 below budget. For the year to date the income is \$19,859 below budget. For the month of September the income was \$4,200 below expenses and for the year to date \$8,849 below expenses. We ask for your prayers as this is somewhat unusual. —*Jim Norton, Conference bookkeeper*

Filing Cabinets for Free

Our offices have three gently used file cabinets that need new homes. If you are interested in taking any or all of them, please contact Anna Board at imoffice@im.mennonite.net. Delivery not included.

Communications & Social Media Volunteers:

As Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference continues to live into what it means to engage the world God loves, we are seeking out individuals who have experience in Communications (i.e. written, web, social media platforms, etc.) If you or someone you know might be interested in brainstorming ways for IMMC to be more effective about reaching out to those in and outside of Conference, please contact Anna Board at imoffice@im.mennonite.net.

IMMC Updates

Since September 1, Anna Board 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. Anna began working remotely on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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. You are the ones who know best the opportunities and hurdles of congregations engaging the world God loves.

All pastors in congregational assignments are invited to attend. Expenses for the day are covered by IMMC. See the conference website, or [click here](#) for more information.

Celebrating

We celebrate . . .

. . . Colossian Forum's work "transforming cultural conflicts into opportunities for spiritual growth and witness. People from IMMC attending the Annual conference Sept 12-14 were Eleanor Kreider, Steve Slagel, Grant Miller, Neil Amstutz, Merle Hostetler, Izaete Nofziger, Joe Liechty and Dan Miller.

. . . the Tanzania Affinity Group gathered via Zoom for their second meeting on September 26. Members are interviewing numerous people with experience and connections with Tanzania.

. . . energetic participation at All-Teams Retreat September 20-21. Rick Stiffney helped frame our work as teams planned their next steps in implementing *Renewing a Vision*.

. . . Frances Ringenberg's ministry at Prairie Street Mennonite, as she moves into retirement.

. . . as four people participated in the first Michigan Pastors/Leaders Zoom call organized around *The Oz Principle*.

Bethany Christian Updates

Pray for Bethany Christian Schools parents and teachers meeting in conferences (Oct. 23-24) as they together work at the task of educating youth and nurturing them in faith.

Updates from Amigo

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

- **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 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) – Final retreat for 2019**
- **Save the dates:** Winter Youth Retreat
 - Senior High Retreat January 10-12: Katie Misz, Speaker
 - Junior High Retreat February 7-9: Colton Eby, 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 – Janis Nelson is leading the final “Women of the Bible quilt program October 27-November 1.

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/.

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