



## Contents

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### Updates from MLT

It has been a month since I was tromping through snow at Amigo Centre during the Pastor Gathering, but my gratitude continues for that time of renewal and connection. The gathering began with the Healthy Boundaries workshop for credentialed leaders who had not yet received that valuable training. The retreat which followed, thanks to Linda Thomas' input and the Leadership Enhancement Team's thoughtful planning, was a rich and renewing time of worshiping, reflecting, sharing, and laughing together. Perhaps the highlight for me in my new Mission Leadership Team (MLT) role, however, was the Pastor Summit on Wednesday. The meaningful conversation and collaboration left me energized for the work of the conference, and wishing that a greater percentage of pastors and leaders could have attended. It is inspiring to witness so many leaders who, with their eyes open to the challenges facing the church, are invested in empowering our conference to move forward with its vision of Christ-centered, Spirit-led ministry in the world God loves. I give thanks to be a part of a community of such committed and creative servant leaders!

That same spirit continued in the November 23rd MLT meeting. Motivated by some contacts that Dan and Bob initiated, the MLT is working to gain a better understanding of who we are as a conference, and using that to inspire our vision of who can continue to become together. That work included everything from exploring our own MLT group dynamics, to envisioning increasing IMMC intercultural competence, and discerning how to empower leaders for the future of the church. While there are challenges ahead for our conference and the broader church, in this Advent season I am rejoicing in the ways that I am witnessing the Spirit of Immanuel—God with us—alive and at work in our IMMC community! – *Naomi Yoder, MLT member, East Goshen Mennonite Church*

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### Celebrating

We celebrate the equipping, fellowshipping and visioning that happened at the 2019 Pastors Gathering in Sturgis, MI on November 11th-13th.

Sharon Yoder and Dan Miller met with 7 Search Guides on November 19 to review good practices for pastoral searches and to provide a venue for sharing stories about their work.

We celebrate the life and ministry of retired pastors Willard Swartley, who passed away on November 6 and Bill Hooley, who passed away on December 7. We invite you to join in prayer for God's peace and comfort to embrace their families in this time of deep grief.

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### Connecting

Sharon Yoder and Dan Miller attended the annual gathering of Canadian and US regional and conference ministers last week in Alberta, Canada.

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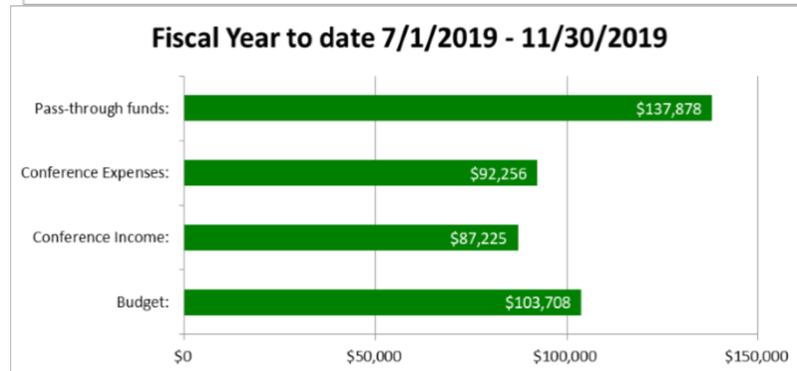
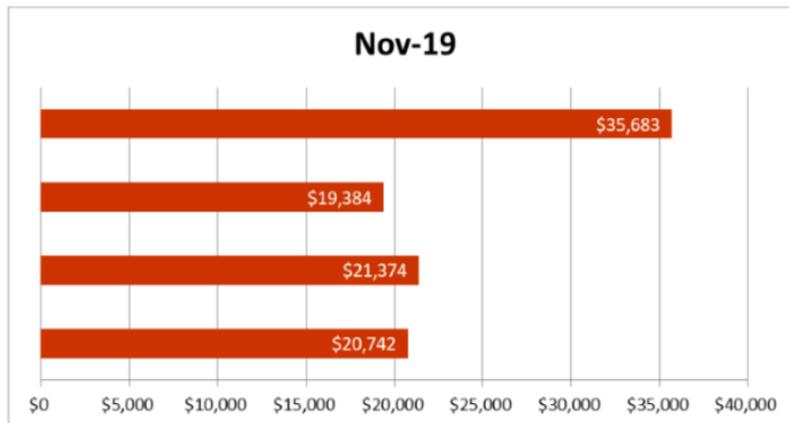
## Credentialing and Leadership Development

Sharon Yoder and Search Guides are engaged with 3 active pastoral searches. Sharon also had contact with 5 additional congregations in various stages of leadership transitions.

In November Sharon communicated with 11 people considering various ministry positions.

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## Financial Report



The income for the month of November was \$632 above budget but \$16,483 below expectations for the year. Income for the month of November was \$1,990 above expenses for the month but for the year expenses were \$5,032 above income. Thank you for giving this your consideration and prayer that we can make up this difference in coming months. —James Norton, IMMC bookkeeper

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## Reflections from Constituency Leadership Council

Brenda Meyer reflects on her time at the Constituency Leadership Council meeting that took place in October 2019.

This was my first time to be a part of CLC. A few highlights:

- traveling and rooming with Ariana Perez Diener, a Goshen College junior who was Indiana-Michigan Conference's third rep. It was a treat to interact with her and her thoughtful questions and perspectives.
  - an evening meeting of conference moderators. As incoming moderator-elect, it was both inspiring and sobering to hear reflections from experienced moderators across the church
  - reports from each area conference. I learned so much about the variety of conferences that make up MCUSA, their vision for ministry, and what is keeping them going through challenging times.
  - helpful information from the Executive Board office about their work, including plans for the Membership Guidelines Advisory Group. I came away grateful for thoughtful, transparent leadership in unsettled times.
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## Kids' Community Theater 2020

Calling all kids from grades K-5! Kids' Community Theater, organized by Sunnyside MC and Belmont MC are beginning rehearsals for their 2020 performance of *Peace in the Kingdom* by Cynthia and Michael Marion.

### WHAT:

Weekly musical theater rehearsals and TWO performances!

**WHERE: Sunnyside Mennonite Church:** 23786 Sunnyside Ave, Elkhart, IN 46516

**WHEN:** Wednesdays, January 8 – February 26

**5:30 pm,** Meal for all KCT households & **6:15-7:30 pm,** Rehearsal

(January 25, 9 am: Make-up rehearsal *if needed*)

**PERFORMANCES:** 3 pm Saturday, February 29 & 6 pm Sunday, March 1

If your child plans to participate, please email [amykratzer@gmail.com](mailto:amykratzer@gmail.com)  
Or call Sunnyside! (574) 875-7790

See the KCT Flyer [HERE](#)

For more information about KCT, also check out this edition of [Gospel Evangel](#).

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## Updates from Bethany

**December 13:** Pray for Bethany Christian High School musicians as they share their gifts in music with the community in their annual Christmas concert.

**December 19-20:** Pray for Bethany Christian High School students as they take semester final exams—that they may be rested, relaxed, and prepared to do their best.

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conference website at [im.mennonite.net/welink-archive/](http://im.mennonite.net/welink-archive/).

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