



January 8, 2020



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2020 Regional Delegate Meetings

SAVE THE DATE

Greetings Conference Delegates!

It's almost time to gather for the regional delegate meetings. There will be three regional meetings: the southern, central and the northern region areas.

- The **southern meeting** will be hosted by Parkview Mennonite Church (Kokomo, IN) on March 7th.
- The **central meeting** will be hosted by East Goshen Mennonite Church (Goshen, IN) on March 14th.
- The **northern meeting** will be hosted by New Hope Community Church of Midland (Midland, MI) on March 21st.

Register here: <https://2020regionaldelegatemeetings.eventbrite.com>

Please make every effort to attend the meeting in your region. We hope to see you there!

A word from MLT

In 2007 I decided that I would like to get more involved in conference work. I ended up serving as IMMC representative to the MCC Great Lakes board. That was a great fit for me, and I served there until 2019. But it didn't really connect me with conference! So when I was asked about serving as moderator-elect for IMMC I decided with some trepidation to accept the call. I now have the opportunity to be more (very!) intimately connected to the workings of the conference.

Some of the things I'm excited about:

- the interesting and thoughtful variety of people and perspectives on the Missional Leadership Team, and our common commitment to Jesus
- MLT's decision to prioritize our commitment to undoing racism, and our emerging partnership with Nekeisha Alexis from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
- the energy that was tapped by the Open Spaces process that we used for the Pastors Summit last fall, and the thoughtful brainstorming and actions that were initiated there

I pastor half-time at Benton Mennonite Church, working alongside Doug Kaufman. I also enjoy gardening, reading, my grandchildren – and dreaming of ways that the conference can continue to support and stretch us as we follow Jesus in engaging the world God loves.

Brenda Meyer

moderator-elect

Celebrating

As we begin 2020 we celebrate...

- * God's gift of love coming to a lost and polarized world
- * the many ways in which IMMC churches experienced, again, the coming of the baby Jesus
- * the plans that are coming together for Annual Sessions 2020 in Goshen.
- * the launch of Piedra Viva, a Spanish speaking congregation in Elkhart that is meeting at Sunnyside Mennonite in Elkhart.
- * that Anna Board is beginning a class at AMBS. (We do not anticipate any major changes to office hours.)

Connecting

Dan attended the first public service of the Iglesia Menonita Piedra Viva.

Missional Leadership Team (MLT) meets January 25. Two items on the agenda this time will be planning for March regional meetings and leading in intercultural competence.

Sharon will worship with First Mennonite Church, Indianapolis on Sunday January 12 to install Bob & Mag Richer Smith as interim pastors.

Sharon joined the quarterly meeting for transitional and interim pastors at the Conference office on December 10, 2019.

Credentialing and Leadership Development

Several pastoral searches moved forward even over the holidays. Sharon and Search Guides are engaged with 4 active pastoral searches. Sharon has also been in touch with 3 additional congregations in various stages of leadership transitions.

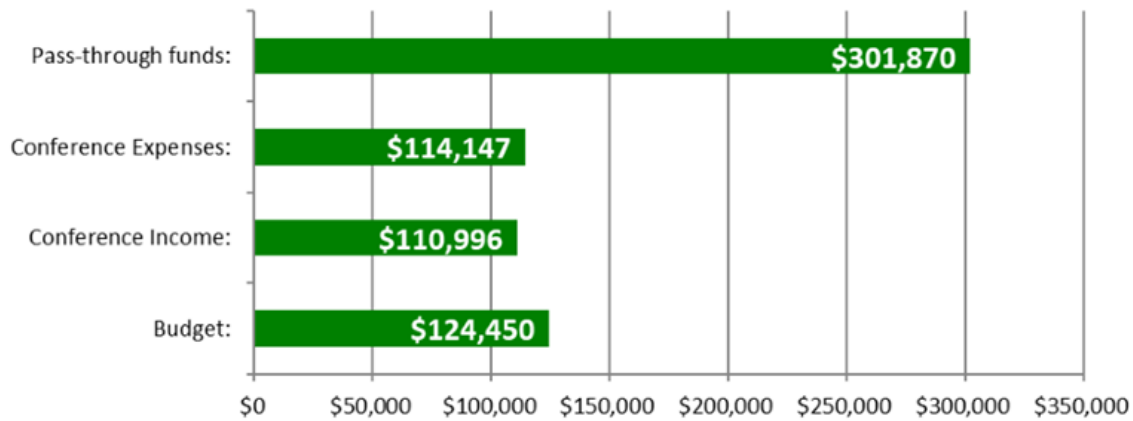
We're blessed by the presence of our volunteer Search Guides as pastoral search committees do their work. Several search processes moved forward over the holidays and another is just beginning. In December Sharon had contact with 7 congregations in various stages of leadership transitions.

In December Sharon communicated with 12 potential applicants for ministry positions.

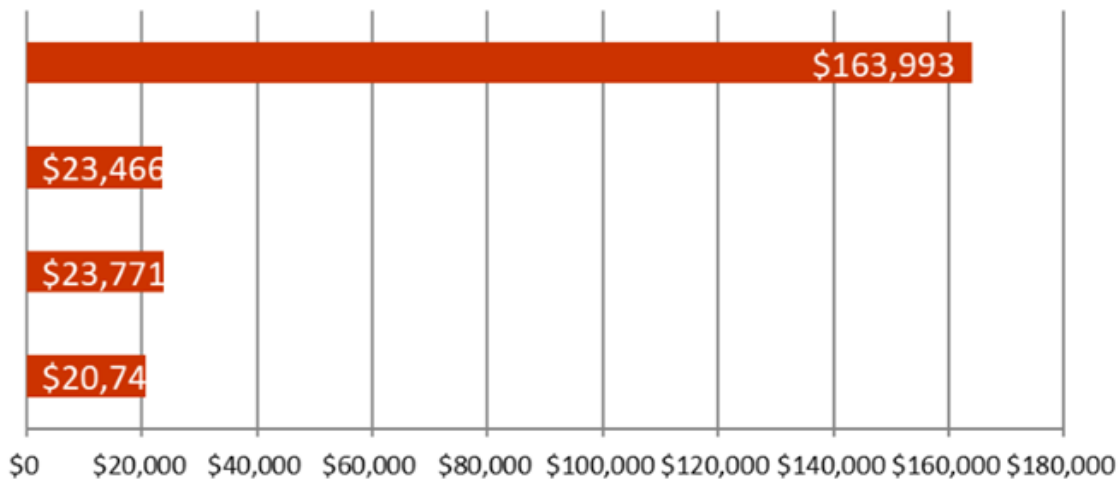
The next Journey Weekend Learning Event is January 31-February 2. Journey is "A certificate program developing leaders centered in Jesus Christ for ministries in local churches and communities." Who in your congregation might be interested in Journey? Check out [ambbs.edu/journey](https://www.ambbs.edu/journey).

Financial Updates

Fiscal Year to date 7/1/2019 - 12/31/2019



December 2019



Our income was \$3,029 above budget but only \$305 above income as this was a month for above average expenses. For the year to date the income is \$13,454 below budget and our expenses are \$3, 151 above our income. –*Jim Norton, IMMC bookkeeper*

Communications Advisory Team

Indiana-Michigan is looking for individuals to join a new Communications Advisory Team. This team will be made up of creative individuals with interest and experience in communications, digital media, and/or marketing. We recognize that technology can be a wonderful tool to reach individuals and congregations and we need help assessing our digital outreach and creating an overall communications strategy for print and digital media.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Anna Board at imoffice@im.mennonite.net

Amigo Centre Updates

Winter Youth Retreat – Still time to register!

- Senior High Retreat- January 10-12:
 - Colton Eby, Speaker
 - Ian Brown, Music
- Junior High Retreat- February 7-9:
 - Katie Misz, Speaker
 - Kate Mounsithiraj, Music
- Peace Camp-February 14-16:
 - Saulo Padilla, Speaker
 - Colton & Shelby Eby, Music

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. **Maximum of 90 people for each event. If you want to come, sign up soon!**

2020 dates include:

- March 5-11 (weekend plus stay over Sun-Wednesday options or early Thursday arrival)
- April 2-8 (weekend plus stay over Sun-Wednesday options or early Thursday arrival)
- September 24-27 (weekend plus early arrival Thursday option)
- December 2-9 (weekend plus early arrival Wednesday to late departure Wednesday)

Call or register online! 269-651-2811 or mandy@amigocentre.org or www.amigocentre.org

Transitional ministry offers a unique gift in a congregation's life. Whether a change in pastor comes because of conflict, retirement, shrinking numbers and weariness, or questions of congregational viability, transitional ministry walks alongside a congregation while it answers questions of mission, courage and transformation. **March 23-25, 2020, Amigo Centre hosts a Transitional Ministry Training retreat** for individuals interested in pursuing this type of

ministry. Visit tmt.amigocentre.org for additional information, or contact Amigo Centre at [269.651.2811](tel:269.651.2811) or mandy@amigocentre.org

NEW RETREAT

“Hearing and Seeing Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew” – will be held at Amigo Centre, **March 27-29, 2020**. Tim Lehman, retired minister, will be sharing based on his recently published book, “All Authority Has Been Given To Me.” Tim will highlight parts of his book and encourage us to rethink long-held assumptions. In a world of division, bitter partisan politics, and violence, where do we turn? What might truly heal us personally and communally? Imagine a world changed because of God’s unconditional love channeled through you. The retreat begins Friday evening and concludes with Brunch on Sunday. Registration includes lodging or commuting rates. We look forward to a dynamic weekend of learning and growing in our understanding of God’s unconditional love for all. If you would like a copy of his book at a reduced rate contact mandy@amigocentre.org or call 269-651-2811.

SAVE THE DATE! 22nd Annual Camper Scholarship Amigo Centre **Golf Scramble** will be **June 6, 2020** at 8 am. Registration to come soon. If you’re interested in joining and want registration information feel free to contact Amigo Centre at 269-651-2811 to have your name added to the list.

AMIGO SUMMER CAMP is coming! Think warm!! Camp runs June 14-July 24, 20. Some weeks fill earlier, 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 mandy@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 2020, contact mandy@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 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. Most weeks we offer two programs running simultaneously for those who want to come with a friend or family member and have different interests. Come join the fun adventure of learning!

- May 10-15
 - **Program #12343 – Buggies and Bonnets: Delving into the Amish Way of Life** (Instructor: John Sharp)

- **Program #20986 – Amish-Mennonite Quilt Series – Labor of Love:** Friendship Baskets (Instructor: Christine Kirkhofer)
- June 14-19
 - **Program #22518 – Discover Your Family’s Roots** Allen County Genealogy Center (Fort Wayne)
- Sept 6-11
 - **Program #12343 – Buggies and Bonnets: Delving into the Amish Way of Life** (Instructor: Joe Springer)
 - **Program #20986 – Amish-Mennonite Quilt Series – Labor of Love:** Friendship Baskets (Instructor: Christine Kirkhofer)
- Sept 27-Oct 2
 - **Program #22518 – Discover Your Family’s Roots, Allen County Genealogy Center (Fort Wayne)** New program in development: “Our Changing Planet” (Instructor: Luke Gascho)
- Oct 11-16
 - **Program #20986 – Amish-Mennonite Quilt Series – Dancing Stars** (Instructor: Janis Nelson)
 - **Program #22518 – Discover Your Family’s Roots, Allen County Genealogy Center (Fort Wayne)**
- Oct 25-30
 - **Program #20986 – Amish-Mennonite Quilt Series – Dancing Stars** (Instructor: Janis Nelson)

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

Updates from Bethany Christian Schools

Bethany Visit Opportunities are a great way for prospective students and families to see Bethany Christian Schools in action!

- **Grades 4-5 on Jan. 22:** Parents may bring children K-4 to visit the grade 4-5 classrooms from 9:30 to 11 a.m.
- **Grades 6-10 on Jan. 27:** Students in grades 5-10 interested in exploring Bethany can shadow a Bethany student on Monday, Jan. 27, 8:40 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Parents are invited to an 8:45-9:15 a.m. coffee and conversation followed by an optional tour at 9:15 a.m.

For more information, to register, or to schedule a visit on another date see bethanycs.net/visit.

Meditation Skills Training

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering **Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders** on **February 10-14, 2020** at **Friedens United Church of Christ in Indianapolis, IN**. Acquire 32 contact hours that you can apply towards Continuing Education credits; enjoy fellowship with like-minded church leaders; and rejuvenate your ministry, all at the same time!

To learn more or to register for this outstanding interdenominational training event, please contact Rick Spleth, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Indiana, or consult this [brochure](#). Call Reverend Spleth at **317-926-6051**, or email him at rick@indianadisciples.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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