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### A word from MLT

I am one of the newest MLT members. As a member of Fairhaven Mennonite Church in Fort Wayne, I have been church treasurer for many years and in recent years, have been a conference delegate. At the 2018 annual session, I responded to a felt calling to become more involved in conference in the area of finances. Within a few months I was invited to join the Stewardship Team and shortly thereafter to become conference treasurer and a member of the Missional Leadership Team. With a business degree and as owner of my own IT and computer services business, I have learned the value of monitoring and managing the financials of an organization and hope to contribute in this way to conference.

At our January MLT meeting, we were attentive to the financial challenges the conference faces with declining donations as well as acknowledging there are also resources that were set aside for future needs or projects. Some of the donations were earmarked for special interests such as pastor development or church planting. There are still available funds to support local church projects through the Capital Grant Fund. In the coming months there will be a taskforce looking at the current investments and seeing if there are ways to increase the returns on those investments. The MLT, along with the Stewardship Team, is working to be wise stewards of the financial resources that are available.

I feel energized by the ways MLT is choosing to study and address issues of cultural competency and biases with the support and direction of Consultant Nekeisha Alexis. At a time when the demographics of our conference are changing and are not completely understood, it will take effort to analyze our makeup and determine how this will impact our future life together as Indiana

Michigan Conference. Part of my contribution is looking for ways we can utilize technology to analyze the data we will be collecting.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the MLT. This is an inspiring, thoughtful and gracious group of Jesus followers that seek to be faithful in all aspects of its calling.

Duane Yoder

IMMC Treasurer

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## IMMC Updates

- Our administrative coordinator, Anna, decided to drop the class at AMBS in order to attend to some family business. She looks forward to enrolling again next year.
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## IMMC Celebrating

This month we celebrate

- the first IMMC Conference Sunday on February 23. Give thanks on that day for this community of congregations, and for the faces of conference from south to north! (Resources available on the website.) Post and send pictures of your Conference Sunday events!
  - the fun and productive January 25 Missional Leadership Team meeting. (see report in this weLink)
  - the Journey Weekend Learning Event, January 31-Feb 2 at AMBS. (Thanks to Nancy Kauffmann, who led the Post-it Note Timeline exercise, since Dan was sick and unable to attend.)
  - Dan's gradual recovery from a pulled back and a severe cold that slowed him down for three weeks.
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## IMMC Connecting

- The Tanzania Affinity Group has invited a delegation from Shirati Diocese to visit during March. Pray for plans being made on both ends of the journey. Watch for updates about opportunities to meet our visitors around IMMC. The Tanzania Affinity Group welcomes donations large and small to help

with hosting expenses, including lodging, meals and transportation. Please contact the IMMC office if you are interested.

- March delegate meetings begin with the south meeting in Kokomo on March 7. Watch for information or check the conference website.
- Dan attended the Waterford Mission Fair on January 19, staying for an excellent international carry-in meal.
- The Midwest Mennonite Chaplains group met January 21 at Greencroft. Dan attended this meeting, and the regular area council meetings in the area this month.
- Dan preached at Emmanuel Living Christian Church on February 9. He stayed several days for conversations with pastors and for the CAMFell Area Council meeting.

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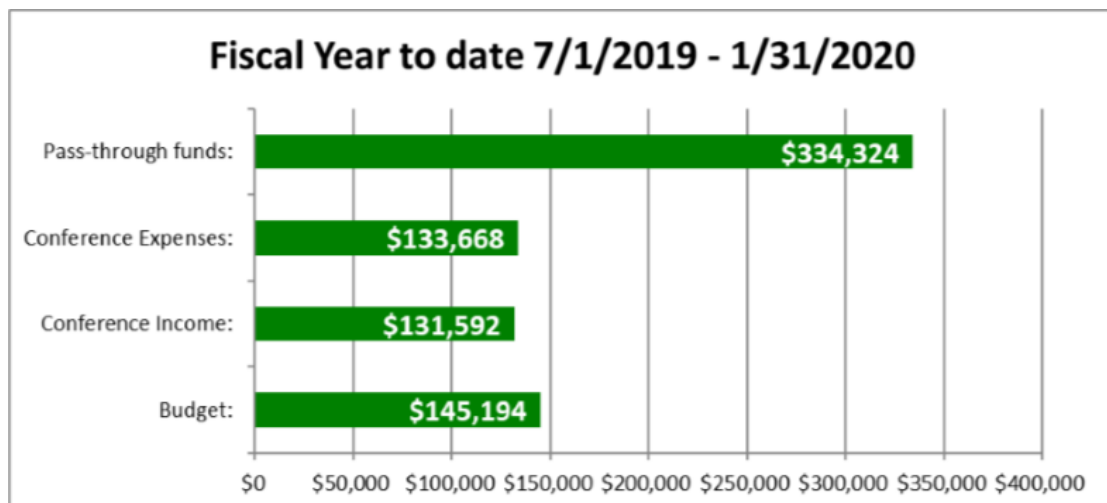
## IMMC Credentialing and Leadership Development

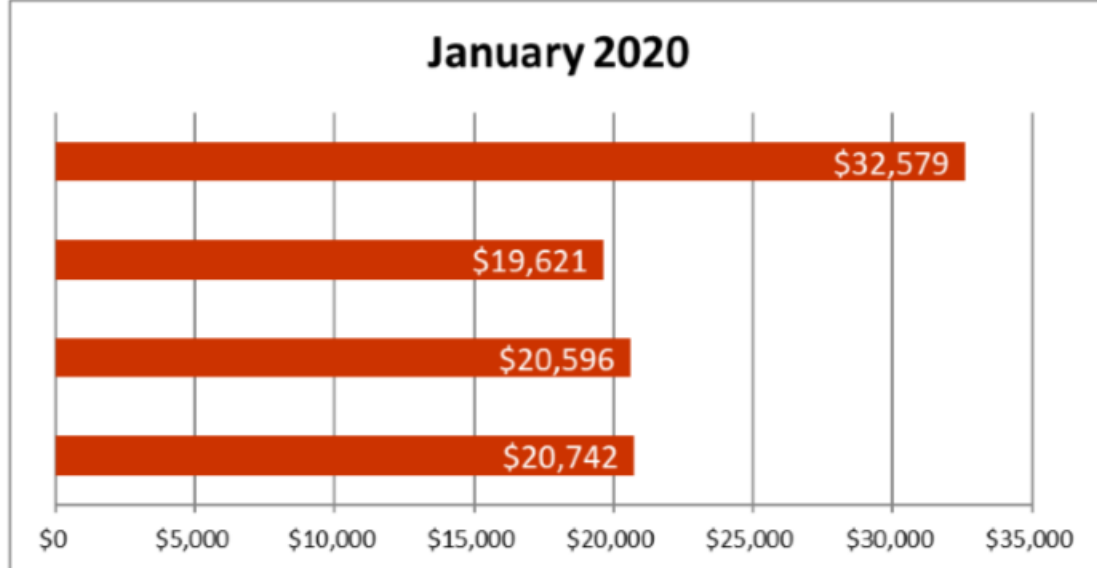
- Several search processes had significant developments in January. We're blessed by the presence of our volunteer Search Guides as pastoral search committees do their work. There are currently 4 active searches in process and a couple others in various stages of leadership transitions.
- Bob and Mag Richer Smith were installed as interim pastors at First Mennonite, Indianapolis on January 12. Sharon joined in the worship celebration and facilitated the installation.
- Cyneatha Millsaps and Quinn Brenneke were called as pastors at Prairie Street Mennonite in Elkhart. Sharon will lead the installation service on March 1.

In January Sharon communicated with 17 potential applicants for ministry positions.

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## Financial Report





Our income for the month of January was \$146.00 below what was expected but \$975.00 above expenses. For the year to date the income is \$14,380 below what was expected and \$2,076 below expenses. -Jim Norton, *conference bookkeeper*

## Amigo Centre Updates

**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 Spring 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)

Call or register online! 269-651-2811 or [mandy@amigocentre.org](mailto:mandy@amigocentre.org) or [www.amigocentre.org](http://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](http://tmt.amigocentre.org) for additional information, or contact Amigo Centre at [269.651.2811](tel:269.651.2811) or [mandy@amigocentre.org](mailto: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](mailto:mandy@amigocentre.org) or call 269-651-2811.

### Amigo Centre Availability

Amigo still has openings in the Retreat Center and West Shore Lodge this spring! Whether a Full Church Retreat or Sunday School Class, Family Gathering or Friends Reunion, Youth Retreat or Personal Retreat, Amigo is the perfect location to relax, unplug, and unwind. Call 269-651-2811 or email [emily@amigocentre.org](mailto:emily@amigocentre.org) for more information.

March 20-22, 2020

April 17-19, 2020

May 1-3, 2020

**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, 2020. 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 [colton@amigocentre.org](mailto:colton@amigocentre.org) or [www.amigocentre.org](http://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 [colton@amigocentre.org](mailto:colton@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](http://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: Sue Peacock-Juszczak)

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: Sue Peacock-Juszczak)

Sept 27-Oct 2

**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: Sue Peacock-Juszczak)

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)

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## Updates from Bethany Christian Schools

**Musical Tickets:** Bethany Christian High School will perform Children of Eden on Thursday-Sunday, March 5-8, 2020. This two-act musical follows the Biblical

stories of creation and Noah's ark while exploring the universal themes of family, relationships and love.

Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for students. Tickets may be purchased online beginning Feb. 17 at [bethanycs.net/tickets](http://bethanycs.net/tickets). Performances are at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday.

[Following is a list of participants so you can publish who from your congregation is involved]

- Belmont: Matthew Dyck, Sasha Dyck, Avery Rusel, Anna Schrock, Anna Smucker, Ana Yoder, Christian Yoder
- Berkey Avenue: Norah Schloneger
- College Mennonite: Sarah Hochstetler, Michaela Swartzendruber, Malachi Yoder
- East Goshen: Joseph Mounsithiraj
- North Goshen: Wilhelm Molina
- Walnut Hill: Daphne Diener
- Waterford: Nathan Oostland

### **Spring Musical offers opportunity for faith development**

**This spring, Bethany Christian High School is excited to present the musical *Children of Eden*.**

Directors, cast and crew have been working hard to bring the show, a retelling of the Biblical stories in Genesis 1-9, to life. For most shows this process would include memorizing lines and music, learning characters and choreography.

But for students working on Children of Eden, there's another element of focus: faith. “

*the rest of the article can be found [HERE](#)*

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**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/](http://im.mennonite.net/welink-archive/).

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