Annual Sessions 2020 (June 18-20)

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

Goshen, IN

Thursday, East Goshen Mennonite Church

Friday, College Mennonite Church

Saturday, Waterford Mennonite Church

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Greetings sisters and brothers,

God is in the building business, and our Conference is up for a remodel!

The Goshen Regional Council is excited to welcome you to Annual Sessions 2020 this summer, June 19-20.

Guest speaker Safwat Marzouk (author of recently published Intercultural Church: a biblical vision for an age of migration), along with our theme verses (Ephesians 2:1-11), will challenge us to consider how God is “building together” the varied people and congregations of a newly emerging Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

We’ll meet for work and worship over Zoom. Our work together will include discerning a possible partner relationship with the Shirati diocese of Tanzania, and how we want to define our connections as congregations. In addition, there will be opportunity for break-out seminars and story-telling from our congregations.

We hope you will join us!

“Built Together” is open to all delegates and pastors.

Registration is $20, the cost of which will go towards speaker honorariums and the surplus will be donated to the MDS, Everence and MCC COVID-19 Congregational Relief Fund.

Register HERE by June 18th or by visiting the IMMC website.

Blessings,
Goshen Regional Council

Schedule for 2020 Annual Sessions

"Built Together"

June 18-20

Goshen, IN

Color code:

Worship services are in red

Breaks are in orange

Teaching Sessions & Seminars are in blue

Worshipful Work Sessions are in green

Friday, June 19, 2020

- 1:30-2 pm Welcome & Worship
- 2-3 pm Teaching Session
  - Safwat Marzouk
- 3:00-3:30pm BREAK
- 3:30-4:45 pm Worshipful Work
- 5pm BREAK
- 7pm Worship
  - Dan Miller

Saturday, June 20, 2020

- 9am- 10:00am Worship
  - Joanne Gallardo
- 10:00 – 10:30 am BREAK
- 10:30-11:45 am Seminars
- 11:45 am-1:15 pm LUNCH BREAK
- 1:15-2:30pm Worshipful Work
- 2:30-3:00 pm BREAK
- 3-4 pm-Teaching Session
  - Safwat Marzouk
- 4:00-4:15 pm Conclusion and Sending

Procedural Rules for Delegates

Adapted from the special rules approved at the beginning of the 2007 Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly held in San José, California.

Indiana-Michigan constitutional provisions for decision making at Annual Sessions:

- The conference shall seek consensus or broad affirmation in all decisions. Where available time does not allow for consensus or where circumstances are not deemed to require broad affirmation, the conference may proceed by majority vote.
- A majority of votes cast shall determine any matter, except when the delegates agree otherwise or when otherwise provided in the constitution or bylaws.
- A quorum shall consist of all properly recognized delegates present at a duly called assembly meeting.

Delegates representing INDIANA-MICHIGAN Conference congregations need to attend to the church's business in a timely manner that allows for due consideration. Balancing these goals is typically difficult, especially in decision-making bodies as large as ours.

Parliamentary procedure is used to help groups, especially large ones, balance the goals of timely action and due consideration. It does so by standardizing procedures through a system of rules that establish who may speak, about what, when, and for how long. Most people are not familiar with these rules and as a result tend to experience parliamentary procedures as cumbersome. So far no one has developed a less cumbersome and yet fair way to balance these competing goals. This document is adapted from the Procedural Rules for Delegates successfully followed at Mennonite Church USA Charlotte 2005 Delegate Assembly, and is an effort to make parliamentary procedure feel a bit more user friendly.

Basic rules

In an effort to allow as many persons as possible to be heard, please follow these basic rules:

- Only delegates may make motions or vote on them.
- Do not address the assembly more than twice in a day on any one topic.
- Before you speak a second time on one topic, make sure that no one else who has not yet spoken on that topic wishes to do so.
- When you go to the microphone to address the assembly, wait to be recognized by the moderator. Once recognized, state your name and (if appropriate) the group you represent before making your remarks.
- Only speak on behalf of a group if you have been specifically commissioned to do so.
- In order to keep the discussion from becoming personal, always address the moderator rather than a previous speaker or someone else in the meeting.
- Always speak respectfully. If you disagree with another person who has spoken, please describe that point of view with respect.
- So that the group can put your remarks in context, always indicate whether you are speaking in favor of or against the proposal that is being discussed.

Parliamentary procedures commonly used

During the delegate session, if you want to introduce a motion, raise a question, or extend discussion, please follow these procedures:

- If you want to amend a main motion, limit or extend debate on a motion, or lay a motion on the table, you need to make a motion to that effect while the main motion is still under consideration. To do so, seek recognition from the moderator and then make the motion.
  (*Simply say, "I wish to amend the motion," and then, when recognized, say, "I move that the motion be amended to say . . ."*)

- To object to the consideration of a motion, call for a more precise vote, ask a question about parliamentary procedure or offer information on a question, first seek recognition of the moderator and then state your business. *(You might say, "Point of information." Then, if recognized, you might say, "In relation to the current motion, delegates may find it helpful to know that…")*
- To call for a recess, adjournment, or a question of privilege (to rectify some problem that is distracting the assembly, for instance), seek the recognition of the moderator and after recognition make the motion. *(You might say, "I rise to a question of privilege." The moderator will ask you what the question of privilege is.)*
- Many motions require a second. This guarantees that at least one other person is interested in the proposal. *(To second a motion, rise and say "I second that motion.")*
- Any motion that comes from a committee does not need a second since the support of a committee already indicates that the body is interested in the motion.
- Finally, if you think that it is time to end discussion you can "call for the question." However, if there is any objection to ending discussion, then the delegate body will need to take a vote on your proposal to end discussion.

New motions and/or amendments to motions that are on the agenda
We will conduct our business according to the following rules which are commonly used in large assemblies that must get their work done in a relatively short period of time.

- Any motion that brings substantive business to the body must be taken to the moderator or moderator-elect before it can be brought to the floor. The purpose of this is to make sure that the assembly only takes time to consider clear and appropriate motions.
- Likewise, amendments to resolutions that appear on the agenda must be presented to the moderator or moderator-elect before they can be brought to the floor for discussion. The purpose for this rule is the same as above.

For more specific information on the kinds of motions you can make and the rules that apply to them, see *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th edition).* If you have questions about parliamentary procedure during the delegate sessions, we invite you to ask the designated parliamentarian about appropriate procedures during a break.

We hope that the procedures described above will enable Annual Sessions to be times of discernment together. Come prepared to hear God's voice as we worshipfully work together.

Chapter 1 Conference Program

Delegates to Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, June 2020

Congregational delegates include:

1. All ordained and licensed ministers with active congregational assignments:
   OM = Ordained Minister
   LM = Licensed Minister
   DE = Deacon
2. One elder or comparable leader:
   CC = Congregational Chair
   CE = Chair of Elders
   E = Elder
3. One delegate representing financial matters:
   F = Financial rep
4. One delegate for each 150 members or fraction thereof:
   D = Delegate

Ann Arbor Mennonite Church
1-OM Chibuzor Ozor

Belmont Mennonite Church
1-OM Mandy Yoder
4-CC Audra Mark
7-F Uryna Gerber
8-D Mike Zehr

Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship
1-OM Kevin Yoder
4-CC Glenn Leinbach

Benton Mennonite Church
1-OM Doug Kaufman
1-OM Brenda Meyer
4-CC John Buschert
7-F Bruce Nofziger
8-D Helene Hoover

Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship
1-OM Joanne Gallardo
1-OM Mark Schloneger
1-OM Dan Schrock
8-D Steve Garboden

Bethel Mennonite Church
1-OM Joe Pendleton
4-CC George Smith
5-CE Wallace Yordy
7-F Ryan Gnagey

Bonneyville Mennonite Church
2-LM Mariah Martin
4-CC Kurt Eby
7-F Korey Bromley
8-D Rachel Eby

Cedar Grove Mennonite Church
4-CC Douglas Troyer
7-F Mike Sheppard
8-D Anna Troyer
8-D Susan Barham

Church Without Walls
1-OM Cora Brown
1-OM Jonathan Brown
6-E Rosetta Brown
8-D Louise Millsaps

College Mennonite Church
1-OM David Maldonado
1-OM Madeline Maldonado
1-OM Phil Waite
1-OM Daniel Yoder
1-OM Pamela Yoder
2-LM Talashia Keim Yoder
5-CE Becky Horst
7-F Scott Litwiller
8-D Vivian Kaser
8-D Tim Lichty
8-D Higinio Luna

Community Christian Fellowship Ministries
1-OM Sam Wilson
6-E James Bell
6-E Jackey Wilson

East Goshen Mennonite Church
1-OM Merle Hostetler
1-OM Cal Kaufman
1-OM Naomi Yoder
5-CE Tim Yoder
7-F Millard Graber
8-D Susan Hanna
8-D Gary Miller

Emmanuel Living Christian Church
1-OM Jeremiah Chuiha

Fairhaven Mennonite Church
4-CC Rachel Yoder
7-F Duane Yoder
8-D Christine Bailey

Family Worship Center at the Lighthouse
1-OM James Hochstetler
5-CE Jeremy McLaughlin

Fellowship of Hope Mennonite Church
1-OM Suella Lehman Gerber
6-E Wendell Wiebe-Powell
7-F Verlin Miller

First Mennonite Church, Indianapolis
1-OM Bob Smith
1-OM Mag Richer Smith
4-CC Ralph Stutzman
7-F Jean Boyce
7-F Kevin Schloneger
8-D Zenebe Abebe
8-D Todd Grotenhuis
8-D Marj Rush Hovde

Good News Community Chapel
4-CC Jan Esch
7-F Helen Bezzeg
8-D David Esch

Grace Chapel
2-LM James H Nelson
4-CC Renna Harness
7-F Glen Jackson

Grand Marais Mennonite Church
1-OM Phil Bontrager
4-CC Carol Tester
7-F Jay Aeschliman

Holdeman Mennonite Church
1-OM Randy Detweiler
1-OM BJ Leichty
5-CE Steve Ramer
7-F Lee Leatherman
8-D Vernard Guengerich

Hopewell Mennonite Church
1-OM Joel Short
5-CE Marty Gaff

Hudson Lake Mennonite Church
1-OM Barbara Devereaux
1-OM Esther Lanting
4-CC Barbara Funnell
6-E Les Gnagey
7-F Heidi King
8-D Gary Heminger

Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship
2-LM Grant Miller
4-CC CarolSue Borkholder

Kern Road Mennonite Church
1-OM David Sutter
1-OM Janice Yordy Sutter
2-LM Jennifer Helmuth Shenk
4-CC Andrew Tucker
7-F James Halteman
8-D Barbara Devereaux

Liberty Christian Fellowship
8-D Don Stoll

Maple River Mennonite Church
5-CE Heidi Burkhart
7-F Janet Trowbridge
8-D Arnold Burkhart
8-D Stan Kauffman
8-D Jacob Snider

Mara Christian Church of America, Indpls
1-OM Ang Rem
2-LM David Ngole Tha
8-D Eric Lian
8-D William Maung

Mennonite Fellowship of Bloomington
5-CE Virgil Sauder
7-F Sue Ramseyer
8-D John Sauder

Morning Star Church
1-OM Gladys Maina
1-OM Simon Mungai
8-D Tom Hines

New Foundation Utd in Christ Menn Flsp
1-OM Shawn Lange
1-OM Tyrone Taylor
2-LM Leandrea Lange
2-LM Tantra Taylor

New Hope Community Church of Midland
1-OM Harold (Denny) Heath
5-CE Lewis Davis
6-E Larry Yoder
7-F Cathy Carpenter

7-F	Fay Vancise

Ninth Street Community Church

4-CC	Raymond Jones

North Goshen Mennonite Church

1-OM	Izaete Nafziger
1-OM	Steve Slagel
7-F	Tim Nafziger

Parkview Mennonite Church

1-OM	Mark Stahl
4-CC	Tillie Graber
5-CE	Mary Jo Van Sickel
7-F	Sylvia Bontrager
8-D	Grace Whitehead

Peace Community Mennonite Church

7-F	Bonita Eileen Childs
8-D	Theodore Myles

Prairie Street Mennonite Church

1-OM	Cyneatha Millsaps
2-LM	Quinn Brenneke
7-F	Joshua Kinder
8-D	Alan Longenecker

Shalom Mennonite Church

1-OM	Brian Bither
4-CC	Jeanne Smucker
7-F	Robert Love
8-D	Zenebe Abebe

Sunnyside Mennonite Church

1-OM	Amy Kratzer
1-OM	Charles Geiser
1-OM	Terri Geiser
4-CC	Sandra Yoder
5-CE	Peter Graber
7-F	Kerri Fisher

Talcum Mennonite Church

5-CE	Larry Ritchie
7-F	Michael Slagell

Walnut Hill Mennonite Church

1-OM	Ben Bouwman
1-OM	Jane Miller
5-CE	Eveyln zumFelde
7-F	Janice Eigsti Miller
7-F	Arloa Bontrager
8-D	Shin Yee Tan

Waterford Mennonite Church

1-OM	Neil Amstutz
1-OM	Katie Misz
1-OM	Terry Zehr
1-OM	Cindy Voth
6-E	Cynthia Bontrager
6-E	Jason Herrmann
8-D	Gary Chupp
8-D	Joy Yoder
8-D	John Kaufman

Wattles Park Faith Fellowship

1-OM	Tom Schwartz
4-CC	Harold Vogt
6-E	Eldon Christophel

Wawasee Lakeside Chapel

1-OM	Brad Cox
1-OM	Harlan Steffen
5-CE	Linda Stuckman
7-F	Carrie Haney

Wildwood Mennonite Church

4-CC	Jonathan Miller
4-CC	Leighton Miller
5-CE	Ken Hollinger
7-F	Suetta Hollinger
8-D	Janice Wagner

Congregational Coaches

Phil Bontrager serves Wildwood, attends Grand Marais
Ruben Chupp serves Hudson Lake; attends Sunnyside
Ron Guengerich serves College & Waterford; attends Eighth Street
Russel Jensen serves Parkview; attends Maplewood
Ron Kennel serves Benton; attends College
Keith Kinglsey serves New Foundation United in Christ; attends Fellowship of Hope
Tim Lichti serves Holdeman; attends College
Janice Yordy Sutter serves Walnut Hill; attends Kern Road
Leonard Wiebe serves Bonneyville & Kern Road; attends Eighth Street

Search Guides

*denotes those who were active during 2019-2020 season

Ruben Chupp; attends Sunnyside
***Will and Bess Fitzgerald** served Cedar Grove & Maple River; attended Kalamazoo
***Suella Gerber** served Waterford and North Goshen; attends Fellowship of Hope
***Rebecca Horst** served Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship and Walnut Hill; attends College
***Frank Kandel** served Fairhaven; attends Shalom
***Richard Kauffman** served Prairie Street; attends College
***John Kaufman** served Kalamazoo; attends Waterford
***Bob Schloneger** served First (Indy) and Shalom, attends North Goshen
***Eldon Stoltzfus** served Belmont; attends Waterford
Mike Zehr; attends Belmont

Conference Personnel — 2019-2020

Missional Leadership Team

Randy Detweiler, Holdeman (17/2018-20 affm)
Bess Fitzgerald, Kalamazoo (19-2019-21 affm)
Brenda Meyer, moderator-elect, Benton (19/2019-21 affm)
Bob Yoder, moderator, College (14/2017-21 affm)
Duane Yoder, treasurer, Fairhaven (19/2019-21 affm)
Naomi Yoder, East Goshen (19/2019-21 affm)

Conference Staff

Dan Miller, conference pastor, Walnut Hill (09/2018-21)
Sharon Yoder, conference pastor for leadership transitions (19/2019-)
Anna Board, administrative coordinator, IMMC (18/2018-)
Jim Norton, bookkeeper, Walnut Hill (2015-)

Commissions and Committees

Leadership Enhancement Team (LET)

Ben Bouwman, Walnut Hill (17/2017-20 appt)
Christine Kauffman, East Goshen (19/2019-21 appt)
Kent Miller, First Middlebury (16/2019-2021 affm)
Dave Sutter, Kern Road (18/2018-2021 affm)
Andrea Grotenhuis, First Mennonite (20/-July 2020 appt)

Ministry Credentialing Team (MCT)

Wilma Bailey, Shalom (17/2018-20 appt)
Ruben Chupp, Sunnyside (16/2019-21 affm)
Suella Gerber, Fellowship of Hope (19/2019-22 appt)
Angy Moore, Kern Road (13/2019-21 affm)
Phil Waite, College, (19/2019-22 affm)

Stewardship Team

Cindy Steiner, chair, East Goshen (12/2018-20 affm)
Rose Shetler, Waterford (14/2018-20 affm)
Verlin Miller, Fellowship of Hope (12/2018-20 affm)
Duane Yoder, Fairhaven (19/2019-22 appt)

Gifts Development Team

Addie Leaman, (17/2018-2020 affm)
Bruce Nofziger, chair, Benton (14/2018-20 affm)
Janice Wagner, Wildwood (17/2018-20 affm)

Personnel Committee

Marge Schrag, Menn Fellowship of Bloomington (13/2016-19 appt)
Steve Hochstetler-Shirk, East Goshen (17/2018-20 appt)
Rachel Stoltzfus, Waterford (18/2018-2021 appt)

MCC Great Lakes Rep

George Thompson, Waterford (19/2019-22 appt)

Geographic Locations of Congregations

Regions and area councils

Northern (15 congregations)

Upper Peninsula
Cedar Grove
Grand Marais
Wildwood

Northern MI
Maple River
Grace Chapel
New Hope Community Church of Midland
Ninth Street

East Central MI
Bethel

Southeast MI
Ann Arbor
Community Christian
Good News
Liberty Christian Fellowship
Peace

Southwest MI
Kalamazoo
Wattles Park

Michiana (26 congregations)

Swanee Lake (Plus)
Holdeman
Hopewell
Hudson Lake
Kern Road

Elkhart
Belmont
Belmont Neighborhood
Bonneyville
Church Without Walls
Fellowship of Hope
New Foundation United in Christ Fellowship
Prairie Street
Sunnyside
*Dawning of a New Day

Goshen
Benton
Berkey Avenue
College
East Goshen
Family Worship Center
North Goshen
Walnut Hill
Waterford

None
Wawasee Lakeside

Southern (11 congregations)

Camfell
Menn Flsp of Bloomington
Emmanuel Living Christian
First, Indianapolis
Mara Christian Church
Morning Star
Parkview
Shalom

Kentucky
Talcum

Fort Wayne
Fairhaven

Missional Seeds Giving Club Members

as of May, 2020

Patricia Brubacher
Kelly Carson
Karl and Wilma Cender
Sherrill & Melvin Glick
Alvin and Dolores Graber
James & Jane Halteman
Virgil & Ruth Hershberger
Robert and Rachael Hochstedler
Frank and Linda Kandel
J. Stanley Kauffman
Eleanor Kreider
Doug and Joy Landis
Dean and Bek Linsenmeyer
Rod and Martha Yoder Maust
Dan & Nadine Miller
D Richard Miller
Laverne Nafziger
Kent Miller
Esther Shaum
Wilbert and Juanita Shenk
Jacob Snider
Daniel & Cindy Steiner
Lowell & Charlene Stoltzfus
Vic and Marie Stoltzfus
Johanna Sutter
David and Janice Sutter
George & Karen Thompson
Juan O Vega
Jane Yoder
Orv and LaJane Yoder
Roberta Yoder
Ora & Grace, c/o Janet Ellen Yoder- Yoder Endowment

Chapter 2 Items for Discussion and/or Action

Annual Sessions 2019 Minutes and Proceedings

IMMC Annual Sessions
Amigo Centre, Sturgis, Michigan
Thursday, June 13, 2019—Saturday, June 15, 2019
"Practicing our Hope"
Recorder: Dan Haarer

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 2:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Opening Worship Service

1. Randy Detweiler, Missional Leadership Team (MLT) member, served as worship leader for this session. Music was led throughout the Annual Sessions (AS) by a team of Josh Tyson from Waterford as song leader; Katie Misz, Waterford, pianist; and Dave Kempf, Silverwood, instrumentalist. Songs were sung from the Hymnal Worship Book (HWB), Sing the Journey (SJ), and the new Voices Together (VT song sheet copies). Elements of this session included:
   - Singing "Praise, I will praise you, Lord" (HWB #76).
   - Randy welcomed all to the AS and Matt Ropp, Amigo Director, welcomed all to Amigo Centre which has a mission to facilitate the ministry of the church. Mandy Yoder, Program Director, will also help with the facility details.
   - Randy indicated his role as MLT liaison with Amigo, formative for many, and one of the "thin places".
   - The Call to Worship was read (from the projected screen as in all sessions).
   - Singing included "Joyful, joyful we adore thee" (HWB #71), "We praise thee, O God" (HWB #99), "Let's sing unto the Lord" (HWB #55), and "Come as you are" (VT).
   - Randy introduced preacher Paula Killough, Moderator; read Romans 12:1-2, 11-12, and I Peter 3:15, the AS scripture texts used throughout; and led in prayer.
   - Paula's sermon is summarized in minute 2.
   - Singing "You are all we have" (SJ #29).
   - Shared a ritual of sharing our hope with each other, like that of passing the peace, "May the love of Christ be renewed in your heart".
   - Bill Miller, Locust Grove, and Amigo board member, who coordinated many of the Amigo logistics, made some announcements, as did he or Matt Ropp after each of the sessions.
   - Paula gave the benediction and this session closed with "Longing for light" (SJ #54).

2. Paula spoke on "The Mustard Seed Jesus". Paula referred to I Peter 3:15 about sharing our hope. An Acts 3 story told of Peter and John healing a disabled, unclean man, an incredible wonder. Sometimes we may expect the same kind of huge story, but more commonly we tend to get smaller, mustard seed steps. The smallest of seeds, a symbol of the Kingdom of God, the mustard grows into a highly invasive plant. Paula encouraged taking the next small step, Jesus next to us, praying the way forward, our super power. Our hope is the mystery of God. During these AS congregations from Michigan will share their stories of faithful living. I Peter writes a strategy of evangelism by sharing hope, starting with listening, as a video illustrated. Trusting in God brings opportunity to share what God has done. We are part of God's re-defined people. May God's reconciling love be with, among, and in us.

Worshipful Work, 4:00 p.m.

3. Singing "Come, thou fount" (HWB # 521) was followed by Paula giving a welcome and offering a prayer of blessing for the work of conference. Here we also practice our hope. Paula expressed thanks to Anna Board, conference office manager, for designing the AS logo and the great amount of work she did to prepare for these AS.

4. Story. Bess Fitzgerald, Kalamazoo, described their house church of 12 years that includes 18 persons. People have come and gone. They renew and remember hope. They worship and meet together in a home. Her husband Will preaches in addition to doing full time work, but expects to retire in a year and a half so they hope to be able to hire a pastor who can then lead the church to its next steps. They experience a lot of hope.

5. Table sharing. About 15 minutes were spent in introductions around the tables and sharing hopes: What hope do you bring with you? What hope are you looking for as we gather?

6. Paula lit the lamp at the head table. A video pictured church buildings and persons from each of the conference congregations. Applause was offered here and at many other spots during the various sessions. Paula announced the list of exhibitors and noted their work. Reference was made to the two delegate webinars where conference business and questions had been discussed rather than taking time in these sessions. Paula described the voting process of using the green cards ("I affirm"), yellow ("I affirm but with concern"), and red ("I do not affirm") cards on the tables.

7. Minutes. Paula referred to the Minutes and Proceedings of the June 14-16, 2018 Annual Sessions held at First Mennonite, Indianapolis, found on the website and pages 14-20 of the printed report book. These minutes were approved as printed by a very strong affirmative vote.

8. Conference staff and the MLT were introduced. Concern was shared for Wilma Cender, MLT member, who has been unable to participate recently due to serious health concerns. A time of silent prayer was offered for Wilma.

9. Gifts Discernment Team (GDT) report. Bruce Nofziger, chair, and Addie Leaman presented the Affirmation ballot, included in the delegate packet. Bruce asked delegates to make a change on the form, moving Duane Yoder's name from nomination to the Stewardship Team to being a nominee to the MLT as Treasurer. The Affirmation Form, as amended, is presented with recommendations by both GDT and MLT for adoption. The vote was taken by a Yes or No on each position separately. The Form also lists those previously affirmed or appointed by MLT to various positions. Delegates were also requested to complete the Gifts Inventory, included in the delegate packet, for GDT's future use. It was noted that on page 2 of the form the Amigo and Bethany boards are no longer conference owned and nominations for those two could be made directly to their respective boards. Prior to the vote, Addie led a prayer for the will of God in the process and for those who will serve in the various positions.

10. Stewardship Team (ST) report. Cindy Steiner, chair, included a variety of items in her report: George Thompson completed 9 years as Treasurer, so has termed out, the first to do so in the current structure, for which he was applauded. The new Case Statement for (IMMC) Support has been published, found in the delegate packets. Reports of each congregation's financial support during the past year has been given to their respective delegates. Missional Seeds pledges for 2018 stand at $13,230, up from $13,198 the previous year. The current year's financial report as of May 31 shows income of $227,499 and expenses of $207,448 with a net income of $20,051. A list of the 12 congregations that increased support over the previous year was projected on the screen. Cindy highlighted the financial support as equipping, resourcing, and training in support of the conference's mission. She called attention to the 2019-20 proposed Spending Plan, found on pages 27-28 of the delegate Report Book. The total projected income and expenditures are $248,900 and $248,040, respectively. These figures are projected at 10.9% and 7.7% less, respectively, than for the current year. Explanations for these drops included the loss of some congregations during the past year. The ST expresses many thanks to the conference for its support. The ballot for the Spending Plan was located on page 2 of the GDT Affirmation Form.

11. Leadership Enhancement Team (LET) recognition of pastors new to the conference. Ben Bouwman, interim chair, gave a welcome and blessing to these pastors: Mariah Martin, Bonneyville; Terri and Charlie Geiser, Sunnyside; and Mark Stahl, Parkview, all present, and David and Madeline Maldonado, College, and Barbara Devereaux, Kern Road, in absentia. Ben presented them with "Joy" stones and Ruth Haley Barton's *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership.* Bj Leichty led a prayer of blessing on these pastors and their ministries.

12. Report on Goldenrod. Peter Graber, volunteer, spoke of the financial problems experienced by Goldenrod which surfaced in January. It meant the program closed and staff were released. The board had many reports to file with the state.

Assets, except for the Middlebury property, were sold to ADEC so residents were able to stay in their surroundings. Funds were sufficient to pay debts. Now, the board needs to work on plans for use of the Middlebury property. A letter is expected to be sent to congregations in the next week.

13. Other recognitions. Paula recognized the persons who serve as Search Guides (for congregations' pastoral searches), Congregational Coaches, LET, MCT, GDT, ST, and MLT. These persons are named in the delegate Report Book and the Conference Directory. All have been serving the conference well.

Evening Worship, 7:00 p.m.

14. Dan Miller served as worship leader.
    - Singing "All Who are Thirsty" (VT) and "Take my life and let it be" (projected)
    - Dan led a Call to Worship
    - Singing "Vision: Healing and Hope" (VT) and "I will sing with you" (VT)
    - Reading the Conference Vision Statement (projected)
    - Singing "Crown him with many crowns" (HWB #116) and "Lord Jesus, you shall be my song" (SJ #14)
    - Dan read the conference Scriptures from *The Message,* and introduced speaker Glen Guyton, Executive director of MC USA.
    - See minute 15 for a summary of Glen's sermon.
    - Glen led a communion service, commenting that in this commemoration we re-live Christ's passion, it reminds us of victory over the grave, unites us, and re-directs us till once again we see God. During the serving of the emblems the delegate body sang "Eat this bread and drink this cup" and "Take my life and let it be".
    - The service concluded with all together praying The Lord's Prayer, Dan pronouncing a benediction, and singing "Jesus, help us live in peace" (SJ #52).

15. Glen Guyton's sermon, "With this Hope, I will,". Glen related to the I Peter 3:15 passage and asked, "What is the cost for our hope?" If faith is put to the test, how would it pan out? How do we account for our hope, faith, life? Glen cited the civil rights movement and the role of the black church in keeping hope alive in the midst of "strange fruit", blacks hanging from trees. The early Christians, Anabaptists, and persecuted Christians today practiced hope. As with the "I have a dream…" speech we can also have hope. Glen cited Romans 5:3-5 and pointed out that as long as there is hope we can keep on going. God still has something in store for us. Given Christian history there is no excuse for no hope. God will continue to sustain and we need to persevere. We have a story to tell. "Our hope is built on nothing less…" We need to trust that the Holy Spirit is blowing us in the right direction. Don't mess with God! Live into a hope that is undaunted. Be bold. Be brave. Be blessed. We are a different church now; we are no longer our grandfathers' church. Exercise the faith. Glen believes God still has a mission for the Mennonite Church. "With this hope, I will… ".

Friday, June 14, Worship Service, 8:30 a.m.

16. George Thompson served as worship leader. Elements of the service included:
    - Singing "What is this place" (HWB #1), "Brethren, we have met to worship" (HWB #8), and "I owe the Lord a morning song" (HWB #651)
    - Call to Worship Litany, emphasizing "Great is your name" and looking for hope and non-conformity
    - Singing "Over my head" (SJ #18) and "Let the whole creation cry" (HWB #51)
    - Praying a projected prayer that included the refrain "Renew the life of the earth", focusing on the God of creation who redeems and calls for discipleship.
    - Listening, a ritual of lighting candles: "warm us to the light…"
    - Singing a song of confession, "Open, Lord, my inward ear" (HWB #140)
    - Reading of Romans 12:1-2 and Matthew 5:13-16 and introduction of preacher Melinda Berry
    - See minute 17 for a summary of Melinda's sermon
    - Following the sermon, the ritual included creative activities, candles to be lit, and cards for how to do body prayer

- Singing “Fan the flame”, “God’s eye be within me”, and “God moves beyond our senses’ scope” (all projected)
- Melinda gave a benediction and the service concluded with “Touch the Earth Lightly” (VT)

17. Melinda spoke on “Jackets, Thermostats, and Compost: A Sermon on Non-conformity”. Beginning with a word association to non-conformity, Melinda referenced our history with plain coats and coverings. How do we get from non-conformity to hope? Using the visual of “circle way” Melinda talked of bringing together the three different archetypes included in her sermon title as a framework for her remarks. Non-conformity is a type of re-constructing. Romans 12:1-2 (The Message) gives words for non-conformity. In reflecting on our forebears, we see interactions with tradition and the passing on of changes as acts of grace. We turn compost in order to activate it. In non-conformity we tear up some of our established patterns; we need to re-construct for the benefit ourselves and other people. God’s vision for us is more than we can envision. Melinda referenced Doris Janzen Longacre, the Iona Community, and Martin Luther King, Jr., in dealing with non-conformity. Romans speaks of transforming by the renewing of our mind. King used the image of thermostats which change the temperature; Christians need to change and adjust the culture. What we wear matters. We need to find small compassion filled ways to gently be salt and light. King said that our society needs a lot of “creative, maladjusted” Christians. What are the small habits that will help us turn the compost, change the thermostat, and clothe ourselves with the Holy Spirit?

18. Seminars/outings, 10;00a.m. Five options included:
    - “Finding Joy in Leadership”—Karen Lehman (MHS)
    - “Giving and Receiving Feedback”—Rachel Miller Jacobs (AMBS)
    - “Preparing Your Congregation”—Kevin King (MDS)
    - “So that You may Discern: Keeping a Rule of Life”—Naomi Wenger and June Dreidger (Hermitage)
    - Amigo Outing

Worshipful Work, 11:15 a.m.

19. This session began with singing “How great thou art” and Paula lighting the lamp at the head table. Two congregational stories were told while the major time was given to a question-response time by delegates with Glen Guyton. See the following minutes.

20. Congregational story: Wildwood. Leighton Miller, congregational chair, reported that within their struggles and intolerance they are being together. He told of Steve who had grown up in the church, left, but following the death of Steve’s mother, Leighton, who had lost his father, invited Steve to their Easter breakfast last year. Steve came, people surrounded him, he stayed for church, there was some grieving together, he participated in the foot washing, and Steve has stayed. Wildwood is a place for people to belong.

21. Congregational story: New Hope Community Church of Midland, by Denny Heath, pastor. With some humor included, Denny described their congregation of 25-30 as family, with some people coming and going, including a series of deaths. They are blessed with musicians. God has provided. There has been money when bills came in. Last Sunday three people dedicated themselves to God. Denny, not raised Mennonite, has appreciated the congregation and conference community, and is dedicated to “(wild) sheep-gathering”.

22. Question (Q) and response (R) with Glen Guyton. Glen began with introducing Michael Danner, MC USA staff person, and inviting people to the Mennonite Convention in Kansas City, a moving forward in this new generation of the church and continuing the Journey Forward process.
    - Q: Can Glen identify places where the church is stuck?
    - R: In the image of Romans 12:2 we are too adjusted to our culture. He appreciates this more as one not born Mennonite, having left the military, and was re-baptized. Leadership is examining everything the church has picked up along the way. Also, as the denomination has become smaller it needs to cut some stuff off.

- Q: Regarding young adults not being part of the church as much anymore and things we used to do that don't work anymore.
- R: We need to move from institutional authority to relationship authority, not governed by rules, etc. We need to think multi-generationally and bring young people into decision-making, not oriented to decision-making by (only) 60-year-olds. Young people have different giving patterns, more oriented to allowing their gifts to be used.
- Q: What has been surprising?
- R: Not much anymore! We have high expectations of our leaders. Some people care deeply about this church. In general, people love their local congregation.
- Q: Regarding the often-separated evangelism and peace/justice emphases in the mainstream church and our approach.
- R: We have opportunities to meet needs in our local communities. Help heal wounds. Live as a historic peace church. We have what people need. The church has missed some opportunities. There are opportunities for the Mennonite Church to reach out with reconciliation. We could help other churches. In his own experience a Mennonite reached out to him, becoming a friend and influencing his direction.
- Q: Perception by some that MC USA doesn't stand for anything anymore.
- R: The MC USA stands for following Jesus, and standing for peace and reconciliation as a historic peace church. If someone says the denomination does not stand for anything it reflects on that person. Focus on what it means to follow Jesus in our own specific context; understand our own and our congregation's roles. Talk with people locally. We may need to articulate better. Recognize the emphases of the Journey Forward process: To follow Jesus, Witness to God's peace, and Experience transformation. Other denominations are sometimes amazed at what the Mennonite Church does. Live into our call!
- Q: Any attempts to update the Mennonite Confession of Faith?
- R: No interest himself in writing a new Confession. Instead he hopes we can focus on things like studying the Bible together and building on our Anabaptist history.
- Q: About choices and convictions of millennials.
- R: One example would be to work on creation care and how it relates to poverty and peoples' lives; contextualize. The denomination may be more limited to focus on the broad areas; instead congregations and members could focus locally.
- Q: About our vision on issues pertaining to LGBTQ concerns without it dominating.
- R: We need to clarify the different parts of the arguments. We can deal with institutional barriers like the Membership Guidelines; work for inclusion pastorally and relate to peace foci. Be able to deal with those who think differently. God's people is for everyone.

Paula concluded this session, commenting on Journey Forward, that it agrees with IMMC's *Renewing a Vision* (*RaV*), which actually came first, then read the *RaV's* Vision statement.

23. Seminars/Outings, 1:30 p.m. Five options included:
    - "Church Safety"—Ben Bouwman
    - "Generosity Doesn't Just Happen"—Steve Bustos (Everence)
    - "Singing for Creation"—Janeen Bertsche Johnson (AMBS)
    - "Spiritual Practices for Peacemakers"—Karla Minter
    - Amigo Outing

Worshipful Work, 3:00 p.m.

- This session began with singing "To God be the glory" (HWB #102) and "My life flows on" (HWB #580).
- Two congregational stories followed. See minutes 25 and 26.
- Bob Yoder, Moderator-elect, led this session. Bob emotionally read and commented on sections of the *RaV*, highlighting the *RaV* as guiding the work of MLT. Bob described a spiritual practice of breathing in and out, focusing on "Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." He has been able to practice this while commuting to work and during the sabbatical from the regional

gatherings. Bob invited congregations to engage in at least one of the six spiritual practices.

- Table Groups discussed and reported on "Table Wisdom Sheets" some of their experiences and learnings from the Delegate Regional Sabbatical, answering three questions: "What did your congregation do for the Regional Meeting Sabbatical? What special gleanings/learnings did you gain from the Sabbatical? What ideas do you have for future Regional Meeting Gatherings?" Some brief varied experiences were shared which LET will make note of.
- Sharon Yoder, conference pastor for leadership transitions, read the names of congregations that left IMMC in the past year: True Vine; Yellow Creek; First, Middlebury; North Leo; and Olive. Sharon noted there is additional information in the delegate packets. Sharon led a prayer for these congregations for the Holy Spirit to be upon them and to fill them with hope. She reminded the delegate body to continue to pray for them.
- Paula reported that the entire Gifts ballot was affirmed with 97-100% support for those affirmed. The proposed 2019-2020 Spending Plan received a 100% affirming vote.
- Dan Miller gave an update on the Tanzania Affinity Task Group discernment about how to respond to the Shirati Diocese invitation presented in the 2018 Annual sessions. He indicated there is still interaction with Bishop Katteti which includes working on communication matters. IMMC receives regular prayer requests. Bess Fitzgerald reported on a trip she and Will had taken to Tanzania, a "very different place" and a good experience. They found the Mennonite members there very peace driven. They feature a lifestyle of developing people. They also questioned why a congregation here would have only a small number of persons. They desire relationships with people here. Bess extended a challenge for persons or a congregation to represent the Task Group in furthering relationships with the Tanzanian church.
- Announcements included reminders to contribute to the Delegate Travel Pool, complete the Gifts Inventory sheets, and enter updates in the Conference Directory found in the lobby.

24. Congregational story. Pastor Sam and Lady Jackey Wilson, Community Christian Fellowship Ministries, Detroit, shared that they are refocusing their ministry more toward evangelism rather than just reintroducing believers to Jesus. Part of this has been painful, but also rewarding. Sam has served as a chaplain for the Police Department, participated in a memorial service for fallen officers, and became part of a "cease fire" calling for felons to put down their guns and try a different lifestyle. Some male inmates attended a church service where he again offered a different lifestyle and church members ministered to these men. Sam was briefly hospitalized recently which gave him a different kind of opportunity to minister. Jackey has her own role outside the congregation, ministering as a community worker with a court.

25. Congregational story. Heidi Burkhart and Jane Neill, Maple River, told how their small, rural, strong congregation has been blessed in many ways. They have walked with faith and trust in the Lord. In the last year they have gained a new member and new attendees. Their congregation loves their times of eating together, sharing activities with neighbors, and participating in community dinners. They have a monthly coffee fellowship, community garden, and community game day. They host a ladies' crafts group and a Vacation Bible School for neighborhood children even though they do not have children in their own congregation. They desire a pastor for their on-going ministry.

Celebration Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

26. Recognitions, following the Dinner. This opened with singing songs, from memory or projected: "When peace like a river", "My life is in you Lord", "Come, now is the time to worship", "The love of God", and "How great thou art". Various groups and their members were named in this segment, along with brief comments in some cases. Included were:
    - Persons instrumental to making these Sessions possible, like Bill Miller for local planning, Anna Board for office and

miscellaneous administrative matters, Josh Tyson for leading music, and Mandy Yoder for the Amigo office.

- Dan Miller, noting the conference as a community of congregations, a wonderful array of people, and the Teams that coordinate conference work such as MLT, and especially noting George Thompson terming out with nine years of service; LET, focusing on leadership growth; MCT, noting Kevin Yoder's completion of seven years, six as chair; GDT, a member short till last month; ST; and Personnel Committee. Each group received applause of thanks.
- Celebration of lives of pastors who had at one time served within IMMC and died in the past year: Gordon Dyck, Leroy Kennel, Bill Scott, Irvin C. Yoder, and Richard W. Yoder. Kent Miller for LET provided brief biographies of each, including dates of birth and death. Kent led a prayer in remembrance of these persons.
- Appreciation to East Goshen for provision of space for the IMMC office, and their hospitality and welcoming.
- Sharon Yoder recognized the training, functions, and work of the Search Guides and Congregational Coaches.
- Anna Board recognized the various volunteers who were not included in the above groups and their roles.
- Ben Bouwman for LET named and recognized pastors who completed and turned in their *Pastoral Framework for Growth* reports. He also announced the two core competencies in the *Framework* focus for the coming year: Missional Engagement, and Anabaptist/Mennonite story, theology, and convictions.
- Dave Suter, also for LET, noted the congregational leadership roles of those without formal credentials. He then offered a blessing for credentialed pastors, spiritual directors, and teachers in our church institutions, followed by a prayer for all our leaders and their ministry; for hope; and for perseverance.

Evening worship. Anna Board and Sharon Witmer Yoder served as worship leaders.

- The service began with singing "Come let us all unite to sing" (HWB #12); A Call to Worship; "I sing the mighty power of God" (HWB #46); and engaging in a responsive reading based on Psalm 40:1-11. The AS scriptures were read in Spanish.
- Journey graduation. Dan and Jewel Gingerich Longenecker (AMBS) described the program and introduced graduate Osee Tshiwape. Brent Eash served first as his mentor and Nina Lanctot completed the mentor role. Osee and Nina were presented some gifts in recognition of their work, Dan offered a prayer for Osee and Jewel recognized others in the program.
- Singing "10,000 reasons"
- Anna called for a period of silence, offered a prayer for Dan, and introduced him as the speaker. Dan has given ten years to IMMC and prior to that sixteen years in transitional ministry. Anna has also witnessed his heart. A summary of Dan's sermon is found in minute 29.
- Sharon Yoder led the sermon response by asking people to write down their hope on cards that they would place in front with the offering that was for the Leadership Training Grant Fund. She then led a prayer for offering ourselves in worship and through the hopes and offerings that were given.
- Worship concluded with "Lord, you have come to the lakeshore" (HWB #229), Sharon's benediction of "May the God of hope…", and "My hope is built on nothing less" (HWB #343).

27. Dan spoke on a theme of "Behaving into Something New". He began by expressing encouragement by what is happening among us, that we are following Jesus to the best of our understanding. He recognizes the tension of institutional loyalty, our skeleton, and the reign of God. We are on a challenging journey of letting go of the concerns of the institutions and growing our concern for God's reign. Dan reported that research shows that congregations engaging in spiritual practices experience more hope. We behave our way into a new way of thinking and can talk in a hope-filled way. The I Peter scripture admonishes to be prepared to explain our hope. Dan recalled experiences doing evangelism, some older methods which bore no discernible fruit,

contrasted with more mature ways of sharing one's life that helps change a person's culture. The AS scriptures and Paul's other writings articulate an incredible sense of hope. Paul intends to develop an apostolic relationship formed by hope and shaped by grace. The chemistry of mission has to do with behaving into something new. While Paul's theology of grace might not answer every question, he challenges to faithfully follow the Holy Spirit. In Jesus we have the best representation of God and the way of reconciliation. A small step in evangelism is to share our hope, while not imposing a conviction. A challenge is how to reflect on and respond to the huge changes around us, while following Jesus and expressing our hope. Our scriptures ask us to in our hearts sanctify Christ as Lord and behave ourselves into a new way of thinking.

Saturday, June 15, 2019

28. Seminars/outings. Five options were offered:
    - "How to Move from Crunching"… - Marlene Kroeker (Everence)
    - "Improving Accessibility"… - Kathy Nofziger (ADNet)
    - "Pathways of Encountering God" – Janeen Bertsche Johnson
    - "Theological Education Isn't Just for Pastors" – Veva Mumaw (EMS)
    - Amigo Outing

Worshipful Work

- The session began with singing "Come, we that love the Lord" (HWB #14). A congregational story followed. See minute 32. A planned second story did not materialize as the story-teller was unable to come.
- Passing of the lamp. Paula talked briefly about her working together with Bob Yoder, moderator-elect, on behalf of IMMC, then passed the lamp to Bob who led from this point on as the new moderator of IMMC. Randy Detweiler offered a prayer of thanks for Paula and Bob, for Bob and the wind of the Holy Spirit blowing into his leadership, and for the conference.
- By-laws revision. The proposed revisions were included in the Delegate report Book, pages 29-54. Action in last year's Session required changes. The Advisory Council was ended, Bethany Christian Schools and Amigo Centre moved from conference owned to associated organizations, other minor changes had evolved, grammar needed attention, and more flexibility was included in the proposed revisions that had been publicized to delegates prior to these Annual Sessions. A couple of clarification questions from delegates were answered. MLT had recommended that delegates accept the By-laws changes as amended and published, to become effective January 1, 2020. By a very strong "green card" affirmative vote the revised By-laws were declared accepted.
- *Renewing a Vision (RaV).* The conference has been living into the *RaV* and sharing stories. Questions, cautions, and hesitations have been raised about the Covenant in the *RaV* in the past two years. People have understood and approached the Covenant in different ways. The MLT decided the conference will take a time-out on the Covenant per se and focus on the rest of the *RaV*, which is also broader than the Variance Statement. The MLT, which is going through significant membership changes, will need to re-visit the Covenant issues. The *RaV* emphasizes relationships with each other. It was noted that Waterford has signed the Covenant, a good story in itself.

29. Congregational story: Bethel. Pastor Joe Pendleton told of the congregation's ninety-nine year history started by farmers moving from Illinois. Things are looking up more than down. It is currently a very comfortable group of people that God has caused to minister to members of the community. They see all of their life together as the work of God.

Final worship service.

- The service began with "I owe the Lord a morning song" (HWB #651, verse 1), "God is here among us" (HWB #16), and "Holy Spirit, come with power" (HWB #26). Bob Yoder, worship leader, called for a brief time of silence, led in prayer, and indicated this as a service of sending and practicing our hope.
- Video. Dan Miller introduced this IMMC video as one way of telling its story. Clips of various people and congregations talked of aspects of the *RaV*, engaging in spiritual practices, what

capital grants helped make possible, the work of the search guides, and the growth and diversity of the Journey program. We gather as a community of congregations to encourage, equip, covenant and commit together, and engage in the mission of the *RaV*. Once completed, the video, the responsibility of the Stewardship Team, will be placed on the conference website.

- After singing "Great is thy faithfulness" (HWB #327) and "Lord Jesus, you shall be my song" (SJ #14), Bob introduced preacher Naomi Yoder. He also read the Scriptures (NRSV) and led a prayer. See minute 34 for the sermon summary.
- Anointing ritual. After singing "Help us to help each other" (HWB #362), Bob commented on the meaning of anointing and various Biblical references to oil. In anointing we bring our whole selves engaging in a practice of hope. During the anointing, as people went forward, the body sang "All Who Are Thirsty" (VT). At the conclusion Bob offered a benediction and the service, as well as the Annual Sessions, closed with "The Lord lift you up" (SJ #73).

30. Naomi's theme concerned "Trusting in the God of Hope and Practicing Hopefully". She referred to use of "hopefully", an adverb pointing to its subject. The addressees of I Peter were suffering but also living in hope, called to be ready to give a defense for their hope. The early Christians, Anabaptists, and others around the world have all made a defense in the midst of life and death matters. We all face demands for justification, "do you really think it will make a difference?" We are going forth as co-laborers toward the reign of God, ultimately a kingdom of peace. Naomi used the example of East Goshen in committing to a solar panel array, seemingly a drop in the ocean of the enormity of environmental concerns. Yet, there is hope. Romans 12:1-2 speaks of being transformed in offering ourselves to God; God is present in this transformation; thus, the future looks good. We can rejoice even when the outcome of some human efforts may not look good, because of God. A model of peace work in Columbia planted seeds of hope in the midst of armed conflict and some transformation happened. We are invited into a way of hope and living in peace but we may need to give an accounting. Hope is not based on the odds; it is because God came. Trust in the God of hope…and practice hopefully.

Gifts Development Team Report 2019

Bruce Nofziger, Chair

No report at this time

FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Jim Gerber, Holdeman Mennonite Church (20/2020-2023 appointed)

- **Name**: Jim Gerber
- **Home Congregation**: Holdeman Mennonite Church, Wakarusa IN
- **Current Occupation**: Owner of a Screen Printing business called Business Adventures Inc.
- **Congregational/conference/churchwide experience:** I have been the Stewardship Commission Chairperson several times and was the Church Treasurer for several years. I have also held the Church Moderator position and am currently an Elder at Holdeman. I have been a delegate to IMMC conference many times.
- **Family**: Wife, Bonnie Gerber and grown daughter, Elizabeth Gerber
- **Interests/Hobbies**: I enjoy gardening and computer programming.
- **Share a few sentences about what being part of a larger, diverse Christian community has meant to you and your life with Jesus:** I feel that it is important to be involved in more than just your home congregation. This includes both broader Christian community and secular community. Our faith must be expressed in actions and not just belief. I feel closest to God when I am serving others.
- **What drew you to say yes to serve on the Stewardship Team?** I am familiar with finances and working with budgets, so I feel it is a good fit to be on the Stewardship Team. I am nearing retirement and feel I will now have the time to commit to this service.

Ron Ringenberg, Prairie Street Mennonite (20/2020-2022 appointed)

- (*Bio still in progress*)

REPRESENTATIVE TO CONSTITUENCY LEADERS COUNCIL

Ariana Perez Diener, Waterford Mennonite Church (19/2019-22 appointed)

- (*Bio still in progress*)

FOR AFFIRMATION BY THE IMMC DELEGATES

LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT TEAM

Ben Bouwman, Walnut Hill Mennonite Church (17/2020-2023, affirmed)

- **Name:** Ben Bouwman
- **Home Congregation:** Walnut Hill Mennonite Church
- **Current Occupation:** Pastor
- **Congregational/conference/churchwide experience:** Program Director at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center; Pastor at Walnut Hill; LET
- **Family:** My wife Yasi and I have two children, Eli (3 years) and Toby (3 months)
  Interests/Hobbies: Creation care, being active

- **Share a few sentences about what being part of a larger, diverse Christian community has meant to you and your life with Jesus**: It's difficult to respond to this since I'm not sure how "diverse" is being defined here...I'm glad that we have all sorts of diversity represented across our conference, but lament the ongoing barriers to meaningful connection in that diversity (conservative/liberal, white/people of color, wealthy/poor).
- **What drew you to say yes to serve on the Leadership Enhancement Team?** I was being asked and I felt I had time to spare...and I wanted to offer my gifts to the conference.

Andrea Grotenhuis, First Mennonite Church, Indianapolis (20/2020-2023 affirmed)

- (*Bio still in progress*)

GIFTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Addie Lehman, College Mennonite Church, (17/2020-2023)

- (*Bio still in progress*)

Bruce Nofziger, Benton Mennonite Church, (14/2020-2021)

- (*Bio still in progress*)

Janice Wagner, Wildwood Mennonite Church (17/2020-2023)

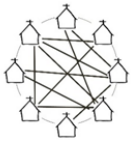
- (*Bio still in progress*)

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Angela Swartzendruber, North Goshen Mennonite Church (20/2020-2023 affirmed)

- **Name:** Angela Swartzendruber
- **Home Congregation:** North Goshen Mennonite Church
- **Current Occupation:** Accountant at Everence
- **Congregational/conference/churchwide experience:**
- **Family:** Kevin has an M Div from AMBS and serves as youth leader at NGMC and Calista-16 and Ana-13 attend Goshen Community Schools. Calista is very active in orchestra and Ana loves being with friends and playing basketball.
- **Interests/Hobbies:** I love trying out new recipes and learning Spanish through talking to people, reading, and listening to music.
- **Share a few sentences about what being part of a larger, diverse Christian community has meant to you and your life with Jesus:** NGMC is full of people of all ages and backgrounds who have devoted their lives to Jesus through serving and loving others. I am committed to sharing Jesus' teachings to the next generation of believers and look forward to seeing how they will lead the church in the future.
- **What drew you to say yes to serve on the Stewardship Team?** I have had the opportunity to serve on a couple of nonprofit boards, but I would really like to use my gifts for the church at large.

2019-2020 Spending Plan

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference 2020-2021 Spending Plan			
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference undergirds and connects congregations with others as we center our spiritual development in Jesus Christ. Committed, caring communities of faith are the bases from which Christ is proclaimed in word and deed. This is God's work, and it is exciting indeed!			
CARE OF PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS	Expenses related to the things conference does together that congregations cannot do alone: Congregational Coaches, Pastor/Congregation in Crisis, Pastoral Family Assistance Program	**1.3%**	
COMMUNICATIONS	Gospel Evangel printing and distribution Website development and maintenance	**2.1%**	
CONFERENCE INITIATIVES	Initiatives related to prioriities and new ventures: Intercultural Transformation Church planting Special reigonal projects Pastor Summit Youth Resources	**0.8%**	
CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAMS EXPENDITURES	Travel and miscellaneous expenses: Leadership Teams Retreat Missional Leadership Team Ministry Credentialing Team Leadership Enhancement Team Stewardship Team Gifts Development Team	**2.0%**	
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	Leadership Training Ministry Inquiry Program (college students) Seminary Student Assistance	**1.8%**	
MENNONITE CHURCH USA CONNECTIONS	Conference first fruits: A 10% tithe of congregational contributions to conference goes to support denominational work. Denominational Ministerial Database Mutual Aid-Corinthian Plan General Assembly Del. Travel	**13.3%**	Mennonite Church USA
OFFICE EXPENDITURES	Office Space cost sharing Utilities- Equipment maintenance Office Supplies and Equipment Liability Insurance	**7.7%**	
CONFERENCE STAFFING	Salaries, benefits and networking expenses for all staff: **Conference Pastor** provides leadership development, administration and vision. Oversees and participates with teams, maintains relationships with pastors and congregations, credentialing, and connects with MC USA. **CPLT** works with all aspects of leadership transitions and credentialing. **Administrative Coordinator** manages office responsibilities, event coordination, communication, writes for and edits Gospel Evangel, manages electronic media. **Bookkeeper** maintains financial records and transactions. Leadership consultant Sabbatical fund	**71.1%**	

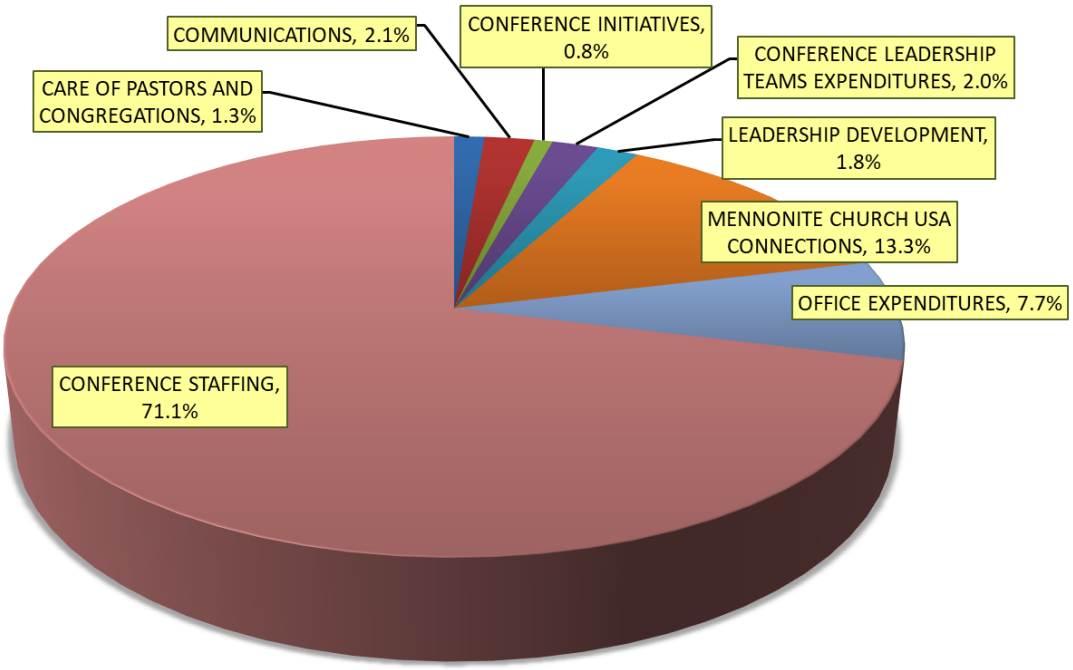
Proposed 2019-2020 Spending Plan
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference undergirds and connects congregations with others as we center our spiritual development in Jesus Christ. Committed, caring communities of faith are the bases from which Christ is proclaimed in word and deed. This is God's work, and it is exciting indeed!

	2019-2020 Spending Plan	Actual through 12/31	Proposed 2020-2021	$ Change from 2019-20	% Change
INCOME					
CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE	$ 223,000	$ 96,932	$ 210,000	$ (13,000)	-5.8%
INDIVIDUAL GIFTS AND OTHER EXPECTED INCOME	$ 25,900	$ 14,064	$ 28,750	$ 2,850	11.0%
TOTAL EXPECTED INCOME	$ 248,900	$ 110,996	$ 238,750	$ (10,150)	-4.1%
EXPENSE					
CARE OF PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS	$ 3,500	$ 1,849	$ 3,300	$ (200)	-5.7%
COMMUNICATIONS	$ 6,250	$ 3,174	$ 5,400	$ (850)	-13.6%
CONFERENCE INITIATIVES	$ 3,090	$ 656	$ 2,000	$ (1,090)	-35.3%
CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAMS EXPENDITURES	$ 6,000	$ 3,572	$ 5,000	$ (1,000)	-16.7%
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	$ 7,100	$ (836)	$ 4,500	$ (2,600)	-36.6%
MENNONITE CHURCH USA CONNECTIONS	$ 35,900	$ 14,416	$ 33,600	$ (2,300)	-6.4%
OFFICE EXPENDITURES	$ 21,800	$ 9,812	$ 19,500	$ (2,300)	-10.6%
CONFERENCE STAFFING	$ 176,364	$ 81,504	$ 179,972	$ 3,608	2.0%
TOTAL EXPECTED EXPENSE	$ 260,004	$ 114,148	$ 253,272	$ (6,732)	-2.6%
BALANCE	$ (11,104)	$ (3,152)	$ (14,522)		

In the spirit of the Listening and Redesign Report of 2007: "Because we live in a time of rapid change and because we heard such a strong call for improved relationships between congregations, **we believe that we need an organization that will emphasize relationship and that will be more flexible and less centralized."**

2020-2021 Spending Plan Allocations



Spending plan draft approved by Stewardship Team 1/8/2020

Approved to delegates by Missional Leadership Team 1/25/2020

Chapter 3 Missional Leadership Team and Staff

Missional Leadership Team Report 2019-2020

By Bob Yoder, moderator

The Missional Leadership Team met for their annual retreat in July 2019 at Amigo Centre. A key aspect was orienting the four MLT new members, who have enthusiastically engaged their responsibility with wisdom and care throughout the year. We also established the following goals for the year: leadership for the future, effective communication with congregations, congregation-to-congregation relationships, intercultural competency, and a several fiduciary tasks. A guiding document for the weekend and the whole year has been *Renewing a Vision*.

Some ways the MLT have worked at these goals, include: focused an All Teams Retreat on "leadership for the future" in light of *Renewing a Vision* with consultant Rick Stiffney and met with MC USA denominational minister Michael Danner for further discussion, took a team DiSC inventory, wrote monthly WeLink articles, helped facilitate regional delegate meetings via Zoom, discerned an upcoming action regarding covenant for delegates to consider, and worked with a consultant to develop ways to strengthen our conference's intercultural competency. A first step in our multi-year intercultural effort is for a pastor in each congregation to complete a demographic survey, followed by a 30-min follow-up conversation with an MLT member. We plan to share findings at Annual Sessions.

We have also read Work of Leaders together, hosted a Pastor's Summit, worked with Stewardship Team regarding budget and Gifts Discernment Team regarding volunteer positions, and begun to consider how COVID-19 realities will impact IMMC's future. Some ideas to strengthen congregation-to-congregation relationships we had planned to bring to delegates for 2020 Annual Sessions have been delayed in light of COVID-19, but we remain open to other ways the global pandemic may call us to walk with each other.

Finally, we have worked closely with our conference pastor, Dan Miller, as he leads the staff team in their excellent work and service. We are truly grateful and blessed by their ministry among us. One example includes how they quickly shifted their energies in light of COVID-19 to care for our pastors and congregations!!

Conference Pastor Staff Report 2019-2020

Conference Staff
Dan Miller, conference pastor

Since 2015 the "Three C's" have guided staff's overall work.

Celebrating. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, staff participated with a number of pastors in a Wednesday morning prayer time led by Ben Bouwman. We included prayers for the congregation featured in the Prayer Memo.

We celebrate:

- The focused and joyful work of pastors in IMMC. IMMC has great pastors!
- The Pastor Gathering at Amigo Centre in November.
- The in-person Southern Regional Meeting at Parkview Mennonite Church and the online Zoom Delegate meetings this Spring.
- Capable, caring and hardworking staff who have adapted to working from home and remain well.
- Congregations able to adapt to online worship and "sheltering in place" when the seriousness of the pandemic became clearer. Congregations found ways to move online and maintain aspects of their corporate identity.
- The volunteers giving of themselves for the health and well-being of conference, its pastors and member congregations.
- That financial support for IMMC continues.
- Two graduates of the Journey program: _____ and _____.

Connecting with pastors and congregations.
IMMC's *Renewing a Vision* highlights relationships between congregations. IMMC has identified the life of the conference is in the congregations. Relationships between congregations sometimes begin with relationships between pastors.

- Dan maintains regular contact with Indiana area councils – CAMFell, Elkhart, Goshen, and SwaNee Lake Plus – and with the Michigan Pastors and Leaders summit.
- *Gospel Evangel* tells stories of congregational transformation and conference activity in support of congregations.
- Congregational coaches are a face of conference to 14 congregations. Leadership Enhancement Team (LET) is revising the job description and looking to train more coaches in the next year. Congregations interested in finding a congregational coach are invited to contact Dan Miller or a member of LET.
- Weekly Pastor Zoom calls began mid-March as pastors and congregations began improvising.

Credentialing and leadership development.
Ministry Credentialing (MCT) and Leadership Enhancement (LET) teams jointly focus on these two areas of conference life.
Sharon Yoder as conference pastor for leadership transitions, worked with MCT to:

- Nurture a culture with expectation of growth and development for credentialed leaders.
- Interview and license 3 new pastors.
- Interview and ordain 2 pastors
- Inform all active credentialed leaders of the expectation they are expected to participate in Healthy Boundaries training every three years
- Sponsored Healthy Boundaries 101 training November 2019 as part of the Pastor Gathering.
- Clarify the job description for peer mentors of newly credentialed pastors.

Sharon also worked with 9 volunteer Search Guides

- Working with 11 search committees. (This year 9 pastors were identified and began serving in congregations.)
- Contacting references, and then potential applicants, about their availability for pastoral ministry positions.
- Connecting new pastors with peer mentors.

Four Michigan Summit participants and Dan Miller met monthly through the school year to discuss *The Oz Principle*, a leadership book.

Staff transitions

- This has been a relatively stable year regarding staff transitions.
- Staff "transitioned" to working mainly from home during "shelter in place" orders.

Publications

- *Gospel Evangel* continues telling congregational stories of transformation in mission and conference resources available to congregations. If you have a story about your congregation being changed in mission, contact the office.
- *weLink* is distributed monthly to delegates and other interested parties through email.
- Quarterly *Missional Seeds* letters inform donors of recent conference developments.
- Beginning mid-March the office began sending IMMC Weekly Update with announcements of Zoom gatherings and other resources to support pastors and congregations.

Event coordination

- The Missional Leadership Team retreat was July 26-27, 2019 at Amigo Centre.
- The All-teams Retreat was September 20-21 at College Mennonite Church. Rick Stiffney, as consultant, helped leadership teams make connections between Renewing a Vision and their work.
- The third Pastor Gathering, held November 11-13, 2019 at Amigo Centre, combined three events:
    - Healthy Boundaries training, sponsored by Ministry Credentialing Team.
    - Pastor Retreat, this year with Linda Thomas, sponsored by Leadership Enhancement Team.
    - Pastor Summit, sponsored by Missional Leadership Team.
- Annual Sessions 2020 will be online. Missional Leadership Team made that decision at their April 17 meeting. Goshen area churches are hosting.
- Annual Sessions 2021 will be at Amigo Centre, June 17-19. Planners have not yet been identified.

Office space

Anna brightened the conference room area with new wall coverings. Additional upgraded outlets made the space more tech-friendly.

Technology

- At Atlas IT's recommendation, three staff computers were replaced at the end of last fiscal year. The fourth computer and server should be replaced this year. Upgrades will be made this year, depending on the fiscal situation.

Chapter 4 Committees/Teams

Leadership Enhancement Team Report 2019-2020

By Dave Sutter, interim-chair

Members:
Ben Bouwman, Christine Kauffman, Kent Miller, Dave Sutter

Leadership Enhancement Team (LET) 2019-2020 Report for Annual Sessions

1. At the Leadership Teams retreat in September, we set 3 main goals. First, to give greater focus to our work with Congregational Coaches. This work began with a desire to better understand how the current Coach-congregation relationships are functioning. We sent a survey and received a handful of responses, but not as many as we were hoping. However, from these responses, we concluded that we wanted to put more effort into this program. We then worked to revise the Congregational Coach Ministry description, which is nearly complete as of early April. We plan on sharing it with current coaches and congregations as a natural way for

these parties to evaluate their current relationship. We also plan on finding ways to find and train more Congregational Coaches as well as place them with congregations.

2. The second goal was to better incorporate the core competencies in various events throughout the year. While we have already been incorporating the core competencies into the annual Pastor Retreat and are including it in the proposed Congregational Coach Ministry Description, we want to consider if there are other ways to highlight these competencies. We have not been able to spend as much time on this, but still expect to.

3. The third goal was to meet with the Ministry Credentialing Team to discuss shared agenda. While these meetings are encouraged on our job descriptions, it hadn't happened in a while. We held a joint meeting in November with tentative plans for an annual joint meeting to take place during the Leadership Teams retreat.

4. We continue to work with the Framework for Pastoral Growth and continue to see slight increases in participation. LET continues to provide small gifts to encourage and increase this participation. We also hold a Pastor Retreat each November. We continue to see participation and engagement among many pastors. As a Team, we also seek to find ways to introduce and welcome pastors that are new to the conference during Annual Sessions.

Ministry Credentialing Team Report 2018-2019

By Suella Gerber, chair

The persons currently serving on MCT are Wilma Baily, Ruben Chupp, Angy Moore, Phil Waite; Sharon Yoder and Dan Miller as IMMC staff; and Dan Haarer writes minutes.

It is our work as the Ministry Credentialing Team to nurture a culture of growth and development. To that end, we meet monthly, spending the majority of our time tending to four areas of conference leadership.

1. Healthy Boundaries training. All IMMC credentialed persons are required to participate in a training once every three years. This year we have sent additional communications, making sure all credentialed persons, including those serving as chaplains or in our institutions, are aware of this requirement. MCT offers one training each year, as well as makes available to credentialed persons the trainings offered in other conferences and institutions.

Looking ahead: We will send letters to congregational leadership so that they, too, are award of this requirement.

2. Mentors for new pastors. When someone is newly credentialed, MCT partners the new pastor with a seasoned pastor. The two meet for a minimum of two years.

Looking ahead: We are beginning the process of reviewing the mentoring relationship and revising the mentor covenant.

3. Granting credentials. Since July 2019, we have interviewed and credentialed five persons. All credentials are granted with an expectation for ongoing learning.
4. A pastor for every pastor. MCT has been talking about this as a practice for credentialed persons, but have not yet made any decisions.

Leadership Report of Credentialed Persons

June 1, 2019 – June 1, 2020

Ordained

June	02	’19	Katie Misz, Waterford, Goshen, IN
Oct	27	’19	Benjamin Bouwman, Walnut Hill MC, Goshen, IN

License Toward Ordination

Nov	10	‘19	Grant Miller, Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship, Kalamazoo, MI
March	01	’20	Quinn Brenneke, Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, IN

License Extension

Jan	28	’20	Jen Helmuth Shenk, Kern Road Mennonite, South Bend, IN (until Jan 27, 2020)
Apr	08	’20	Tantra Taylor, New Foudation Utd in Christ Menn. Flsp, Elkhart, IN (until Apr 7, 2022)

New Pastoral Leaders

Beginning Date				Installation Date		
Jul	1	’19	Jane Miller (interim), Walnut Hill Mennonite, Goshen, IN	Jul	14	‘19
Jul	7	’19	Gary Martin (transitional) North Main Mennonite, Nappanee, IN	Jul	14	‘19
Sept	1	’19	Kevin Yoder, Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship, Elkhart, IN	Sept	15	‘19
Sept	3	’19	Terry Zehr, Waterford Mennonite, Goshen, IN	Sept	22	‘19
Oct	27	’19	Grant Miller, Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship	Nov	10	’19
Jan	7	’20	Mag Richer Smith (interim), First Mennonite, Indianapolis IN	Jan	12	‘20
Jan	7	’20	Bob Richer Smith (interim), First Mennonite, Indianapolis IN	Jan	12	‘20
Mar	1	’20	Quinn Brenneke, Prairie Street, Elkhart, IN	Mar	1	‘20
Mar	1	’20	Cyneatha Millsap, Prairie Street, Elkhart, IN	Mar	1	‘20

Congregational Coach Assignments

Apr	19	’20	Ruben Chupp, Hudson Lake Mennonite Church, New Carlisle, IN

Credential Transfer

Nov	6	’19	Margaret Richer Smith *from* Central Plains Conference
Nov	6	’19	Robert Smith *from* Central Plains Conference
Feb	4	’19	Cyneatha Millsaps *from* Central District Conference
Apr	2	’20	David Boshart *from* Central Plains
Apr	2	’20	Shana Peachy Boshart *from* Central Plains.

Completion of Ministerial Assignment

May	31	’19	Velma Swartz, Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN
June	30	’19	Shannon Dycus, First Mennonite Church, Indianapolis, IN
Aug	18	’19	Randall Miller, North Main, Nappanee, IN (transitional)
Sept	30	’19	Frances Ringenberg, Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, IN
Oct	26	’19	Will Fitzgerald, Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship, Kalamazoo, MI
Dec	31	’19	Carolyn Hunt, Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, IN
Dec	31	’19	Gary Martin, First Mennonite Church, Indianapolis, IN (transitional)
Dec	31	’19	Steve Thompson, Prairie Street Mennonite Church, Elkhart, IN (transitional)

Credential Withdrawn Due to Congregation Leaving

Jan	01	’19	Mike Brudney, Lake Bethel Mennonite Church, Lagrange, IN

Deceased Pastors

Julianna (Julie) Bender, 72, passed away on February 13, 2020 from an 11-year month journey with cancer. She is survived by her husband Philip; a brother, Merle (Barbara) Bontrager of Goshen; a sister, Sharon Kennell of Plainfield, Indiana; and two nieces and three nephews. She and Phil served with the Mennonite Board of Missions to Ghana, West Africa, where they taught pastors of African Initiated Churches at the Good News Training Institute in Accra. They served congregations in Canada and from 2004-2013, they worked with the Mennonite Partners in China and Mennonite Church Canada during which time they taught English at universities in China. Julie and her husband served as interim pastors at Bonneyville Mennonite Church from 2017-2018.

Moses Andrew Beachy, 94, died on September 14, 2019. He is survived by his five children, Paul Beachy and John Beachy; Philip (Katrin Andreasson) Beachy; Barbara (Pete) Yoder and Robert Beachy; four grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren, two great-grandchildren and three stepgreat-grandchildren. Moses served as minister at East Goshen Mennonite and received his MDiv from AMBS in 1971. In 1968, he founded LaCasa, a church-and-philanthropy-supported social service agency based in Goshen, IN.

Wilma Cender, 58, of Valparaiso, IN passed away on June 29, 2019 after a four-year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband Karl, along with their children, Emily (Matt Burgess) and Eric; father, Ellis Ressler; siblings, Eileen Martin, Julie (Rex) Nussbaum, and John (Roberta) Ressler; in-laws, Milton and Ruth Cender; and nieces and nephews. Wilma served on the ministry team as pastor of Christian formation and pastoral care at the Valparaiso Mennonite Church. She also was a spiritual director and lead various retreats for women. She served on the Missional Leadership and was a member of the Michiana Spiritual Directors Network. She was a member at Valparaiso Mennonite Church and Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend.

Paul M. Gingerich, 90, died on April 30, 2020 at the age of 90. He is survived by five children and spouses: Larry P. (Sheila Kline) Gingrich; J. Robert (Joyce) Hooley-Gingrich; Jon "Jud" (Rita) Gingrich, Michael L. (Bonnie) Gingrich; and, Lynda (Brent) Troyer; a son-in-law, Tim (Candy) Cleary; a daughter-in-law, Pam Dintaman, two sisters, Mary E. Gingrich; Martha (Paul) Sangree and one brother, James (Joan) Gingrich; ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He and his wife, Ann, served as missionaries to Ethiopia from 1954-1969. He worked as Director of Church Relations at Goshen College and as President of the Mennonite Board of Missions in Elkhart, IN. Paul had been a member of Belmont Mennonite and College Mennonite Churches.

William D. Hooley, 80, passed away on December 7, 2019. He is survived by his wife Edith (Troyer) and children Joy Stutsman, John (Jenny) Hooley, and Sam Hooley, four grandchildren and his five siblings. He worked in church schools for 30 years, including Goshen College and Bethany Christian School. He earned degrees from Goshen College, University of Georgia and Western Michigan University. He was an ordained a minister of the Mennonite Church in 1963 and served three pastorates in Indiana and Michigan. He was active in the IN-MI Mennonite Conference and served three congregations as an overseer. He also wrote articles for church publications.

Rex Jones, 61, died on Monday, March 30, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Kristie and his children, William (Michelle) Kangas, Nicole (Ron) Jones-Milburn, Andrea (Jered) Jones-Tanner, Jamaar Jones and seven grand-children and one great-granddaughter. Rex was employed at Dow Chemical for 33 years. He loved teaching youth Sunday School classes and helping recreation coaching. Rex served as assistant pastor and then Head Pastor at Ninth Street Community Church, Saginaw, MI.

Willard M. Swartley, 83, passed away on November 6, 2019. He is survived by his wife Mary Lapp; his daughter, Louisa Renee Swartley Oyer (Gary Oyer); son, Kenton Eugene Swartley (Emily Hertzler Swartley); and six grandchildren. After he pastored for five years at the former Locust Grove Mennonite Church, Elkhart, he taught

at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia; Conrad Grebel College, Kitchener, Ontario and AMBS, Elkhart. In addition to teaching, Willard wrote many books and articles, and was frequently invited to speak at conventions, conferences and churches. Willard and his wife Mary were longtime members at Belmont Mennonite Church.

Stewardship Team Report 2019-2020

By Cindy Steiner, chair

The Stewardship Team (ST) meets monthly at the Conference office or by Zoom meeting. A limited financial review of the 2018-19 IN-MI Mennonite Conference (IMMC) fiscal year was completed on November 1, 2019. The financial records were found in order with a few follow-up suggestions.

Stewardship Team set the following goals for 2019-20:

1. Update the Capital Fund grant guidelines.
2. Review investments. Inform teams of funds available to them.
3. Visit 2-4 congregations to have conversations with financial decision makers to develop relationships and encourage support of IMMC.
4. Assist with developing materials for a Conference Sunday and encourage participation of congregations.

The Capital Fund provides matching grants to IMMC congregations for capital needs such as building, renovations, expansion or needed improvements. ST has updated the guidelines and application to widen the scope of eligible capital projects as the needs of our churches are changing. These include renewable energy projects, "safe space" compliance, and technology upgrades.

A task force was appointed to study IMMC investments, looking at fund managers, returns on investments, appropriate levels of risk, and best options to allow for periodic withdrawal of gains. ST is in the process of evaluating the report from the task force.

An attempt was made to gather several congregational financial decision makers together for conversation but a meeting date was unable to be arranged. Now with social distancing, this has not happened as anticipated.

An ST member provided assistance in creating the materials for "Conference Sunday." Packets were sent to IMMC churches with hopes that all would participate in February or at another suitable date. Many congregations participated and positive feedback was received.

Renewing a Vision invites us to participate in Conference affairs through prayer, participation and financial support. ST provides affiliation sheets that give a summary of your congregation's participation and financial support detail.

We are grateful for the ongoing generosity of each congregation, Missional Seeds Giving Club member and individual. Thank you for your support that enables us to grow together as a community of grace, joy and peace, sharing God's love in our world.

Chapter 5 Conference Institutions

Journey, A Missional Leadership Development Program

2019-2020 Report
By Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, Dean of Lifelong Learning at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Forty-seven people were involved in the Journey program during the 2019-2020 year, including nineteen participants and seventeen mentors in the North American program and twelve participants and one mentor in the newly launched Journey program in southeast Asia.

Two participants and two mentors are from Indiana-Michigan Conference, including: Merv Reist and mentor Harold Yoder; and Ellen Morey and mentor Eleanor Kreider. Conference Minister Dan Miller, along with other conference ministers, seminary staff, instructors, and two additional pastors also participated.

Participants gathered at Amigo Centre for the fall Weekend Learning Event with AMBS professor Dr. Safwat Marzouk leading sessions on Biblical interpretation. Eleanor Kreider led worship sessions throughout the weekend. Saturday afternoon, Jewel Gingerich Longenecker and David B. Miller led an orientation to the online learning platform, preparing participants to access the Journey curriculum. Cohort sessions followed, providing opportunities for participants to work on their personal timelines (led by Dan Miller), take personality inventories, and explore spiritual direction. Mentors and mentees also met together to work on and update their learning covenants.

Following the fall gathering, participants joined online classes. As part of these studies they also carried out a wide variety of ministry tasks in their congregations and communities. Throughout the session they met with their mentors, typically bi-weekly, to discuss the study materials and their experiences in various forms of ministry.

The winter Weekend Learning Event was held on the AMBS campus with a Friday evening visit to Menno-Hof in Shipshewana. The theme for the weekend was “Anabaptism: Foundations and Future--A Way of Being Church,” with AMBS professor Dr. Jamie Pitts. Mentees and mentors in their final year of the program, including Merv Reist and Harold Yoder, served as worship leaders for the weekend, stepping up as our regular worship leader, Eleanor Kreider, participated in an AMBS study tour to Egypt. Each mentee submitted a reflection paper focused on her/his learning from the previous study unit, and each mentor submitted reflections on the learning of her/his mentee. Following the winter Weekend Learning Event, participants again joined online classes and met bi-weekly in mentor-mentee pairs.

The Journey Board continues to play a vital role in keeping the program running. Many thanks to Nina Lanctot, board chair, Dan Miller, conference minister, and Cindy Voth, Indiana-Michigan Conference representative, for serving on the board. Nina completed four years of excellent service in February. We are excited to welcome Lois Kaufmann as the new board chair.

According to our Journey participants and alumni, Journey is a tremendous opportunity for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, and other emerging leaders. If someone you know wants to develop or deepen ministry gifts or is exploring a call to ministry, please encourage them to speak to Dan Miller about whether the Journey program might be the right next step.

Mennonite Men

2019-2020 Report

By Steve Thomas, U.S. Coordinator

Mennonite Men is the men's organization of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. Our mission: Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus. Our two programs, JoinHands and JoinMen, served this mission in several ways in the last year.

JoinHands: Grants for New Churches Thanks to generous contributions from individuals and congregations, Mennonite Men has granted over 2 million dollars through its JoinHands program to assist new congregations in acquiring their first church building. In 2019 we extended grants to three Mennonite churches.

$30,000 to Eden Life International Church in Kansas City, Missouri. This congregation in South Central Mennonite Conference serves four language communities: Amharic (Ethiopia), Anouk (Sudan, Ethiopia), English (second generation immigrants), and Swahili/French (Congo). $40,000 to Unity Church of God in Homestead, Florida (pictured to the left). This Haitian Mennonite congregation in Southeast Conference is active serving their community.

$40,000 to Centro de Alabanza in Philadelphia, PA (below). This Mennonite congregation in Franconia Conference has a rich diversity of members from Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, the United States and Venezuela. The church is active with Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (Anabaptist Biblical Institute) and engaged in several ministries in their neighborhood.

These racial-ethnic congregations represent a significant growth edge in our Mennonite church. We are grateful to share our resources with these churches and receive their witness of dynamic engagement in mission.

JoinMen: Resources and Retreats for Men What does Anabaptism have to teach us about healthy masculinity? Our new book, Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity, seeks to answer this question. Working with the Institute of Mennonite Studies, this project of Mennonite Men is by and for men, promoting an Anabaptist Christian perspective on masculinity.

Mennonite Men had the opportunity to lead retreats with men in Shirati, Tanzania (pictured to the left) and Cradock, South Africa (below).

These were rich interchanges, addressing traditional expressions of masculinity and their impacts and what it means to be men following Jesus and serving God's peace.