



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite
Conference

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Connecting the congregation of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

A WORD FROM MLT...

Gratitude. That is the word and feeling with which I was left following the September 18th and 19th Missional Leadership Team (MLT) meeting and All-Teams Retreat. During the All-Teams Retreat, the MLT gathered (via Zoom) with IMMC's leadership teams—Gifts Development Team (GDT), Leadership Enhancement Team (LET), Ministry Credentialing Team (MCT), and Stewardship Team (ST)—to share and listen about the work of conference over the past year and to vision and plan together for the future of IMMC. It is truly inspiring to spend time with people who are passionate about and invested in the church, our conference, and, most importantly, the Reign of God.

Here are just a few of the things for which I continue to hold deep gratitude following those gatherings:

The committed, honest, faithful leaders we have throughout our conference.

Dan Miller's leadership of IMMC through a time of transition, his desire to finish his term with energy and integrity, and his grace and intentionality in making space for the upcoming search process.

The trust, anticipation, and faith that are clear throughout conference leadership's approach to the approaching Conference Pastor transition.

The guidance and wisdom of Nekeisha Alayna Alexis as we continue to work at our goal of Intercultural Competence within the conference.

Team members' willingness to engage the goal of Intercultural Competence with honesty, vulnerability, humility, hope, and persistence.

A sense of commitment to keep growing together as a Christ-centered community of congregations.

In this time of uncertainty, fear, and division in our country, I am deeply grateful for reminders like the All-Teams Retreat that the people of God are called to join in common mission and vision, to challenge one another in love, to support one another with mercy, and to be "built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by God's Spirit" (Ephesians 2:22b).

By MLT member, Naomi Yoder

IMMC UPDATE

Celebrating

- **Election Day Communion**, an event for IMMC congregations, on November 3 at 7pm. This is an opportunity to affirm that our hope is in Jesus, even as we participate with others in national elections. Planning for this event is initiated by the CAMFell congregations, (Fort Wayne and south). More details coming soon!
* the September 11-13 [Journey](#) Weekend Learning Event, with Dan Schrock providing input on spiritual practices. IMMC has three people participating in Journey: Merv Reist (Kern Road), Ellen Morey (Prairie Street), Ursula Hess (Waterford). [Journey](#) is a 3-year missional leadership development program.
- 25 people participated in the fall All-Teams Retreat, September 18-19. The MLT shared data and observations from the demographic survey begun earlier this year, and asked leadership teams to consider how the work of intercultural competence impacts their IMMC work. MLT also shared initial process plans for seeking a new conference pastor.

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* the second installment of the webinar series with Nekiesha Alexis. There were approximately 100 participants the first evening and 140 participants on October 13. Two additional sessions are still to come.

* Preparations for the 2nd Annual Conference Sunday are underway. This year, Conference Sunday will be February 14, 2021. IMMC staff are preparing a few materials for interested congregations to use including video recording of a sermon and a children’s moment.

Connecting

* Missional Leadership Team (MLT) is connecting with IMMC staff and leaders to gather information to assist in the search for a new conference pastor. Dan Miller announced his resignation last month. He will continue through June 2021. MLT expects a search committee will be ready to receive applications at the beginning of the new year.

* Brenda Meyer, Naomi Yoder and Dan Miller are participating in a meeting of the Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) this Friday and Saturday. This gathering is taking place virtually. The CLC serves as a council of elders at the denominational level. It is made up of representatives from each of the 16 member conferences in Mennonite Church USA and meets twice a year.

* Dan Miller and Sharon Yoder participate in regular meetings of conference ministers in Mennonite Church USA. These meetings provide conversation about issues relevant to conference ministry work, and a chance to hear updates from one another.

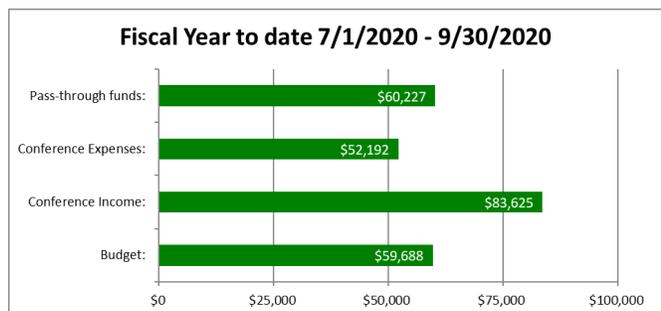
* Dan Miller met with pastors and leaders from Michigan on September 10. He also meets with Indiana pastors in area council meetings.

Credentialing and Leadership Development

* In September, Sharon Yoder had contact with 11 potential pastoral applicants through zoom, phone calls, and email. As a couple of congregations are waiting for applicants, we’re grateful for the recent increase in new contacts. Thank-you for joining in prayer for God to nudge potential applicants to be in touch!

* Several IMMC congregations have had pastoral ministry openings for more than two years. We invite you

FINANCIAL UPDATE



Contributions were much improved for September and while they were \$1,997 below expectations they were only \$88 below expenses. Year to date we are still \$31,433 ahead of spending due to the Payroll Protection Program money we received. –Jim Norton, IMMC.

UPDATES FROM BETHANY

We wanted to specifically connect with our alumni who would have had on-campus reunions this fall with an update about what's going on at BCS, as well as what we're looking forward to—which includes seeing even more alumni next year in a revised reunion format. While the health and safety of our on-campus community

remains a priority, so does the commitment to providing a faith-rooted and academically challenging education for our current families. So whether you're an alum, a current student or parent, or thinking about joining us—we hope you're staying safe and healthy. Enjoy this update from Head of School Tim Lehman about life at Bethany in 2020. View an update video here: <https://www.bethanycs.net/apps/news/article/1302067>

Local farm owned by Bethany alumni provides produce for cafeteria

Clay Bottom Farm new source of garden greens for farm-to-table lunches.

Bethany's farm-to-table cafeteria just added another local contributor to the variety of produce integrated into school lunches here at BCS. Clay Bottom Farm, owned by alumni Rachel Hershberger ('95) and Ben Hartman ('97) recently began providing salad greens to the BCS cafeteria.

Tara Swartzendruber-Landis, Food Services Director at Bethany, talks about why this is important for the cafeteria this school year especially. "With COVID-19 affecting how we are serving our food this fall, and no regular salad bar, I still wanted to be able to have great salad greens for students and faculty/staff to have each week as a part of their meals."

Working with the local, Bethany alumni-owned farm seemed like a good option. "I talked with Clay Bottom during the summer break and they were just getting ready to plant their fall greens. Starting in September, they have been supplying us with salad greens each week," said Tara.

This is just one more example of the ways Tara has been developing and cultivating the local network of food providers as well as assisting with an on-campus garden that also provides produce for the cafeteria.

"It feels important to connect students to how our food is produced and the people behind what we eat. Using food from places like Clay Bottom and our school garden gives us a way to teach students about food choice and food justice," she said. "Plus, local food is delicious!"

AMIGO CENTRE UPDATES

- Amigo Centre is taking **reservations for families**. If you're looking for a quiet relaxing weekend, come stay at the Retreat Center or West Shore Lodge. Both buildings have small designated suites to limit contact with people outside of your group. Meals and staff led activities are available. Groups need to be 10 or fewer. Call 269-651-2811 or email us at info@amigocentre.org
- **Amigo Park is open for one last weekend (closing Oct. 19)**. We are currently only open for campers with a self-contained bathroom in their camper. Give us a call at 269-651-2734 to enjoy one last outdoor adventure! Amigo Centre has had to change the way we operate. We're looking for **volunteers** to help as we plan and host guests this fall and into the winter. We are in need of people to help deep clean, paint, plant, fix, repair, mow and weed. We have two cottages that we are trying to update for guest retreats and could use help in all aspects of the project. Drywall, painting, roofing, basic plumbing, siding. If you're interested email matt@amigocentre.org.

Mark your calendars for next summer. Registration is open for **summer camp**. If you're 18 or older we have started our **summer staff recruiting**. Let us know if you're interested in working as a counselor or providing leadership to our programming. Contact colton@amigocentre.org for more information.

- **Amigo Programming Updates** Registration link: <https://www.ultracamp.com/clientlogin.aspx?idCamp=589&campCode=amc>
- **Scrapbooking, Crafting and Sewing Retreats** – we are working on separating the scrapbookers from the quilters – in order to accommodate the groups that would like to come to Amigo to retreat. If you are interested in setting up a retreat for your group of friends, please contact Amigo and let us know. We will be sending additional information out soon in relation to new date options available.

- **Women and Girls' Retreat –March 19-21, 2021.** Our theme is “Your Story Matters!” Our speaker, **Connie Gochenaur** is a storyteller and a blogger. She is passionate about the study of God's Word, and fascinated by how relevant it is to daily living. **Join us** for an enriching weekend as we explore God’s Story, our own, and discover how the two fit together. From the simplest memory to the most complex tale, your story is valuable. It is worthy of attention – and redemption. YOUR STORY MATTERS! Registration is now open and additional details may be found on Amigo’s web site: <https://www.amigocentre.org/women-and-girls-retreat.html>
- **SAVE THE DATE: Amigo Bike Michiana** scheduled for October 8-10, 2021. Our speaker will be Dr. Sibonokuhle Ncube, founding Executive Director/National Coordinator of the Brethren in Christ Compassionate and Development Services in Zimbabwe, currently studying at AMBS. In fall of 2018, Dr. Ncube was part of a Global South Voice Speaking Tour of the Great Lakes region, co-sponsored by MCC and the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions. **The project: Climate Mitigation in Zimbabwe.** Visit our web site for registration and additional information: amigocentre.org