



## Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

An area conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

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### Transition Team members:

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chair
- Dan Miller
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The Transition Team (TT) would like to thank all IN-MI Conference delegates who attended cluster meetings in February and March. In case you were not able to make it to your meeting, we want to fill you in on what happened. We also want to share with all of you the feedback we received from the delegates during our time together in each cluster.

A large portion of the cluster meetings was led by members of the TT. We gave people the opportunity to interact with Luke 10:1-12 by leading a time of "Dwelling in the Word." We also shared a suggested timeline for implementing the Listening and Redesign proposal, and had delegates share their feedback and questions. (You can find the timeline on the conference [website](#))

In order to best respond to the questions about the timeline, the TT will be submitting some answers and explanations in future mailings. We want to address concerns and hopefully bring clarity to any confusion, especially for new delegates who may not be familiar with the approved Listening and Redesign proposal.

Another significant part of the presentation by the TT was to receive feedback from the delegates regarding the new lead conference minister (LCM) position. We asked delegates three questions:

1. What qualities of character inspire you, and move you toward God?
2. What are the character traits needed by the lead conference minister to help nurture a missional imagination in every congregation?
3. What gifts/abilities should the lead conference minister have?

After all of the clusters met, the TT got together and reviewed what we heard delegates saying about the LCM position. We received feedback from the Executive Committee and from our consultant, Alan Roxburgh. As we listened to delegates and documented what table groups had written on post-it notes, we saw four significant traits that delegates desire in the LCM.

The first trait of the LCM that people desire is a **God-centered individual**. They want someone who understands the significance of listening and communication in their relationship with God and with others. This person should understand the importance of spiritual formation and recognize the basic Mennonite values. The language of servanthood and humility was common among delegates.

Another trait that people desire is a **visionary leader**, especially someone with a missional imagination. And yet, delegates want a visionary leader who is a **gifted communicator**, so that the vision for the conference is communicated clearly. Due to the rapid changes in technology, the ability to use technology well is important for many delegates.

Although our new structure focuses on grassroots efforts of the congregations, delegates seem to desire a leader who acts as an **inspiring coach/teacher**. They want someone who can encourage, motivate, inspire, educate, and empower others in the conference to be missional as they joyfully follow Jesus.

Once again, we thank you for your significant contributions in this time of transition, and we are excited for further conversation with the delegate body at Annual Sessions hosted by the LaGrange area congregations, June 19-21. We hope to see you there!

Sarah Rohrer, for the Transition Team