

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

Program Book for
Summer Fest 2026



Kern Road Mennonite Church

18211 Kern Rd, South Bend, IN 46614

June 12-13, 2026

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Schedule for Summer Fest 2026

Called to the Stream of God's Justice

June 12-13, 2026

Kern Road Mennonite Church, South Bend, IN

FRIDAY, June 12

- 5:30-6:30 Check-in (*Foyer*)
- 6:30-7:30 Opening Worship (*Sanctuary*)
- 8:00-9:00 Social Hour (*Fellowship Hall*)

SATURDAY, June 13

- 8:30-9:00 Check-in (*Foyer*)
- 9:00-12:30 Delegate Discernment (*Fellowship Hall*)
- Worship
 - Conference Business
- [10:45 am – Coffee Break]
- Learning and Resourcing
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 1:30-2:45 Workshops (*See page 4 in Program Book*)
- 3:00-4:00 Fun Fest Activities (*See page 4 in Program Book*)
- 4:15-5:30 Closing Worship (*Sanctuary*)

Color code:

Worship Services are in red

Social Opportunities are in orange

Learning Opportunities are in blue

Discerning in Community Sessions are in green

Workshops – 1:30-2:45 pm

Immigration and Church and Community Connection | Adriana Ortiz

Fellowship Hall

The session will cover immigration enforcement preparation while also highlighting practical ways for churches to build networks of solidarity. My goal is to provide actionable steps for congregations looking to support immigrant members and for those seeking to learn how they can better stand in partnership with neighboring churches.

Adriana Ortiz is Church and Community Outreach Coordinator at MCC Great Lakes. Drawing from her personal faith journey as an immigrant, her presentation will focus on equipping churches to effectively support all of God's people.

Jesus, the Kingdom, and Social Change | Andre Stoner and Dion Payne-Miller

Sanctuary

Can we be effective agents for change, or must we resign ourselves to being "faithful witnesses?" How can ordinary people of faith and conscience move from being victims, spectators or pundits to being architects of our community? Hear stories and learnings from the work of We Make Indiana and come ready for conversation and dialogue!

Andre Stoner is a lead organizer with We Make Indiana. He has over eight years of experience building a multi-racial and multi-faith social justice network in St. Joe County. He was pastor of outreach at Kern Road Mennonite Church for 17 years and worked for Mennonite Church USA as director of holistic witness and interchurch relations.

Dion Payne-Miller is South Bend organizer for We Make Indiana. In April he and a team of Black church leaders brought 250 people together to press the Mayor and City Council to hold negligent landlords accountable. Dion served on the Kern Road church board and calls himself a Mennocostal. He and his wife Tiana recently welcomed their first child into this world.

Renew Your Spirit | Twilla Epp-Stutzman

Chapel

In this summer season of growth, nurture and tend to your inner life through a time of contemplation. Together we will open ourselves to God through the practice of Lectio Divina (a prayerful listening of Scripture). Following the meditative practice, participants will be invited to enter a time of solitude and reflection in available spaces, inside or outside (weather permitting). Optional reflection questions will be provided.

No supplies are necessary, but participants are welcome to bring a journal or paper for the time of solitude and come prepared for time outdoors if that option appeals. (Chapel)

Twilla Epp-Stutzman is a credentialed minister in MC USA, an on-call chaplain at Goshen Hospital, a spiritual director at Pathways Retreat, and a parent. Her life and work are grounded in the beauty of the natural world and personal relationships. Twilla lives near Goshen with her family.

Fun Fest Activities – 3:00-4:00 pm

Hymn Sing (first 30 minutes of Fun Fest only)

Sanctuary

Join together to sing a variety of hymns from Voices Together, led by Joanne Gallardo and Barbara Slagel.

Lawn Games

West Lawn

Play some old favorites, like cornhole, and try some new challenges. Led by Jessica Weseman. (rain location: Chapel)

Comforter Knotting

Quilt Room

Bring joy and hope to people in crisis by knotting a comforter for MCC. Hosted by Joy Detweiler.

PrayGround

Foyer

Allow your creativity to flow with markers, crayons, and coloring pages inspired by our theme. Self-guided.

CONSENSUS IS A PROCESS...

Be heard

Listen to understand the others' points of view rather than to prepare your own response. Listen more than you speak.

1

2

Be fully present

Bring your whole self to community discernment. Focus on the process, from beginning to end, and the conversation in your group.

3

Assume best intentions

Is there something someone said that you want to understand better? Be inquisitive. Use curiosity instead of judgments/assumptions.

4

Build understanding

Even more than problem solving or absolute agreement, the goal of discussion is increase understanding between individuals.

5

Examine multiple perspectives

On rare occasions, consensus will be unanimous agreement. For the rest of the time, we will seek a consensus that acknowledges our different views and finds an agreeable future.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER..

Motion

...is the statement of an idea proposed for decision-making

- It can be presented by anyone: "I move that..."
- Or the leader may ask, "Is there a motion to..."

Second

...is a show of support for the motion to be considered

- Anyone can say, "I second the motion"
- Or the leader may ask, "Is there a second?"

Restate

The leader restates the motion so that everyone understands what is being considered

Discussion

Time is given for discussion of the motion

- In table groups with feedback shared with the gathered group

Vote

The leader states the motion then asks for delegates to vote

- The motion will pass if at least 1/2 of the votes are affirmative (in some cases, the MLT may request a higher affirmation percentage for a motion to pass)
- Voting may be done by a show of hands, a verbal affirmation, or ballot

Announce

The leader announces the result of the vote and any instructions

Chapter 1: Conference Program

Geographic Locations of Congregations

Northern (11 congregations)

Upper Peninsula

LightHouse Fellowship Church
Wildwood

Northern MI

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

Southern MI

Ann Arbor
Community Christian
Good News
Kalamazoo
Peace Community

Michiana (17 congregations)

Swanee Lake (Plus)

Hopewell
Hudson Lake
Kern Road

Goshen

Benton
Berkey Avenue
College
East Goshen
North Goshen
Walnut Hill
Waterford

Elkhart

Belmont
Belmont Neighborhood
Fellowship of Hope
New Foundation United in Christ Fellowship
Piedra Viva
Prairie Street
Sunnyside

Southern (8 congregations)

Camfell

Mennonite Fellowship of Bloomington
Emmanuel Living Christian
Fairhaven
First, Indianapolis
Mara Christian Church
Morning Star
Parkview
Shalom

Conference Personnel — 2025-26

Conference Board (formerly Missional Leadership Team)

Helmuth, Becky, moderator	North Goshen	23/2023-27	affm
Ramer, Derrick, moderator-elect	Benton	25/2025-28	affm
Franklin, Jeshua, secretary	Kern Road	24/2024-27	affm
Weaver, Jeffery, treasurer	College	25/2025-28	appt
Miller, David	East Goshen	25/2025-28	affm
Slagel, Steve, post-moderator	Maple River	20/2023-26	affm
Sommers, Meredith	Wildwood	24/2024-27	affm
Sosa Granados, Rolando Antonio	Piedra Viva	21/2024-27	affm

Conference Staff

Joanne Gallardo	conference co-minister	Kern Road	(2021-Present)
Sharon Yoder	conference co-minister	Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship	(2019-Present)
Andrea Dean	administrative coordinator	Prairie Street	(2025-Present)
Michelle Cabanaw	senior bookkeeper		(2022-Present)

Gifts Development Team (GDT)

Hostetler, Merle, co-chair	College (interim)	24/2024-27	appt
Srof, Brenda, co-chair	Kalamazoo	25/2025-28	affm
Hershberger, Anna Ruth	Prairie Street	25/2025-28	affm
Miller, Leighton	Sunnyside	25/2025-28	appt
Norton, Sharon	Walnut Hill	23/2023-26	affm

Leadership Enhancement Team (LET)

Slagel, Barbara, chair	Maple River	23/2023-26	affm
Ilonga, Micheline	First, Indy	24/2024-27	affm
Oury, Craig	Shalom	22/2025-28	affm
Sefu, Ndunge	First, Indy	24/2024-27	affm
Tan, Shin Yee	Walnut Hill	23/2023-26	affm

Ministry Credentialing Team (MCT)

Gerber, Suella, chair	Fellowship of Hope	19/2025-28	affm
Devereaux, Barbara	Kern Road	25/2025-28	affm
Janzen, David	Fellowship of Hope	25/2025-28	affm
Thomas, Linda	Walnut Hill	24/2024-27	affm
Waite, Phil	Willow Springs (transitional)	19/2024-27	affm

Personnel Resourcing Committee (PRC) (formerly Personnel Committee)

Nofziger Yeakey, Kathy, chair	North Goshen	21/2024-27	appt
Ramseyer, Sue	Bloomington	23/2023-26	affm
Hunsberger, Ray	Belmont	(20/2023-26 affm – ended 2025)	

Stewardship Team (ST)

Alvarez, Jim, chair		23/2023-26	affm
Byler, Janine	Kalamazoo	25/2025-28	affm
Hochstetler, Justin	Shalom	25/2025-28	affm
Kroeker, Marlene	Belmont	23/2023-26	affm
Weaver, Jeffery, board treasurer	College	25/2025-28	appt

Congregational Coaches

Ben Bouwman serves Benton.

Ruben Chupp serves Hudson Lake; attends Sunnyside.

Lois Johns Kaufmann serves Fellowship of Hope; attends Assembly.

Marty Lehman serves Waterford and East Goshen; attends College.

David Sutter serves Hopewell.

Janice Yordy Sutter serves Walnut Hill.

Phil Waite serves Kern Road.

Mary Lehman Yoder serves Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship; attends Assembly.

Search Guides

*denotes activity during 2025-26

Ruben Chupp, attends Sunnyside.

Suella Gerber, attends Fellowship of Hope.

* Becky Horst, serving Walnut Hill; attends College.

Frank Kandel, attends Shalom.

Richard Kauffman, attends College.

John Kaufman, attends Waterford.

Steve Slagel, transitional pastor.

Leadership Appointments to Other Boards

Journey Board

Joanne Gallardo, IMMC conference minister, Kern Road

MCC Great Lakes Representative

George Thompson, Waterford (19/2025-28 affm)

weGive Donors

weGive is an opportunity for individuals to share in IMMC's work of cultivating leadership growth and connections between congregations. Gifts are used directly in the overall ministry of the conference.

The following people made weGive donations between June 1st, 2025 and May 31st, 2026:

Anonymous	Eleanor Kreider
Jaime Alvarez	D Richard Miller
Kenneth Blount	Kent Miller
Phil and Carolyn Bontrager	Daniel and Evelyn Nafziger
CarolSue Borkholder	Laverne Nafziger
Steve and Victoria Brenneman	Bruce Nofziger
Karl Cender	Kathleen Nofziger and Michael Yeakey
Andrea Baker Dean	Lee Pfahler
Joy and Randy Detweiler	Faith Ramseyer
Rick Eigsti	W Mark and Janet Rosenbury
Jeshua Franklin	Dale and Karen Shenk
Joanne Gallardo	Steve and Barbara Slagel
John T and Suella Lehman Gerber	Marisa Smucker
Elizabeth Gingrich	Jacob Snider
Alvin and Dolores Graber	Meredith Sommers
Becky Helmuth	Rolando Sosa Granados
Mervin Helmuth	Cindy and Dan Steiner
Marcella Hershberger	Vic and Marie Stoltzfus
Virgil Hershberger	Ralph Stutzman
Wilbur and Elizabeth Hershberger	David and Janice Sutter
Justin and Abri Hochstetler	Johanna Sutter
Kenneth D and Susan A Hochstetler	George and Karen Thompson
Rebecca Horst	Donald and Marceil Yoder
Frank and Linda Kandel	Orville and LaJane Yoder
Richard and Suzanne Kauffman	Roberta Yoder
Katelyn King	Sharon and Kevin Yoder
Marlene Kroeker and Mark Regier	

Chapter 2: Items for Discussion and/or Action

Summer Fest 2025 Minutes and Proceedings

Location: Waterford Mennonite Church (Goshen, IN)

Recorder: Randy Miller, Walnut Hill

Friday, June 13, 2025

Opening Worship

- Steph Wieand (Berkey Avenue) opened the service with words of welcome and a call to worship.
- Led by Tom Good (East Goshen), the congregation sang “Come, We That Love the Lord” (VT 31) and “Come Away from Rush and Hurry” (VT 9). Later in the service, songs included “My Love Colors Outside the Lines” (VT 582), “May You Be Rooted and Grounded in Love” (VT 396), and “Be a Sower” (VT 789).
- Steve Slagel led a roll call to recognize those present.
- Izaete Nafziger (North Goshen) shared a congregational story from North Goshen Mennonite Church.
- Quinn Brenneke (Prairie Street) preached on Crossing Borders, Seeing Jesus, using the text of Ephesians 2:13-22.
- Andrea Dean (administrative coordinator) introduced the evening’s fellowship time, and Steph Wiend closed the service with a blessing.

Social Hour

- Snacks and Conversations: Attendees mingled in informal fellowship.

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Morning Worship

- Ben Bouwman (Walnut Hill) opened the service with words of welcome, a call to worship, and prayer.
- Deron Bergstresser (Waterford) led the congregation in “God, Be the Love” (VT 43) and “You Are Salt for the Earth” (VT 297). Later songs included “What Does the Lord Require” (VT 207), “Beautiful Things” (VT 551), and “Light Dawns on a Weary World” (VT 205).
- Joy Detweiler (Prairie Street) shared the history of the Great Lakes Quilt, pieced by Wanda Bouwman from quilt squares prepared by member congregations of four conferences in 2004.

- Scripture texts were Deuteronomy 24:17–22 and Micah 6:6–8.
- Cindy Voth, Katie Misz, and J.E. Misz (Waterford) shared reflections and poetry from their experiences on the MCC South Texas Borderlands Tour.
- Andrea Dean reviewed the morning schedule, and Ben Bouwman closed the service with a blessing.

Discerning in Community

1. Welcome and Orientation.

- a. Moderator Steve Slagel welcomed all delegates and attenders to a time of not only business but playfulness. Andrea Baker Dean (Administrative Coordinator) gave an overview of the program book. She noted the seminar choices, the Consensus process, and the Items for discussion and action. She thanked those who submitted reports (along with encouragement to actually read them).
- b. Steve introduced the Consensus process and how it works together with Robert’s Rules of Order. “Robert’s Rules is thick and we want to make it thinner.”

2. Words of Welcome from Conference Ministers.

- a. Joanne Gallardo gave words of welcome and gratitude for all in attendance. Sharon Yoder echoed her gratefulness and gave a shout out to Andrea, who came on at the busiest time of the year. She asked the Leadership Team members present to identify themselves.

3. Deceased Pastors.

- a. Sharon shared the names of former pastors who have died in the past year (that we know of): Ray Bair, Jim Gerber, Simon Gingerich, James Horsch, Noah Hochstetler, Ron Kennel, Calvin King, Lee Lowery, and John F Murray.

4. Congregational Update.

- a. Sharon introduced the Muanges, Pastor Simon and Mama Lucy, as they are known, who gave an update on their work with International Bethel Christian Church in Detroit (and internationally) and expressed their gratitude to the people of

God. Sharon offered a prayer of blessing with all arms extended toward them.

5. New Pastor Recognition.

- a. Kent Yoder, chair of Leadership Enhancement Team, named the pastors and leaders new to IMMC during the past year: Teresa Dutchersmith, Jonathan Landis, Peter Martin, Derrick Ramer, Ndunge Sefu, and Ursula Hess; and invited forward those who were present. Barb Slagel, LET member, presented each with a copy of the book *The Space Between Us*, by Betty Pries, and Kent offered a prayer of blessing.

6. Gifts Development Presentation and Vote.

- a. Merle Hostetler, member of Gifts Development Team, introduced the ballot of new leadership team members, identified GDT members, and described their task of matching interests and abilities with sense of call and availability.
- b. Steve invited prayers for the persons named and ballots were distributed.

7. Spending Plan Presentation & Vote.

- a. Jim Alvarez, Stewardship Team chair, introduced ST members and went over the proposed Spending Plan for 2025-26.
 - i. The process starts in late fall, recognizing that adjustments will need to be made.
 - ii. Jim described differences between restricted funds and unrestricted funds and showed the giving trends to Conference over the past five years and year to date.
 - iii. He introduced the 2025-26 Spending Plan, including increases in individual giving and the draw from endowed funds.
- b. Jim and Sharon answered questions about the change from 4% to 5% draws from investments; why some items were increased when last year they were unspent; the purpose of denominational accountability fees of \$5 per minister; why/how the expected increase in individual giving can be so high, and what kind of FTE is going into fundraising.
- c. Steve called for the vote by ballot and led a prayer.

8. Ballot Results

- a. After a short break, Steve announced the ballot results.
 - i. GDT ballots: 54 yes and one abstention
 - ii. Spending plan ballots: 53 yes, including seven comments and suggestions.

9. Approval of Minutes from Summer Fest 2024.

- a. Steve invited affirmation for the minutes from last year's Summer Fest. Marlene Kroeker asked why we bother with this and answered her own question.

10. Generative conversation.

- a. Joanne reviewed the Conference's focus on Growing our Intercultural Witness and invited table groups to respond to questions for discussion:
 - i. What season are you in? A season of rest or action? If so, what kind of action?
 - ii. Describe a time when you have loved beyond borders.
 - iii. How are you feeling about the current climate?
 - iv. How might the church respond to Jesus' call to be in solidarity with those on the margins?
- b. Opportunity was given for sharing with the whole group: Teresa Dutchersmith (Kern Road) affirmed the conversations at their table. Barbara Deveraux (Kern Road) shared that several members at Kern Road also attend services of other persuasions. Katie Misz (Waterford) affirmed the presence of young adults and the value of various ages.

11. Moderator Handoff.

- a. Steve offered reflections on the changes in Conference since he became a pastor in 1999, many that he is glad for: "Laughter has found its way back into what we do."
- b. He invited Becky Helmuth (moderator-elect) forward and gave her a copy of Walter Brueggeman's book *An Ongoing Imagination*. She thanked him for his thoughtful and ornery leadership and noted that "change looks like welcome, like repair," and received her new role as moderator with joy.

12. Discerning in Community session adjourned.

- a. Andrea made several announcements and Becky led a prayer before lunch.

Lunch

- Participants enjoyed lunch prepared by Waterford Mennonite Church.

Seminars

- *The Dream Lives On! Dorothy's Word* – In this seminar, Jacob Elias (formerly Parkview, currently Hively Avenue, Elkhart) featured articles by Dorothy Word (1938-2020), an African-American Mennonite woman who became a guest columnist for the Kokomo Tribune and wrote articles dealing with equity, inclusion, and justice issues.
- *Looking back, living forward: An African woman's recollections of 40 years of a Pietist, Evangelical, Wesleyan, Pentecostal and Anabaptist faith (1985–2025)* – In this reflective session, Sibonokuhle Ncube (Eighth Street, Goshen) shared about various influences on her identity as an ecowomanist who is following the way of Jesus as an obedient pacifist Christian.
- *Eco-Anabaptism at 499: The 'Gospel of All Creatures' and Climate Change* – In this seminar, Douglas Day Kaufman (Assembly) explored the teaching of early Anabaptist eco-mystic Hans Hut and how it can inform and encourage engagement on the ecological crises of our day.

Fun Fest Activities

- Hymn Sing, led by Joanne Gallardo and Barbara Slagel (Maple River)
- Wetlands Walk, led by Bill Minter (Waterford)

- Pickleball for Everyone, led by Katie Misz and Waterford youth
- Knotting MCC Comforters
- Jigsaw Puzzles for the Depot

Closing Worship

- Derrick Ramer (Benton) opened the service with words of welcome, a call to worship, and an opening prayer.
- Led by Ndunge Sefu (First Indy), the congregation sang "How Great Is Our God" (VT 116) and "The Love of God" (VT 162). Later songs included "Kombo na Yesu (The Name of Jesus)" (VT 648), "God Welcomes All / Amen" (VT 32), and "Sizohamba naye (We Will Walk with God)" (VT 815).
- Art Stoltzfus shared a congregational story from College Mennonite Church.
- Sharon Yoder preached on the Summer Fest theme, Love Has No Borders.
- Joanne Gallardo led a time of communion.
- Andrea Dean named gratitude for all worship participants throughout the weekend, and Derrick Ramer closed Summer Fest with a blessing and sending.

The gathering adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Membership Recommendation for International Bethel City Church

Process

International Bethel City Church (IBCC) is a multicultural church that started in 2004 in Portland, Oregon. They became a member congregation of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference where Simon was ordained in 2012. Simon and his wife, Lucy, and their family moved to the Northwest after living in Virginia for three years. Their move to the USA in 1999 from the Democratic Republic of Congo was rooted in a call to service in the USA. In 2021, again following God's call, they moved to Detroit to begin a church plant there. In Detroit, Sharon Yoder, Conference Minister, was in conversations with them, connecting them with MMN's SENT training program. IBCC worships each week at Gateway Church, where they have a warm and supporting relationship with the pastor and congregation, that includes regular times for the congregations to worship together.

Sharon has had regular conversations with Lucy and Simon. In 2023, Ministry Credentialing Team began planning a time to visit and worship with them and their congregation. Between time passing and health issues, that visit didn't happen until November 1, 2025. Sharon Yoder, Dave Janzen, and Suella Gerber were moved by Simon and Lucy's personal stories, the stories of God's calling and leading them, and their faithfulness to God's call.

Simon and Lucy attended IMMC's annual meetings (now SummerFest) in 2022, 2023, and 2025, where they've had a chance to tell some of their story and meet some of our conference's members and pastors.

Membership

The Muanges' ministry with International Bethel City Church began in the DRC. They have served in a number of African and North American settings, primarily with immigrant and refugee families, and some European and Americans. In Portland they met and found a theological home with Mennonites from the Pacific NW Conference.

Recommendation

The IMMC Board and Ministry Credentialing Team are delighted and honored to recommend International Bethel City Church as a member congregation of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

Appointed by the IMMC Board during 2025-26

Appointments are made to fill mid-year resignations or vacancies. According to IMMC's By-laws, the Board can appoint one to three members of a team as long as the chairperson and two team members have previously been affirmed by the Conference Assembly of Delegates (see Article 8, section 2; page 11).

CONFERENCE BOARD



Jeffery Weaver, treasurer (25/2025-28 appt)
Congregation: College
Occupation: Real Estate Financial Analyst, Lacasa

GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM



Leighton Miller (25/2025-28 appt)
Congregation: Sunnyside

For Affirmation by the IMMC Delegates

The following persons have been approached by the Gifts Development Team and have agreed to serve pending affirmation. Those listed to serve as part of the Gifts Development Team were approached by the Conference Board (per IMMC's By-laws).

Those indicated with an asterisk (*) require affirmation of an additional term.

PERSONNEL RESOURCING COMMITTEE

Sue Ramseyer, Mennonite Fellowship of Bloomington (23/2026-29 affm) * renewing for 2nd term

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Jim Alvarez, chair (23/2026-29 affm) * renewing for 2nd term

Marlene Kroeker, Belmont (23/2026-29 affm) * renewing for 2nd term

MC USA CONVENTION DELEGATES

Beka Youngberg, Benton, youth delegate (July 2027)

Proposed 2026-27 Spending Plan

Commentary on the Spending Plan from the Stewardship Team:

As you review data from July 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026, please note:

- **Investment Income**
 - Total actual income includes \$15,000 that was taken from investment funds in October to improve cash flow, due to income shortage in the past two years.
 - On April 30, actual income not including this withdrawal from investments was \$230,772, and actual expenses were \$237,505. Without the \$15,000 from investments, the balance as of April 30 would be a shortfall of \$6,733.
- **weGive Contributions**
 - We made concerted efforts to reach our goal of increasing donations from individuals (weGive) more than threefold, to \$58,000, in this budget year. While we didn't reach this goal, individual donations have more than doubled in the first 10 months of this year compared to the same time a year ago.
 - On April 30, total income from individual donations was \$26,569.
 - We celebrate 17 new donors during these 10 months.
 - **We are deeply grateful for the fundraising contacts made by volunteer Randy Miller** in the past 7 months and for his commitment to continue this work in the coming months.

Looking ahead to the 2026-27 Spending Plan:

- We are presenting a balanced spending plan, with income and expenses both projected to increase by 2%.
- **Expenses**
 - Total salaries, wages, and benefits increased by about 4%, following MC USA pastoral salary guidelines.
 - Adjustments were made in other areas of the spending plan to keep the overall increase in expenses to 2%.
- **Income**
 - Congregational giving has increased slightly in the past 15 months, causing us to project a 4% increase in congregational giving for 2026-27. **We invite congregations who are able, to increase their giving by 2 to 4%.**
 - **We invite ongoing financial partnership from individuals** as we continue to support pastors and leaders in our community of congregations. **You are invited to visit our [weGive page](#) to learn more about giving options and/or plan now to respond during our upcoming **weGive week, June 15-19.****
 - Your individual and congregational gifts help to sustain the work and ministry of IMMC! Thank you!

Proposed Spending Plan

Income and Expenses Summary

(IMMC's fiscal year is July 1 – June 30.)	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Spending Plan	Actual through 4/30/2025	Proposed 2026-27 Spending Plan	% Change
INCOME					
Congregational Support for Conference	\$196,611	\$200,000	\$161,799	\$207,000	+4%
Individual Gifts	\$16,132	\$58,000	\$26,568	\$58,000	0%
Other Expected Income	\$43,783	\$54,783	\$57,405	\$54,794	0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$256,526	\$312,783	\$245,772	\$316,793	+2%
EXPENSES					
Care of Pastors and Congregations	\$1,167	\$3,650	\$1,750	\$2,500	-32%
Communications <i>(No longer includes Gospel Evangel)</i>	\$2,300	\$3,900	\$325	\$1,000	-74%
Conference Initiatives	\$0	\$2,000	\$983	\$2,300	15%
Conference Leadership Teams Expenditures	\$578	\$3,400	\$1,509	\$2,550	-25%
Leadership Development	\$3,750	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500	0%
Mennonite Church USA Connections	\$34,105	\$39,050	\$30,507	\$39,410	+1%
Office Expenditures <i>(Now includes Gospel Evangel)</i>	\$17,381	\$21,750	\$14,054	\$24,050	+11%
Conference Staffing	\$207,052	\$235,226	\$188,377	\$244,384	+4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$266,333	\$312,476	\$237,505	\$319,694	+2%
BALANCE	\$(9,808)	\$307	\$8,268	\$99	

What do the Expense Categories Include?

Care of Pastors and Congregations

- Congregational Coach Expenses
- Pastor/Congregation Crisis Expenses
- EAP for Pastors and Families (WellSpan)

Communications

- Printing Other Publications
- Website & Digital Media

Conference Initiatives

- Intercultural Transformation
- Special Projects Fund

Conference Leadership Teams' Expenditures

- All-Teams Retreat
- Teams Meeting Expenses
- Teams Travel

Leadership Development

- Pastor Gathering
- Leadership Training Grants
- Ministry Inquiry

Mennonite Church USA Connections

- Denominational Database Fees
- Denominational Prevention & Accountability Fees
- Firstfruits to Mennonite Church USA
- General Assembly Travel
- Mutual Aid – Corinthian Plan

Office Expenditures

- Equipment, supplies, and maintenance
- Gospel Evangel *(Moved from Communications)*
- Postage
- Space Sharing/Utilities
- Taxes, Insurance, Fees
- Archive Storage
- Office Staff Team Building
- Fundraising
- Professional Fees

Conference Staffing

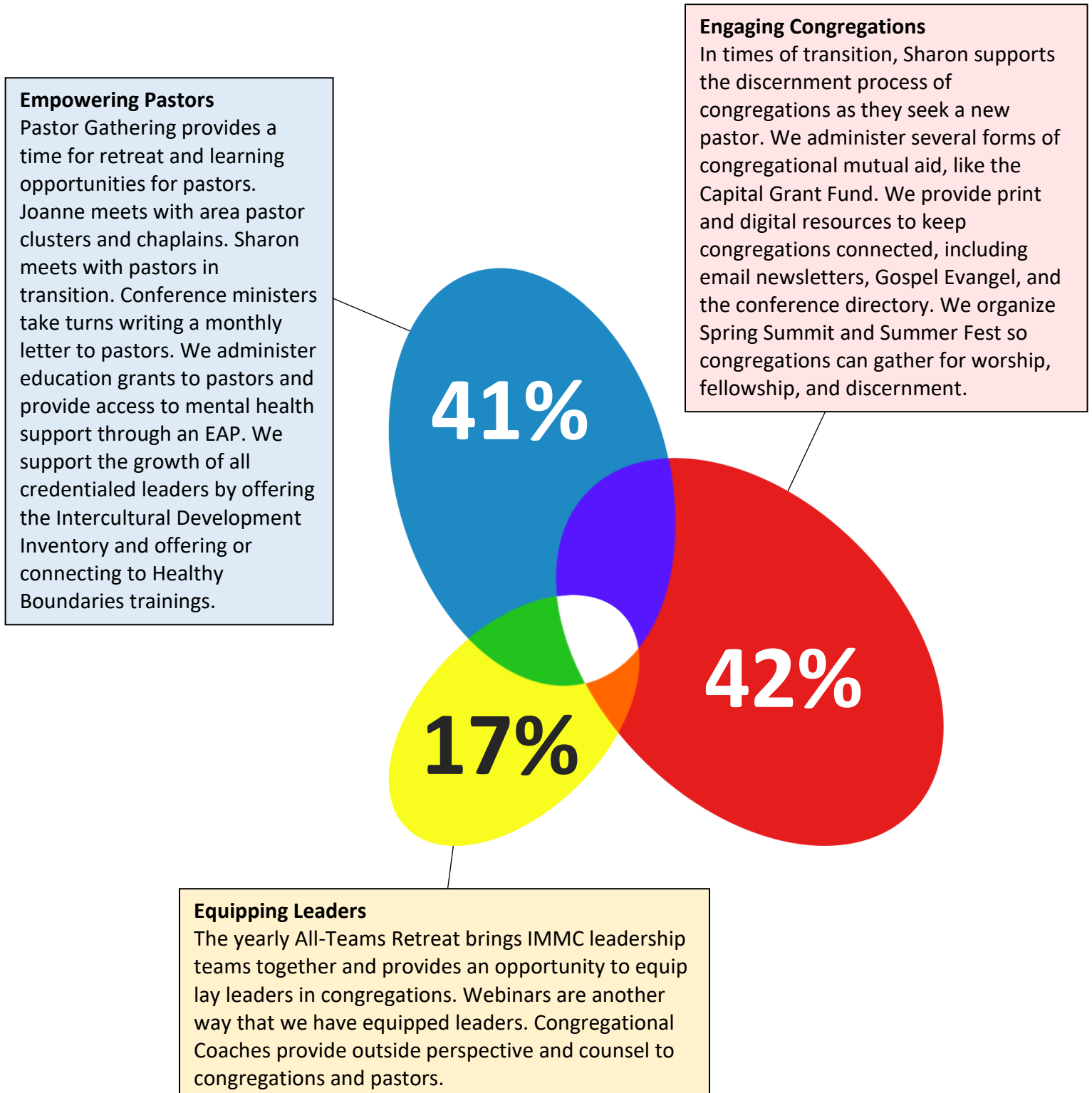
- Salaries, Wages, Benefits
- Continuing Education and Consultants

How do these funds help us live into our vision, values, and purpose?

To give another way of understanding the proposed spending plan, we have put together this chart and narrative that focus on how the budgeted funds will enable IMMC to pursue its mission.

As with other service organizations and many congregations, IMMC's expenses are mostly related to staffing. The staff help to carry out the work of the organization by providing services directly to congregations and pastors as well as coordination for our volunteer leadership teams and board.

The descriptions below cover much but not all of IMMC's work—and there is much overlap between these categories.



Chapter 3: Reports to Delegates 2025-26

Conference Board Report

By Becky Helmuth, moderator

This year brought a change in name and clarity of purpose for our conference leadership. After hearing that “Missional Leadership Team” was often confusing, we adopted the name Conference Board, while continuing to understand our work as missional leadership on behalf of the delegate body.

Amos 5:24 shaped our year: Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. This is IMMC's conference-wide focus, carried through our August board retreat in Conway, Michigan, our All-Teams Retreat in September, Spring Summits in March, and sustained conversations about intercultural competence and how the conference can better support congregations, pastors, and leaders.

Conference Minister Joanne Gallardo offered Intercultural Development Inventory conversations with pastors and leaders across the conference. The board participated in immigration-related events, continued reparations conversations, and invested in partnerships that invite us to listen more carefully to the Spirit's movement in our communities. This work is ongoing and unfinished.

At our Spring Summits in March, we recommended International Bethel City Church as a new member congregation of IMMC. Simon and Lucy Muange have offered faithful ministry through IBCC, and we receive their presence in this conference as a gift.

The board reviewed financial reports throughout the year, approved the proposed spending plan, and received a clean financial review. We are grateful for Michelle's careful bookkeeping and the Stewardship Team's faithful stewardship of conference resources. We also began sabbatical planning for Conference Ministers Joanne Gallardo and Sharon Yoder.

As we look ahead, we continue to ask whether our structures, finances, gatherings, and relationships are clearing the way for justice to flow or standing in its path. We are grateful for the congregations, teams, pastors, staff, and delegates whose faithfulness makes this conference what it is.

Conference Staff Report

By Sharon Yoder, conference minister

Conference Staff: Implementing the vision and mission of IMMC

- Michelle Cabanaw – senior bookkeeper: manages payroll and accounts payable and receivable; reconciles monthly and quarterly financial statements; creates and reviews financial reports; ensures legal requirements.
- Andrea Baker Dean – administrative coordinator: coordinates conference communication; coordinates and hosts conference events; supports the work of other staff.
- Joanne Gallardo – conference minister: meets with IMMC leaders to review the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI); supports pastors and leaders in ongoing congregational life; supports Journey Leadership Program; collaborates with Leadership Enhancement Team, Gifts Development Team, and the Conference Board.
- Sharon Yoder – conference minister: office and financial oversight; guides congregational leadership transitions, pastoral searches, credentialing, and emerging church conversations; collaborates with Ministry Credentialing Team, Stewardship Team, Personnel Resourcing Committee, and the Conference Board.

Conference Events: Gathering the community of congregations

- Summer Fest 2025 – held at Waterford Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN, June 13-14, 2025, with a theme of *Love Has No Borders*.
- Conference Sunday 2025 – resources for worship using the Summer Fest theme, including a pre-recorded sermon. Shared with congregations for use on June 15, 2025, or another Sunday of their choice.

- All Teams retreat – sessions led by moderator Becky Helmuth for persons serving on IMMC’s six leadership teams. Held at College Mennonite Church, September 12-13, 2025.
- we-Give week (Jun 16-20), Giving Tuesday (Dec 2), Year-End (Dec 31), and April donation drives – emails invited partnership with IMMC vision and mission, with the goal of growing IMMC’s individual donor base. We celebrate 17 new donors and increased giving from ongoing donors during the 2025-2026 fiscal year!
- Christmas Open House – connected with 20 guests over snacks in the fellowship hall at East Goshen Mennonite Church on December 18, 2025.
- Pastors Gathering – twenty pastors joined the retreat at Amigo Center November 17-19, bringing good energy to times of fellowship, worship, and leadership development sessions led by Dave Sutter. Pastors also enjoyed time for rest and personal renewal.
- Spring Summits 2025 – held in person at North Goshen Mennonite Church March 14 and via zoom March 21. Pastor Sean Swanson, from Kern Road Mennonite, preached on our theme from Amos 5:24.

Communication: promoting connection among our community of congregations.

- monthly emails: [weLink](#) newsletter; [weNote](#) announcements; [wePray](#) memo; WellSpan EAP resources for credentialed leaders; and conference minister letters to congregational pastors
- weGive donor letter sent quarterly
- [Gospel Evangel](#) publication released three times annually
- IMMC website: im.mennonite.net

Joining you in your community:

- Joanne and Sharon preach upon invitation, officiate credentialing and commissioning services for ministers, meet with congregational leaders as requested, and meet with pastor cluster groups, transitional pastors, and chaplains.

IMMC Office space: provided in a generous space-sharing arrangement by East Goshen Mennonite Church. IMMC and East Goshen staff enjoy weekly building break connections.

As IMMC staff, our desire is to be *centered on Jesus* and *guided by the Holy Spirit, acting through grace, love, and peace* as we interact with one another and as we support pastors and leaders in our community of congregations. We are grateful for the opportunity to journey with you!

Gifts Development Team Report

By Brenda Srof, co-chair

The Gifts Development Team (GDT) works prayerfully to find people willing to serve on the various teams of the Conference. We are grateful for people who are willing to serve on conference teams. In our work, we aim to identify people qualified for the work of each team, and representative of a diversity of backgrounds and congregations. We are also grateful for youth representatives at the MC USA Convention.

Please encourage anyone you know who would like to add their perspective and expertise to the work of our Conference.

A special thanks to Sharon Norton who served as the previous chair and member of GDT. Thank you to Joanne Gallardo, our representative conference minister, and thanks to co-chair, Merle Hostetler. Also, thank you to the GDT team members, Anna Ruth Hershberger and Leighton Miller.

Leadership Enhancement Team Report

By Barbara Slagel, chair

Leadership Enhancement Team (LET) met regularly throughout 2025-26 to support pastoral wellness, leadership development, congregational coaching, and conference-wide collaboration. Meetings opened with Scripture and prayer, grounding the team's work in shared spiritual reflection.

A major focus this year was strengthening **pastoral support and accountability**. LET and Ministry Credentialing Team (MCT) held a joint meeting in January to clarify roles: MCT provides accountability for credentialed leaders, while LET focuses on development, encouragement, and wellness. Both teams affirmed the value of annual joint meetings and ongoing collaboration. LET will continue using its Growth & Wellness Form, while MCT revises its own accountability tools.

Planning for Pastor Gathering was a large part of LET's work. The 2025 Pastor Gathering centered on the theme *Gifts to the Pastor*, with Dave Sutter facilitating an Open Forum model and LET members leading worship. LET worked on schedule, registration, honorariums, and promotion to ensure a meaningful and well-supported retreat experience. For 2026, the team has confirmed a focus on *Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Practices*, led by Nina Lanctot.

LET also reviewed and strengthened the **Pastoral Education Grant**, increasing the maximum award to \$500 and updating the form to simplify priorities and reflect current needs. The team affirmed the importance of accessible continuing education, including possibilities such as retreats and spiritual direction.

The **Congregational Coaching** program remained an area of attention. LET discussed coach engagement, accountability, and the need for clearer expectations. Plans are underway for a fall 2026 coach resourcing session. **Sister Church** relationships continue to grow, with ongoing discernment around new pairings.

Throughout the year, LET contributed to **conference communication**, preparing weLink updates, promoting Pastor Gathering, highlighting Sister Church opportunities, and preparing the LET report for Summer Fest. LET also selected *Sabbath as Resistance* as the annual gift for new pastors and leaders.

Leadership Enhancement Team remains committed to nurturing healthy, well-supported pastoral leaders and strengthening the spiritual and organizational life of IMMC.

Ministry Credentialing Team Report

By Suella Gerber, chair

Persons who have served on MCT in the past year are Barbara Devereaux, Suella Gerber, Dave Janzen, Linda Thomas, and Phil Waite. Sharon Yoder attends as IMMC Conference Minister and Christina Litwiller takes minutes.

The Ministry Credentialing Team continues to work on credentialing leaders, encouraging all credentialed persons to grow, and offering support so they thrive in their ministry contexts. This year:

1. We met for conversation with persons seeking licensing or ordination. These are holy conversations as we learn to know and affirm those who have been called by their faith communities to serve in congregational ministry, chaplaincy, and other ministering positions.
2. We welcomed new ministries into IMMC: International Bethel City Church, Detroit, and their pastors Lucy and Simon Muange; and Lynette Hartzman, director of Shammah Outreach / B Light Restoration Center, Flint.
3. We partnered newly licensed leaders with peer mentors to walk with them in the first two years of ministry.
4. We revised and updated our job description to reflect our work as well as our intentions and the culture we seek to create.
5. We talked about accountability, what it means for MCT to be accountable to credentialed persons and congregations, and for credentialed persons to be accountable to MCT/IMMC. We're considering how we might ask for accountability that seeks to offer support.

IMMC delegates have tasked MCT with the work and accountability of credentialing leaders. We work to support our pastors and leaders and help them be effective in their placements. It is our hope and intention to create healthy structures and patterns of relationship for pastors and leaders to be “centered on Jesus; guided by the Holy Spirit; acting through grace, love and peace; and engaging the world God loves.”

In addition, we value our collaboration with congregations and recognize the work of the Spirit that makes them loving communities who serve Christ and one another.

Personnel Resourcing Committee Report

By Kathy Nofziger Yeakey, chair

Committee Members: Kathy Nofziger Yeakey agreed to be the committee chairperson following Ray Hunsberger’s departure, Sue Ramseyer serves as recorder for committee meetings, and the conference gifts committee is seeking a third member for this committee. Sharon Yoder, Conference Minister, and Michelle Cabanaw, senior bookkeeper, join the meetings.

The Personnel Resourcing Committee (PRC), formerly called the Personnel Committee, met several times in 2025 to review the Employee Handbook for IMMC staff, which had not been officially revised since 2022. In spring 2026, the committee has continued working with Sharon and Michelle to update terminology and bring the handbook into compliance with standard practices. Michelle is a member of the Good Steward Church Academy and has gained much insight into standard employment practices from this organization. Once the Handbook has been updated, it will be submitted to the IMMC Board for approval. In addition, the committee reviewed a Sabbatical Proposal for Joanne Gallardo and recommended it to the Board.

Personnel Resourcing Committee duties include advising on personnel policies and procedures as well as compensation and benefits. The PRC serves as a resource for staff evaluations, reviews and pre-approves sabbatical proposals for staff, and reports to the IMMC Board.

Stewardship Team Report

During the past year, the Stewardship Team (ST) met once in person and 9 times via zoom. Team members in the past year have been Jim Alvarez (chair), Marlene Kroeker, Jeff Miller, and Duane Yoder (IMMC treasurer). Justin Hochstetler joined us in February. Sharon Yoder, Conference Minister, and Michelle Cabanaw, senior bookkeeper join ST meetings.

The Stewardship Team (ST) is tasked to oversee conference finances and participate in strategic plans and programs to ensure that conference resources are focused on accomplishing conference vision. This includes review of investments, financial reports, spending plan, and fundraising and networking.

Historically, conference congregations have fully supported conference services. Given that this is no longer true, ST has given increased attention to fundraising and networking in the past year, working to diversify funding sources. To grow IMMC’s individual donor base, ST supported conference staff in weGive Week, Giving Tuesday, and Year-End giving campaigns and in developing a fundraising letter and a list of persons to receive the letter, sent in May 2025. Follow-up phone calls and visits will be scheduled in summer 2025. In the past 6 months, Marlene and Sharon met with leaders of two congregations to nurture connections and invite increased financial partnership. Additional congregational contacts will be made in the coming months. ST also updated A Case for Support of IN-MI Mennonite Conference and reviewed a new document developed by staff: Give to IMMC.

Several months ago, ST reviewed investment performances and chose to keep IMMC investments in their current portfolios. ST also reviewed and made recommendations to MLT regarding IMMC’s investment policy. In May, ST reviewed and recommended to MLT a capital grant request from Sunnyside Mennonite Church for \$10,000.

Ongoing work for ST includes review of financial reports and future spending plans, to ensure that finances are on track with the plan and that the new plan matches the vision and capacity of conference. At the end of April 2025, conference income was \$11,000 higher and expenses were \$6000 lower than in April 2024. Traditionally, May and June have shown strong income, and we anticipate some return from fundraising efforts in these months. This points to a stronger ending to this fiscal year than last.

We are deeply grateful for generous financial partnership that makes it possible for conference staff to continue equipping and supporting IMMC's community of congregations as they engage the world God loves.

Leadership Report of Credentialed Pastors and Leaders

June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026

Ordained

Oct 12 '25 Rebecca Helmuth, lead pastor, North Goshen Mennonite Church
May 03 '26 Monica Miller, at East Goshen Mennonite Church

License Toward Ordination

Jun 08 '25 Ndunge Sefu, co-pastor, First Mennonite Church
Sep 30 '25 Lynette Hartzman, director, B-Light Restoration Center and Shammah Outreach, Flint, MI
Oct 20 '25 Kyle Schlabach, pastoral team member, East Goshen Mennonite
Nov 25 '25 Twilla Epp Stutzman, Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, chaplain and spiritual director

Reactivate Credential

Nov 15 '25 Steve Norton, for pastoral ministry at Union Center COB
Dec 19 '25 Carolyn Gardner Hunt, member, Prairie Street Mennonite Church

New Ministry Appointments

<u>Beginning Date</u>			<i>Installation Date</i>	
Jun	22	'25	Suella Gerber, interim pastor, College Mennonite Church	
Jul	01	'25	Phil Waite, transitional pastor, Willow Springs Mennonite Church, Tiskilwa, IL	
Jul	03	'25	Ndunge Sefu, co-pastor, First Mennonite Church	June 29, 2025
Aug	25	'25	Monica Miller, interim pastor, Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship	
Sept	07	'25	Merle Hostetler, interim pastor, College Mennonite Church	
Oct	20	'25	Kyle Schlabach, pastoral team member, East Goshen Mennonite	Nov 9, 2025
Nov	15	'25	Stephen Norton, pastor, Union Center COB	
Jan	01	'26	Dan Miller, interim pastor, New Paris Church of the Brethren	
Mar	01	'26	Ursula Hess, chaplain for senior adults, Waterford Mennonite Church	Apr 26, 2026
May	03	'26	Phil Schmidt, interim pastor, Shalom Mennonite Church	

Completion of Ministerial Assignment

Jun 01 '25 Phil Waite, lead pastor, College Mennonite Church
Jun 08 '25 Suella Gerber, interim pastor, First Mennonite Church
Jun 30 '25 Becky Helmuth, interim pastor, East Goshen Mennonite Church
Aug 17 '25 Merle Hostetler, interim pastor, Union Center COB
Sept 22 '25 Suella Gerber, interim pastor, College Mennonite Church
Dec 31 '25 Brian Bither, pastoral team member, Shalom Mennonite Church
Feb 11 '26 Phil Schmidt, pastor, Belmont Mennonite Church
Apr 30 '26 David Maldonado, pastoral team member, College Mennonite Church
May 24 '26 Ben Bouwman, co-pastor, Walnut Hill Mennonite Church
May 24 '26 Monica Miller, interim pastor, Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship

Credential Transfers

Jul 23 '25 Rebecca Slough *from* Central District Conference
Sep 29 '25 Neil Amstutz *to* Central District Conference
Sep 29 '25 Doug Kaufman *to* Central District Conference

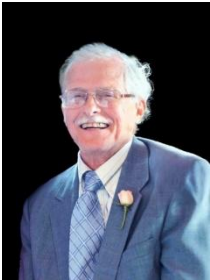
Credential ending due to ceased affiliation with an IMMC congregation

Apr 27 '26 Michael Sherrill, began pastoral ministry at Topeka Church, affiliated with Evana

Deceased Pastors 2024-2025



David Araujo, Goshen, IN, died July 4, 2025, at the age of 53, from complications with heart surgery. He is survived by his wife Sonia, and children: Krystal (Andrew Maxwell); Jason; Samuel; and Kevin. David served as pastor of Iglesia del Buen Pastor from August 2012 until the time of his death. Iglesia Menonita del Buen Pastor was a member of IMMC until July 2015. Pastor David, a graduate of Goshen College, also served as an Indiana Certified Court Interpreter. David's life was dedicated to loving his family and sharing the Good News of the gospel.



Ronald Collins, Harlan, IN, passed away May 2, 2026, at the age of 86. Ron is survived by his wife, Betty Lou, and his children, Debbie Collins, Linda (Doug) Greeson, and Steve (Dru) Collins, 15 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. Early in his life, Ron served in Puerto Rico. He also served as a pastor of congregations in the Bronx, New York, Chicago, Carlsbad, New Mexico and Indiana. From 1996-2001, he was a pastor at Iglesia Menonita del Buen Pastor, in Goshen. Ron also worked as a professor of Religion, Spanish, and Physics at Goshen College. He was most recently a member of Fairhaven Mennonite Church, Fort Wayne.



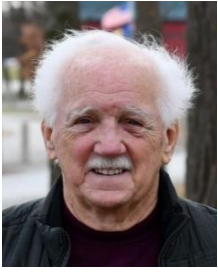
Lillian Elias, Goshen, IN, died of leukemia on January 18, 2026, at the age of 85. Lillian is survived by her husband Jacob and children, Laurel (Mark) Crawford, Morlin (Juli VanPelt), and Joylin (John) Ykimoff, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. When she was nearing retirement, Lillian completed her M.Div., after which she served for 10 years as pastor at Parkview Mennonite Church in Kokomo. She spent many years as an elementary, special education, and preschool teacher. Throughout her life, Lillian practiced hospitality, serving meals and opening her home to foster children, international students, visiting pastors, and at-risk youth.



Dean R. Heisey, South Bend, IN, passed away following a bike accident on May 25, 2026 at the age of 68. Surviving him are his closest friend and companion, John Sommers, former wife Tacy Heisey, and children Charis, Jael, and Esra (Lathanial/Rodney). Dean pastored four Church of the Brethren congregations from 1979-1996 and attended Prairie Street Mennonite during service at Mennonite Mission agencies from 1997-2015. He was a chaplain at Elkhart General Hospital from 2014-2024 and co-pastor at Southside Christian Church of South Bend, 2015-2025. He mentored many ministry leaders and served as a consultant in many congregations and non-profits.



James Isaacs*, passed away in Bakersfield, California on November 14, 2024, at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife Brenda and their three children, Kevin (Cleola) Isaacs, Tiphonie Hernandez (Jeremie Wells), and Johannah Isaacs, and 4 grandchildren. James was a musician and an organist and spent more than 40 years in pastoral ministry, serving 5 churches from California to Indiana, including IN-MI Conference congregations, Sunnyside Mennonite Church and Fellowship of Hope. He also served as overseer of the African American churches in IN-MI Conference, and in various roles for Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference.



Sherman William Kauffman, Goshen, IN died December 6, 2025, at the age of 82, from pulmonary fibrosis. He is survived by his wife Betty and their children Shana Hodel (Marty) and Jeff, and 6 grandchildren. For 21 years, from 1987-2008, Sherm served as Executive Conference Minister for IN-MI Mennonite Conference. Earlier he had assumed the role of IN-MI conference youth minister. Sherm also served numerous congregations in Michigan, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, and Nebraska as pastor, interim pastor, and transitional pastor. He was a member on various boards, volunteered with Mennonite Disaster Service, and was a person of strong faith with a deep sense of justice.



Gary Martin*, Goshen, IN, died March 21, 2025 at the age of 71. He is survived by his wife Patricia and children, Rochelle Martin (Matt Graham), Joel Martin (Marita), Carrie Martin, and Jared Martin, 8 grandchildren, 2 bonus grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. Gary began his first pastorate at age 20, planted churches in Chicago and in Goshen, and served as transitional pastor for 19 congregations. He taught Urban Ministry and Evangelism at AMBS and educated transitional ministers through the Interim Ministry Network. Gary was a friend, pastor, and colleague of many, and did all he could to leave the world around him a better place.



Robert Allen Martz, Palestine, Texas, died of an aortic aneurysm on April 9, 2026 at the age of 66. He is survived by his wife Sherry, and children Kristy Burmeister, Angela Martz, Tyler Martz and Christopher Martz, and 2 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son Stephen. Robert served as a pastor in various Mennonite conferences for 25 years, including two years (2004-2006) as pastor of Olive Mennonite Church in Elkhart, IN. Most recently, Robert worked at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Texas, where he formed deep bonds with the crew and considered them an extension of his family.



Bradley A. Miller, Goshen, IN, died March 14, 2026 of dementia at the age of 76. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl and children Matthew (Candi) Miller and Sarah (Matthew) Holzinger, “adopted” children Darlene (Derek) Kennedy and Alex (Serena) Melli, and 10 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Aaron. From 1976-1995, Bradley served as a pastor of 3 congregations who were then a part of IN-MI Conference: First Mennonite, Middlebury; Midland Mennonite (now New Hope Community of Midland); and Marion Mennonite. Brad continued his ministry through church relations work at Everence Financial, helping congregations and individuals navigate stewardship and faith with wisdom and care. Bradley was a pastor, mentor, and friend to all.



Mervin Miller, Goshen, IN died on September 4, 2025, at the age of 88. He is survived by his wife, Sue Ann, children Thomas (Sonya) Miller, Rufus (Jeanette) Miller, Sharla Meyer, Marlene (Joseph) Zedek, Darlene (Owen) Sommers, and Mervin (Mindy) Miller, Jr., 18 grandchildren, and 34 great-grandchildren. For 45 years, Mervin's calling as a pastor was the heartbeat of his life, a journey that included 2 IN-MI Mennonite congregations. His ministry began at Lake Bethel Mennonite and continued through his final chapter of dedicated interim ministry, which included Forks Mennonite. Mervin was also a committed Gidon and a faithful volunteer in prison ministry.

Note: We are reporting the deaths for whom IMMC has held credentials sometime in the past, if we've heard the news. If we missed anyone who could have been included on this list, please let us know!

**James Isaacs and Gary Martin were missed in the 2025 report.*

Chapter 4: Annual Reports from Ministry Partners

These reports can also be found on our website by using the links below or by visiting im.mennonite.net/summerfest.

English

[Amigo Centre](#)

[Anabaptist Disabilities Network](#)

[Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary](#)

[AMBS Journey Program](#)

[AQORD](#) (merger of MHS Association and Friends Services Alliance)

[Bethel College](#)

[Bluffton University](#)

[Everence](#)

[Goshen College](#)

[Hesston College](#)

[La Posada Immigrant Aid](#)

[MennoMedia](#)

[Mennonite Central Committee](#)

[Mennonite Church USA](#)

[Mennonite Disaster Service](#)

[Mennonite Mission Network](#)

[Mennonite Women](#)

Español

[Amigo Centre](#)

[Anabaptist Disabilities Network](#)

[Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary](#)

[AQORD](#) (una fusión de La Asociación MHS y la Alianza de Servicios a Amigos)

[Bethel College](#)

[Bluffton University](#)

[Everence](#)

[Goshen College](#)

[Hesston College](#)

[La Posada Immigrant Aid](#)

[MennoMedia](#)

[Mennonite Central Committee](#)

[Mennonite Church USA](#)

[Mennonite Disaster Service](#)

[Mennonite Mission Network](#)

Chapter 5: Announcements

Summer Fest 2026 Reflections and Evaluation

Please take a moment to reflect and give feedback on Summer Fest 2026 using [this Google Form](#). You can also find the form on the Summer Fest website: im.mennonite.net/summerfest

Thank you!

Summer Fest Offering

The offering taken during this year's Summer Fest will go to the Reparations-Inspired Fund of Elkhart County. Read more about the fund in the Spring 2026 issue of Gospel Evangel: im.mennonite.net/news/gospelevangel. You can contribute to the offering here: im.mennonite.net/wegive/. Please indicate "Summer Fest Offering" in the note.

Conference Sunday Materials

We have provided materials for congregations to engage in a Conference Sunday that connects with our Summer Fest theme. To view or download these materials, visit im.mennonite.net/summerfest and scroll down to the *Conference Sunday* section.

Gifts Nomination Form

The Gifts Development Team uses your input to help make connections between people's gifts and the needs of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Nominate someone today at www.im.mennonite.net/gifts.

Summer Fest 2027

SAVE THE DATE for next year's Summer Fest:
June 11-12, 2027
Amigo Centre - Sturgis, Michigan



Indiana-Michigan
Mennonite
Conference

Summer Fest – June 12-13, 2026

GIFTS NOMINATION FORM

Help us identify people with gifts to serve on IMMC Leadership Teams!

Who do you know that has a particular gift or passion that could serve and build up Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference? In addition to people who are already active in IMMC, we want to tap people who haven't yet been involved in conference roles and activities. You are welcome to recommend yourself as well.

Person You're Nominating	
Their Congregation	
Their Email Address (if you know it)	

This person is skilled and/or passionate about (check all that apply):

- Financial matters
- Leadership development
- Mission and peacemaking
- Spiritual discernment
- Using our spiritual gifts
- Worship planning
- Other:

Other notes about why you recommend this person to serve on a Leadership Team—their profession, experience, etc:

