



LANCASTER MENNONITE CONFERENCE

# Shalom NEWS

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2016



As People of Christ's peace,  
***we do God's Mission***

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE: MOSAIC INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



## EDITORIAL



BY L. KEITH WEAVER

I learned recently that my daughter and her husband are expecting another baby. Uncontainable joy welled up within me. I shouted in delight! Over the same time, my son and his wife took in a boy and a girl—six-year-old twins—with plans for fostering to adoption. I admire the sacrificial commitment and courage it takes to do what

they are doing. Again, my heart wells with joy.

I find joy in this basic principle of multiplication. God created things to be this way—to be fruitful and multiply. The principle holds as true in the church just as in our families. In his book, *Natural Church Development*, Christian Schwarz identifies multiplication as one of six core biotic principles for healthy church growth. On page 69, he says, “Hardly anything demonstrates the health of a congregation as much as the willingness—and ability—to give birth to new congregations.”

“Hardly anything demonstrates the health of a congregation as much as the willingness—and ability—to give birth to new congregations.”

Multiplication is happening in LMC. It is simply the norm in our Garifuna, Hispanic, and Vietnamese congregations. Sadly, it is the exception among our Anglo congregations. Martindale District knows how to start new churches. West End Fellowship, in Lancaster, has given birth to a network of new fellowships. But in far too many cases, congregations are not even thinking about multiplication. Schwarz sees that as an indication of illness.

In the days ahead, LMC will seek to reemploy the biotic principle of multiplication. Our system knows this germ of health. It is in our history. It is how God designed things to be. We just need to surrender our own self-interests and again commit ourselves to go and make disciples of all nations. ■

*L. Keith Weaver is moderator of Lancaster Mennonite Conference. He is a member of Blainsport Mennonite Church in Reinholds, Pa.*



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L. Keith Weaver, Moderator

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**ON THE COVER:** Free lunch in the park with  
Elizabethtown Mennonite Church. Photo by Conrad  
Kanagy. Inset photo: Worship at The Way Thru Christ  
Community Fellowship. Photo by Obed Arango.

# Stumptown Mennonite Church to Congregación Menonita Shalom



BY MARY ELLEN LEAMAN

**In February 2016, Pastors Adalberto Santiago from Congregación Menonita Shalom in New Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Mark Mentzer from Stumptown Mennonite congregation near Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania, met for the first time at a pastors' conference.** They bonded and a friendship began. The conversation that followed revealed a surprising discovery: Congregación Menonita Shalom is the great-granddaughter of Stumptown.

It all began in the early 1950s when some Stumptown members talked about enlarging the church building because it was getting full. Others looked beyond Stumptown's borders with a desire to start a church where there was none. They shared their vision with the ministry who, in turn, contacted the Itinerant Evangelism Committee (IEC) of Eastern Mennonite Mission about the possibility of outreach into another area. To spur congregations into outreach, the IEC had as its motto, “A mission outpost for every congregation.”

In the spring of 1953, Lloyd Eby, Stumptown pastor, and Paul Kraybill, field worker for the mission board's evangelism committee, surveyed parts of northern Pennsylvania and discovered a large area in Montour/Northumberland Counties without any churches. Summer Bible school might be a good way to sense the pulse of the area.

Sunday school teachers came from Stumptown, traveling a 250-mile round trip each Sunday for several years until families started moving into the area from Lancaster and Franconia.

The first Bible school was held in a tent on the California School grounds in Limestone Township, Montour County, in August 1953. Daniel W. Leaman served as superintendent, and others from Stumptown served as teachers. Response from the community was excellent, and requests soon came to start a Sunday school. After much prayer and several contacts, an abandoned one-room school-house, known as Beaver Run, was found near Turbotville in Northumberland County. The first service was held on October 25, 1953, with 69 persons present.

Sunday school teachers came from Stumptown, traveling a 250-mile round trip each Sunday for several years until families started moving into the area from Lancaster and Franconia. Daniel Leaman served as superintendent from October 1953 to September 1957. On Sundays, Daniel and Ethel traveled faithfully to Beaver Run, for those four years. The Clarence Zeager family from East Petersburg congregation had

bought a farm in the area, and gave their support to the work. Lloyd Eby was the first pastor, preaching bi-weekly and arranging for other pastors to preach on the alternate Sundays. The church grew, and on June 13, 1954, after nearly eight months of holding services, nine adults were baptized and four others received by letter of transfer. It was said that it was unusual to have so





Present Community Mennonite Fellowship church building near Milton, Pa.

Juanita and Adalberto Santiago in front of the Congregación Menonita Shalom church building

Adalberto Santiago and Mark Mentzer at Stumptown Mennonite Church on August 28, 2016



More photos for this article available online at [facebook.com/LancasterMC/photos](https://facebook.com/LancasterMC/photos)



Mary Ellen Leaman is a life-long member of Stumptown Mennonite Church. She remembers the congregation's outreach into the Beaver Run community in the 1950s and the involvement of her parents, Lloyd and Martha Eby. She served with her physician husband Ivan in Somalia with EMM in the 1960s.

many baptized the first year and that Beaver Run Mennonite Church was considered the fastest growing outreach at that time. Ethel Leaman was convinced that this was because of the fervent prayers. After lunch on Sunday, the ones going out for visitation would meet for a time of prayer to prepare for their contacts. Their main purpose was to invite people to church. John Eby, who made the bi-weekly trip to Beaver Run as a young boy with his parents, says that names like Albright, Fenstermacher, Owens, Robbins, Sholly and Zettlemoyer were familiar to him, and he remembers visiting these folks in their homes.

The interest and growth of this young congregation led to the building of a new meetinghouse in 1955 on the property of Clarence Zeager. Financed largely by Stumptown, the mother congregation, the new Beaver Run Mennonite Church building was dedicated on March 17-18, 1956. Ben Lapp from Stumptown, who had moved into the area with his wife, Geraldine, in 1955, was ordained on June 15, 1957, as the first resident pastor. He served in this capacity for 20 years. The Hershey Groff, Reuben Myers and Paul Landis families from Stumptown, had also settled in the area. Upon Ben Lapp's request for help, Paul Landis was ordained deacon on November 24, 1964.

Beaver Run, with the help of Pastor Ben Lapp, birthed the Agape Fellowship in Williamsport when I-W young men were there. Mennonite Hour broadcasts, tract distribution, cottage meetings, and personal contacts led to a first service on January 8, 1967.

Pastor couples who served Beaver Run congregation following Ben Lapp were Galen and Phyllis Groff, Glen and Sylvia Hess, Walter and Mary Clemens, Daniel and Goldie Regier, and Willard and Ann Shertzer.

By 1990, Beaver Run congregation had outgrown the original church building in the country and built a large, multipurpose facility in an urban location near Milton to form Community Mennonite Fellowship. Willard Shertzer continued to serve

By 1990, Beaver Run congregation had outgrown the original church building in the country and built a large, multipurpose facility in an urban location near Milton to form Community Mennonite Fellowship.

as pastor until 1993. The present pastor, David Martino, began in 1994. The previous Beaver Run Church continued as a smaller congregation for some years, celebrating 50 years on October 26, 2003. Three of the charter members were still living at that time and were present for the anniversary celebration.

Community Mennonite Fellowship in Milton became a thriving congregation and was led to start a Hispanic church in the summer of 2002. With the support of CMF pastor David

Martino and Samuel Lopez of Spanish Mennonite Council, the new church first met in a room in the CMF building. A church planting couple, Joe and Maggie Rosa, gave leadership to the work initially. About three years later, a building was purchased in New Columbia, at the edge of Milton, and the church plant continued with the name Congregación Menonita Shalom. Adalberto and Juanita Santiago were involved in this church plant from the beginning and became pastors in May 2009.

Congregación Menonita Shalom has now planted two daughter churches: Iglesia Menonita Nueva Canción in Sunbury and Iglesia Menonita El Shadai in Reading. From this Hispanic ministry have come five pastors (four of them part of the Mennonite Council), and two missionaries serving in Mexico. The church has also established an internet radio station and transmits all services. With a vision to develop a Community Center House of Refuge, they recently purchased a hotel building in Milton. They plan to provide services for immigrants along with medical, food, and clothing resources, as well as a safe and healthy haven for youth. Angie Martir and Carlos Colon, are the coordinators of this newly formed Community Center, in a building that's been vacant for 14 years and needs a lot of renovation, including a new furnace. They along with Pastor Santiago believe God is opening doors for them to impact the community.

As a followup to the providential meeting of two pastors in February, Stumptown's Pastor Mark Mentzer was invited by Pastor Adalberto Santiago to preach at Congregación Menonita Shalom on April 10, and Pastor Santiago was invited to preach

## De la Iglesia Menonita Stumptown a la Congregación Menonita Shalom

POR MARY ELLEN LEAMAN (traducido por Andrés Prins)

En febrero de 2016 se conocieron en una conferencia de ministros Adalberto Santiago, pastor de la Congregación Menonita Shalom en New Columbia, Pensilvania, y Mark Mentzer, pastor de la Iglesia Menonita de Stumptown cerca de Bird-in-Hand, Pensilvania. Un lazo se forjó y una amistad comenzó. En su conversación subsecuente los dos hicieron un descubrimiento sorprendente: ¡la Congregación Menonita Shalom es la bisnieta de Stumptown!

Todo empezó a comienzos de los años '50 cuando algunos miembros de Stumptown se pusieron a hablar sobre agrandar el local de la iglesia pues les estaba resultando pequeño. Otros miembros sin embargo miraron más allá de las fronteras de Stumptown deseosos de comenzar una nueva iglesia donde no hubiera ninguna. Ellos compartieron su visión con el ministerio que, a su vez, contactó al Comité de Evangelismo Itinerante (IEC) de la Misión Menonita del Este respecto a la posibilidad de extenderse a otra región. Para motivar a las congregaciones a realizar esfuerzos evangelísticos, el IEC había adoptado el lema, "Un punto de misión para cada congregación".

En la primavera de 1953, Lloyd Eby, pastor de Stumptown, y Paul Kraybill, obrero del comité de evangelismo de la junta misionera, exploraron partes del norte de Pensilvania y encontraron una gran zona en los condados de Montour y Northumberland sin iglesia alguna. Se vaticinó que una escuela bíblica de vacaciones podría ser una buena forma de "tomarle el pulso" a la región.

La primera escuela bíblica se realizó en una tienda de campaña en el predio de la Escuela California en el Municipio de Limestone, Condado de Montour, en agosto de 1953. Daniel W. Leaman sirvió como superintendente, y otras personas de Stumptown ayudaron como maestros. La acogida por parte de la comunidad fue excelente, y pronto llegaron pedidos para empezar una Escuela Dominical. Tras mucha oración y varios contactos, se encontró cerca de Turbotville en el Condado de Northumberland una escuela abandonada, de una sola habitación, conocida como Beaver Run. El primer culto se celebró el 25 de octubre de 1953 con una asistencia de 69 personas.

Maestras y maestros de Escuela Dominical llegaron desde Stumptown, viajando 400 kilómetros ida y vuelta cada domingo durante varios años hasta que familias de Lancaster y Franconia empezaron a mudarse a la zona. Daniel Leaman sirvió como superintendente

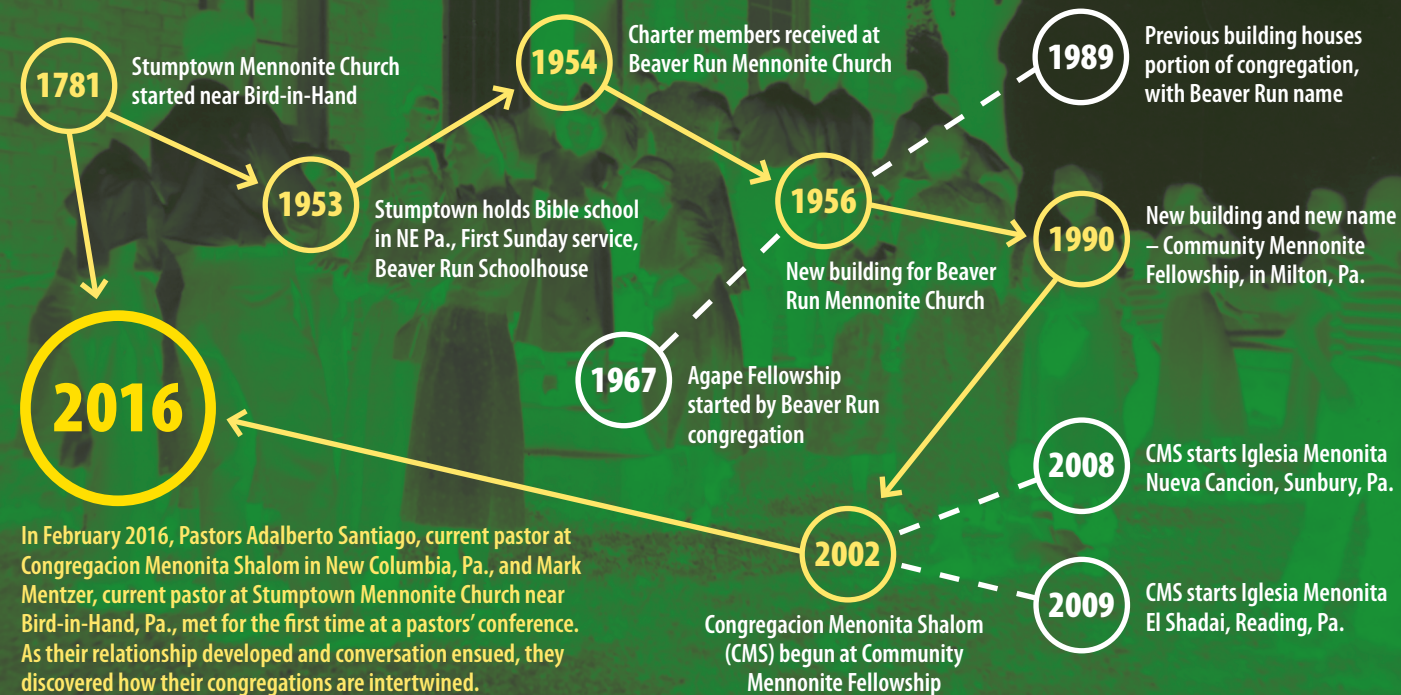
desde octubre de 1953 hasta septiembre de 1957. Los domingos, Daniel y Ethel viajaron fielmente a Beaver Run, por esos cuatro años. La familia de Clarence Zeager de la congregación de East Petersburg había comprado una granja en las cercanías y aportó su apoyo a la obra. Lloyd Eby fue el primer pastor, predicando domingo de por medio y arreglando para que otros pastores dieran sermones los demás domingos. La iglesia creció, y el 13 de junio de 1954, tras casi ocho meses de estar celebrando cultos, nueve adultos fueron bautizados y otros cuatro fueron recibidos por carta de transferencia. Era poco común tener tantos bautismos en menos de un año y la Iglesia Menonita de Beaver Run fue considerada el punto de misión que más rápido crecía en aquella época. Ethel Leaman estaba convencida que oración ferviente era a causa de eso. Los domingos después del almuerzo, los que posteriormente harían las visitas se reunían para un tiempo de oración por sus contactos. El propósito principal de dichas visitas era invitar a las personas a la iglesia. John Eby, que de niño hacía el viaje a Beaver Run con sus padres domingo de por medio, dice que apellidos como Albright, Fenstermacher, Owens, Robbins, Sholly y Zettlemoyer le eran familiares, y que recuerda haber visitados a estas personas en sus hogares.

El interés y crecimiento de esta joven congregación llevó a la construcción en 1955 de un nuevo local de culto en la propiedad de Clarence Zeager. Financiado mayormente por la iglesia madre en Stumptown, el nuevo local de la Iglesia Menonita de Beaver Run fue dedicado el 17 y 18 de marzo de 1956. Ben Lapp de Stumptown, que en 1955 se había mudado a la zona con su esposa Geraldine, fue ordenado el 15 de junio de 1957 como primer pastor residente. Sirvió en esa capacidad durante 20 años. Las familias de Hershey Groff, Reuben Myers y Paul Landis, procedentes de Stumptown, también se trasladaron a esa zona. En base al pedido de asistencia de Ben Lapp, Paul Landis fue ordenado diácono el 24 de noviembre de 1964.

La iglesia de Beaver Run, con la ayuda del Pastor Ben Lapp, plantó *Agape Fellowship* en Williamsport cuando estuvieron allí jóvenes I-W (objetores de conciencia). Transmisiones de la Hora Menonita, la distribución de tratados,



## Timeline of the connection between Stumptown and Menonita Shalom



reuniones en los hogares, y contactos personales resultaron en un primer culto el 8 de enero de 1967.

Después de Ben Lapp, las parejas pastorales que ministraron en la congregación de Beaver Run fueron Galen y Phyllis Groff, Glen y Sylvia Hess, Walter y Mary Clemens, Daniel y Goldie Regier, y Willard y Ann Shertzer.

Para 1990 el local original de reunión de la congregación campestre de Beaver Run ya les quedaba pequeño y construyeron una gran instalación multiuso en una zona urbana cerca de Milton, formando allí la *Community Mennonite Fellowship (CMF)*. Willard Shertzer continuó sirviendo como pastor hasta 1993. El pastor actual, David Martino, comenzó en 1994. La antigua Iglesia de Beaver Run siguió como una congregación más pequeña durante algunos años, celebrando su cincuentenario el 26 de octubre de 2003. Tres de los miembros fundadores seguían con vida para ese entonces y estuvieron presentes para celebrar el aniversario.

CMF en Milton se volvió una congregación pujante que comenzó una iglesia hispana en el verano de 2002. Con el apoyo de David Martino, pastor de CMF, y de Samuel López del Concilio (Menonita) Hispano, la nueva iglesia se reunió por primera vez en una sala del edificio de CMF. Una pareja de plantadores de iglesia, Joe y Maggie Rosa, proveyeron liderazgo inicial para esa obra. Unos tres años más tarde, se compró un local en New Columbia, a las afueras de Milton, y esta nueva iglesia prosiguió bajo el nombre de Congregación Menonita Shalom. Adalberto y Juanita Santiago estuvieron involucrados en este esfuerzo desde su comienzo y llegaron a ser los pastores en mayo de 2009.

La Congregación Menonita Shalom ya ha plantado dos iglesias hijas: la Iglesia Menonita Nueva Canción en Sunbury y la Iglesia Menonita El Shadai en Reading. Cinco pastores han surgido de este ministerio hispano (cuatro de ellos siendo parte

del Concilio Menonita Hispano), con dos misioneros sirviendo en México. La iglesia también ha iniciado una estación radial por internet que transmite cada uno de los cultos. Recientemente compraron un viejo hotel en Milton con la visión de desarrollar un Centro Comunitario Casa de Refugio. Planean ofrecer tanto servicios para inmigrantes como recursos médicos, alimenticios, e indumentarios, así como también un sano remanso de seguridad para la juventud. Angie Martir y Carlos Colon, son los coordinadores de este nuevo Centro Comunitario, en un edificio que estuvo vacío durante 14 años y necesita de mucha restauración, incluyendo una nueva caldera. Ellos junto con el Pastor Santiago creen que Dios les está abriendo puertas para tener un impacto significativo en la comunidad.

A consecuencia del encuentro providencial de los dos pastores en febrero, el Pastor Mark Mentzer de Stumptown fue invitado por el Pastor Adalberto Santiago a predicar en la Congregación Menonita Shalom el 10 de abril, y al Pastor Santiago se le convidó predicar en Stumptown el 28 de agosto.

De la Iglesia Menonita de Stumptown a la Iglesia Menonita de Beaver Run a *Agape Fellowship* a la Congregación Menonita Shalom —¡alabado sea Dios por sus consagrados siervos que hace 65 años avivaron la llama de la visión original y por todos aquellos que con abnegada entrega sirvieron a lo largo de los años en las comunidades de Beaver Run y Milton y en los sucesivos ministerios que fueron surgiendo. ■

*Mary Ellen Leaman ha sido miembro de toda la vida de la Iglesia Menonita Stumptown. Ella recuerda los esfuerzos de la congregación para alcanzar a la comunidad de Beaver Run en los años '50 así como el involucramiento de sus padres, Lloyd y Martha Eby. Junto a su marido médico, Iván, sirvió en Somalia con EMM en los años '60.*

A worship service at Dial Apartments in 2013.

Far right: Celebrating a Mosaic member's birthday.



**DISTRICT:** Church On The Other Side

**LOCATION:** Meeting place, 510 2nd St. Lancaster, PA 17603

**DATE OF FOUNDING:** 2010

**AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:** 8

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE:** 6:00 p.m.



**PASTORS:** Jon and Loice Byler

### CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

## Mosaic International Fellowship

Mosaic International Fellowship, also known as “The Church at Dial,” in Lancaster, Pa., functions with a “simple church” model. The congregation takes church to shut-ins. The congregation meets in a low-income Dial Apartment Complex, which has 40 units. The congregation started when Loice Byler responded to a request from the Dial manager to West End Mennonite Fellowship for ministry support to the tenants.

The majority of those who attend are elderly or disabled, and most of them are in wheel chairs. Since many have little contact with family, the church provides a social network. Mosaic celebrates birthdays to demonstrate the value of each person. The congregation supports one another in times of struggle and loss. They show the love of Christ by visiting others in the building, helping the members get to their doctor visits, and to navigate the health care system. The church uses holidays as a reason to organize picnic meals. Others in the apartment complex are invited to the meal. The Sunday service is informal and includes a time of sharing, a snack, worship, and Bible study. By using the Discovery Bible Study approach (allowing everyone to be involved in learning), the group explores what it means to follow Jesus.

Mosaic recently celebrated the baptism of a “seeker” who attended for several years before he committed his life to Christ. His mother, who passed away in 2011, was one of the initial members of the church. He had been in prison, struggled with drug addiction, and was far from Christ. As he experienced the love and acceptance in the church, he slowly overcame his opposition to spiritual things and found freedom in Christ. The daughter of another member and her fiancé came to Christ during the grieving when her mother passed away. Jon and Loice visit them regularly in their home in York for Bible study and discipleship. ■

**VIDEO** available at <https://youtu.be/J5mzQB99zco>



# FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCE



## PRAYER IN THE PARK

Elizabethtown Mennonite Church has decided to focus on outreach in the town. On June 5, after a time of worship, instead of a sermon, our congregation went to the park next to the church. There in small groups, families, couples and little children prayed for those who came to the park. Then we walked to the town square, and in the four corners, we prayed for each quadrant of our town. As we walked, we met several people and were able to tell them what we were doing. We were encouraged by their responses. (We also have been praying for the police. The next day a man tried to commit suicide by provoking the police to shoot him, but our officers were able to take him into custody without killing him. We saw this outcome as a direct answer to prayer.)

## FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR CLAIR GOOD



Coaches from Church on the Other Side honored Clair Good on June 17 at a gathering at East Petersburg MC. The group gave Clair a symbolic shovel for his groundbreaking work in developing and executing Church on the Other Side as a church planting resource. A gift certificate for

The John Wright Restaurant in Wrightsville was also presented.

## HAITI MISSION TRIP

The Willow Street Mennonite Church youth group spent eight days in July working with children in Haiti. The group of 30+ youth and adult leaders held a four-day vacation Bible school and spent two days in ministry at an orphanage.

## NEW MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

Three new missional communities emerged in Lancaster Mennonite Conference in 2016. Pastor Tracy Brown began Assured Hope Community Church in Lancaster, Pa. Tom DelRocini and John Droulliard began REACH Church in Strasburg, Pa. Robert Brody, as part of the missional outreach of New Danville Mennonite Church, began Motley Church, a restaurant church.



## BAPTISMS IN GERMANY

Keith Weaver traveled to Germany in June with a contingent from Eastern Mennonite Missions to participate in the baptism celebrations of a number of Iraqi immigrants.

## RIVERSEDGE K-TEAM

An EMM K-Team from Millport Mennonite Church in Lititz provided a Kids Club for the Bhutanese-Nepali portion of

RiversEdge, an inner-city congregation in Lancaster, as well as for children from the community near the church. During the last week of July they hosted many kids each day, mostly un-churched children. The K-Team youth did a great job. The congregation is now working at ways to maintain and strengthen the new connections made in the community.



## IT'S A LOVE THING, 780-MILE PRAYER WALK

On Aug. 7, Pastor Al Taylor of Infinity Mennonite Church in Harlem set out on a trek from New York City to Chicago, Ill. With his walk, under the banner of "It's A Love Thing," Taylor hoped to call people to prayer, hope, unity, and action in the face of the turbulent and violent days we are experiencing as a country. The trip crossed seven states and covered 780 miles. Visit [facebook.com/itsalovethingalways](https://facebook.com/itsalovethingalways) to view live feeds of Pastor Al's walk.

## ES UNA COSA DE AMOR, CAMINATA DE ORACIÓN DE 780-MILLA

El 7 de agosto, el pastor Al Taylor de la congregación Infinity Mennonite en Harlem emprendió una caminata desde la ciudad de Nueva York a Chicago, Ill. Con su caminata, bajo la bandera de "Es Una Cosa De Amor," el deseo de

Taylor era llamar a las personas a la oración, unidad y acción, y dar esperanza en estos días turbulentos y violentos que estamos viviendo como país. El viaje cruzó siete estados y cubrió 780 millas. Para ver videos en vivo de la caminata de Pastor Al, visite [facebook.com/itsalovethingalways](https://facebook.com/itsalovethingalways).

## CHURCH VIOLENCE SEMINAR

On July 20, 50 leaders gathered to learn about responses to violence in the congregation. Tracy Brown provided an overview of variety of possible violent situations in the congregation, from natural disasters to human inflicted violence. Trooper Gonzalez of the Pennsylvania State Police provided a compelling presentation on responding to an active shooter in the church. She demonstrated with data from shootings over the last decade that the traditional "lockdown" response is not an effective measure. Rather, she showed that doing anything from flight, to barricade, to counter were better responses. "Doing something, anything, is always better than doing nothing," she said. Brown, Gonzalez and Sgt. Hickey of Lancaster City police responded to questions from the audience to conclude the evening.

## SEMINARIO DE VIOLENCIA EN LA IGLESIA

El 20 de julio, 50 líderes se reunieron para aprender acerca de las respuestas a la violencia en la congregación. Tracy Brown contribuyó una descripción general de la variedad de posibles situaciones de violencia en la congregación, desde desastres naturales hasta la violencia infligida humana. Trooper González de la Policía del estado de Pensilvania realizó una presentación convincente sobre cómo re-

sponder a un tirador activo en la iglesia. Ella demostró con datos de los disparos de la última década que la respuesta tradicional de "lockdown" o encerrarse no es una medida efectiva. Más bien, se demostró que hacer cualquier cosa, como correr, levantar barricadas, y enfrentarse eran mejores respuestas. "Hacer algo, cualquier cosa, siempre es mejor que no hacer nada," dijo ella. Brown, González y el sargento. Hickey de la policía de la ciudad de Lancaster respondió a las preguntas de la audiencia al concluir la noche.



## CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

The Martindale District youth group invested an evening on June 4 exploring what it means to be a conscientious objector to war. In an interactive dialog with resourcing from the LMC office staff, the youth began the process of creating a Conscientious Objection file by filling out the CO forms.



## PRAYER RESOURCING FOR CHILDREN

Irma Chon, from Hilliard, Oh., visited Elizabethtown Mennonite Church, on June 3 and 4. She has been resourcing adults

and children around the world regarding teaching children to hear God's voice and learning to pray. The 18 children who attended learned to discriminate between the voices of themselves, God and Satan. They learned that the prayers of children make a difference in the world. They had a chance to pray for children's needs around the world and ask God to show them how our community would be different if everyone knew the Lord.

## STEP STARTED A NEW COHORT

On September 17, the STEP program began its 14th cohort of students enrolled in ministry preparation. STEP director Mark Wenger expressed his excitement and encouragement to the new cohort at an August 20 Orientation. Eight men and women started their journey at the first class on September 17. Their practical preparation and training to serve in congregational leadership will conclude in 2019. This cohort will be the first group to use the entire three years of a revised STEP curriculum. The revision process began two years ago and was phased in gradually. This new class also experienced access to the application process and the curriculum material in an electronic format that includes cloud-based assignments.



# Church Multiplication Networks

## Garifuna Church Multiplication Network

3 New York City congregations  
11 new congregations in the last 10 years

Manhattan (2006) New Orleans (2008)  
Brooklyn (2010) Delaware (2011, closed)  
Seattle (2013) N. Carolina (2014)  
Houston (2015) Honduras (2015)  
Los Angeles (2015) Atlanta (2016)  
Rochester (2016)

## Martindale District Multiplication

3 new congregations

Shiloh (1994)  
Mountain Spring (2006)  
Parkview (2010)

## Vietnamese Mennonite Church Multiplication

4 new congregations on east coast  
10 in Vietnam

Church for the Needy (2013)  
Columbia NC (2014)  
Pittsburgh (closed)  
Hockessin Menn Fell (2015)

## Spanish Council Multiplication

9 new congregations in last 10 years

Iglesia Menonite Bethel (2006)  
Palabra De Vida (2007)  
Cong. Menonite Nueva Cancion (2008)  
Iglesia Cristiana El Shadai (2009)  
Williamsport Spanish Grp (2012)  
Roca De Restaracion (2013)  
Jesu Rey Y Vida (2014)  
Familia Y Comunidad (2015)  
Casa De Dios (2016)

## West End Multiplication Network

5 new congregations

Connect (2008)  
Mosaic International – Lancaster (2010)  
RiversEdge (2011)  
Mosaic International – York (2014)  
Retirement Home (2014)

## NEWS NOTES

### BOARD OF BISHOP NEWS

Last October, **Keith Blank** was installed as the new bishop for the Landisville-Manor District. He took the place of Sam Thomas, who retired. Keith was previously the pastor at Mountville Mennonite Church, and he also had some years of experience at Eastern Mennonite Missions.

**Oscar Molina** joined the Board of Bishops in June as a new representative for the Spanish Council. Oscar serves as pastor of Iglesia Menonita Roca de Salvación in Lancaster. He supervises Spanish Council churches in New Holland, Lancaster, Coatesville, and Kennett Square.

**Stephen Weaver** was affirmed as the new Assistant Moderator for Lancaster Mennonite Conference, in August. He replaced Clair Good, who resigned from the Board of Bishops earlier this year. Stephen serves with Robert Brody as co-bishop for the New Danville, LanChester, and Willow Street-Strasburg districts.

### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

As of September 1, access to the Employee Assistance Program for Lancaster Mennonite Conference credentialed leaders, previously offered through Philhaven Hospital, occurs through WellSpan. Philhaven services can be selected, but the access through WellSpan provides access to a host of other providers across a wide geographic region. For more information contact the Conference office, or contact WellSpan directly at 800-673-2514, [www.WellSpanEAP.org](http://www.WellSpanEAP.org).

### STAYING, COMING, AND GOING

This is a time of transition in Lancaster Mennonite Conference as some congregations sort out their future affiliation. The majority of the Conference's 165 congregations are committed to remaining affiliated with Lancaster Mennonite Conference.

Since Lancaster Mennonite Conference made the decision to leave Mennonite Church USA, seventeen congregations exercised the opportunity to "opt-in" for a season of discernment about ongoing connections with Mennonite Church USA. Of those seventeen, two decided to remain with Lancaster Mennonite Conference. Four decided to leave Lancaster Mennonite Conference and affiliate with another area conference in Mennonite Church USA. The remaining eleven are still in discernment.

On Friday, August 19, the Board of Bishops took action to receive

ten new congregations into Lancaster Mennonite Conference. These congregations previously left various Mennonite Church USA area conferences. Three from Western Maryland, three from Western Pennsylvania, and four from Eastern Ohio requested and were granted admission.

Lancaster Mennonite Conference continues to process additional requests from congregations seeking affiliation with the Conference.

### END OF YEAR SUPPORT

Thank you for your financial support in 2016. As you consider your end-of-year giving, keep in mind some new part-time staffing that the Conference will enlist in 2017. Planning is underway to look at staffing for life stage resourcing (infant, youth, couples, elderly), church revitalization and multiplication, conference minister support, and a global delegate. The end-of-year brochure will provide more details on these staffing plans. Watch your mailbox for the opportunity to give to Lancaster Mennonite Conference before the end of 2016.

### PASTORAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pastors, as you know, often face unique financial issues – some of which cause many to leave the ministry. At Everence®, we want to help alleviate those financial pressures so that you can continue to follow your calling to the ministry.

Everence is offering a new Pastoral Financial Assistance Program, funded by a generous \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment. The program is specifically designed to help pastors improve their financial lives, and is open to pastors from Lancaster Mennonite Conference.

#### The program includes:

- A grant aimed at assisting pastors experiencing financial difficulties, matched by funds raised through congregations, conferences and denominations.
- Education designed to improve personal financial skills and planning.
- The Pastoral Financial Assistance Program also includes an opportunity for pastors to receive a subsidy to help with the cost of developing a comprehensive financial plan. Contact Kevin Nofziger, 717-653-6662 ext. 143 or [kevin.nofziger@everence.com](mailto:kevin.nofziger@everence.com), for additional information.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at [lanasterconference.org](http://lanasterconference.org).

## Monday Night Prayer Gathering

**Every first Monday of each month  
7:00–9:00 p.m.**

Conference office, Lancaster, Pa.  
717-293-5246

## Flourish: BOOST Breakfast

**September 2016 – May 2017**

EMM Meetinghouse, Salunga, Pa.  
[mitziheadings@mjmc.org](mailto:mitziheadings@mjmc.org)

## 75 Years of God's Grace – A Service of Thanksgiving

**October 7, 7:00 p.m.**

Lancaster Campus of Lancaster  
Mennonite School  
Lancaster, Pa.

## Flourish: Beautiful Feet

**October 16, 4:00–7:30 p.m.**

Mount Joy Mennonite Church  
Mount Joy, Pa.  
[mitziheadings@mjmc.org](mailto:mitziheadings@mjmc.org)

## EMM Vision and Fundraising Banquet

**October 21, 6:30 p.m.**

Yoder's Restaurant & Buffet  
New Holland, Pa.  
[www.emm.org/events](http://www.emm.org/events)

## Friendship Community 44th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

**November 3, 6:30 p.m.**

Shady Maple Banquets,  
East Earl, Pa.  
[www.friendshipcommunity.net](http://www.friendshipcommunity.net)

## LMHS: Social Businesses

**November 7, 7:00 p.m.**

Neffsville Mennonite Church  
Lancaster, Pa.  
[communications@lmhs.org](mailto:communications@lmhs.org)

## Women's Regional Assembly

**November 12, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Stumptown Mennonite Church  
Bird-in-Hand, Pa.  
[stumptownmc.org/get-connected/wra/](http://stumptownmc.org/get-connected/wra/)

## Immigration & Refugee Seminar

**November 14, 6:30 p.m.**

Conference office, Lancaster, Pa.  
717-293- 5246 ext. 100

## Celebration of Church Life

**March 17–18, 2017**

Weaverland Mennonite Church  
East Earl, Pa.  
717-293- 5246 ext. 100

## Good news in a broken world

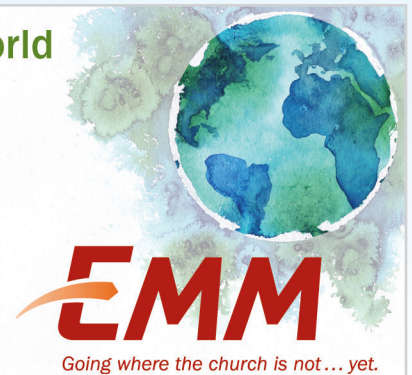
### Eastern Mennonite Missions

vision and fundraising banquet

**Friday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.**

Yoder's Restaurant & Buffet

Register online by October 1  
at [emm.org/banquet](http://emm.org/banquet)  
to attend or to host a table.



2215 Millstream Rd., Lancaster, Pa. • (717) 393-9745 • [www.lmhs.org](http://www.lmhs.org)

## Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

- History and Theology
- Museum
- Genealogy
- Music
- Congregational Records
- Pennsylvania German Arts and Culture

**Engaging history to inspire memory, faith and hope**

**Join Us**  
**SUNDAY**  
**DEC. 13**  
**7 PM**

## Christmas HYMN SING

**All are welcome at this free event!**  
**Maranatha Retreat Center Lobby**  
Featuring local song leaders  
Bob Meck and John Hollinger

The Hymn Sing is compliments of Black Rock Retreat.  
A Christmas Buffet Banquet will be offered for a small fee.  
Overnight accommodations are also available. For more  
information, contact us at 717-529-3232, ext. 152.

*Black Rock Retreat*

**Landis Communities**  
Enriching Lives

[LandisCommunities.org](http://LandisCommunities.org)