



LANCASTER MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Shalom NEWS

APRIL – JUNE 2017



2017 Celebration of Church Life

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CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES: AURORA MENNONITE CHURCH • GLADE MENNONITE CHURCH

EDITORIAL



BY MARCIA MYLIN

I was recently struck by the first three words of the Gospel of John, chapter 21: “Afterwards Jesus appeared.” We all have “afterwards” in our lives: after the holidays, after I am well again, after we save a little money, after our children finish school, after I retire. . . . But after all those events take place, do we look for Jesus to appear?

The stories that you will read in the following pages will indeed affirm that “afterward Jesus appeared.” You’ll read how Jesus appeared in the midst of chaos and also showed up in the life of a professional manicurist. The power and work of the Holy Spirit will be evident as you hear stories of changed lives resulting in a passion for mission. Age is immaterial, experience is not necessary, and your past need not determine your future because afterwards, Jesus appears. Jesus comes, not only in the ordinary and routine activities of life, but also in sudden and unexpected ways.

The disciples had just witnessed the greatest victory in history, the resurrection! But afterwards, they returned to fishing, and after a long night of fishing with no results, Jesus appeared. Jesus filled their empty nets and reaffirmed their calling to be fishers of people.

May I encourage you; whether you are celebrating a recent spiritual victory or are at the end of a long night with few results, be watchful, for it is then that Jesus appears! ■

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ON THE COVER: Photos from Celebration of Church Life on March 18–19, 2017. Top-right photo by Jeff McLain. Other photos by Jonathan Charles.

Lancaster Mennonite Conference would like to acknowledge Turkey Hill for providing the ice cream at the 2017 Celebration of Church Life event, at a discounted price.

Manicure as Mission

A story told at the 2017 Celebration of Church Life

BY KHON “KEON” TRAN

While living in North Carolina a few years ago, I had a dream.

I was in a shoe store where I saw a pair of sandals that I really liked. This was not normal for me because I do not like sandals. However, in the dream I liked them and bought them. After I left the store, I suddenly realized that I had left my old shoes inside the store. I went back to the store, but I could not find my shoes.

Before moving to North Carolina, I had worked in my family’s manicure business. I had the skill and knew the business, but I had given all that up. I thought I wanted something else. So I left my home in Philadelphia, disillusioned and unsure about my life. Somehow, I ended up in North Carolina where I met a pastor who took me in. I began attending his church and Bible study. The Lord gave me a hunger for the Word, and I began to grow in Christ. I had a good church, good friends, and a spiritual mentor, Patty.

One day my friend Tri called me from Philadelphia. Tri said he believed God wanted to call me back to Philadelphia. I was not so sure. Why go back? What would I do there?

Then I was reminded of the dream. My mentor, Patty, helped me understand the dream as God’s call to me. She thought the new sandals represented a new path I needed to travel.



Keon Tran welcomes customers to the salon. Photo provided by the author.

Right: Keon Tran speaks at Celebration of Church Life. Photo by Jonathan Charles.

The new path was not necessarily something I wanted to do. However, Tri’s call, the

dream, and Patty’s encouragement led me back to Philadelphia.

When I arrived, I stayed with Tri. We went to church together. We entered the STEP program together. Tri showed me what God did for him. He treated me like a brother. Tri had experienced a renewal in his life when he committed himself to God.

Years earlier when Tri was far from God, he had owned several nail salons, but his lifestyle put him out of business. Now, with God guiding his life, Tri decided to go back into the salon business. Tri asked me if I wanted to work for him since it was what I knew how to do. Back to work I went – manicures and pedicures – at Jade Salon.

Although my work in the salon was familiar, I was different. Tri helped me understand that this was not just a job; it was a ministry. As I prayed, God said, “In everything you do, do it for me. You’re not working for a human master you are working for me.” When I received that message, I started looking at doing nails in a different way. Jesus tells us to go and minister to people – the great commission. However, in the nail salon people come to me. I sit with them for thirty minutes to an hour. It is a great opportunity for me to pray for people, encourage them, and sometimes to share the gospel.

One day Donna came into the shop. She was having problems and her daughter had been injured. Tri and I prayed with her, and then we invited her to a Bible study. She liked the study



and came regularly. Donna became a part of our church and eventually went into the STEP program. After graduation last year, she now helps to lead a new church in Delaware.

When Joanne came into the salon, God’s Spirit impressed on me to quietly pray for her. I said, “You look very healthy. How’s your health?” She looked at me and then suddenly broke down and cried. Her doctor had just told her she had cancer. This was her second time having cancer. So I encouraged her by saying, “God helped you before and can help you again.”

She said, “I remember a time when I was attending church and the pastor was having an altar call. I went up front for prayer, and I believe God healed me.” I said, “God helped you before and can do it again,” and I prayed for her. She cried tears of joy and said, “I am so glad I came here today. I may look okay on the outside, but you asked how I was on the inside.” A few weeks

When Joanne came into the salon, God’s Spirit impressed on me to quietly pray for her. I said, “You look very healthy. How’s your health?”

later she came back to tell me that the cancer was gone! I believe she was healed because she trusted God.

Another customer, Sarah, came in for a pedicure. In our shop, there is a small step to go up to another level to get to the pedicure station. When Sarah stepped up, she tripped and fell. Tri was there. He helped her and prayed for

her. In the conversation that followed, Tri asked her if she wanted to receive Jesus, and she said “yes.” She prayed and accepted Jesus. Later Sarah told Tri that her son is a pastor of a church, and for 30 years, he had been trying to minister to her, but she would not believe. However, when Tri ministered, she felt God’s Spirit touch her. A few days later, Sarah’s son came in and told Tri, “All these years I tried to minister to my mother and she would not believe. Thank you for taking the time to minister to her.”

Although I do not particularly like doing pedicures, I was reminded that Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. Now as I do a pedicure, I just start to pray that the client will feel God’s love and care. I do my best to give a good massage and to relax the

Ngành Phục Vụ Nails – Cánh Đồng Truyền Giáo

BY KHON “KEON” TRAN

Tôi tin rằng Chúa Giê-xu có thể biến chuyển một điểm rạn nứt trong cuộc sống của chúng ta thành một khám phá tuyệt diệu như lời hứa của Ngài: “Ta đến để các con được sống và sự sống sung mãn” (Giăng 10:10)

Trong khi sống ở tiểu bang North Carolina một vài năm trước, tôi đã có một giấc mơ. Trong giấc mơ, tôi thấy tôi đang ở trong một cửa hàng giày dép và đang nhìn thấy một đôi dép mà tôi thực sự yêu thích. Điều này không bình thường đối với tôi vì tôi không thích dép. Tuy nhiên, trong giấc mơ tôi thích đôi dép đó và quyết định mua. Sau khi tôi rời khỏi cửa hàng, tôi chợt nhận ra rằng tôi đã để lại đôi giày cũ của tôi trong cửa hàng. Tôi trở lại của hàng, nhưng không thể tìm thấy đôi giày của mình nữa. Giấc mơ này đã trở thành một điểm queo trong cuộc đời của tôi.

Trước khi chuyển đến North Carolina, tôi đã từng sống tại thành phố Philadelphia. Từ khi còn bé tôi đã từng đi nhà thờ nhưng tôi chẳng biết Chúa Giê-xu là ai. Vì vậy tôi đã đi vào con đường đối trị, giống như câu chuyện của gã con trai hoang đàng. Tôi nghĩ rằng tôi đã đạt những điều tôi mong muốn, nhưng thực tế, lòng tôi vẫn thấy trống không. Tôi đã từng làm việc trong ngành phục vụ nails của gia đình tôi nhiều năm, tôi đã có kinh nghiệm và biết kinh doanh, nhưng tôi đã chán ngán và từ bỏ nó. Tôi nghĩ tôi muốn làm cái gì khác. Vì vậy, tôi rời nhà ở Philadelphia với tâm trạng mông lung và không chắc chắn về cuộc đời của tôi. Bằng cách nào đó, tôi đã kết thúc ở tiểu bang North Carolina, nơi tôi đã gặp một mục sư và người đã bằng lòng tiếp nhận tôi. Tôi bắt đầu tham dự hội thánh của ông và nghiên cứu Kinh Thánh. Chúa đã ban cho lòng tôi đói khát về lời của Ngài và tôi được nuôi dưỡng và lớn lên trong lời của Ngài. Tôi đã có một Hội Thánh tốt, bạn bè tốt và một cố vấn thuộc linh tên là bà Patty.

Một ngày kia người bạn tên là anh Trí gọi tôi từ Philadelphia. Anh nói anh tin rằng Đức Chúa Trời muốn gọi tôi trở lại Philadelphia để đi học chương trình mục vụ STEP. Tôi không chắc

nếu đây là điều đúng phải làm. Tại sao Chúa lại gọi tôi? Tôi đâu có gì đáng để Ngài dõi đến, và lại tôi đã ổn định cuộc sống tôi tại đây rồi.

Sau đó, tôi được nhắc nhở về giấc mơ lần trước. Người cố vấn của tôi, bà Patty, đã giúp tôi hiểu giấc mơ như lời kêu gọi của Thiên Chúa đối với tôi. Bà nghĩ rằng đôi dép mới này đại diện cho một con đường mới mà tôi cần phải đi. Con đường mới không nhất thiết là điều tôi muốn làm. Tuy nhiên, cuộc gọi của anhTrí, giấc mơ, và sự khích lệ của bà Patty đã đưa tôi trở về Philadelphia.

Khi tôi đến Philadelphia, tôi ở với anh Trí. Chúng tôi cùng nhau đi nhà thờ. Chúng tôi cùng nhau tham gia chương trình STEP. Anh cho tôi biết những gì Chúa đã làm trong cuộc đời của anh ta và tin rằng Chúa có thể làm cho tôi. Anh đã đối xử với tôi như một người em trai trong gia đình. Anh Trí đã trải qua một sự đổi mới trong cuộc đời của mình khi anh trở lại cuộc sống gần bó với Chúa.

Nhiều năm trước khi anh Trí chưa biết Đức Chúa Trời, anh đã sở hữu một số tiệm nail, nhưng lối sống bê tha của một người không có Chúa đã khiến anh bại sản và mất tất cả. Anh đã trở thành một người vô gia cư lúc tôi gặp anh. Bây giờ, có Chúa hướng dẫn cuộc sống của mình, anh Trí đã kinh nghiệm một đời sống sung mãn như lời hứa của Chúa Giê-xu. Anh đã về nhà làm hòa với gia đình của anh và bắt đầu phục vụ Chúa trong Hội Thánh. Anh đã quyết định trở lại kinh doanh tiệm nails. Anh hỏi tôi nếu tôi muốn làm việc cho anh ta vì đó là những gì tôi biết làm. Tôi đồng ý và trở lại làm việc trong tiệm nail của anh – Tiệm Jade Nails Salon.

Mặc dù công việc trong tiệm rất quen thuộc đối với tôi, nhưng lần này khác hẳn hơn lúc trước. Anh Trí đã giúp tôi hiểu rằng đây không chỉ là một công việc; nhưng là một cánh đồng truyền giáo. Khi tôi cầu nguyện, Chúa đã nói, “Trong mọi việc con làm, hãy làm điều đó cho ta. Con không phải làm việc cho người chủ trên đời này, mà là con đang làm việc cho chính ta.

clients. Those times when I pray quietly and show them love and care, they really appreciate it. They sense the good relaxing presence of God.

So, my “new sandals” have taken me down a new path I would never have imagined possible. Through my simple faithfulness to God’s call, I have received so many blessings. As I minister to people, I myself am ministered to. ■

Khon “Keon” Tran lives in Philadelphia and is a member of Church of the Needy.



Keon Tran with a customer at the nail salon. Photo provided by the author.

“Khi tôi nhận được sứ điệp này, tôi bắt đầu nhìn vào việc làm móng theo một cái nhìn và mục đích khác. Chúa Jêsus bảo chúng ta hãy đi môn đồ hóa muôn dân – Đây là một đại mạng lệnh cao cả. Thật vậy, trong tiệm làm móng người ta đến với tôi. Tôi ngồi với họ từ ba mươi phút đến một giờ. Đây là cơ hội tuyệt vời để tôi cầu nguyện cho họ, khuyến khích họ, và đôi khi chia sẻ phúc âm với họ. Sau đây là một vài câu chuyện tôi xin chia sẻ:

Một ngày bà Donna bước vào tiệm nail. Bà đang có vấn đề và con gái bà đã bị thương. Anh Trí và tôi đã cùng cầu nguyện cho bà ấy, và sau đó chúng tôi mời bà đến học Kinh Thánh tại nhà mục sư Tuyền. Bà Donna rất ham thích các buổi học kinh thánh tại đây và đã đến thường xuyên. Donna đã trở thành một phần của Hội Thánh của chúng tôi và cuối cùng bà đã tham gia vào chương trình STEP. Sau khi tốt nghiệp STEP 2016, bà tham gia phục vụ Chúa tại một nhà thờ mới ở Delaware do mục sư Tuyền quản nhiệm cho đến nay.

Một cơ hội khác, khi Joanne bước vào tiệm nail của chúng tôi, Chúa Thánh Linh đã nhắc tôi là nên yên lặng cầu nguyện cho cô ấy. Tôi nói, “bà trông rất khỏe mạnh. Sức khỏe của bà thế nào?” Bà ấy nhìn tôi và sau đó đột ngột bắt đầu khóc. Bác sĩ của bà vừa mới báo tin là bà bị ung thư. Đây là lần thứ hai bà bị ung thư. Vì vậy, tôi khuyến khích bà bằng cách nói, “Chúa đã giúp cho bà trước kia và bây giờ Ngài có thể giúp bà một lần nữa.” Bà nói, “Tôi nhớ một thời gian khi tôi đang tham dự thờ phượng với một Hội Thánh và vị mục sư đang có một cuộc kêu gọi chữa lành. Tôi đã lên cầu nguyện, và tôi tin Đức Chúa Trời đã chữa lành cho tôi” lúc ấy. Tôi nói, “Chúa đã giúp bà lần trước và lần này Ngài còn làm phép lạ nữa” , và tôi cầu nguyện cho bà ấy. Bà bật khóc vì vui mừng và nói, “Tôi rất vui khi tôi đến đây hôm nay. Bề ngoài có thể tưởng tôi vui, nhưng anh đã hỏi về tâm trạng ở bên trong của tôi như thế nào”. Một vài tuần sau, bà ấy trở lại báo tin rằng ung thư đã biến mất rồi! Tôi tin rằng bà ấy đã được chữa lành bởi vì bà đã tin cậy nơi quyền năng của Đức Chúa Trời.



Church for the Needy

Located in Philadelphia, Pa., Church for the Needy (CFN) was founded in 2010. It consists of people from all walks of life: rich, poor, black, white, yellow, young and old, and from the not very educated to the highly educated.

They share fellowship meals together after the morning service every Sunday. One of their leaders noted, “Each time we have a fellowship meal there is an opportunity to connect with someone personally. It’s also exciting to see how the children grow and mature over time and to imagine what they will become like as adults.”

Their main focus is spreading the good news of Christ. One of those ways includes helping children in the local area learn the word of Christ along with computer and other educational skills.

Một khách hàng khác, Sarah, bước vào tiệm nail của chúng tôi. Trong cửa tiệm của chúng tôi, có một bước nhỏ để đi lên ghế làm chân. Khi Sarah bước lên, bà ta vấp và ngã xuống. Lúc ấy anh Trí đã ở đó. Anh đã giúp bà và cầu nguyện cho bà. Trong cuộc trò chuyện tiếp theo, Trí hỏi bà nếu bà muốn tiếp nhận Chúa Jêsus vào lòng, và bà đã nói “vâng”. Bà cầu nguyện và tin nhận Chúa Jêsus ngày hôm đó. Sau đó Sarah nói với anh Trí rằng con trai của bà là một mục sư của một Hội Thánh Tin Lành, và trong 30 năm, anh đã cố gắng làm chứng về Chúa cho bà, nhưng bà vẫn không tin. Tuy nhiên, đang khi anhTrí phục vụ cho bà, bà cảm thấy Đức Thánh Linh chạm vào lòng bà và bắt phục bà phải mời Chúa Giê-xu vào lòng. Vài ngày sau, con trai của bà Sarah đến tiệm và nói với anhTrí rằng: “Trong những năm qua, tôi đã cố gắng chia sẻ về Chúa cho mẹ tôi nhưng bà ấy vẫn không tin. Cảm ơn anh đã dành thời gian để làm chứng về Chúa cho mẹ tôi và đã cầu nguyện cho bà tiếp nhận Chúa và trở nên môn đồ của Ngài.”

Mặc dù tôi không thích chọn ngành nails làm nghề sinh sống , nhưng tôi đã được nhắc nhở rằng Chúa Giêsu đã rửa chân cho các môn đệ cũng như công việc tôi làm, nhưng tại sao tôi lại không thích nó! Chúa Giê-xu đến để phục vụ chứ không phải Ngài đến để được phục vụ. Bây giờ khi tôi phục vụ khách hàng của tôi, tôi biết rằng tôi đang phục vụ Chúa trong tiếng gọi của Ngài. Tôi luôn luôn cầu nguyện cho khách hàng của tôi sẽ cảm nhận được tình yêu và sự hiện diện của Chúa trong sự phục vụ này.

Vì vậy, “đôi dép mới” của tôi đã đưa tôi đến một chặn đường mới ngoài sức tưởng tượng của mình. Qua lòng đơn thành vâng theo tiếng gọi của Chúa, tôi đã nhận được rất nhiều phước hạnh. Khi tôi phục vụ cho mọi người, chính tôi là người được phục vụ. ■

Khon “Keon” Tran đang định cư tại Philadelphia và là một thành viên trong hội thánh Church for the Needy.

More Stories Told at Celebration of Church Life

On March 17 and 18 over 400 people gathered to worship, fellowship, network, and listen to stories. The assembly heard stories in full session with numerous additional stories during the two seminar blocks. If you were unable to hear these stories in-person at Celebration of Church life, you can see them at the Missional Church playlist on the LMC YouTube channel: [youtube.com/user/2160LMC](https://www.youtube.com/user/2160LMC).



Nelson Bechtold, Bishop in the Elizabethtown and York Districts told a story of Chaotic Places on Friday evening. The title contained a dual meaning. As a chaplain for the local police department, he explained the chaos involved in accidents and other tragedies, including those with loss of life. As chaplain, he joined officers for next-of-kin death notification. But the chaos also included the internal confusion Nelson encountered as he processed serving alongside weapon-carrying officers, caring for distraught families, and dealing with health issues and trauma-induced stress.



Developing the Next Generation of Preachers told the story of a youth preaching school at Elizabethtown Mennonite Church. Conrad Kanagy and Fred Zeiset, both pastors at Elizabethtown Mennonite Church, brought along two of their preaching students to share their personal journey toward the pulpit. Christian Cook and Erin Vago, senior-high students, explained their encounter with the Bible, the Holy Spirit, preaching theory, and church practice. Bottom line—they enjoyed the total experience.



Mount Joy Mennonite Church told a congregational story of Courageous Hospitality. Karl Landis and Ryan McQuitty, both pastors at Mount Joy, told the story for their congregation. This year long journey followed the previous year's focus on Courageous Generosity. Opening a door of hospitality, the Mount Joy congregation was transformed through sermons, study, sharing, practices, and visual reminders, which included a large wooden door covered with keys.



Mark Wenger, director of STEP at EMU-Lancaster told the concluding story, STEP in... Step Out. Mark brought STEP graduate Randy Carr from Beaverdam Mennonite Church and first-year student Sarah Garber from Bossler Mennonite Church with him. STEP is an acronym for Study and Training for Effective Pastoral ministry. Mark indicated that the graduating class of 2017 will put the number of graduates, over the 13 years of the program, at more than 100. The three presenters explained how the training program works, the benefits they receive, and some of their memorable moments. As a group, they encouraged emerging leaders to step into ministry training and step out into what God has for each of us.

Photos by Jonathan Charles

FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCE



NEW WEBSITE

Lancaster Mennonite Conference (LMC) launched a new website at the Celebration of Church Life event in March. You can visit it at lancasterconference.org. Joselyn Santiago will serve as the webmaster for the site. One of the exciting new features on the site is a "Projects" page that allows congregations to submit activities and initiatives that require help from outside the congregation. The new website is also a source for LMC event information, articles, LMC congregational directory, pastoral openings, videos, ministry resources, and more.

EVANA PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

A large number of LMC leaders attended the Evana Pastor's Conference in FL from January 8–12. Bruxy Cavey, a Brethren in Christ pastor and missional practitioner, spoke during the event. Evana also offered a Church Planting Track among the various workshops. Eight LMC leaders participated in that week-long session led by Lee Stephenson of Converge.

WELCOMING REFUGEES

An exploration into the plight of refugees and the opportunities available for congregations to engage this community took place on February 13 at Alive Church in Ephrata, Pa. Christine Baer, Church World Services, facilitated the

evening. The event was very well attended. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone – families, congregations, Sunday school classes, small groups, youth groups – to become involved in serving refugees in Lancaster, Pa.

5 VOICES WORKSHOP

Flourish sponsored the 5 Voices Workshop on February 15 at Mount Joy Mennonite Church. Participants explored their dominant leadership traits for greater self-understanding and to better coach others. *Flourish* promotes the expansion of missional communities across LMC and beyond.



CHURCH ON THE OTHER SIDE

Omar Guzman, leader for Church on the Other Side, visited with bishops, pastors and groups from February 15 to 17 promoting church multiplication. In addition, he prayed with the Landis Homes Church Multiplication prayer group that meets the third Thursday of each month.



UNDER OUR SKIN

This forum on race and faith was a live-streamed event at Elizabethtown Mennonite Church, Weaverland Mennonite Church, and Capital Christian Fellowship on February 16. The panelists sought to move the discussion from argument and debate to understanding by being intentional about trying to put ourselves in someone else's shoes. The event was presented by Tyndale House.

CHILD PROTECTION

LMC congregations are encouraged to maintain their Child Protection policies and keep current with the refresher training. Since the new Child Protection law was passed in 2015, congregations are legally required to meet higher standards than in the past. For more information, contact Brinton Rutherford at brutherford@lancasterconference.org.



BREAKFAST WITH YOUTH LEADERS

LMC Youth Workers meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Lyndon Diner for breakfast, prayer, encouragement and to share ideas. Anyone involved with youth ministry in any way in LMC is welcome! Please RSVP on the LMC Youth Workers Facebook page if you are coming ([facebook.com/groups/LMCYouthWorkers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LMCYouthWorkers)).

CRM SEMINAR

The annual Conference Related Ministries Seminar took place on March 31 at Garden Spot Village in New Holland, Pa. Wes Furlong addressed the group and challenged Mennonite church organizations to engage in "smart compassion." His presentation drew on his recent book by the same title published by Herald Press.



Left: Children's Church
Far left: Baptism



CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

Aurora Mennonite Church

DISTRICT: Eastern Ohio

LOCATION: 59 E. Mennonite Road,
Aurora, OH 44202

DATE OF FOUNDING: 1906

**AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE:** 56

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:30 a.m.



PASTOR: James Sutton

Aurora Mennonite Church, originally Plainview Mennonite Church, began in 1906. The congregation has assisted in the founding of several other congregations over the years. Today, we are a multi-generational, community-focused congregation with a vibrant children's ministry, a growing core of young families, and an active senior fellowship.

Through the Aurora Minister's Fellowship, Aurora Mennonite Church and the other congregations represented in the group have built a quality relationship with city officials and community organizations. Recently, when the fall mini-football schedule for community children was set to begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings, representatives from the Minister's Fellowship petitioned those responsible to adjust the schedule so that it did not conflict with morning worship services. The sports association leaders received the petition and decided to accommodate the Sunday worship schedules. Such cooperation is refreshing and welcome in these times.

We have several programs that serve the community. Our Community Dinner invites the community to a full-course meal every other month. The meals are very well attended, well thought of, and highly anticipated. Those that attend the Community Dinner say, "Those Mennonite folks can sure cook!" The Learning Lighthouse serves the community by providing quality Christian preschool education. The preschool encourages families to grow in their faith in Jesus, to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, and to attend a church that teaches the Word of God. Our Senior Fellowship group has a significant commitment to work at a regional ministry to the poor and marginalized called, the Haven of Rest, in Akron, Ohio. ■

Worship service at Glade Mennonite

Middle: Children at the church playground

Far right: Fellowship meal



DISTRICT: Western Maryland

LOCATION: 5011 Accident-Bitteringer Road,
Accident, MD 21520

DATE OF FOUNDING: 1899

**AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE:** 72

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE:
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.



PASTORS: Jonathan Martin (left),
and Kevin Dodge

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

Glade Mennonite Church

Glade Mennonite Church began as a mission outreach in 1899. Initially the group included people from Church of the Brethren, Lutheran, Methodist and Conservative Mennonite Churches. Glade built its first building and was officially recognized as a congregation in 1908. Today we are a diverse group of imperfect followers of Jesus Christ, seeking to understand and obey the call to love and serve Jesus and others.

About 17 years ago, we began using the Firstfruits Budget, with members of the congregation pledging what they will give from their firstfruits. From these pledges, at least 10% are designated for missions both within and outside the church, and the remaining amount is used for fixed expenses. A percentage is then added to the Firstfruits amount, ranging from 17–25%, which is called the Abundance Budget. These funds allow us to add budget items or increase amounts of existing budget items. At the end of the fiscal year, after leaving a cushion to start the next year, any remaining funds are put into the Outrageous Budget. This budget is then used to purchase things for the church that would be considered "outrageous" under normal circumstances. Over the years, the tithe portion of this budget has increased to 50% and we have been able to bless many ministries. In addition, we have been able to purchase things for the church we would never have imagined such as a property near the church with a building that has been converted to a gym. Through this budget process, God has blessed us abundantly!

For example in 2016, the congregation learned of a person in the community who sometimes walked five or six miles to get to his job. As leadership processed this information, it was decided to purchase a car, make some repairs to it, get it inspected, fill the gas tank, and give it to him. The man was overwhelmed and appreciative of the gift. He has since believed in Jesus as his Savior and begun attending church services. While the car did not bring him to Christ, it was a part of his being drawn to God.

We recently moved from a single, paid-pastor model to a pastoral team model. Both of our pastors have other jobs and give of their time to the church as they are able. We also created a Leadership Team with elders, deaconesses, pastors, and a secretary. This team senses the Spirit wanting them to encourage the congregation to participate more fully in God's mission.

The community outreach at Glade includes many ministries. Vacation Bible School draws many children from the community each year. Twice a week volleyball in our gym attracts many community members. The playground at the church is open to the public and used by many from the neighborhood. We collect items for the local food pantry and provide for relief needs in the surrounding area, such as the recent flooding in West Virginia. Sometimes groceries are provided or electric bills paid when we learn of financial difficulty. Recently we helped a single mother purchase a car. As church members work and live in the community, they regularly encounter and meet needs. ■

A Brief Summary of the STATE OF THE CONFERENCE ADDRESS

BY L. KEITH WEAVER

In this season of Lent, we posture ourselves in prayerful repentance, remind ourselves of the passion of our Lord and seek to say “no” to ourselves in order to say a greater “yes” to Jesus. Whatever the state of the conference, we maintain a humble dependence on the grace and mercy of God. It is only in Jesus that the new life we celebrate comes.

The State of the Conference can be summarized in three main categories: *Missional Engagement, Fraternal Relationships, and Affiliation Realignment.*

For the last six years, Lancaster Mennonite Conference (LMC) has been living into *2020 Vision: We See New Life*. This vision calls congregations to join the movement of the Holy Spirit in God’s mission. LMC is emphasizing two aspects of God’s mission. Community-based ministry, the first emphasis, recognizes that congregations are experimenting with all kinds of creative ways to engage their neighborhoods. LMC staff can direct congregations to tools for community mapping, asset and needs assessments, and capacity building. This engagement will likely thrust us into social issues like racism, immigration, and refugee resettlement, issues we can no longer pretend are someone else’s problems. We must also address the disintegration of family structures.

Second, we must attend to congregational multiplication. Omar Guzman and Church on the Other Side are committed to helping districts and congregations multiply disciples. The good news is that multiplication is happening in LMC. We intend to support congregational multiplication through prayer teams and the establishment of a \$500,000 “seed fund.”

LMC is blessed to have dynamic church-with-church relationships with churches in Africa, Asia, Europe, South and Central America, and in the Caribbean. Hence, the need to attend to Fraternal Relationships. The best hope for the long-term health of the church here in the Global West will be found in our relationships with the Global South. We will nurture these relationships with the appointment of Tom Eshleman as the LMC Global Delegate. The emergence of the new Shalom Council of Churches with an international scope, and the hosting with EMM of the International Missions Association (IMA) in September are other opportunities to strengthen Fraternal Relationships.

The State of the Conference can be summarized in three main categories: Missional Engagement, Fraternal Relationships, and Affiliation Realignment.



L. Keith Weaver addresses Celebration of Church Life. Photo by Jonathan Charles.

With the decision to leave Mennonite Church USA (MC USA), we have experienced a season of Affiliation Realignment. Disaffiliation included a two-year ramp for congregations that needed time for discernment; 17 congregations felt the need for more time to discern affiliation. Of those 17, seven decided to leave LMC, five decided to remain in LMC, and five are still in discernment. There has also been discernment occurring in congregations outside of LMC. Congregations that left other MC USA conferences have been looking for a place to belong. LMC has welcomed twelve congregations into membership.

Several LMC agencies are raising questions about the nature of their relationship with LMC. Last August, the Board of Bishops took action to form an Agency Relations Task Force to work with LMC agencies as they discern the nature of their ongoing relationship with LMC.

Churchwide realignment is also occurring in wider church circles. LMC leaders have had helpful and encouraging interactions with Franklin Conference, North Central Conference, and Evana Network. Other Anabaptist groups, including the Brethren in Christ, Conservative Mennonite Conference, and Mennonite Brethren, are in conversation with LMC.

In conclusion, it is gratifying to know that we can fully rest in the eternal, unconditional love of God. We have experienced God’s grace in strong financial giving through 2016, allowing the conference to finish its fiscal year with a surplus! ■

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

NEWS NOTES

BUDGET BLESSING

Lancaster Mennonite Conference (LMC) experienced a significant financial blessing in 2016. While expenditures for the year were slightly under budget, giving came in over budget. The year ended with a surplus of \$57,273.68. Part of this surplus resulted from very strong giving to the Year-End Appeal. Many thanks to those who support LMC office activities and ministries, such as credentialing activities, child-protection compliance, resourcing, electronic communications, annual events, Shalom News, and a host of others.



GLOBAL DELEGATE

In February, Tom Eshleman began phasing into one day a week as the Global Delegate to the international church bodies with which LMC maintains relationships. These include groups in Asia, East Africa, and Central and South America. Tom will connect with visitors from these groups, connect with leaders at major world events like Mennonite World Conference, and occasionally make on-site friendship visits. Tom is lead pastor at Groffdale Mennonite Church and has international experience from traveling to a number of regions around the globe.

NEWLY CREDENTIALED LEADERS ORIENTATION

Lancaster Conference newly credentialed leaders are invited to an orientation at the LMC offices on April 19. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. and provide information about Lancaster Conference ministries, resources available to pastors, connections to other agencies and organizations, mission, vision and direction. RSVP by April 12 by calling 717-293-5246, ext. 100 or via email jsantiago@lancasterconference.org.

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION FUNDRAISING

Lancaster Mennonite Conference will work at raising \$500,000 towards the support of the multiplication of faith communities across the northeastern United States. The funds will be used to nurture a multiplication vision within congregations, identify and train potential church multipliers, provide assessment processes, support coaches to guide church multipliers, and on a case-by-case basis, help new faith communities start. For more information, or to donate, contact Brinton Rutherford at brutherford@lancasterconference.org.



SPRING LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

The Spring Leadership Assembly on May 26–27 will focus on the topic of church multiplication. The Friday evening and Saturday event will be hosted by East Petersburg Mennonite Church and will include input from Omar Guzman and Antonio Ulloa. Saturday will include these six workshops: Pastor Burnout and Discouragement, Community Engagement, Women in Leadership, Women Planting Churches, Church Administration, and Intentional Multiplication of Leaders. There will be a \$30 per person registration fee. Translation in other languages will be provided as requested. For more information, contact Joselyn Santiago at jsantiago@lancasterconference.org. Registration is required, and can be done at lancasterconference.org/event/spring-leadership-assembly/2017-05-26/.

GLOBAL FAIR

Lancaster Conference will again participate in the EMM Global Fair on July 17 at the Hans Herr House in Willow Street, Pa. The Conference will have an informational table for Conference ministries, Missional Pathways, and Church on the Other Side. As always, staff will provide children’s activities.

FALL LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

Lancaster Conference will coordinate its Fall Leadership Assembly with Eastern Mennonite Missions’ International Missions Associates meeting and the Holy Spirit Conference. The co-sponsored and coordinated events will take place from September 19–26, 2017 at the MCC Meeting Place. More details to come in upcoming weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at 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

Thursday Night Prayer Gathering

Every third Thursday of each month
7:00–9:00 p.m.

Harvest Room, Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.
717-293-5246

Everence Stewardship University

April 8, 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Calvary Church, Lancaster, Pa.
kevin.nofziger@everence.com

EMM's Community Prayer Event

April 11, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Westview Community Room
Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.
emm.org/prayerfasting

LMC Orientation for Newly Credentialed Leaders

April 19, 7:00 p.m.

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

Landis Communities Clergy Breakfast

April 27, 7:30–9:00 a.m.

West Community Room
Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.
Iguengerich@landiscommunities.org

COTOS and LMC Spring Leadership Assembly

May 26 and 27

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

Landis Homes 26th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament

June 2, 6:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

and 12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Foxchase Golf Club, Denver, Pa.
landishomes.org/giving/benefit-events/golf-tournament

EMM Global Fair

July 15, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Hans Herr House, Willow Street, Pa.
emm.org/events



Special Movie Screening
at Penn Cinema

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Light refreshments **5:00 PM**

Feature presentation **6:00 PM**

Contact No Longer Alone Ministries at
www.nlam.org or office@nlam.org
for reservations.



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www.landishomes.org



Join us this summer

emm.org/events

A sending celebration: EMM worker commissioning

July 9, 6 p.m.

Mellinger Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa.

Global Fair

July 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hans Herr House, Willow Street, Pa.

EMM
everyone moving in mission