



LANCASTER MENNONITE CONFERENCE

# Shalom NEWS

APRIL – JUNE 2018



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CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES: OAK GROVE MENNONITE CHURCH • SUNNYSIDE MENNONITE CHURCH

# LMC PROJECTS

The LMC website includes a Projects section where congregations can post ministry needs to recruit potential helpers and volunteers more broadly across the conference. Check it out today:

➔ [lancasterconference.org/opportunities/projects](http://lancasterconference.org/opportunities/projects)



**April – June 2018**

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L. Keith Weaver, Moderator

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## **ON THE COVER:**

Congregation in worship during a Missions Service at *Iglesia Evangélica Puerta de Sion*.

*Iglesia Evangélica Puerta de Sion congregación en adoración durante el Servicio de Misiones.*



## **FEATURED PROJECT**

### **RiversEdge, Lancaster, PA**

420 S. Christian Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 | Contact: Rhoda Yost, [rhodamy@gmail.com](mailto:rhodamy@gmail.com)



#### **Worship Team and Children's Church**

RiversEdge is seeking help to support the "anglo" portion of the congregation. Help with worship team and children's church needed. Children's helpers will need current child care checks.



#### **Fraternal Partnership**

RiversEdge is seeking a partnership with a supporting congregation to help RiversEdge reach its urban ministry goals. RiversEdge has a growing, diverse ministry among immigrant communities in the southern side of Lancaster city. Four to six meetings per year anticipated.



#### **Facilities Manager**

RiversEdge is looking for a mechanically inclined individual needed to oversee building maintenance and oversee volunteer helpers. Work would involve monitoring facilities needs, creating job lists, coordinating volunteer helpers, and overseeing work quality.



#### **Sewing Coach**

RiversEdge needs a sewing coach to teach basic machine sewing skills at the Sewing Café on Thursdays from 12 – 3 p.m. or 6 – 8:30 p.m.



#### **Child Care**

RiversEdge needs help to supply child care during the Sewing Café on Thursday mornings 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Child protection checks required. The Sewing Café teaches basic sewing skills. Just childcare requested, but a lesson or story would be a huge plus.



# Quemando el Aceite de Medianoche

POR EL PASTOR HUGO PORTILLO,  
TAL COMO LO RELATÓ A JOSELYN SANTIAGO

**Lo recuerdo como si hubiera sido ayer. Era un martes en la noche en el 2003, e iba a ir a la iglesia después del trabajo.**

Había llegado a los EEUU desde Guatemala en el 2001. Comencé a trabajar en el restaurante desde las 10 a.m. hasta las 10 p.m. Habían pasado un par de años desde que había ido a la iglesia. Mi madre solía llevarnos a mis hermanos y a mí cuando era pequeño. Por lo general, solo íbamos a dormir debajo de la banca cuando llegábamos ahí, pero en ocasiones escuchaba el sermón antes de dormirme. Pero esa noche, un amigo del restaurante me había invitado a ir con él al servicio de la medianoche. Ni tenía idea de que la iglesia tuviera reuniones a esa hora. El objetivo de esos servicios nocturnos, los cuales comenzaron en el año 2000, era para invitar a amigos a la iglesia que, por su horario de trabajo, no podían ir a otra hora del día.

Caminé dentro del pequeño edificio, el cual tenía solo 67 asientos, en la South Broad Street, en Trenton, Nueva Jersey. Esa noche, el predicador era un puertorriqueño, y creo que su nombre era Nelson Colon. Fue ahí, en las primeras horas de la mañana, donde escuché la Palabra de Dios para mí y acepté a Cristo como mi Señor y Salvador.

La iglesia, *Puerta de Sion*, comenzó hace más de 30 años. El hermano Eugenio Matos, quien ya falleció, fue el primer pastor.



Pastor Hugo Portillo praying for missions. | Pastor Hugo Portillo orando por las misiones

Él dirigió la iglesia por más de 15 años. Cuando comencé a asistir regularmente a los servicios, los pastores eran una pareja puertorriqueña. Tuvimos una temporada de transiciones de líderes en la iglesia. En el 2009, Dios nos llamó a mi esposa de tres años, Yaneth, y a mí para servir como pastores interinos.

Al principio, no era fácil. No me enseñaron a ser un pastor antes de comenzar en el ministerio. Aprendí sobre lo que significa ser un pastor a través de la experiencia y la preparación. Dios es quien llama a un pastor. Eso es lo que le digo a nuestros miembros: "Dios es quien llama, y cuando llama, Él entrena". Agradezco a hermanos como Samuel López y Hugo García su ayuda y su apoyo cuando comencé a pastorear. Ellos me dieron preparación personal y me animaron a inscribirme al programa de Obreros Cristianos.

Después de un año, sentimos que Dios dijo que habría crecimiento. Los miembros de la iglesia comentaron: "No hemos llenado los 67 asientos de la iglesia". Dije: "Si oramos por más,



Congregation in worship during a midnight service | Congregación en adoración durante un servicio de la medianoche

¿habrá algún lugar para sentarse?" Pero también dijimos: "No, nos mudaremos porque necesitamos expandirnos. Si Dios va a hacer crecer nuestra congregación, no podemos quedarnos donde estamos". Así que continuamos a orar.

Esos días en la pequeña iglesia de la South Broad Street quedaron atrás. En el 2012, Dios trajo a la *Iglesia Evangélica Puerta de Sión* a este lugar con tres edificios: una iglesia, la casa pastoral y un salón de actividades en 308 N. Willow Street, Trenton. Podemos acomodar a más de 300 personas en los servicios. Ya no tenemos solo un servicio en la medianoche; tenemos tres de ellos las noches de los martes, los jueves y los domingos. Comienzan a las 11:30 p.m., y se llevan a cabo hasta las 2 o 3 a.m. El servicio de la medianoche del domingo es, principalmente, una reunión de oración e intercesión en casas, no en la iglesia.

Tenemos servicio todos los días de la semana, excepto el sábado. No paramos. Hay cerca de 85 jóvenes, quienes tienen su propio servicio los viernes en la noche. Los 130 niños de entre 5 y 12 años tienen su propio servicio el último jueves de cada mes. Ellos dirigen el servicio completo, incluyendo sentar unos a otros, cantar y predicar.

Todos nuestros servicios se transmiten en vivo en nuestra página de Facebook. Dios también nos ha permitido tener una estación de radio por internet. A principios de enero, fue nuestro segundo año de tener esta estación. Los lugareños, además de gente de Guatemala, El Salvador, Brasil, Puerto Rico y varios esta-

Ya no tenemos solo un servicio en la medianoche; tenemos tres de ellos las noches de los martes, los jueves y los domingos. Comienzan a las 11:30 p.m., y se llevan a cabo hasta las 2 o 3 a.m.

dos de aquí de los EEUU se conectan con nuestra estación de radio. Más de 20 000 visitantes se han conectado a la estación de radio.

En el 2016, fui ordenado como pastor. Trabajar con jóvenes, niños y adultos ha sido una bendición. Todos trabajamos en diferentes áreas del ministerio: visitas, evangelismo en las calles, ministerio en la cárcel, consejería por adicciones y un anfitrión de otras áreas. No ha sido fácil. Apenas hay tiempo para descansar. Puede ser agotador, pero damos gracias a Dios, quien nos ha dado fuerza.

Después de 15 años de asistir a esta congregación, aún hago de asistir a los servicios de medianoche una prioridad. Me encantan porque nací en uno de estos servicios. Dios ha bendecido realmente a la iglesia espiritual, numérica y financieramente, al menos en parte por estos servicios. Estamos complacidos por ello, y ese es el propósito del servicio de la medianoche. A veces, nuestros servicios de medianoche están llenos, principalmente con hombres. No podemos parar lo que Dios ha comenzado, pero

superamos el espacio. Si juntamos a quienes asisten a los servicios temprano con quienes asisten al servicio a la medianoche, habría más de 700 personas. No cabríamos en el edificio.

Ahora, ha pasado un año desde que llevamos buscando un edificio más grande. Nuestra visión es encontrar una nueva ubicación que pueda acomodar a 2000 personas, pero todo llega en el tiempo de Dios. Ahora, la bendición es que cuando hablamos sobre un nuevo edificio para la iglesia, todos en la congregación dicen: "¡Amén!", porque vieron que Dios tiene un propósito y ha estado con nosotros y nos ha bendecido.

Le digo a nuestros miembros: "Necesitamos cuidar lo que Dios ha puesto en nuestras manos. Cada persona que llega a nuestra iglesia tiene una experiencia que contar. Por lo general, muchos no quieren irse. Se quedan en el edificio visitando a los demás. Solo Dios puede permitir que suceda algo así". ■

*Hugo Portillo, pastor de la Iglesia Evangélica Puerta de Sión, con su esposa Silvia Hernández y sus hijos Joel Portillo Hernández y David Portillo Hernández.*





# Burning the Midnight Oil

BY PASTOR HUGO PORTILLO  
AS TOLD TO JOSELYN SANTIAGO

I remember it as though it were yesterday. It was a Tuesday evening in 2003, and I was going to church after work. I had come to the USA from Guatemala in 2001. I began working at a restaurant from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. It had been a couple of years since I went to church. My mother used to take my siblings and me when I was younger. Usually, we just went to sleep under the bench when we got there. But I would occasionally hear the sermon before dozing off. But tonight a friend at the restaurant had invited me to go with him to a midnight church service. I had no idea a church had meetings at that time. The purpose of these late night services, which began in 2000, was for inviting friends to church who, because of their work schedule, could not attend any other time of the day.

I walked in to the small church building with only 67 seats, on South Broad Street, in Trenton, New Jersey. The preacher that night was a Puerto Rican, and I think his name was Nelson Colon. It was there in the wee hours of the morning that I heard God's Word to me and accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior.

The church, *Puerta de Sion*, began more than 30 years ago. Brother Eugenio Matos, who has passed away, was the first pastor. He led the church for more than 15 years. When I began regularly attending church services, the pastors were a Puerto Rican couple. We had a season of leadership transitions in the church. In 2009, God called my wife of three years, Yaneth, and me to serve as interim pastors.

In the beginning, it was not easy. I was not taught to be a pastor before I started in ministry. I learned about what it means to be a pastor through experience and coaching. A pastor is called by God. That is why I tell our members, "God is who calls, and who he calls, he trains." I thank brothers like Samuel Lopez and Hugo Garcia for their help and support when I began to pastor. They gave me personal coaching and encouraged me to enroll in the Christian Worker Program.

After a year, we felt God say there would be growth. Members in the church said, "We haven't filled the 67 seats in the church." I said, "If we pray for more, will they have any place to sit?" But we also said, "No, we will move because we need to expand. If God is going to grow our congregation, we cannot stay where we are." So we continued to pray.

Those days in the small church on South Broad Street are gone. In 2012, God brought *Iglesia Evangélica Puerta de Sion* into this place with three buildings: a church building, a pastor's home, and an activities building on 308 N. Willow Street, Trenton. We can seat over 300 people for services. We do not have one midnight service anymore; we have three of them — on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights. They start at 11:30 p.m. and run often to 2 or 3 a.m. The Sunday midnight service is primarily an intercessory prayer meeting and meets in homes, not at the church building.

We have services everyday of the week except Saturday. We do not stop. There are about 85 youth, who have their own service on Friday evenings. The 130 children between the ages of 5 and 12, have their own service on the last Thursday of every month. They lead the entire service, including seating one another, singing, and preaching.



Children in worship during their Children's Special Service | Niños en adoración durante el servicio especial de Niños

We do not have one midnight service anymore; we have three of them — on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights. They start at 11:30 p.m. and run often to 2 or 3 a.m.

All of our services are live-streamed on our Facebook page. God has also allowed us to have an internet radio station. The beginning of January was our second year of having this station. Local people as well as people from Guatemala, El Salvador, Brazil, Puerto Rico, and various states here in the USA connect to our radio station. More than 20,000 visitors have connected to the radio station.

In 2016, I was ordained as lead pastor. It has been a real blessing to work with youth, children, and adults. We all work in the different areas of the ministry: visitation, street evangelism, prison ministry, addiction counseling and a host of other areas. It has not been easy. We barely have time to rest. It can be tiring, but we give thanks to God who gives us the strength.

After 15 years of attending this congregation, I still make it a priority to attend the midnight services. I love them because I was born in one of those services. God has really blessed the church spiritually, numerically, and financially, at least in part because of these services. We are glad about that, and that is the purpose of the midnight service. Sometimes our midnight services are packed, primarily with men. We cannot stop what God has started. But we outgrew the space. If we were to join those who attend the earlier services with those who attend the midnight service, there would be over 700 people. We would not fit in the building.

It has been a year now that we are looking for a larger building. Our vision is to find a new location that can accommodate 2,000 people. But everything comes in God's timing. The blessing now is that, when we talk about a new church building, everyone in the congregation says, "Amen!" because they saw that God has a purpose and has been with us and has blessed us.

I tell our members, "We need to take care of what God has placed in our hands. Everyone who comes to our church has an experience to talk about. A lot of the time many don't want to leave. They stay in the building visiting with one another. Only God can allow something like this to happen." ■

*Hugo Portillo, lead pastor of Iglesia Evangélica Puerta de Sion, pictured with wife Silvia Hernández and sons Joel Portillo Hernández and David Portillo Hernández.*



Sherri Martin meets with the Lancaster district discernment team

Below: Kinzer Mennonite Church building



# Repair, Rebuild, and Revive the Age-Old Foundations

BY SHERRI MARTIN

**As a third year STEP student I need to complete a year-long missional experiment. I am in the midst of my experiment in Kinzers, Pennsylvania.** Foundational to my missional experiment are the words of Isaiah in chapter 58. The prophet had cried out and prophetically addressed the community who would return and make a new life in Jerusalem. Those people faced the struggles of repairing and rebuilding the former devastations of war and time.

Isaiah's account often seems so sad. Perhaps the Israelites' harps still hung on the willows by the streams in Babylon. Leadership in the community was challenged. Division, quarreling, drought, and food shortages made rebuilding difficult and slow. Economic and social inequality dotted the landscape and threatened both the identity and the well-being of the community. God promised restoration, but the revival was contingent on the people choosing to live into the fast God had chosen.

*"Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings" (Isaiah 58:12 NIV).*

God's attention was drawn to those working toward freedom for the oppressed, kindness toward neighbors, food for the hungry, and clothing for those in need. The restoration of true community depended on the common good for all people and the structures that support life. To those who turned away from certain behaviors and turned toward others, God delegated honor by declaring, "Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings" (Isaiah 58:12 NIV).

I seek to apply these ancient passages to my missional experiment in Kinzers and the church located there. I believe God continues to look for a faithful remnant of people who are humbly dependent on the Holy Spirit and one another. God continually seeks those fully alive to God's greatest commandments and the great commission. Weaverland has been my home church since 1983, but dwelling in Isaiah 58 and John 17 as foundational texts for my missional experiment challenged me to listen and go where God was calling.



Following a time of intentional discernment with Pastor Brian Martin regarding mission and my third-year of STEP, Weaverland sent me to a neighboring district, LanChester, to serve as a pastoral intern to assist Dwight Groff who was lead pastor of the Mennonite Church in Kinzers.

Kinzer Mennonite Church had consistently engaged and served the community since its inception in 1897. After a century of faithful ministry, however, the church decided to close their doors in June 2016. Nevertheless, the vision to carry on Christ's ministry of reconciliation and to be the incarnational presence of Jesus in the community remains alive and well. For the moment, Kinzers is dwelling in a transition time. What must be repaired, rebuilt, and revived? The time and space between church closure and future ministry are filled with uncertainty.

Interestingly, dwelling in this space seems to have revived one of the richest, and perhaps most under-utilized, resources in the Kingdom: prayer and intercession! Weekly prayer meetings with Pastor Dwight and Ben Clark are filled with rich praise as we intentionally lay our petitions before Jesus Christ. "Church plant," "rebuild," "restart," and "revive" are words often lifted up as we seek the Lord together in prayer and praise.

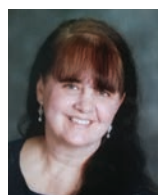
The welcome I've received from Pastor Dwight, Bishop Steve Weaver, and the broader LanChester district's leadership team has been very warm and authentic. At the monthly district meetings, Bishop Steve is leading the LanChester's leadership team into engagement with age-old prayer practices. What I see God reviving and restoring are spiritual pathways to springs of living water where many generations have dwelt in communion with the Lord. This is all so applicable to the situation at Kinzers.

Prayer continues to define and sustain our mission-al experiment. From the onset of this small partnership between Kinzer and Weaverland, I have seen God open doors in unexplainable ways and with precise timing. We strive to stay in step as we follow. No doubt, there is challenging work ahead. Developing a church-plant assessment for the Kinzer community is something new for all of us involved. Pastor Dwight and I recognize that it is not something we can do alone. We are grateful for gifted persons who engage in conversation with us to offer counsel and advice: Bishop Steve, the multiplication prayer group at Landis Homes, the STEP Oversight

**What I see God reviving and restoring are spiritual pathways to springs of living water where many generations have dwelt in communion with the Lord.**

Commission, Omar Guzman, Wes Furlong, Brinton Rutherford, and others. They helped framing questions to emerge which seemingly hold promise for the future. Plans are in motion for face-to-face community conversations with persons who live and work in Kinzers every day.

Kinzers is a beautiful and diverse community. Our prayer is to be alive and fully attentive to the people we meet there. Anyone interested in hearing more about local mission in the Kinzers community should contact Pastor Dwight Groff at modelt19@epix.net or call/text 717-725-2424. ■



*Sherri Martin and her husband Mel are members of Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community where she serves on the Elder team.*



## Equipping Leaders – LMC's STEP Program

STEP is a three-year, part-time pastoral training program. Classes meet one Saturday per month from September to May. STEP utilizes a fully-developed and recently revised curriculum with over thirteen years of continuous use.



With Colossians 1:9-12, the prayer is that each STEP student will live worthy of the Lord and please him in every way by . . .

- ▶ **BEING** transformed and empowered by the Holy Spirit for effective ministry.  
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- ▶ **KNOWING** the truth of God's Word.  
*O.T. survey, N.T. survey, Bible study & interpretation, church history, Confession of Faith*
- ▶ **DOING** activities of ministry.  
*Preaching, teaching, pastoral care, outreach*
- ▶ **LEADING** God's people as a servant leader.  
*Missional leadership, administration, managing conflict*

**LEARN MORE:** [lanasterconference.org/ministries/step/](http://lanasterconference.org/ministries/step/)



Above: Congregation enjoying Fellowship Meal  
Left: Kids & Adults enjoying VBS

## CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

# Oak Grove Mennonite Church

**DISTRICT:** Western Maryland

**LOCATION:** 188 Zehner Road,  
Grantsville, Md. 21536

**DATE OF FOUNDING:** 1874

**AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE:** 25

### WORSHIP SERVICE:

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



**PASTOR:** Merlin "Mert" Maust

Nestled in the Allegheny mountain range on Negro Mountain, you will find a small white frame church called Oak Grove Mennonite Church. It is located just one fourth mile north of U.S. Route 40 (Old National Pike), three and a half miles west of Grantsville, Maryland. Oak Grove Mennonite Church is a close-knit family of Christ. Oak Grove Mennonite Church exists to share the gospel to the lost, teach and learn the Word of God, lead each other to accountability and maturity, minister hope to the hurting, and offer restoration to the fallen.

The Oak Grove story began in 1874 in an old log schoolhouse on the opposite side of the present structure on Zehner Road. The community started a non-denominational Sunday school. The first members were formally received at Oak Grove in 1888. They were Louis and Dan Gingerich and Mary Keim Beachy. In 1890, Conrad and Annie Wisseman were received as members. On August 8, 1900, a group of thankful people gathered at this place to dedicate this house of worship to God. Menno Steiner preached the dedicatory sermon. In August 1959, people again gathered to dedicate the new vestibule and restroom area. The fellowship hall and upstairs classrooms were added in 1980 to complete the present structure.

Our congregation does outreach in a number of ways. Each year we organize a summer Vacation Bible School for church and community children. As a new school year approaches, we buy backpacks and fill them with school supplies for needy families in the community; we also buy supplies for the teachers at the local elementary school. Each year we collect items for Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes. Recently we held a "Free Meal and Movie Night" for the community at the church.

We support a missionary in Chile through EMM. Last year we hosted the August EMM Board meeting and invited them to a church picnic. We also support Mercy Smiles International, Mennonite Disaster Service, and the local Hospice Program. ■





Gerry and her dog, Fred, enjoyed meeting friends at the Community Picnic.

Far right: Kevin welcomes Monica on the day of Pastor Joshua's licensing.



**DISTRICT:** Lancaster

**LOCATION:** 337 Circle Avenue,  
Lancaster, Pa. 17602

**DATE OF FOUNDING:** 1930

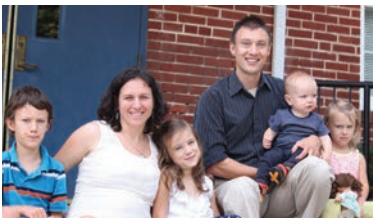
**AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE:** 75

**WORSHIP SERVICE:**

Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday at the House (TATH) – 6:15 p.m.



**PASTOR:** Joshua Jefferson with wife  
Monica and their children

## CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

# Sunnyside Mennonite Church

Sunnyside Mennonite Church is a blend of city and country, a caring family. We are located on the southern edge of Lancaster City at the end of South Duke Street on the Sunnyside Peninsula next to Lancaster County Park. Over the past few years, with encouragement from each other and our interim pastor, we bonded and used our gifts in ways we otherwise would not have as we made many important decisions about church life together. God clearly led us in the search for a pastor. During the search process, people in the congregation shared their gifts in new and creative ways. In that time without a pastor, we experienced more deeply what it means to be a priesthood of all believers. God has been gracious in answering prayers and we were thrilled to welcome our new pastor, Joshua Jefferson and his family.

Part of our calling now is to continue finding ways to share our gifts here in the Sunnyside community and also to support God's work of mission around the world. We desire to worship with our whole hearts and lives. We seek to discern where God is working and then join in that work. The congregation attempts to be a source of stability, acceptance, and love in a neighborhood that faces many challenges. This includes being caring listeners, sharing skills such as home repair, operating a food pantry, and offering financial assistance at times. Members of the congregation are also being changed by relationships with community folks. Community members teach us about fostering a strong sense of community and living with gratefulness for all of God's gifts.

Sunnyside began in 1930 as a mission church to "a lively group of children to instill in their minds and hearts God's eternal truth." Today the residents of Sunnyside see us as "their church", whether or not they attend on a regular basis. This is especially true for special events such as weddings, funerals, reunions, and other special gatherings. Community residents value and trust the congregation, a trust that has been strengthened by our community meal and gathering every Tuesday evening. The congregation continues to look for ways to connect with the community out of a genuine desire for relationship, and this seems to be understood by the community. Visit our website at [www.sunnysidemc.org](http://www.sunnysidemc.org) to learn more about us. Come and visit us on a Sunday morning or a Tuesday evening! ■

# FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCE



## PEACE ON EARTH CHRISTMAS FEAST

Mount Joy MC again held its Christmas feast on December 3, 2017 with immigrants in the community. The Junction Center at Christian radio station WJTL filled up with about 525 people from 49 countries. "I believe that all human hearts respond with joy when someone is glad to be with them, and I love extending this joy, especially to refugees who have endured great loss and trauma." "Our Christmas joy flows from God's desire and gladness to be with us, demonstrated in his trip to earth and birth as a baby among us," Nita Landis commented. "We get to share that joy at the feast."

## YOUTH LEADER RETREAT



On February 16–17, youth leaders gathered from around LMC at the MCC Welcoming Center. The *Refuel, Renew, Reveal* theme of the event

was designed to resource and encourage pastors, teachers, and leaders who are focused on working with teens and young adults or anyone passionate about reaching teens with the love of Jesus Christ. The event goals of refreshing attendees physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually; providing networking with other youth leaders; and providing opportunity to ask questions and reflect on answers were amply met. Six specialized seminars were offered.

## CRM RESOURCE DAY

LMC, Atlantic Coast Conference and Everence co-sponsored *Fine Tuning the Body*, for Conference Related Ministries (CRMs) and congregations on Feb. 23 at Garden Spot Village. Speakers Phil Bergey and Conrad Kanagy helped CRMs to develop deeper relationships and ministry collaboration between churches and church organizations. A panel discussion focused on questions from the assembly.

## PUERTO RICO LOCAL RELIEF SUPPLIES



Many thanks to all the individuals, congregations and organizations who dropped off personal and household items to aid families relocating from Puerto Rico to the Lancaster area. The donations were taken to the School District of Lancaster, which distributed the various items. Currently, adequate supplies have been received and LMC is no longer collecting for the School District.

## STEP UPDATE

The LMC STEP program received a formal acknowledgement from Scott Barge in the EMU office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness to move the

administrative center of the program from EMU to LMC. The formal movement of the program will be complete in July of 2018. The current STEP school year is now two thirds complete and work is underway to recruit the 2018-19 class and assign the teaching slots.



## CELEBRATION OF CHURCH LIFE

The annual LMC event for congregations to gather, worship, fellowship, eat and locate resourcing took place March 23-24 at Weaverland. The gathering provided an opportunity for all ages to gather, grow and hear how the Holy Spirit is at work among our LMC congregations. This year's theme, *Rebuild, Repair, Revive* took its focus from Isaiah 61:4: "They will Rebuild the ancient ruins, Repairing cities destroyed long ago. They will Revive them, though they have been deserted for many generations." A record 42 seminars were offered on Saturday. LMC welcomed about 50 congregation into the fellowship of churches with the symbolic gift of a handmade clay oil lamp.

**OPEN HOUSE**  
April 22 • 1 p.m.

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# NEWS NOTES

## MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES

The following men and women were licensed, ordained or installed in recent months:

**José M. Báez Cuevas** (*Delia*), licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Iglesia Restauración en Cristo.

**Robert Kanagy** (*Audrey*), installed as interim pastoral care pastor at Mount Joy Mennonite Church.

**Joseph Lab** (*Kate*), licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Hershey Mennonite Church.

**Charles Roy Lauver** (*Linda*), ordained as associate pastor at Cedar Lane Chapel.

**Nancy Maldonado** licensed for specific ministry for Christian Education and Spiritual Formation at King of Glory Tabernacle.

**Alan Miller** (*Kathleen*), installed as interim pastor at Mellinger Mennonite Church. Church of the Brethren will hold his credential.

**David W. Musser** (*Ella*), installed as bishop of the Lebanon and Manheim Districts.

**Peter Nguyen** (*Esther*), installed as lead pastor at Vietnamese Mennonite Church.

**Lenora Rivera** (*Randy*), licensed for specific ministry as deaconess at King of Glory Tabernacle.

**A. Willard Shertzer** (*Ann*), installed as interim pastor at Living Light Mennonite Church.

## LMC NAME CHANGE

Lancaster Mennonite Conference is in process of adapting its branding to begin using “LMC” as its official name. Although still operating legally as Lancaster Mennonite Conference, it will *also* be known as LMC.

## GLOBAL FAIR

The EMM Global Fair brings people from all walks of life who are very interested in missions together for a day of fun, food, and learning on July 7. LMC will have a table at the event for LMC related ministries. As always, LMC staff will provide learning activities during the day.

## SPRING LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

On Friday, May 4, LMC will explore the Multi-ethnic Church in its annual Spring Assembly. The event will take place at Slate Hill Mennonite Church, 1352 Slate Hill Rd., Camp Hill, Pa. LMC will partner with Barnabas Initiatives and Evangelical Theological Seminary to facilitate the event. Cost for the day is \$30, which includes lunch.

## FALL LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

Jon Rudy and Leonard Dow will collaborate to lead pastors and other church leaders through a day-long session on conflict resolution strategies in congregations. The location for the September 29 Assembly is to be announced. More details for the day will be posted soon.

## NEW BISHOPS

**J. Allen Lehman** began as bishop of the new Franklin District, which has 14 congregations, but with one or two still discerning their affiliation direction. Allen served as the Conference Minister for many years prior to this affiliation change. Allen’s vision is to see healthy pastors produce healthy congregations.

**Josef Berthold** will serve as bishop for a new affinity district called the West End Network. He also serves as pastor at West End Mennonite Fellowship, which has a vision to welcome all people into a safe and healing community in which to grow more like Jesus and join Him in extending His kingdom to the world. This network is for congregations seeking to excel in missional multiplication and who may thrive better in a less traditional, regional geographic district setting.

## ORIENTATION FOR NEWLY CREDENTIALLED LEADERS

If you are a new or relatively new pastor or ministry leader within LMC, we invite you, your spouse, and bishop to participate in our annual orientation for newly (or recently) credentialed leaders on April 18, 7:00–9:30 pm. LMC staff offer this orientation to help pastors and other credentialed leaders connect to our shared life in Christ. The following main topics are reviewed:

- ✓ Who we are as a fellowship of churches (history, core values, vision and current priorities)
- ✓ Where we are going as a Conference with 2020 Vision: We See New Life
- ✓ How we are organized (congregations, districts, conference office, agencies),
- ✓ Resources to encourage and support leaders and congregations (including the Leadership Assistance Program, educational grants, and STEP).

The orientation is held at the LMC Office, 2160 Lincoln Highway E., Lancaster, Pa. Please RSVP by April 16: 717-293-5246 ext. 100 or [jsantiago@lancasterconference.org](mailto:jsantiago@lancasterconference.org).

# 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

## Thursday Night Quarterly Prayer Meeting

April 19, 7:00 p.m.

Harvest Room, Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.

717-293-5246

## LMC Youth Workers Monthly Breakfast

Every fourth Tuesday of each month

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Lyndon City Diner, Lancaster, Pa.

[facebook.com/groups/LMCYouthWorkers](https://facebook.com/groups/LMCYouthWorkers)

## Orientation for Newly Credentialed Leaders

April 18, 7:00 p.m.

LMC office, Lancaster, Pa.

[jsantiago@lanasterconference.org](mailto:jsantiago@lanasterconference.org)

## EMM Soul Care Retreat

April 18 – 21

MCC Welcoming Place, Akron, Pa.

[emm.org/events](http://emm.org/events)

## Spring Leadership Assembly

May 4, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Slate Hill Mennonite Church,

Camp Hill, Pa.

[www.lanasterconference.org/leadership-assembly-resourcing/](http://www.lanasterconference.org/leadership-assembly-resourcing/)

## EMM Global Fair

July 7, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Hans Herr House, Willow Street, Pa.

[emm.org/events](http://emm.org/events)

## Fall Leadership Assembly

September 29, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

TBA

[www.lanasterconference.org/leadership-assembly-resourcing/](http://www.lanasterconference.org/leadership-assembly-resourcing/)



**DISCOVERY**  
A COMIC LAMENT  
BY ALISON BROOKINS  
A SHOW ABOUT LAND, LOVE, AND LOSS

Forest Hills Mennonite Church  
Saturday, April 21, 6 PM  
Panel discussion to follow  
More information at [www.lmhs.org](http://www.lmhs.org)

With support from: Landis Homes; Garden Spot Village; Herr Foods, Inc.

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LANCASTER ROOTS 2018



**Global Fair** July 7, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Hans Herr House, Willow Street, Pa.  
[emm.org/globalfair](http://emm.org/globalfair)

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