



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches*

# Shalom NEWS

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2018

## OBSTACLES

### Facing Today's Youth

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#### CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES

Blough Mennonite Church | Goodville Mennonite Church



# LMC CLASSIFIEDS

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**October – December 2018**

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### ON THE COVER:

Electronics can consume the time of many young people today – see featured article. Stock photo by iStock Photo.



# Defining Choices

*Facing obstacles that can hinder spiritual growth in today's youth*

BY BILL HELMLINGER

**I**n the spring of 2004, I was a sophomore in High school and baseball season was just getting started. I started in two games before the weekend came. But that weekend, I decided to go to a youth conference called *Acquire the Fire* in Indianapolis instead of playing baseball. That decision was one of the first times I faced an obstacle in my life that would help define who I was going to be. That decision was one of the few times I chose God during High school. Sadly, when I returned from the conference, I found myself out of the starting lineup for the rest of the season because I chose God over baseball. Even worse, my replacement never played outfield before. Talk about the ultimate gut check! Coaching strategies like these send powerful

messages to our youth. The messages often discourage faith formation.

Fast-forward 15 years. I serve as the youth pastor at First Mennonite Church in Berne, Indiana where I see youth of all ages faced with various obstacles in their lives. I recently polled the youth at First Mennonite about the obstacles they feel hinder them from truly following after God. The answers they gave were not

surprising. One of the major obstacles in a teenager's life today is being too busy. Areas that take their time include sports, extra-curricular activities such as band, choir, and dance, and screen time on cell phones, computers, TV, and game consoles. I only have space to address sports and screens.

## SPORTS

Teens can play organized sports all year round if they wish. Many students to whom I minister participate in fall, winter, and spring sports. Over the years, a few played in multiple sports in the same season.

Wednesday was once considered a reserved night for spiritual activities and was known as "church night," but the practice no longer exists in our community. That does not mean church is closed on Wednesdays, but that schools no longer block it out from scheduling practices, games, and other school activities. If you were to ask someone in their fifties, they would tell you that there weren't even practices held on Wednesdays for any sports when they were in school.

When I played baseball in high school, we practiced every night right after school, but there were never any games scheduled on Wednesdays. Just this past spring, one of the local schools had twenty scheduled sporting activities on Wednesday nights. Twenty! Youth are faced with the decision to either go to the game or come to youth group. Let's just say few, if any, choose

Youth are faced with the decision to either go to the game or come to youth group.



The author pictured playing baseball in high school. Photo provided by the author.





## Youth Sports Statistics (Ages 5–18)

**60%** of kids 5–18 play sports outside of school.

**66%** of boys play organized sports.

**52%** of girls play organized sports.

**85%** of coaches who are dads coach their own kids.

**73%** of corporate executives played sports as a kid.

Source: [statisticbrain.com/youth-sports-statistics](http://statisticbrain.com/youth-sports-statistics)

the latter. The reasons vary, but some fear losing playing time or being looked at awkwardly for choosing church over sports. Club sports, which take place mostly on weekends, removes Sundays as a day reserved for God.

When we eliminate Wednesday and Sunday, the faith and spiritual growth of youth suffers. Options to teach youth the word of God and involve them in ministry become very limited. If parents place more of an emphasis on sports, dance, or music over church, then they send a powerful message. Youth may

conclude the priority of church in the spiritual life of their parents is also low. As a result, church can acceptably take second place to sports in a youth's mind. Their need to achieve success at sports overshadows the need to grow spiritually. I have asked youth many times, "Do we practice our faith the same way we practice our sport or our instrument? Does our lifestyle reflect devotion to the God we claim to believe in and serve?" As parents, what precedent do we set?

### SCREEN TIME

The use of entertainment electronics, especially video game consoles, consumes our time. The majority of youth today play games, whether on a gaming system, cell phone, or computer. They spend a lot of time in front of a screen playing games.

I went into the local schools last year during lunch to hang out with youth. One of the things that consistently dominated the conversation was a game called *Fortnite*. *Fortnite* is a third-person shooter game that has realistic weapons like *Call of Duty* with the amazing graphics of *Halo*. If that description makes no sense, that's okay. It just means you are not a gamer.

This game is played by so many youth and talked about

“Do we practice our faith the same way we practice our sport or our instrument? Does our lifestyle reflect devotion to the God we claim to believe in and serve?”



## Youth Screen Time



In a typical day, children consume **just over three hours** of media. This includes computer, cell phone, tablet, music, and reading. Two thirds of this time is spent with “screen media” while time spent reading books on a device is less than 20 minutes per day.



In a large study of seven thousand video gamers, close to **twelve percent** were classified as being addicted to video games.



**75 percent** of parents say their child uses “just the right amount” or “too little time” with screen media. At the same time, nearly 80 percent of parents are at least somewhat concerned about how much violent and sexual content is in media.

Source: Dr. Brent Conrad, <http://www.techaddiction.ca/media-statistics.html>; and [http://www.techaddiction.ca/video\\_game\\_addiction\\_statistics.html](http://www.techaddiction.ca/video_game_addiction_statistics.html)

so much at school, that most kids know about it whether they have played it or not. I am a part of two different youth ministry groups on Facebook that have youth pastors from all over the nation talking about how often their youth play this game.

I asked a student about *Fortnite* during lunch. He told me that he played until midnight the day before. How does he study for school? How does he get chores done at home? How would he ever have time to spend with God, praying and reading the Bible?

The time we spend on our devices drastically affects our spiritual posture, how we take care of ourselves, and how we treat others. The negative effect of excessive screen time affects adults as well. Just as youth can be ineffective at school, so can adults be ineffective at home, at work, in church, and in relationships.

### PARENTS

As parents, we need to be proactive in setting family guidelines for participating in sports, extracurricular activities, and screen time. Kids need models that demonstrate access to the Word of God and participation in ministry are more highly valued than sports or screen time.

We struggled with these issues in our home. It required me

to make some drastic changes in the atmosphere of our home. It meant getting rid of my Xbox, which was taking time from family and work. We decided faith and family needed greater time and focus. When we removed distractions, we provided greater opportunity to follow God and allow space for wonderful things to happen.

Take time to consider personal faith and the faith of our children. Are there any obstacles that hinder spiritual growth? I encourage you to be proactive if something needs changed. Remember, God is present to help solve obstacles like sports, extra-curricular activities, and screen time. However, getting God's help typically requires us to recognize the problem and then seek God for a way forward. ■

*Bill Helmlinger is the youth pastor at First Mennonite Church in Berne, Indiana.*





# Cómo definir oportunidades

POR BILL HELMLINGER

En la primavera de 2004, era un estudiante de segundo año en la secundaria y la temporada de béisbol recién comenzaba. Fui titular en dos juegos antes de que llegara el fin de semana. Pero ese fin de semana, decidí ir a una conferencia de jóvenes llamada Acquire the Fire en Indianápolis en vez de jugar al béisbol. Esa decisión fue una de las primeras veces que enfrenté un obstáculo en mi vida que me ayudaría a definir quién iba a ser. Esa decisión fue una de las pocas veces que elegí a Dios durante la secundaria. Lamentablemente, cuando regresé de la conferencia, me encontré con que ya no estaba en el equipo titular por el resto de la temporada porque había elegido a Dios en vez de al béisbol. Peor aún, mi reemplazo nunca antes había jugado como jardinero. ¡Si esa no es la prueba de fe definitiva no sé qué lo será! Estrategias de entrenamiento como estas envían poderosos mensajes a nuestra juventud. Los mensajes a menudo desaniman la formación de la fe.

Adelantémonos 15 años. Sirvo como pastor de jóvenes en la First Mennonite Church en Berne, Indiana, donde veo que jóvenes de todas las edades se enfrentan a diversos obstáculos en sus vidas. Recientemente hice una encuesta con los jóvenes de la First Mennonite acerca de los obstáculos que les dificultan seguir verdaderamente a Dios. Las respuestas que dieron no fueron sorprendentes. Uno de los mayores obstáculos en la vida de un adolescente hoy en día es estar demasiado ocupado. Las áreas que ocupan su tiempo incluyen deportes, actividades extracurriculares como estar en la banda, el coro, la danza y el tiempo frente a la pantalla de celulares, computadoras, la televisión y consolas de juego. Solo tengo espacio para dirigirme a los deportes y las pantallas.

## DEPORTES

Los adolescentes pueden jugar en deportes organizados durante todo el año si así lo desean. Muchos estudiantes que me tuvieron como su ministro participan en deportes de otoño, invierno y primavera. A lo largo de los años, algunos participaron en varios deportes en la misma temporada.

En un tiempo, el miércoles era considerado una noche reservada para actividades espirituales y era conocido como la "noche de la iglesia", pero la práctica ya no existe en nuestra comunidad. Eso no significa que la iglesia esté cerrada los miércoles, sino que las escuelas ya no liberan ese día de prácticas, juegos y otras actividades escolares programadas. Si le preguntaran a alguien de cincuenta años, les diría que ni siquiera había prácticas los miércoles para ningún deporte cuando estaban en la escuela.

Cuando jugué al béisbol en la secundaria, practicábamos cada noche inmediatamente después de clases, pero nunca había un juego programado los miércoles. Esta última primavera, una de las escuelas locales tenía veinte actividades deportivas programadas para los miércoles a la noche. ¡Veinte! La juventud se enfrenta a la decisión de ir al juego o venir al grupo de jóvenes. Digamos que pocos, o ninguno, se deciden por la última. Las razones varían, pero algunos temen perder minutos de juego o que los miren raro por elegir ir a la iglesia en vez de los deportes. Los deportes de clubes, que tienen lugar sobre todo durante los fines de semana, eliminan a los domingos como un día reservado para Dios.

Cuando eliminamos el miércoles y el domingo, la fe y el crecimiento espiritual de los jóvenes sufre. Las opciones para enseñarle a los jóvenes la palabra de Dios e involucrarlos en el ministerio se vuelven muy limitadas. Si los padres ponen un mayor énfasis en los deportes, la danza o la música sobre la iglesia, les envían un poderoso mensaje. La juventud concluye que la prioridad de la iglesia en la vida espiritual de sus padres también es baja. Como resultado, en la mente de los jóvenes la iglesia puede ocupar razonablemente un segundo lugar detrás de los deportes. La

necesidad de alcanzar el éxito en los deportes resta importancia a la necesidad de crecer espiritualmente. Les he preguntado a los jóvenes muchas veces: "¿Practicamos nuestra fe del mismo modo que practicamos un deporte o un instrumento? ¿Nuestro estilo de vida refleja devoción por el Dios en el que afirmamos creer y al que servimos?" Como padres, ¿qué precedente estamos estableciendo?

## TIEMPO FRENTE A LA PANTALLA

El uso de dispositivos electrónicos de entretenimiento, especialmente consolas de videojuegos, consume nuestro tiempo. La mayoría de los jóvenes hoy en día disfruta de jugar videojuegos, ya sea en una consola, un celular o una computadora. Pasan mucho tiempo en frente de una pantalla jugando juegos.

Fui a escuelas locales el año pasado durante el almuerzo para pasar tiempo con los jóvenes. Una de las cosas que dominaba consistentemente la conversación era un juego llamado Fortnite. Fortnite es un juego de disparos en tercera persona que tiene armas realistas como Call of Duty y gráficos asombrosos como los de Halo. Si esa descripción no tiene sentido para ustedes, está bien. Solo significa que no son jugadores.

Este juego es jugado por tantos jóvenes y se habla tanto de él en las escuelas, que la mayoría de los niños lo conoce, ya sea que lo hayan jugado o no. Participo en dos diferentes grupos de ministerio de jóvenes en Facebook. Los pastores de jóvenes de todo el país describen la influencia que este juego tiene sobre los niños en sus grupos juveniles.

Le pregunté a un estudiante acerca de Fortnite durante el almuerzo. Me dijo que lo jugó hasta la medianoche el día anterior. ¿Cómo estudia para la escuela? ¿Cómo termina sus tareas en el hogar? ¿Cómo podría siquiera tener tiempo para estar con Dios, orando y leyendo la Biblia?

El tiempo que pasamos en estos dispositivos afecta drásticamente nuestra actitud espiritual, cómo nos ocupamos de nosotros mismos y cómo nos tratamos los unos a los otros. El efecto negativo del tiempo excesivo que se pasa frente a la pantalla también nos afecta como adultos. Tal como los jóvenes pueden ser ineficaces en la escuela, también los adultos pueden ser ineficaces en el hogar, el trabajo, la iglesia y en las relaciones.

## PADRES

Como padres, necesitamos ser proactivos para establecer normas familiares para participar en deportes, actividades extracurriculares y limitar el tiempo frente a la pantalla. Los niños necesitan modelos que demuestren que acceder a la palabra de Dios y participar en el ministerio son más valorados que los deportes o el tiempo frente a la pantalla.

Luchamos contra estos problemas en nuestra casa. Fue necesario hacer algunos cambios drásticos en la atmósfera de nuestro hogar. Esto significó deshacerme de mi Xbox, la cual me estaba quitando tiempo con mi familia y el trabajo. Decidimos que la fe y la familia necesitaban más tiempo y atención. Cuando quitamos las distracciones, nos dimos una mayor oportunidad de seguir a Dios y dar espacio para que sucediesen cosas maravillosas.

Tómense un tiempo para reflexionar sobre la fe personal y la fe de nuestros niños. ¿Hay algún obstáculo que dificulte el crecimiento espiritual? Los animo a ser proactivos si necesitan cambiar algo. Recuérdenlo, Dios está presente para ayudar a superar obstáculos como los deportes, las actividades extracurriculares y el tiempo frente a la pantalla. Sin embargo, conseguir la ayuda de Dios normalmente requiere que reconozcamos el problema y luego busquemos a Dios para poder avanzar. ■

*Bill Helmlinger es el pastor de jóvenes en la iglesia First Mennonite en Berne, Indiana.*



# Millennials Discuss their Obstacles

An obstacle that we struggle with is staying in the word every day. Quiet time with God is the number one priority, but it can be hard to find time to spend with God. Some things that distract us from this are sports and homework. The pressures of school also add to the types of distractions that keep us from our quiet time with God. Another struggle we had was thinking devotions had to occur at the same time every day. However, we figured out that as long as we do them, that's what will benefit us.

— Josie & Grace

One of the hardest things that young people tend to face as believers is walking in the opposite spirit, in a godly spirit, when interacting with non-believers we care about. We often have to choose to compromise our friendships in order to not compromise our faith.

— Alina

The obstacles facing youth today are not new, but old obstacles repackaged with a fresh marketing strategy. Five items come to mind. First, the political landscape in the USA is more hostile and polarized than the past. The competing ideologies of Socialism and Nationalism are presenting their gospels and the kingdom of heaven or Armageddon is always one election away. Second, a new tribalism is gaining momentum; Black vs. White, Men vs. Women, Gay vs. Straight, Rich vs. Poor, Citizen vs. Alien. Characteristics that describe are becoming a source of primary identity even amongst believers. Third, social media can be hazardous for many reasons, but the most concerning reason to me is the inability to be bored or uncomfortable for two seconds. Fourth, Protestantism hasn't done a great job articulating a compelling theology of the body, so our prohibition-focused sexual ethics are not very convincing as our culture redefines love, sex, marriage and even gender. Lastly, youth today care a lot, and caring can be exhausting. They care about the environment, about social justice, and the global community. However, when

everyone invests individually in a pet cause, the discrete individual efforts make little difference in the world.

— Jamie

One obstacle that youth in a Mennonite context have to deal with today is learning how to navigate an Anabaptist faith in tension with society's competing voices. Christian culture is experiencing a clash between differing religious voices, with fundamentalism on one end of the continuum and skepticism/secularism on the other. Anabaptism, like other traditions, finds itself in between these two voices, and each one desires our youth to join their ranks. Fundamentalism indoctrinates youth with nationalism, thus undercutting the Mennonite values of pacifism and a global perspective, while also pushing a dogmatic certainty that handicaps any ability to missionally relate with those from other cultures. On the other hand, secularism seeks to rob our youth of faith, giving them doubt and skepticism instead. This undermines the very foundation of faith, and in the long run leads our youth away from the church.

— Jesse

School is a big obstacle in a youth's walk with God. Things such as stressful homework and teen drama can distract someone from God. School sports can take a lot of time away from God as well. The amount of time spent at school can be a hindrance as well. This is why I feel school can be an obstacle in a youth's walk with God.

— Anonymous





Far left: Children at Summer Bible School singing the Books of the Bible.

Left: Donna Speigle teaching Bible stories at Summer Bible School.

## CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

# Blough Mennonite Church

**DISTRICT:** Western Maryland

**LOCATION:** 794 Woodstown Hwy.,  
Hollisopple, PA 15935

**DATE OF FOUNDING:** 1803

**AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE:** 40

**WORSHIP SERVICE:** 10:30 a.m.



**PASTOR:** Eric Lasure

Blough Mennonite Church was the first Mennonite church established in the Johnstown area. We are excited to be part of the Western Maryland District and LMC, and look forward to meeting new people. One of the most common comments we hear from the community around the church is, "My child (or grandchild) went to your daycare, and they loved the staff, who really touched their lives."

To fulfill our missional vision, we do activities in the community to interact with people. We desire to know our neighbors personally and to introduce Blough to them first hand. We want people to meet Jesus through us. So we donate to the food pantries and to individual families in need. We also donate the use of our building and pavilion for public use to numerous organizations.

A few years ago, an elderly woman in our church received blood transfusions every month. Then because her condition changed, the transfusions increased to every two weeks, and then finally every week. She asked for the Pastor to come and anoint her along with the elders and her friends and family. She was anointed and the group prayed for her. In that moment, God heard the prayers and honored the anointing. As a result, she did not need another blood transfusion for a year. Praise the Lord! ■





Jessica Martin and Beth Sauder serve ice cream at a special event.

Far right: Grades K-5 enjoying an evening of Bible School.



**DISTRICT:** Weaverland-NE PA

**LOCATION:** 1556 Main Street,  
Goodville PA 17581

**DATE OF FOUNDING:** 1900

**AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE:** 40

**WORSHIP SERVICE:**

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.



**PASTORS:** Bruce Sauder (lead pastor),  
Kelly Martin (associate pastor)

## CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

# Goodville Mennonite Church

Goodville Mennonite Church worships together in Goodville, PA. We're right along Route 23 in the middle of town. We consider ourselves a church family, young and old alike. Our two pastors and deacon serve the church part time. They work through the week in construction and diesel mechanics. Most of our members and regular attenders come from surrounding communities. We gather from the nearby Weaverland valley, as well as the town of Terre Hill, and other local communities.

We believe in God as the highest authority, and trust in Jesus Christ who died for our sins because of God's love for everyone. We take our understanding of God from the Bible. Sunday school provides an informal time to connect with friends, drink coffee, and laugh together. The worship service is a relaxed, traditional style that includes singing, sharing, prayer requests, an opportunity to give in an offering, and a sermon.

As a small church, we can get everyone involved in church life. People of all ages are involved in the service. From ushering to sound system work to worship and announcements, all ages can be a part of the service. We have sermon introductions that include the elementary age children answering questions, coloring pictures, and enjoying a treat. Our worship leaders range in age from High school to retirement. We work well together, and guests often comment on the friendly environment.

We desire to share the good news of Christ in our local communities. We see ourselves called to sharing Christ with families through both spiritual witness and practical help. We serve people in Goodville one family at a time. Community members in need receive care baskets. We send out a quarterly newsletter with a "Notes From the Pastor" column. This newsletter gives a word of encouragement and notices of upcoming events. We host a week long Bible School for kids each year and an easter egg hunt that's started by the siren of a local police cruiser. We have also hosted one-time events like a "family fun day" complete with a bounce house. Additionally, we are considering opportunities to partner with community organizations. A representative from CrossNet—a local organization that works with churches to meet social and spiritual needs in the surrounding community—spoke at our Sunday morning service and helped us identify ways we can better serve the community. We work with Love INC, an organization that connects individual needs in a local family to resources in a local congregations.

We would love to have you visit. Everyone is welcome to worship with us. You can park anywhere in the lot. Enter through the doors at the back of the church, and go up the wide steps for the worship service. Grab a seat in any pew. If you decide to come to Sunday school, enter through the doors at the back and go down the small flight of steps. Hope to see you there! ■

# FROM AROUND LMC

## REVIVE INITIATIVE AT EPMC



On July 7, LMC partnered with East Petersburg Mennonite Church, Everence and Howard and Cathy Wagler from South Central Conference of MC USA on the *Revive* Initiative. *Revive* is a ministry of the Waglers who lead Journey Mennonite Church in Kansas. The Initiative is designed to allow leaders to connect with other leaders in order to develop their gifts and find resources for individual and communal transformation. The goal of the day was to aid in the building of sustainable and joy-filled ministry.

## FALL LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

LMC leaders gathered on September 29 at Strasburg Mennonite Church to learn about peacemaking and conflict transformation. Resource speakers Leonard Dow and Jon Rudy helped attendees expand their abilities to respond in creative and helpful ways to conflict. Leonard Dow is a regional representative for Everence and Jon Rudy is a professor at Elizabethtown College. Dow previously served as pastor at Oxford Circle Mennonite Church and Rudy has worked in conflict resolution around the world for MCC and other NGOs.

## DISCOVERY COURSES

Elizabethtown Mennonite Church (EMC) completed a novel approach to LMC's *Discovery* course material. *Discovery* is an eight-session basic discipleship and gifts and calling program that is a way to identify and train new leaders. EMC organized the program so that the sermon and Sunday school for eight Sundays focused on the *Discovery* material. Finally, there were

Thursday evening sessions that applied the *Discovery* material in practical ways and led to year-long mentorships. Conrad Kanagy, pastor at EMC, said the experience in the congregation was transformational as leaders found clarity in their call and numerous individuals discerned abilities to serve in new and exciting ways.

Willow Street Mennonite Church will run a more traditional version of the *Discovery* course this fall – occurring weekly for eight sessions and leading to a one-year relationship with a mentor of the student's choice. For more information call 717-464-2422.



## SEWING CIRCLE CELEBRATES A CENTURY

The Sewing Circle at Slate Hill Mennonite Church celebrated 100 years of service in 2018. Church records say that the first meeting of the Sewing Circle convened on July 4, 1918, with twelve workers present. Those attending represented both Slate Hill and the Churchtown Mennonite congregations. The Sewing Circle today, now called the MCC Sewing Group, is indebted to those women who gathered 100 years ago to initiate a tradition of service in the name of Christ that continues today.

## SHALOM NEWS 50<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE

*Shalom News* reached 50 issues this quarter. *Lancaster Conference News*, which began in 1981, was replaced by *Shalom News* in January 2009. Tell us what you think about *Shalom News* at the LMC Facebook page [www.facebook.com/LMCchurches/](http://www.facebook.com/LMCchurches/).

## EDUCATIONAL SUMMITS

The addition of new congregations to LMC, the geographic expansion, and new and varied training requests prompted a need to take counsel with a variety of people. In response, LMC sponsored two meetings to discuss education in the congregations and the training of leaders. As a result, LMC is considering partnerships with a range of institutions and organizations who may be able to help expand the development of leaders.



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC LMC CHURCHES

Bishop Nicolas Angustia (New York district) traveled to the Dominican Republic to present the new LMC congregations and leaders there with their credentialing certificates and congratulatory oil lamps.

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# NEWS NOTES

## BOARD OF BISHOP NEWS



**Rodney Martin, Joe Miller** and **David Musser** were installed earlier this year as bishops in LMC. Martin and Miller will jointly oversee the Lancaster, Lititz and Mellinger Districts as a bishop team. Musser will oversee Lebanon and Manheim Districts. Rodney Martin's vision is to see congregations engage with the missional work of Christ in their neighborhoods while cultivating multicultural and multigenerational communities of faith. Joe's vision for the people in the congregations he serves is three-fold. First, that Christ will live in their hearts through faith; second, that they will be rooted and grounded in love; and lastly, that they will have strength to understand the breadth, height and depth of Christ's love that is beyond what we can fully know. Dave Musser seeks to inspire and empower pastors to become healthy leaders who, by leading in healthy ways, in turn inspire a new generation of healthy leaders.

## ANABAPTIST LEADERS GATHERING

From August 6–8 LMC leaders joined in a consultation with leaders from five other Anabaptist groups. The gathering, hosted by Rosedale Bible College, included BiC, Brethren Church, CMC, Evana, LMC, and Mennonite Brethren. Considerable time was given to worship, prayer, and spiritual discernment individually and corporately. There was a clear recognition that these groups have a great deal in common and appear to be moving on a similar trajectory. Many of the obstacles faced are also held in common. Much discussion focused on ways to partner and collaborate with one another. By the conclusion of the gathering, it seemed clear that such meetings will continue to be beneficial.



## GLOBAL DELEGATE ACTIVITIES

Tom Eshelman, LMC's Global delegate, provided an update on his activities. LMC recently hosted Willi Hugo Perez and Kelbessa Muleta. Perez is president of the graduate school, Semilla, in Guatemala.

Muleta is the Vice President of Mesereta Kristos Church in Ethiopia. Both men gave reports of the things God is doing in their regions.

Tom noted the appointment of two new International Partner Delegates: Steve and Beth Gibbs to Peru and Glenn Kauffman, to Hong Kong and China. Other delegate discussions are underway for Belize, Chile, and other Asian countries. The goal is to have a delegate or delegate couple assigned to each of the areas where LMC has global relationships. Currently that totals 24 countries.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

The LMC Grants Committee awarded \$14,000 to 23 applicants in August. Four grants are administered annually in August by this committee: Leadership Education Grant, STEP Study Award, Urban Education Grant, Women's Education Grant. Thirteen of the awards went to STEP students. Each of these grants makes awards once a year except for the Leadership Education Grant, which also has a winter cycle with applications due January 31 and awards made in February.

## SPREADING THE FLAME

Church on the Other Side, the church multiplication arm of LMC, will hold a workshop on October 27, 2018 at Bethlehem Community Fellowship (BCF) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The day will focus on "spreading the flame" of faith to the millennial generation. BCF began a new faith community with two millennial couples in neighboring Stroudsburg last year. In addition, BCF has multiplied itself among millennials in the Bethlehem area and many attend the congregation. Millennials will themselves share some of the challenges and triumphs they are experiencing in the church plant. Church on the Other Side staff will provide input in the afternoon session.

## FUNDING OF LMC MINISTRIES

Support for LMC ministries in 2018 has been strong. As December approaches those wanting to make a gift for supporting missional multiplication in LMC are encouraged to do so. With LMC joining Mennonite World Conference, there will be an expectation for financial support from LMC to MWC, which will increase the LMC budget. The connection with MWC will greatly expand global relationships and the already existing significant international connections. With the increase in the number of congregations served and the enlarged geographic footprint, there is some modest pressure to increase staffing. Your end of year gift will help decide how to handle that pressure.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at [LMCchurches.org](http://LMCchurches.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**

**October 18, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

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

## **LMC Youth Worker 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)

## **LMC Children's Ministry Resource Event** October 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

LMC office, Lancaster, Pa.  
<https://lmccmre101618.eventbrite.com>

## **Spreading the Flame**

**October 27, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Bethlehem Community Fellowship,  
Bethlehem, Pa.  
[jsantiago@lmcchurches.org](mailto:jsantiago@lmcchurches.org)

## **2018 Disciplemakers Summit with EMM**

**October 29 – November 1**

MCC's Welcoming Place, Akron, Pa.  
[www.emm.org/disciplemakers](http://www.emm.org/disciplemakers)

## **Women's Regional Gathering**

**November 3, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Stumptown Mennonite Church,  
Bird-in-hand, Pa.  
[www.LMCchurches.org/event/womens-regional-gathering](http://www.LMCchurches.org/event/womens-regional-gathering)

## **EMM Vision and Fundraising Banquet**

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

Eden Resort Courtyard, Pa.  
[www.emm.org/banquet](http://www.emm.org/banquet)

## **Anabaptist Symposium on Sexual Abuse Awareness**

**November 16–17**

**1:30 p.m. Fri–2:30 p.m. Sat.**

Ephrata Business Center, Ephrata, Pa.  
\$25, couples \$35  
[www.anabaptistawareness.org](http://www.anabaptistawareness.org)

## **Is There a Lesson? John Ruth documentary**

**November 11, 6 – 8:00 p.m.**

Mount Joy Mennonite Church  
Mount Joy, Pa.  
717-653-5660

## **ESL 101: Teaching English in Your Church**

**December 1, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Stumptown Mennonite Church,  
Bird-in-Hand, Pa.  
<https://esl10112118.eventbrite.com>

## **LMC Spring Leadership Assembly**

**March 15, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.  
[www.LMCchurches.org/leadership-assembly-resourcing](http://www.LMCchurches.org/leadership-assembly-resourcing)

## **LMC Celebration of Church Life**

**March 15–16, 2019**

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.  
[www.LMCchurches.org/celebration-church-life](http://www.LMCchurches.org/celebration-church-life)



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**717-581-3939**

**Adult Day Services**  
Landis Homes

**Eastern Mennonite Missions vision and fundraising banquet**

**The gift of presence**  
Share a table with us — explore how to live the good news by being present!



**Saturday, November 3, 6:30 p.m.**  
Eden Resort Courtyard, 222 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA  
Register online by October 19 at [emm.org/banquet](http://emm.org/banquet).

**EMM**  
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**FREE Seminar – Discipling Children in the Church**



**Tuesday, October 16, 2018**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the LMC offices, Lancaster, Pa.**

The seminar will benefit anyone who works with or ministers to children in your congregation. The program includes a plenary speaker, worship and prayer, networking opportunities, resource suggestions, light refreshments, and a free gift to the first 15 registrants. Registration is requested ([lmccmre101618.eventbrite.com](https://lmccmre101618.eventbrite.com)). Contact Marcia Mylin at [mmylin@lmcchurches.org](mailto:mmylin@lmcchurches.org) or 717-293-5246 ext. 114.