



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches*
Shalom NEWS

JANUARY – MARCH 2019

Breaking New Ground

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland



CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES

River Corner Mennonite Church | True Vine Tabernacle

SAVE THE DATE

Breaking New Ground

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland



Celebration of Church Life

Friday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.

Join with the LMC family as we gather for the 2019 Celebration of Church Life at Petra Church, in New Holland, Pa. This is an opportunity for all ages to gather, grow and hear how the Holy Spirit is at work among our LMC congregations.

To assist with logistical planning, please register for the meal, childcare and your seminars, beginning in January. Visit our website **www.LMCchurches.org** to find the registration link.



January – March 2019

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BREAKING New Ground

Change is sometimes exciting, sometimes disorienting, often both

BY JOY FASICK

I would be lost without my phone.

There, I've said it. I've admitted the rather unsettling truth: I would be lost without my smartphone. It gives me access to my calendar, contacts, photos, emails, many of my work files, friends, and so much more. My phone has several translations of the Bible and sends me scriptures. It reminds me to set up chairs for the meeting and to ask my friend how her doctor's appointment went. It tracks my runs and gives me driving directions, supporting my geographically challenged brain with a map that is always at hand. "OK Google... set a reminder for 4:30 PM...bring piano books." "OK Google...read my calendar for today." "OK Google...send a text message to Magnificent Mike." (Magnificent as a fitting way to differentiate my husband from all of the other Mikes in my contact list.)

My phone keeps me organized and a little bit sane. In case you're wondering, it also makes calls. Imagine that! It accomplishes its original designer's most basic intent. In one sense, the phone has changed dramatically

Whether technical, spiritual, or relational, change is a given when breaking new ground. And change is complicated.

in 150 years. In another sense, it still simply connects two people at a distance.

Ever since Alexander Graham Bell's invention in the 1870s, phones have been breaking new ground. We see this in the figurative sense as they repeatedly revolutionize communication, create new ways of maintaining or developing relationships, and increase our efficiency (at least to a point). Phones broke new ground in the literal sense as holes were dug for telephone poles, wires were buried underground, and land was excavated for cell towers.

Phones are an obvious example of breaking new ground, but clearly not the only one. The breaking of new ground is also seen in our spiritual rebirth and transformation and evident in our life together as the body of Christ. Whether technical, spiritual, or relational, change is a given when breaking new ground. And change is complicated.

Change can be disorienting. After all, the phone I used 30 years ago was, in many ways,

10 New Things in the Last 10 Years for LMC

1. Church on the Other Side Multiplication Networks
2. Strategic Directions Task Force document
3. Constitution and Bylaw changes
4. New churches joining LMC from around the country and the world
5. Formation of *Concilio Iglesias Evangélicas Shalom* (CIES)
6. Formation of LMC Legacy Foundation
7. Creation of resource partner initiative
8. Emerging relations with Brethren in Christ, Mennonite Brethren, CMC, The Brethren Church, and Evana Network
9. LMC became a member of Mennonite World Conference
10. Administrative center of STEP moves from EMU to LMC

superior to the one I use now. It never got lost, never needed charging, and never went out of range. It was far less expensive and yet extremely reliable. And users could access every feature it possessed without consulting a teenager for help—a stark contrast to today's smartphones.

Change can also be exciting! It can result in new advances, new connections, and new growth. The fact that 95% of Americans own a cell phone today suggests that this technology is indeed exciting. Yet the ambivalence remains. Many wonder about longer-term effects of cell phone use and grieve their overuse. We may long for days gone by even as we stretch into newness of life.

Whether disorienting or exciting or a dizzying mix of both, change is a given in God's Kingdom. By our very acceptance of salvation, we are transformed, changed so substantially that it is as if we have been re-born as Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3.

Whether disorienting or exciting
or a dizzying mix of both, change
is a given in God's Kingdom.

Our transformation is both a sign of new life (2 Corinthians 5:17) and an ongoing spiritual mandate (Romans 12:2). The revelation of the already/not-yet Kingdom of God repeatedly surprises us by looking different than we expected—from the desert wanderings of the Israelites to the shocking humility of Jesus and beyond. "What do we do, God? This isn't working out like we anticipated! We have no road map for this version of your plan! Can't you just do things in a way that fits within our expectations?" Too often, those expectations creep into our prayers, leaving us asking God to bring about our presupposed solutions rather than waiting upon God's creative direction.

This excitement and apprehension around change describes LMC's place at this moment in history. We had gotten fairly adept at being a conference of churches. It worked with current leadership structures, with ways of gathering together, with avenues for interacting with the wider church. As a conference, we knew who we were. And then change happened. Like water that flows and sometimes floods to unexpected places, bringing both new life and overwhelming mess, change has

come. And change is still coming. "What do we do, God? This isn't working out like we anticipated! We have no road map for this version of your plan! Can't you just do things in a way that fits within our expectations?"

We live between the comfort of predictability and the thick mud that remains after a flood. We stand in both awe at God's unexpected growing of our fellowship but also hold the anxiety of using a road map in need of updating. The possibility of complacency and any temptation to become sedentary is diminished, but can we trust God to manage our anxiety and uncertainty as these rapid waters cut new paths? Like my phone, can LMC maintain its center—our core values, our missional vision,



Above: One of the plenary speakers, Sherri Martin, sharing her call story at Celebration of Church Life 2018. Photos by Jonathan Charles.

Left: LMC welcomed 54 congregations at the 2018 Celebration of Church Life.



Participants in a seminar at a Celebration of Church Life weekend.

our commitment to the way of Christ doctrinally and ethically—even while being transformed from Lancaster Mennonite Conference to LMC, a fellowship of Anabaptist churches?

These waters swirl in many directions, resulting in more than two dozen signs of transformation in recent months. From new initiatives in youth and children's ministries to a dramatic expansion of member churches outside recent geographical boundaries to changes in leadership structures, membership in Mennonite World Conference, and much more, the Board of Bishops, the Conference Executive Council, and LMC Staff experience celebration and struggle in the implications and execution of each change. If all of this leaves you feeling a little dizzy, you're not alone. And your concern is not unwelcome. Sometimes a key to navigating change together is including the voices that say, "Whoa!" Those voices keep us from being swept blindly by the floodwaters and remind us of our roots. Tending the roots of our basic identity and purpose—the center—can help insure that new ground is broken in God-glorifying ways.

There is much I don't understand about the groundbreaking technology in my smartphone. Fortunately, I have in-house tech support—teenagers. I need their fresh understanding to help me navigate what is new. As one who remembers the reliability of phones attached to walls, I pay attention to the core function of my phone, and I sometimes elect not to use new options that do not support that function. But the young people in my life at least help me see the options. They point out the possible benefits of things that—without their input—would leave me feeling overwhelmed. Blending intergenerational voices can help us maintain the connection to our foundational purpose while living into the blessing of change and newness.

In Isaiah 43, the Lord says, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the

Blending intergenerational voices can help us maintain the connection to our foundational purpose while living into the blessing of change and newness.

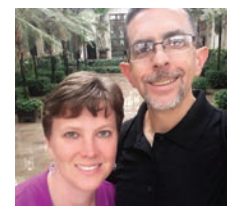


Pastor Juan González, youth and youth workers from El Buen Pastor at Celebration of Church Life 2017.

wilderness and streams in the wasteland." What was true then is true now—this newness is not our own. It is a mere marker on the renewing that is part of God's ongoing redemptive plan. God is making everything new! The transformation of LMC is but one example of God's ever newness. We may be struggling to discern who we are as LMC, but that struggle leads to a fruitful end as long as we remember Whose we are.

My phone is still a phone; it still connects two people at a distance. And while it's true that I would be lost without it, that is nothing compared to the way I would be lost without Jesus. He guides me through every expected and unexpected change. As we witness the breaking of new ground in LMC, let us focus on our Original Designer, honoring God's ever-newness while remaining rooted in the foundation on which that newness is built. ■

Joy Fasick is the associate pastor at Slate Hill Mennonite Church and a constituent representative on the Conference Executive Council.



Abriendo nuevos caminos

El cambio es a veces emocionante, a veces desorientador, a menudo ambos

POR JOY FASICK

Sin mi teléfono me sentiría perdida.

Lo dije. He admitido una verdad bastante inquietante: me sentiría perdida sin mi teléfono inteligente. Con el tengo acceso a mi calendario, contactos, fotos, correos electrónicos, muchos de mis archivos de trabajo, amigos y mucho más. Mi teléfono tiene varias traducciones de la Biblia y me envía las escrituras. Me recuerda que debo colocar las sillas para la reunión y que le debo preguntar a mi amiga cómo le fue en la cita con su médico. Hace un seguimiento de mis recorridos y me da instrucciones para conducir, ayudando a mi cerebro, con problemas geográficos, con un mapa que siempre está a la mano. "OK Google...establece un recordatorio para las 4:30 PM... traer los libros de piano". "OK Google...lee mi calendario de hoy". "OK Google...envía un mensaje de texto a Mike el Magnífico". ("Magnífico" es la forma apropiada para diferenciar a mi esposo de todos los otros Mike en mi lista de contactos).

Mi teléfono me mantiene organizada y un poco equilibrada. En caso de que se lo pregunten, también hace llamadas. ¡Imagínense! Cumple la intención más básica de su diseñador original. En un sentido, en 150 años el teléfono ha cambiado dramáticamente. En otro sentido, sencillamente aun conecta a dos personas a distancia.

Desde que fue inventado por Alexander Graham Bell, en la década de 1870, los teléfonos han ido abriendo nuevos caminos. Vemos esto en un sentido figurado ya que revolucionan repetidamente la comunicación, crean nuevas maneras de mantener o desarrollar relaciones y aumentan nuestra eficiencia (al menos hasta cierto punto). Los teléfonos abrieron nuevos caminos en el sentido literal cuando los hoyos fueron excavados para postes de teléfono, los cables enterrados bajo tierra y los terrenos se excavaron para torres celulares.

Los teléfonos son un ejemplo obvio de abrir nuevos caminos, pero claramente no son los únicos. La apertura de un nuevo terreno también se ve en nuestro renacimiento espiritual y transformación y es evidente en nuestra vida juntos como cuerpo de Cristo. Ya sea técnico, espiritual o interpersonal, un cambio se da cuando se

abren nuevos caminos. Y el cambio es complicado.

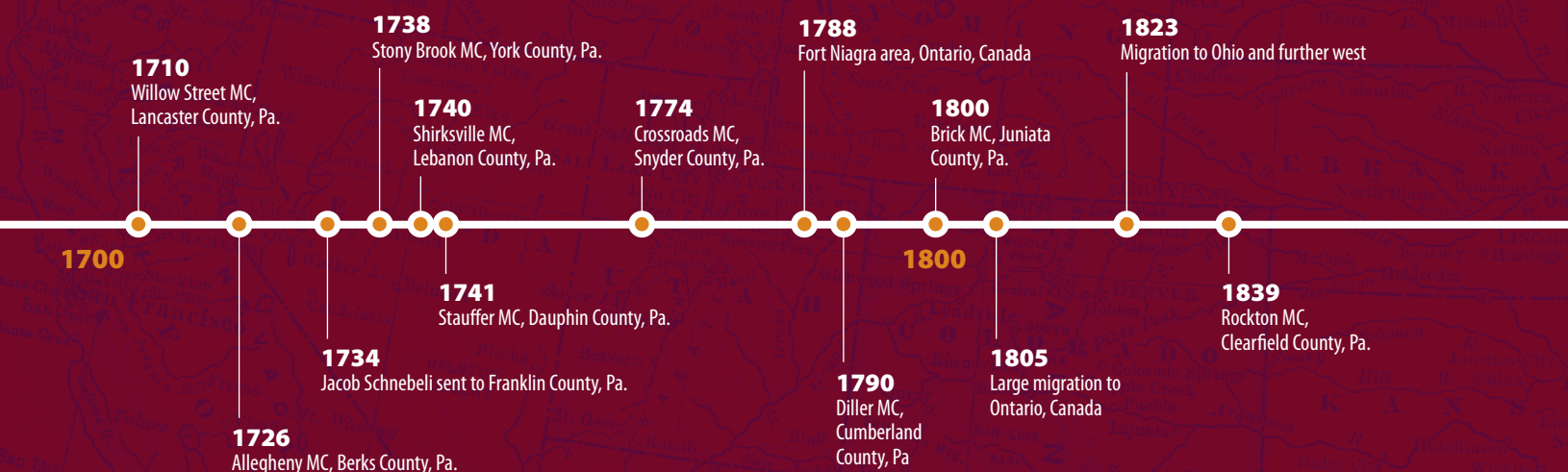
El cambio puede ser desorientador. Después de todo, el teléfono que usaba hace 30 años era, en muchos aspectos, superior al que uso ahora. Nunca se perdía, nunca necesitaba cargarse, y nunca se salía del área de cobertura. Era mucho menos costoso y, sin embargo, extremadamente confiable. Y los usuarios podían acceder a todas sus funciones sin tener que pedirle ayuda a un adolescente, lo que contrasta con los teléfonos inteligentes de hoy.

¡El cambio también puede ser emocionante! Puede traer nuevos avances, nuevas conexiones y un nuevo crecimiento. El hecho de que el 95% de los estadounidenses posea un teléfono celular hoy en día sugiere que esta tecnología es realmente emocionante. Sin embargo, la ambivalencia permanece. Muchos se preguntan sobre los efectos a largo plazo del uso del teléfono celular y se arrepienten de su uso excesivo. Es posible que deseemos que los días pasen, incluso mientras nos desarrollamos hacia una vida nueva.

Ya sea desorientador o emocionante o una mezcla vertiginosa de ambos, el cambio se da en el Reino de Dios. Con nuestra aceptación de la salvación, somos transformados, cambiados tan sustancialmente que es como si hubiéramos vuelto a nacer, como le dijo Jesús a Nicodemo en Juan 3. Nuestra transformación es tanto un signo de nueva vida



GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION OF LMC



(2 Corintios 5:17) como un mandato espiritual continuo (Romanos 12: 2). El ya/todavía no de la revelación del Reino de Dios que nos sorprende repetidamente al vernos diferentes de lo que esperábamos, desde los viajes en el desierto de los israelitas hasta la asombrosa humildad de Jesús y más allá. "¿Qué hacemos, Dios? ¿Esto no está funcionando como pensamos! ¡No tenemos una hoja de ruta para esta versión de tu plan! ¿Será que simplemente puedes hacer las cosas de una manera que se ajuste a nuestras expectativas?" Con demasiada frecuencia, esas expectativas se incluyen en nuestras oraciones, pidiéndole a Dios que facilite nuestras supuestas soluciones en lugar de esperar su dirección creativa.

Esta emoción y temor por el cambio describe la posición de LMC en este momento de la historia. Nos habíamos vuelto bastante expertos en estar en las conferencias de las iglesias. Funcionaba con las estructuras de liderazgo actuales, con las formas de reunirse, con las vías para interactuar con la iglesia en general. Ya que, como conferencia, sabíamos quiénes éramos. Y luego sucedió el cambio. Al igual que el agua que fluye y, a veces, se inunda en lugares inesperados, que trae tanta nueva vida como un desorden abrumador, el cambio ha llegado. Y el cambio sigue llegando. "¿Qué hacemos, Dios? ¿Esto no está funcionando como pensamos! ¡No tenemos una hoja de ruta para esta versión de tu plan! ¿Será que simplemente puedes hacer las cosas de una manera que se ajuste a nuestras expectativas?" Vivimos entre la comodidad de la previsibilidad y el barro espeso que permanece después de una inundación. Nos asombramos ante el crecimiento inesperado de Dios de nuestra congregación, pero también mantenemos la ansiedad de utilizar una hoja de ruta que necesita ser actualizada. La posibilidad de complacencia y cualquier tentación de volverse sedentarios disminuye, pero ¿podemos confiar en que Dios controlará nuestra ansiedad e incertidumbre a medida que estas rápidas aguas abren nuevos caminos? Al igual que mi teléfono, ¿puede LMC mantener su centro, nuestros valores fundamentales, nuestra visión misional, nuestro compromiso con el camino de Cristo de manera doctrinal y ética, incluso mientras se transforma de Conferencia Menoita Lancaster (Lancaster Mennonite Conference) en LMC, una comunidad de iglesias anabaptistas?

Estas aguas giran en muchas direcciones, dando como resultado más de dos docenas de signos de transformación en los últimos meses. Desde nuevas iniciativas en los ministerios para jóvenes y niños hasta una dramática expansión de iglesias miembros fuera de los límites geográficos recientes hasta cambios en las estructuras de liderazgo, membresía en la Conferencia Mundial Menonita y mucho más, la Junta de Obispos, el Concilio Ejecutivo de la Conferencia y el personal de LMC experimentan la celebración y las implicaciones en la ejecución de cada cambio. Si todo esto los hace sentir un poco mareados, no están solos. Y su preocupación no es inoportuna. A veces, una clave para

Ya sea técnico, espiritual o interpersonal, un cambio se da cuando se abren nuevos caminos. Y el cambio es complicado.

navegar juntos por el cambio es incluir las voces que dicen "¡basta!". Esas voces nos impiden ser barridos a ciegas por las aguas y nos recuerdan nuestras raíces. Cuidar las raíces de nuestra identidad y propósito básico, el centro, puede ayudar a asegurar que se abra un nuevo camino de manera glorificadora a Dios.

Hay mucho que no entiendo sobre la tecnología innovadora de mi teléfono inteligente. Afortunadamente, tengo soporte técnico en casa, adolescentes. Necesito de su conocimiento fresco para que me ayuden a navegar en lo que es nuevo para mí. Como alguien que recuerda la confiabilidad de los teléfonos conectados a las paredes, presto atención a la función principal de mi teléfono y, a veces, elijo no usar nuevas opciones que no admitan esa función. Pero los jóvenes en mi vida al menos me ayudan a ver las opciones. Señalan los posibles beneficios de las cosas que, sin su aporte, me harían sentir abrumada. La mezcla de voces intergeneracionales permite ayudarnos a mantener la conexión con nuestro propósito fundamental mientras vivimos en la bendición del cambio y lo novedoso.

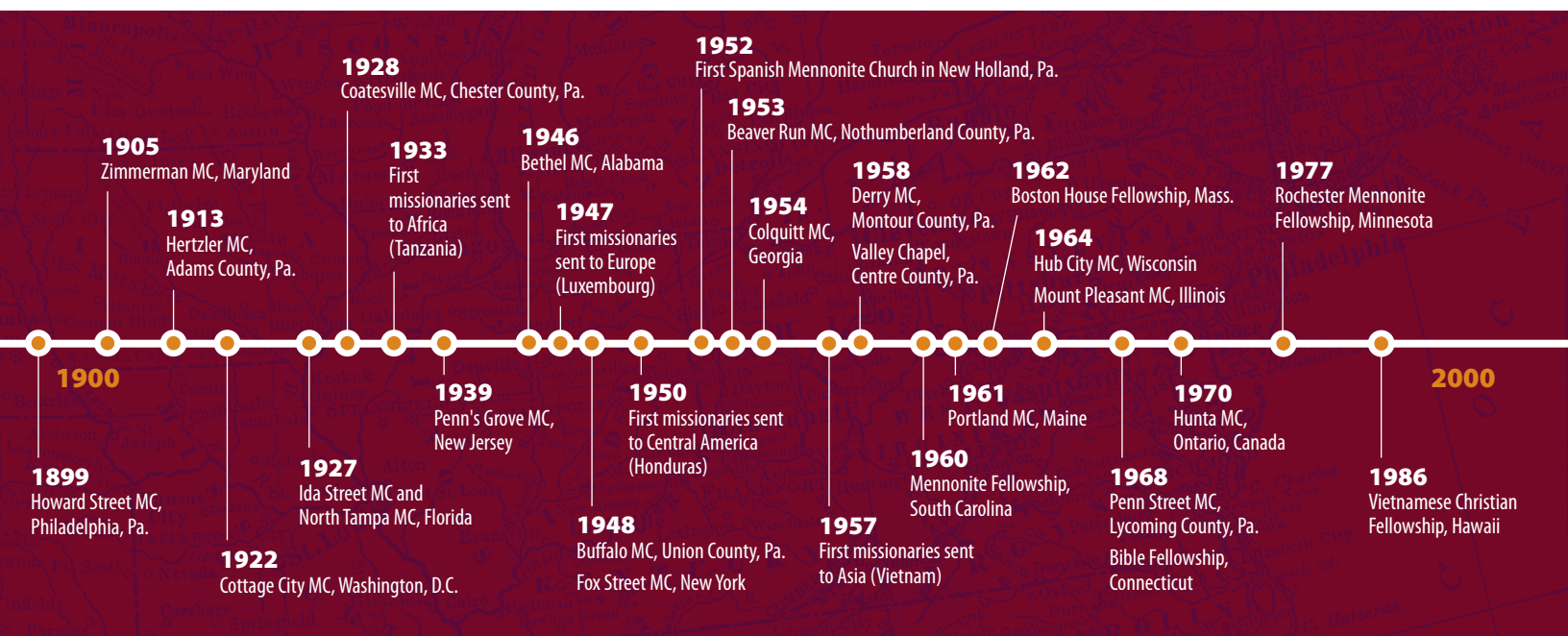
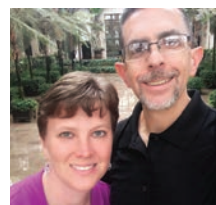
En Isaías 43, el Señor dice: "¡Voy a hacer algo nuevo! ¡No se dan cuenta? Estoy abriendo un camino en el desierto, y ríos en lugares desolados". Lo que era verdad entonces es verdad ahora, esta novedad no es la nuestra. Es un mero marcador en la renovación que forma parte del plan de redención continuo de Dios. ¿Dios está haciendo todo nuevo! La transformación de LMC es solo un ejemplo de la novedad de Dios. Podemos estar luchando para discernir quiénes somos como LMC, pero esa lucha nos lleva a un final fructífero, siempre y cuando recordemos a Quien pertenecemos.

Mi teléfono sigue siendo un teléfono; Todavía conecta a dos personas a distancia. Y si bien es cierto que estaría perdida sin él, no se compara con la forma en que estaría perdida sin Jesús. Él me guía a través de cada cambio esperado e inesperado. Al presenciar la apertura de nuevos caminos en LMC, concentrémonos en nuestro Diseñador original, honrando la siempre nueva novedad de Dios mientras permanecemos enraizados en la base sobre la cual se construye esa novedad. ■

Joy Fasick es la pastora asociada de la Iglesia Menonita Slate Hill y una representante constituyente en el Concilio Ejecutivo de la Conferencia.



Pastor Juan González, jóvenes y trabajadores de jóvenes de El Buen Pastor en la Celebración de la vida de la iglesia 2017.





Far left: Barrel train ride at Community Day

Left: Baby shower for Nepali mother



CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

River Corner Mennonite Church

DISTRICT: New Danville

LOCATION: 524 River Corner Road,
Conestoga PA 17516

DATE OF FOUNDING: circa 1760

**AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE:** 50

WORSHIP SERVICE:

Sunday School – 9:00 am

Worship Service – 10:00 am



PASTOR: Dave Gochner

The River Corner Mennonite Church building is a stone structure nestled in the hills of southern Lancaster County. It was built in 1882 to serve as the meetinghouse for the local Mennonite community. Today, River Corner Mennonite Church continues to meet in the same building, with some structural changes. The name derives from the proximity to the “corner” created by the junction of the Susquehanna River and the Conestoga River. Historically, the local community referred to the general area as the “River Corner.”

As a congregation, we serve our community in a variety of ways. An annual Senior Citizens Meal occurs each year. This meal has become an anticipated social event for local seniors. A Community Day is held every other year on a Saturday with lots of food, fun, and fellowship. Community Day concludes on Sunday morning with an outdoor worship service. Church members also participate in an after-school Good News Club, for local elementary school students. Community service projects involving the community fire company, ambulance association, police station and swimming pool have been a part of our history. Ice cream socials, along with a family film shown outdoors on the side of the neighboring tobacco barn, have been done. Prayer walks also are done in the community. Our pastor is a member of the Conestoga Pastors’ Consortium, which gives us a connection with other community Churches.

Several years ago we sponsored a refugee family from Burma, and they have been a blessing to us. Their attendance has attracted other Burmese refugees, and on an average Sunday morning approximately one-fourth of our congregation is of Asian origin, which gives us an enriching diversity.

Our vision at River Corner goes beyond the local community of Conestoga. Many of us have volunteered with Mennonite Disaster Service. Our work teams have covered the U.S., from California to New York and from North Dakota to Florida. An area that we sense the Spirit directing us to as a congregation is to deepen and strengthen our spiritual relationship with God. To that end, a time of prayer and fasting is scheduled for each month.

The disciples of Jesus at River Corner seek to fulfill our Mission Statement. Our mission is to glorify God as we worship, serve, and share Him. We desire to grow in grace and peace. We are committed to following Jesus. We value each person as a gift to be nurtured, encouraged, and disciplined. Shalom! ■

Right: True Vine youth
Far right: Worship team
leading worship service



CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE:

True Vine Tabernacle

Because we are a people of prayer, we hold a prayer service every Friday night, and we believe it is the most important service of the week. We are a people who know how to call on the name of the Lord. We have witnessed miracles of healing, restoration and reconciliation. We also emphasize worship and expect the Holy Spirit to move and minister among us.

Our local community in Elkhart feels welcomed by us, and we are available to serve and support those in need in our community. Some of our members walk the neighborhood ministering to needs and praying with individuals and families throughout the week. Others work and volunteer in the homeless shelter. Some members hold home Bible studies with neighbors and friends.

In our attempt to be attentive to God's voice and the Holy Spirit's direction through prayer, a young woman from Africa connected with us. She was in the midst of a major crisis in her life. She came to the United States with hopes of a better future, but she experienced abuse from friends of her family with whom she was staying. This young lady visited our church with hopes that God would rescue her as she was an expectant mother with no place to live. With tears and desperation she shared her story afraid of what the future held as she was far from home, betrayed and discarded by the very church people who promised her parents to care for her. A couple in our congregation, who had been praying about ways to minister to our community and I shared this young ladies story. They felt affirmation from the Holy Spirit to host her with acceptance and joy. They are presently her second family encouraging and nurturing her in her healing process as she becomes independent and strong in her faith. This is one example of the heart of True Vine members.

As a congregation, we focus on discipling and mentoring individuals and families. As leaders, we work to expand our ministry. We started a series of workshops for women, for marriages, and for men in order to encourage growth and spiritual maturity. We want to make disciples who are able to share the Good News of Christ to all those around us. We continue to focus on evangelism and reaching those our society says are unreachable. ■

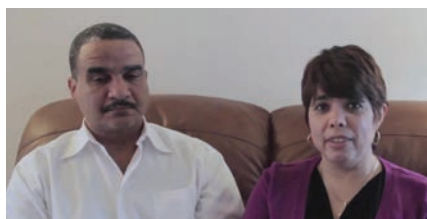
DISTRICT: Eastern Ohio District

LOCATION: 54365 Independence Street,
Elkhart, IN 46514

DATE OF FOUNDING: 2004

**AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE:** 80

WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 am



PASTORS: Juan Carlos Lora and Nancy
Rodriguez Lora

FROM AROUND LMC

Congregations who would like to report briefly on events in their congregation should send a descriptive paragraph and a high resolution picture to jsantiago@lmcchurches.org.

ANNIVERSARIES

On November 3, the Garifuna Mennonite Church of Manhattan celebrated its 12th year anniversary. Pastors Omar and Tania Guzman led a large crowd through an evening of remembrance and praise. During the month of September, West



End Mennonite Fellowship celebrated 20 years of ministry during four consecutive Sundays. Josef Berthold is the

lead pastor. The final Sunday included a baptism related to the Muslim ministry in the congregation. Both of these congregations are church multiplication hubs that have begun numerous new faith communities.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

On October 16, a group of 35 children's ministry workers gathered at the LMC offices for a time of worship, prayer and resourcing. Ann Kanagy from CMC (Conservative Mennonite Conference), spoke on Discipling Children in the Church. Ann shared inspiring stories and provided a variety of resources for those in attendance. A follow up meeting will take place in 2019 with more information on date and location to come. Questions may be addressed to Marcia at mmylin@lmcchurches.org.

CHURCH ON THE OTHER SIDE

Church on the Other Side, LMCs multiplication ministry, collaborated with Bethlehem Community Fellowship to offer a workshop on church multiplication. The October 27 conference, "Spreading the

Flame," explored making disciples from the perspective of a number of "twenty-something" speakers who are active in the life of the congregation, including starting new faith communities. The stories and testimonies offered testified over and over again to the fact that it is Jesus who is building the church. Our part remains limited to participating in what we see Jesus doing in the church and in the world. Pastors Jim and Alison Weick also shared and facilitated the day's schedule. The congregation provided excellent hospitality and served a scrumptious meal to the attendees.

EMM DISCIPLEMAKER SUMMIT

EMM staff facilitated a time of prayerful discernment with



leaders from LMC, Mennonite Brethren (US and Canada), and Brethren in Christ leaders from October 29–31. Through worship, prayer, and various spiritual discipline exercises, the group sought to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church about the multiplication of disciples in our 21st century context.

ESL WORKSHOP

On December 1, a team from a YWAM base in Virginia provided resourcing at Stumptown Mennonite Church for enabling congregations to begin an English as a Second Language (ESL) ministry in the congregation. LMC, Landis Communities, and Everence provided underwriting for the event. The all-day event sought to answer two questions: How can we start an ESL ministry at our church? And, how can I personally use ESL techniques with non-native speakers?

NEPALI PRAYER TEAM

Pastor Menuka Tamang at RiversEdge Nepali, a congregation in the Lancaster District of Lancaster Conference, along with Rodney Martin (Bishop) and Rhoda Yost (River's Edge) have a vision for mission work to the Nepali people. This vision has multiple parts, including reaching out to Rohingya refugees in Nepal, relating to an emerging church in Nepal, starting a business for transformation that connects with social and environmental concerns and reaching out to Nepali people in Lancaster City. This exciting vision needs to be bathed in prayer. Do you have a heart for the people of Nepal? Please consider joining a prayer team for this emerging vision. For more information contact Bishop Rodney Martin at rmartin@gmail.com or Pastor Rhoda Yost at rhodamy@gmail.com.



RESOURCING FOR YOUTH LEADERS

A number of events for LMC youth workers are available. There are monthly gatherings on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Lyndon Diner in Lancaster, for a time of networking, prayer and dwelling in the word. Also, there are new quarterly gatherings that are held in various locations and include times for networking, resourcing, discussion and prayer. Dates and locations will be announced. Lastly, all youth workers are invited to attend an annual retreat again this year. It will include opportunities for worship, prayer, speakers, networking and resourcing. Date and location will be announced. Contact Marcia at mmylin@lmcchurches.org for more information.

NEWS NOTES

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES

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

Kevin Breckbill (*Laura*), was licensed toward ordination as deacon at Meckville Mennonite Church.

Samuel Admasu Legesse (*Kidist Tadesse*), was installed as lead pastor at Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Baltimore.

Darryl Weaver (*Janice*), was licensed for specific ministry as outreach pastor at Sunnyside Mennonite Church.

Kevin Weaver (*Letitia*), was installed as lead pastor at Red Run Mennonite Church.

Luke Weaver (*Anita*), was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at Meckville Mennonite Church.

NEW INITIATIVE

The LMC Conference Executive Council approved a new process to interact with organizations who seek to engage with LMC events and communication processes. Organizations who seek to engage with LMC membership are now designated as a resource partner rather than agencies or fraternal partners. As a way to structure relations between a resource partner and the LMC office and LMC congregations, each resource partner selects a level of engagement with various LMC events and communication venues. Based on the level of participation, a resource partner gains access to Celebration of Church Life, Leadership Assemblies, and other LMC office activities and services.

CONFERENCE RELATED MINISTRIES MEETING

On March 29, 2019, leaders of ministries that relate to LMC and Atlantic Coast Conference will again gather to discuss and evaluate connections and resources offered to congregations. Conrad Kanagy will be the resource speaker. He will present an analysis of data collected from the various resource organizations.

FALL LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

LMC leaders gathered on September 29 at Strasburg Mennonite Church to better understand conflict and how we can engage conflict as groups and individuals. Leonard Dow led the group through a detailed study of the book of Philemon and the interpersonal and congregational conflict embodied in that text. Jon Rudy presented a schema to categorize personal responses to conflict.

CELEBRATION OF CHURCH LIFE AND SPRING LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

The Spring Leadership Assembly and the Celebration of Church Life will be linked together in 2019. The

**Breaking
New Ground** 

planning team selected Breaking New Ground as the theme for the event. Shalom News will unpack this theme during 2019. The keynote speaker will be Marvin Lorenzana. Marvin currently works for Mennonite Mission Network as director for Discipleship Initiatives. In this role, Marvin functions as a coach for church leaders who are interested in developing a culture of intentional disciple-making within the local congregation. He challenges leaders and churches to go back to the relational roots of the Great Commission.

END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN

The LMC fiscal year ends January 31. Anyone wanting to impact the LMC bottom line for the year may donate to the LMC Multiplication Giving Campaign. Specific items to help end the year well include Mennonite World Conference Fair Share fees for 2018, support for LMC multiplication ministries, and support for discipleship advancement. Send your donation to the LMC office or donate online at the top, right of the LMC homepage.

LMC LEGACY FOUNDATION



The LMC Legacy Foundation is now ready to accept proposals. The Foundation is devoted to funding initiatives that find a better way to improve mental wellness through the healing ministry of Christ. The intent is to fund new services that meet innovative and outcome-based requirements for mental health. The Foundation does not fund charity care or standard services in behavioral health. Requirements for grant applications, which can be made directly on the website **lmc-legacyfoundation.org**, includes the following:

- must be a Section 501(c)(3) organization
- must be faith-based projects focused on improving mental health
- proposal may not duplicate existing services
- must be a new and innovative service
- must project a sustainable funding plan.

Preference will be given to projects serving South Central Pennsylvania. The next application deadline is in January, 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at 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

January 17, 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

Franklin District School for Disciples Winter Classes

January 26 – February 23, 2019

Marion Mennonite Church,
Chambersburg, Pa.
www.lmcchurches.org/event/school-for-disciples-winter-classes/all

Everence Stewardship University **March 2, 2019**

Calvary Church, Lancaster, Pa.
www.everence.com/stewardship-university-2019

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

LMC Celebration of Church Life **March 15 – 16, 2019**

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.
www.lmcchurches.org/celebration-church-life

Conference Related Ministries Seminar

March 29, 2019

Garden Spot Village, New Holland, Pa.
acclmc2019crmday.eventbrite.com

Orientation for Newly Credentialed Leaders

April 17, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Conference office, Lancaster, Pa.
lmcnorclo2019.eventbrite.com

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STEP is a 3-year leadership training program that has
been enriching the ministries of LMC leaders for 14 years.
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Saturday a month September – May.

To learn more, visit: LMCchurches.org/ministries/step