

# LMC 411: Brief Descriptions of Ministries and Resources

## Acronyms:

BB	Board of Bishops
CC	Credentialing Commission
CEC	Conference Executive Council
CCL	Celebration of Church Life
EMM	Eastern Mennonite Missions
LEG	Leadership Education Grant
LMC	Anabaptist fellowship of over 200 churches in 11 states
LMHS	Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
LMS	Lancaster Mennonite School
MWC	Mennonite World Conference
SOC	STEP Oversight Commission
SSA	STEP Study Award (grant)
STEP	Study & Training for Effective Pastoral Ministry
UEG	Urban Education Grant
WEG	Women's Education Grant

**Board of Bishops:** consists of all bishops/overseers/supervisors from the districts in LMC. The Board of Bishops meets every other month for resourcing, sharing, and giving overall leadership to LMC. All CEC members are invited to Bishop Board meetings.

**Celebration of Church Life:** an annual gathering for LMC churches. All LMC members are invited to this event that includes worship, resourcing, networking, displays, food and more.

**Child Abuse and Criminal Background Checks:** All children's ministry workers, paid or volunteer, must complete a Child Abuse History, Criminal Background Check and possibly the FBI Check in order to perform ministry in LMC.

**Church On the Other Side:** a partnership with the Board of Bishops, LMC staff, congregations, and individuals to nurture a culture of church planting multiplication centered around the Great Commission. The initiative seeks to multiply churches through leader development, practical training, and starting new faith communities.

**Church Revitalization:** resourcing for congregations that have a readiness and openness to a process of renewal and revitalization. There are a number of resources available to assist leadership teams or district leaders in the discernment of suitable resources for their journey of revitalization.

**Conference Executive Council:** The governing body of LMC made up of Bishops and Pastors. CEC meets every other month to tend to governance business.

**Conference Minister:** an oversight ministry at the conference level that assists bishops with search processes, serves as a pastor to overseers, assists with linking pastors and congregations, and other significant roles. Leads the CC.

**Confession of Faith:** a statement of beliefs that guide and anchor Christian belief and practice within LMC and provide guidelines for interpretation of Scripture. Congregations within LMC are asked to affirm and adopt either the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* (1995) or *Mennonite Confession of Faith* (1963).

**Core Values:** shared values around which LMC congregations unite and that reflect a missional Anabaptist identity. With Jesus Christ as the center of our faith and life, the core values examine a way of seeing the world through God's reign, a way of reading Scripture through Jesus, and a way of living the Christian life as disciples. Curriculum packages are available for study and reflection.

**Credentialing Commission:** a commission appointed by the Board of Bishops to interview all candidates for leadership roles in LMC congregations or other assignments. When approved, the commission provides a valid certificate and ministry card. The commission meets monthly.

**Discovery:** an eight-week discipleship course to deepen one's spirituality and the ability to hear God speaking to the Christian. Concludes with a one year mentor relationship.

**Districts:** all congregations in LMC are geographically divided into one of 28 districts, each led by a bishop. The district leaders of the congregations meet together on a regular basis. A number of bishops oversee more than one district.

**Eastern Mennonite Missions:** EMM, the mission agency of LMC and a resource partner.

**Email Announcements:** an every-other-week email of information from the conference office to credentialed leaders and congregations. To receive this email, provide your email information at the bottom of the LMC website homepage.

**Finance Committee:** appointed by the Board of Bishops to review the annual Financial Plan, prepare an offering schedule, suggest ways to increase congregational and individual giving, and make recommendations on fiscal matters. The fiscal-financial year for LMC is February 1 - January 31.

**FirstFruits Tithe:** LMC suggests congregations practice a firstfruits tithe (10%) of regular income to support the ministry of LMC as described in this brochure. Congregants are encouraged to give additional offerings and gifts to support God's kingdom through many worthy Christian organizations. LMC shares a firstfruits tithe with MWC and other organizations.

**Flourish:** a missional community movement that births, resources, and multiplies clusters of Christ-followers where we live, work, and play. Through "huddles," discipleship, and coaching, Flourish promotes the development of new communities.

**Global Delegate:** delegate to the international church bodies with which LMC maintains relationships in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Central and South America.

**Human Sexuality resources:** a packet that lists suggested resources to help congregations navigate an increasingly complex, highly sexualized world.

**Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society:** official repository of LMC records in the archives. Includes a library, museum, education programs, and bookstore.

**Landis Communities:** a resource partner that provides a variety of elder care services to LMC and beyond in partnership with several organizations.

**Leadership Assembly Resourcing:** held twice a year usually on the third Friday of May and September. All licensed or ordained persons and emerging leaders are encouraged to attend these gatherings.

**Leadership Assistance Program:** available to all credentialed leaders, staff, and their family members through the services of Philhaven/Wellspan to help them resolve personal problems that may affect performance in their employment situations and with their personal well being.

**Leadership Development:** resources for credentialed and lay leaders that are God-honoring, Spirit-directed, and congregation-centered are offered to call, cultivate, and support leaders to grow in competency and character as life-long learners.

**Leadership Education Grants:** scholarship funds to support credentialed and emerging leaders with tuition costs. The amount is based on availability of funds, number of applicants, and references from church leaders. Applications due by January 31 and August 31 each year.

**Life Stages Resourcing:** resourcing for all life stages from infant to elderly, single, married, or widowed, in school, at work, or retired. Help is available for ministry direction, curriculum selection, and in congregation resourcing.

**LMC:** a fellowship of over 200 congregations (15,000+ members), and numerous organizations who serve as a resource partner. Congregations are located in eleven states and three countries with emerging church plants located around the country.

**LMC Legacy Foundation:** a new charitable foundation to assist LMC to continue a vision to nurture mental health, broadly construed, with resilience and innovation. The foundation accepts grant requests at <https://lmc-legacyfoundation.org/>.

**LMC Office:** 2160 Lincoln Highway East, Suite #5, Lancaster, Pa. 17602. The office is open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to stop by the office to enjoy a hot drink and conversation in the new *Café*.

**Mennonite World Conference:** global fellowship of Anabaptist groups. LMC joined in 2018.

**Mission Statement:** LMC is committed to the continuing work of Jesus Christ. We gather in congregations to worship in Christ's name, to minister the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to one another, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, to go forth as workers in God's kingdom. We partner with a network of organizations to equip people for ministry, exercise mutual care, and extend God's salvation, healing, and hope to the world.

**Missional Identity:** more than a tag-line or logo, a missional identity attempts to uncover the essence of an organization. Through a process of assessment, discovery, and adoption the identity claim that emerged for LMC was, "We are people of Christ's peace." LMC applies the identity to actions and ministries throughout the conference.

**Offering Schedule:** suggested designated giving guide for all congregations, especially those that use a designated offering schedule.

**Quizzing:** young people get together, study the Bible, and answer questions in fun, friendly inter-conference competition. It is also a good opportunity to meet new friends and people from other churches.

**Shalom Evangelical Church Council: (CIES)** a group of Evangelical churches united in a Council to proclaim Jesus as Savior and Lord with headquarters in New Holland, PA. The churches are located in the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Oregon and Mexico, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

**Shalom News :** published four times per year, the magazine covers LMC issues, events, and stories from congregations and leaders. The content seeks to empower congregations to engage in the mission of God.

**Sowing Shalom:** nine self-contained sessions, explores the core value of "peace." The DVD based curriculum and *Leader's Guide* helps the group get the most out of the discussion.

**STEP:** a three-year training program for people considering congregational leadership and want to gain practical ministry training. STEP combines formation, pastoral topics, and pastoral skills in very practical ways. For more information or apply go to <https://lmcchurches.org/ministries/step/>

**STEP Study Award:** a new scholarship fund to provide financial aid the emerging leaders in the STEP program. Applications due by August 31 each year.

**Urban Education Grants:** grants given for tuition assistance for elementary, secondary, college and post-graduate studies to urban students or students of color with a recommendation from their pastor. Applications due by August 31 each year.

**Web-Site:** [www.LMCchurches.org](http://www.LMCchurches.org) updated March 17, 2017! Access to the church directory, congregational openings, regular blog posts, conference announcements, and general information plus downloadable resources.

**Women's Education Grant:** education grants for women's education or events providing training to women. Applications due by August 31 each year.



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## Ministries and Resources of LMC



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To learn more about any of the LMC 411 listings, contact the LMC Office.

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