Breaking New Ground
Discovering our unique callings in ministry
At the recent LMC Fall Leadership Assembly, my friend and mentor Earl Yoder (Western Maryland district bishop) introduced me to several people as his pastor. I was taken aback by that introduction, as I often am when someone refers to me as a “pastor.” Why is that? I looked around the room that morning at the (mostly) men who had answered the call to serve as pastors. I imagined most of them served as full-time pastors solely and wholeheartedly dedicated to ministry. I imagined the others who, like me, were bi-vocational pastors— but unlike me, were fully devoted to their pastoral work with their secular occupations secondary to their call to serve our God as shepherds of their churches. Either way, I imagined these leaders were full-service pastors to the congregation.

Then there was me, a “pastor” in name only, I thought. By comparison, I didn’t match up to the expectations the title “pastor” connotes. I’m a full-time college professor who has given himself wholeheartedly and beyond full-time to serving his students for the last thirty-two years. I love my job! My role as pastor, in the traditional sense, is largely restricted to preaching several Sunday mornings each month, attending church Leadership Team meetings, and checking in on church members as needed.

By contrast, my partner in ministry at Glade Mennonite Church, lead pastor Johnny Martin, works a full-time job, immerses himself in his STEP classes, and does all the pastoral “heavy lifting,” all while being the best husband possible to his wife and the best father possible to his two daughters and newborn son. I don’t know how he does it all, but he does a great job! I didn’t, and I don’t, feel worthy of the title “pastor.” And yet, when I’m doing what I feel I’m called to do— giving myself fully to the task of instructing and mentoring my students, seeking to be Jesus to those with whom I come in contact (my students, coworkers, professional colleagues, and others—few of them followers of Jesus), and serving my congregation.
through preaching and encouragement, I feel like I’m right where I belong. Whether or not I do merits the title “pastor,” I know in my spirit I’m doing just what God wants me to do. Whether or not she knows it, she’s seeking. She shared her heart with me. I shared my faith with her. I prayed with her. She knew she could talk with me. She trusted me to hear and understand her with love because she knows I love her and do so without judgment.

Last summer, I was contacted by a young lady whom I’d met a time or two over the previous several months. She grew up in the church, but she has drifted away due to her frustration with what she sees as the hateful, judgmental, greedy, racist, and sexist behaviors and viewpoints of Christians. She knew me from the college, which she “found to be an incredibly spiritually barren place.” I was eager to talk with her and explain why “incredibly spiritually barren places” are just the kinds of places where followers of Jesus most need to be.

God has also used me to provide comfort, support, and encouragement to many people, especially to current and former students and their families. For instance, I have a recent graduate who is a recovering alcoholic. He started college just days into his sobriety, and he ended up knocking the ball out of the park as a student. His father was diagnosed at the beginning of 2018 with liver cancer. Concerned that his father might not live until his son’s graduation in May, I drove a couple of hours east to meet him and tell him how proud he should be of his son. I had a wonderful conversation that day with his wife and him, and I prayed with them before I left. He lived to see his son graduate, but he succumbed to his illness two months later. I continue to keep in close touch with this former student, and also with his family. I hope I will always be his mentor, supporter, and friend.

The frequency of these experiences has increased dramatically in the three years since I was credentialed by LMC and “officially” became a pastor. And somehow, like never before, God has given me things to say, from the pulpit and to those outside the church, at seemingly just the right time. It’s been an exhilarating and humbling experience. I’ve rarely felt worthy to be a pastor, but I’ve always felt equipped. It’s not what I do; it’s what God does through me when I get out of my head and out of the way and just trust the leading of His Spirit.

To be honest, I feel like I do way more work for Jesus outside the church walls than inside. I feel like Glade Mennonite Church rents me out to the world. As best as I can determine, my mentor Earl Yoder has put in me. I pray that I will continue to merit that trust.

Dr. Kevin Duder is a professor at Garrett College in Mountain, MD, where he is the Director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program. Kevin and his wife Caroline attended Glade Mennonite Church in Accident, MD, where he serves as Associate Pastor.
Ya un pastor...

Por Pastor Kevin Dodge

En la reciente Asamblea de líderes de Ética de la LMC, mi amigo y mentor Earl Yoder (arguyó el distrito del este de Maryland) me presentó a varias personas como su pastor. Esa introducción me dejó perplejo, pero debo admitir que cuando alguien se refiere a mí como un "pastor", por qué? Es una mala meta que me alarma en la vida y a los hombres (y mujeres) que han hablado al servicio de llamados de servir como pastor. Me imagino que la mayoría de ellos servirían como pastores de tiempo completo dedicados exclusivamente al ministerio. Imagino que los otros que, como yo, eran pastores bioecuacionales estacionales, a diferencia de mí, plenamente dedicados a su trabajo pastoral, estando en segundo plano sus ocupaciones secundarias y reflejándose de su llamado a servir a Dios y a la comunidad de la iglesia como una de sus iglesias. En todo caso, me imagino que estos líderes brindaron con servicio completo para la organización.

Luego estoy, ya un "pastor" de nombre solamente, posible. En comparación, yo no imaginaba que estaba a la altura de las expectativas, que el título de "pastor" conyugaba. Soy un profesor universitario de tiempo completo que se dedica a la educación de docentes más allá del tiempo completo a servir a mis estudiantes durante los últimos treinta y dos años. Aunque encaja mi trabajo, mi ministerio, en el sentido tradicional, se limita en gran medida a prestar varios domingos por la mañana cada mes, asistir a los eventos del equipo de liderazgo de la iglesia y atender a los membresías de la iglesia cuando sean necesarias.

Por el contrario, mi colega en el ministerio de la Glade Mennonite Church, el pastor principal, Johnny Martine, trabaja a tiempo completo y se sumerge en sus clases de Es- te nte y Entrenamiento para Ministerios Pastorales (STEP) y hice todo el trabajo pastoral "preado". Al mismo tiempo que se esfuerza por ser el mejor esposo posible para su esposa y el mejor padre posible para sus dos hijos y su nuevo recién nacido. No sólo hace todo esto, pero también se da a gran trabajo.

Me sorprendió y no me sentía digno del título de "pastor". A pesar de ello, hago mi mejor esfuerzo para ser fiel a mi llamado para ser un/feeding en mi vida. Pasé la mayor parte de mi vida en un camino de servicio, pero siempre me he sentido... tal vez millonarios son más pequeños, especialmente interesada en hablar con ellos sobre su desconcierto y su familia. Ella lloró mientras hablaba conmigo. Independientemente de lo que yo dije, o que no dije, ella sabía que podía contar conmigo. Ella confía en mí, y me encanta mi trabajo! Mi papel como pastor, en el sentido tradicional, se limita en gran medida a servir a mis estudiantes durante los últimos treinta y dos años但我想象着我的工作对我来说是重要的。但是，当我吃着饭时，我看到一个正在做饭的男人，他正在照顾一个孩子。他有一些独特的品质。他... hago mucho, un amigo y colega profesional me invitó a tomar el café con él. Ella no era de seguidores. Ella quería saber qué hacía. Después de analizarlo y compararlo con lo que confiaba en que la comunidad de la iglesia comprende que mi llamado es algo que estoy haciendo exactamente lo que Dios quiere que haga. Cuando dejo de analizar y a través de la predicación y motivación. Siento que estoy justo donde pertenezco. Ya sea con estudiantes y otros, pocos de ellos seguidores de Jesús, además de servir a mi congregación y guiar a mis estudiantes, buscando seguir los pasos de Jesús para ayudar a aquellos que sienten que estoy llamado a hacer, me entrego completamente a la tarea de instruir y guiar a otros. Por el contrario, mi colega en el ministerio de la Glade Mennonite Church, el pastor principal, Johnny Martine, trabaja a tiempo completo y se sumerge en sus clases de Entrenamiento y Entrenamiento para Ministerios Pastorales (STEP) y hice todo el trabajo pastoral “preado”. Al mismo tiempo que se esfuerza por ser el mejor esposo posible para su esposa y el mejor padre posible para sus dos hijos y su nuevo recién nacido. No sólo hace todo esto, pero también se da a gran trabajo.

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Anabaptist Church Consultation Critiques the Mission of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN NEWSLINE

An Anabaptist Church Consultation on the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service was held in Akron, Pa., on June 4, 2019, hosted by Mennonite Central Committee US (MCC). At the table were representatives from 13 Anabaptist bodies.

The day included a review of the commission, a presentation by Donald Kayball, senior fellow emeritus of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College, and time spent articulating responses to the commission’s interim recommendations.

The commission was established by Congress in 2017 with a mandate to review Selective Service registration, particularly among women who should be required to register for the draft, and to recommend ways to increase participation in military, national, and public service. The commission is expected to present final recommendations to Congress next spring.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service was created by Congress to consider and develop recommendations concerning the need for a military draft, and means by which to foster a greater attitude and ethos of service among American youth. Established on September 19, 2017, the commission intends to issue its final report no later than March 2020 and conclude its work by September 2020.

Evidenced by Statute and Principles issued by the President, the commission’s mission is to listen to the public and learn from those who serve to recommend ideas to foster a great ethos of military, national, and public service to strengthen American democracy. The commission hopes to ignite a national conversation around the question of national service.

Members of the Commission are:

- The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck, Commission Chairman, former Member of the House of Representatives (NV-3)
- The Honorable Mark Greenan, Vice Chair for National and Public Service, former Director of the Peace Corps
- The Honorable Debra Wada, Vice Chair for Military Service, former Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs
- Mr. Edward Allard III, former Deputy Director of the Selective Service System
- Mr. Steve Barney, former General Counsel to the Senate Armed Service Committee
- The Honorable Dr. Janine Davidson, former Under Secretary of the Navy
- Ms. Antil Ham, former Principal Deputy National Security Advisor
- Ms. Jeanette James, former Professional Staff Member, Member of the House Armed Services Committee
- Mr. Alan Khazei, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Be the Change, Inc.
- Mr. Thomas Kivikoski, President of Freedom Alliance
- Ms. Shawn Skelly, former Director, Executive Secretariat, U.S. Department of Transportation

Response to the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service

To the members of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service:

Greetings in the Name of Jesus.

It is with deep gratitude that we have the freedom and privilege to express our firmly held Christian beliefs to our government. As Anabaptist Christians, we have often experienced our relationship with the U.S. government as a blessing in that we have been granted freedom to follow Christ according to our consciences. We are grateful that you have invited conversation around the question of national service.

We are writing to share with you our strongly held Christian beliefs regarding the proposed recommendations of the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service.

Following the teaching in Matthew 5 and in accordance with Jesus’ example, we are called to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, pray for those who persecute us, refuse to violently resist the evildoer, and forgive as we have been forgiven. As conscientious objectors, we believe Jesus commands reverence for each human life since every person is made in the image of God. In following Jesus, we serve in ways that build up, nurture, and encourage rather than destroy. Our opposition to war is not cowardice but an expression of Christ’s forgiving love as shown on the cross. We see ourselves as ambassadors of peace.

As churches in the Anabaptist tradition we stand firmly with those Christians throughout history who by conscience were not able to participate in the military. One of the important reasons our spiritual ancestors migrated from Europe to America was for religious freedom, which included not participating in military service. They believed that the state should not coerce in matters of religious conviction. They understood Jesus’ teaching to mean that his followers would not join or support armed resistance but would overcome evil with good. To that end, serving others is a core value of who we are as Anabaptist Christians. We encourage church members of all ages and abilities to find ways to bless others both within and outside the church.

In particular, we would like to respond to some of the Commission’s interim recommendations:

- We are requesting that no law be enacted that would require universal obligation for men or women to serve in the military.
- We request that protections and alternative service programs be maintained for those who conscientiously object to military service.
- We respectfully request the inclusion of a provision to identify as a conscientious objector at the time of Selective Service registration.
- We ask that the government, at both federal and state levels, not penalize people who do not register for Selective Service as a matter of conscience.
- We recommend that women not be required to register for Selective Service. (For some of us, this grows out of our constitutional right to choose, therefore it grows out of our traditional understanding of women’s roles.)
- We strongly value service but are concerned by the Commission’s conflation of service to the community with military service.
- We do not support sharing information and cross-recruitment of volunteers in our Christian service programs with the military.
- We are concerned by the influence the military has on schools, including efforts to increase military recruitment within schools as well as to incorporate military elements into school curricula. We are also concerned by the disproportionate focus by military recruiters on low-income communities and communities of color.
- We express thanks that in the United States our Christian convictions are respected. We are grateful for the Commission’s work and commitment to praying regularly for our government officials. Thank you for hearing our views.

The following groups have signed on to the letter to the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service as of August, 2019:

- Beachy Amish
- The Brethren Church
- Brethren in Christ U.S.
- Brethren in Christ Canada
- Brethren in Christ UK
- CMC
- CMC Menoniteme Central Committee U.S.
- CMC Menoniteme Church USA
- CMC Menoniteme Mission Network
- CMC Menoniteme Old Order Amish Church

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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 smarting@LMCchurches.org.

MENNONITE HERITAGE EXPERIENCE

First Mennonite Church, Berne, Ind. brought a group of youth to Pennsylvania for their five-day, biannual Mennonite heritage experience in June. The group spent a day visiting history sites in Philadelphia to place Mennonite migration within the broader American colonial story. Then they visited the 1719 Herr House, the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society exhibit, and the LMC office. Additional visits were made to Mennonite Central Committee, a visit to an Ethiopian restaurant with some Ethiopian Mennonite guests, and a worship service at the African French speaking congregation in Middletown (Evangelical Center for Revival) and Sight and Sound.

JOINT YOUTH GROUP MEETING

New Danville District (Pa.) and Yellow Creek Mennonite Church (Ind.) youth groups met together in early July at New Danville Mennonite Church. The multi-day event included relationship building activities, worship, Bible study, water balloon and camp fires. Matthew Core德拉 Bontrager served as a resource speaker for the group. Of course, there was lots of food like hotdogs and Smores.

FLOURISH RE-FUEL

The Flourish network of missional practitioners had one of their twice annual meetings at Scratch Bakes (Ephrata, Pa.) on August 16. After a delightful meal, they engaged the topic of “Engaging in Spiritual Conversations.” The ability to bring conversation in natural ways to issues of eternal value is core to the life of a missional community. Flourish continues to encourage participants to engage in their respective communities, sharing Christ’s love in tangible ways.

THE GATHERING PLACE

You are invited to visit the informal cafe at the LMC office, 2160 Lincoln Hwy East. The space is designed with a seating area with individual work stations and group discussion areas. The coffee is by donation only. While enjoying your drink, browse the books on the shelves, read the newspaper or recent church periodicals, or work on your sermon. For those who need a place to study, who want a change of scenery, or who need a neutral meeting location, please use this new space. A “grand opening” will be held on October 18–19. Please drop in.

MCM EMERGE

CMC has offered LMC congregations access to its Emerge program. Emerge is one a year, church and community internship program. With weekend retreats, practical ministry, home study, and face-face meetings with a mentor, students build ministry skills. The program cost is $100. Everence generously covers all retreat costs except travel. There is an application process. Learn more: cmcoremerge.org/ministries/emerge

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES

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

- Nelson Rutt (Christ) was ordained as associate pastor at Parkview Mennonite Church.
- Sheldon Martin (Ashley) was ordained as associate pastor at Parkview Mennonite Church.
- Gregory Stokes (Laurel) was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Blended’s Mennonite Church.
- Jonathan Martin (Mirella) was ordained as lead pastor of Glade Mennonite Church.
- Merlin Maust (Felicia) was ordained as lead pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite Church.
- Ronald Beiler (Lois) was ordained as lead pastor at Meadow Mountain Mennonite Church.
- Kevin Dodge (Keatina) was ordained as associate pastor at Glade Mennonite Church.
- Scott Elkins (Reith) began serving as interim lead pastor at Chestnut Hill Mennonite Church.
- Gary Blosser (Ludy) was ordained and installed as Lead Pastor at Millport Mennonite Church.
- Tika Gurung (Priti) was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Vishva Jyoti Church.
- Joshua Rivera (Rajendra) was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at Bethlehem Community Fellowship.
- Raquel Rivera (Joshua) was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at Bethlehem Community Fellowship.
- Roger Hartman was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Moorhead Mennonite Church.
- David Gingrich (Phyllis) was ordained as lead pastor at Dela- ware Mennonite Church.
- Travis Sauder (Carolyn) was ordained as associate pastor at Gehman Mennonite Church.
- Todd Carvell (Heidi) was ordained as associate pastor at Gehman Mennonite Church.
- Dan Cloyd (Heidi) was ordained and installed as co-lead pastor at Millersville Mennonite Church.

ONLINE GIVING

LMC is now able to receive online donations through Vanco, a workshop for children’s ministry leaders, and the third year of this resourcing opportunity for youth leaders. This event is for everyone who works with or ministers to youth. Youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, youth ministry educators, school teachers, sponsors, youth pastors or anyone else passionate about reaching teens with the love of Jesus and welcome spouses as well. Jimm & Kaylene Dersken will serve as our resource speakers for the weekend. The theme will be Breaking New Ground with an emphasis on Sabbath rest. The cost is $90.00 and registration is required: eventbrite.com/e/youth-leader-resource-event-tickets-55369292043

SAMOCHE Ear refoup

Provided to Intercede, a workshop for children’s ministry leaders, will feature Cheryl Drouillard as the speaker. Sometimes God provokes our hearts to intercession and sometimes this “stirring up” is for our children! Through stories, testimony, and teaching, Cheryl will discuss strategies of prayer and our response to our children when they lead us with simple and child-like faith.

This event will occur on Thursday, October 15, 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the LMC offices, 2160 Lincoln Hwy E. Register at eventbrite.com/e/provoked-to-intercede-tickets-65711975287

YOUTH LEADER RESOURCE EVENT

Join youth leaders for an extended time of worship, fellowship, resourcing, and networking on October 11-12, 2019 at the MCC Welcoming Place. This is the third year of this resourcing opportunity for youth leaders. This event is for everyone who works with or ministers to youth. Youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, youth ministry educators, school teachers, sponsors, youth pastors or anyone else passionate about reaching teens with the love of Jesus and welcome spouses as well. Jimm & Kaylene Dersken will serve as our resource speakers for the weekend. The theme will be Breaking New Ground with an emphasis on Sabbath rest. The cost is $90.00 and registration is required: eventbrite.com/e/youth-leader-resource-event-tickets-55369292043

CHURCH ON THE OTHER SIDE

Omar Guzman continues to be denied access to a Visa for return to the USA. Currently, he continues to do ministry among the Garifuna churches and other Mennonite groups in Honduras and Belize. He has traveled twice to Spain preparing for a Garifuna church plant there. Please pray for resolution of this problem. The Guzman family is stretched as they work with family in the US and husband and father in Honduras.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY RESOURCING

Provoked to Intercede, a workshop for children’s ministry leaders, will feature Cheryl Drouillard as the speaker. Sometimes God provokes our hearts to intercession and sometimes this “stirring up” is for our children! Through stories, testimony, and teaching, Cheryl will discuss strategies of prayer and our response to our children when they lead us with simple and child-like faith. The event will occur on Tuesday, October 15, 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the LMC offices, 2160 Lincoln Hwy E. Register at eventbrite.com/e/provoked-to-intercede-tickets-65711975287

AD HOC BISHOP GROUP

The Bishop Board appointed a small group of bishops to work with the EMM board on developing and deepening the relationship between EMM and LMC. Formally, the governance issues related to bylaws has found good resolution. Continued work occurs around the next President search, as Gerry Keener will only serve for a two-year interim term. Other issues will involve greater integration of mission/vision, philosophy of mission and strategic planning and goals.

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LLMCCHURCHES.ORG
**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.  
LMC office, Lancaster, Pa.  
717-293-5246

**Thursday Night Quarterly Prayer Meeting**  
October 17, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
717-293-5246

**Women’s Prayer Gathering**  
Third Friday of each month  
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
LMC office, Lancaster, 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

**Keeping the Fire Alive**  
October 11–12  
The MCC Welcoming Place, Akron, Pa.  
$90.00 and registration is required;  
eventbrite.com/e/youth-leader-resource-event-tickets-55369292043

**Provoked to Intercede**  
October 15, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
LMC office, 2160 Lincoln Hwy E  
Speaker, Cheryl Drouillard

**Keeping the Fire Alive**  
October 11–12  
The MCC Welcoming Place, Akron, Pa.  
$90.00 and registration is required;  
eventbrite.com/e/youth-leader-resource-event-tickets-55369292043

**Women’s Regional Gathering**  
Saturday, November 2  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
Stumptown Mennonite Church  
stumptown.church/get-connected/wrg  
717-656-7878

**Eastern Mennonite Missions Investment Fund**

Just 5 minutes and $500 are all you need to start investing. Achieve your financial goals and make a difference in the lives of people who need Jesus.

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**SEED, an ELL Training Program**

Dawn and Chris Landes, pastors at Habecker Mennonite Church, are piloting the first year of a three-year program for church leader development for English language learners. The program will start September 14, 2019. The program is directed towards English language learners with a working-level of English who are members of a congregation of recent immigrants or refugees. The program helps those interested in exploring church ministry or people currently serving in leadership or lay leadership in an immigrant church. Classes will meet Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. twice a month from September–May at the LMC Conference Center, 2160 Lincoln Hwy East, Lancaster, Pa. To enroll or for more information, contact Dawn or Chris at 717-799-3900 or cdlandes@habeckerchurch.com.