



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches*

# Shalom NEWS

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019



## Breaking New Ground

*Discovering our unique  
callings in ministry*



## New Distance Learning Program

**LMC is working with CMC and Rosedale Bible College to create a distance learning program for leaders and emerging leaders.**

Students will be able to access coursework from anywhere that has internet access. The goal of the new program is designed to equip people to more effectively minister in the home, church, neighborhood, and work environments. Those who complete the three-year, accredited certificate program will be equipped for more effective witness in the world. The program will have three tracks: Bible and Theology Formation, Spiritual and Personal Formation, and Leadership and Ministry Formation. The first classes will be available in the fall of 2020.

**Stay tuned for more information!**



**October – December 2019**

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L. Keith Weaver, Moderator

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### ON THE COVER:

Dr. Kevin Dodge and a student in the field.  
Photo provided by Kevin Dodge.



Environmental Research at Swallow Falls. Photo by Chad Yoder.

# Me... a Pastor?

BY PASTOR KEVIN DODGE

**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



Sunday preaching at Glade Mennonite Church. Photo provided by the author.

*I know in my spirit  
I’m doing just what  
God wants me to do.*

through preaching and encouragement, I feel like I'm right where I belong. Whether or not what I do merits the title "pastor," I know in my spirit I'm doing just what God wants me to do. When I quit analyzing, stop comparing, and trust that my church family understands my unique calling, I relax.

I've had too many experiences over the past three years since I was licensed for ministry by LMC to think otherwise – too many inspirations from the Holy Spirit, too many conversations, too many "coincidences." God has given me more opportunities than ever before to interact with people, especially with those who don't follow Jesus – some tentatively seeking faith, some adamantly opposed to faith. Here are a few examples:

- ▶ Not long ago, a friend and professional colleague invited me to have coffee with her. She is not a follower of Jesus. She wanted to know why many Christians don't appear to view environmental stewardship as an important priority. As we talked, it became apparent that her questions and concerns were much deeper. She marveled at the inexplicable faith of Jesus followers, but she also ques-

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.

tioned the hypocrisy of some Christians. Her questions were colored by how she viewed and interacted with the world, given her background and family. She teared up as she talked with me. 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, but she was especially interested in talking with me because she heard I was a pastor. I did my best to listen to her and to help her understand that Christians are, all too often, very imperfect followers of a perfect Savior. I asked her not to judge our faith by our behavior, but by the example that Jesus lived. I asked her to recognize that all of us des-

perately need the mercy, grace, and forgiveness that is only available through Jesus. I'm not sure she left our conversation satisfied, but I believe she left knowing I value her, I care about her, and that I will always be there to humbly answer her questions. I will trust God to gently and lovingly turn her heart back to Him.

- ▶ Last fall, I received an email from a student who grew up in a Mennonite church. She wanted to talk with me about getting involved in our fall owl migration study, but she also said she'd found out I'm a pastor and that she was "impressed and intrigued" by my "apparent commitment" to my 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 congregation understands, accepts, and supports who I am and what I do. If they're good with it, then who am I to argue?

When I stop over-thinking things and just act and live as faithfully as I can, I'm comfortable. As I see it, it is up to LMC to decide whether or not the title "pastor" is appropriate for my role in my church and in the community. I appreciate the trust that LMC, my church, and my mentor Earl Yoder have put in me. I pray that I will continue to merit that trust. ■

Dr. Kevin Dodge is a professor at Garrett College, in McHenry, MD, where he is the Director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program. Kevin and his wife Carolina attend Glade Mennonite Church in Accident, MD, where he serves as Associate Pastor.

As best as I can determine, my congregation understands, accepts, and supports who I am and what I do. If they're good with it, then who am I to argue?



Congregational Prayer at Glade. Photo provided by the author.



Wildlife Education Photo by Lauren Sheahan.

# ¿Yo... un pastor?

POR PASTOR KEVIN DODGE

En la reciente Asamblea de Liderazgo de Otoño de la LMC, mi amigo y mentor Earl Yoder (obispo del distrito del oeste de Maryland) me presentó a varias personas como su pastor. Esa introducción me dejó perplejo, como suele ocurrir cuando alguien se refiere a mí como un "pastor". ¿Por qué? Esa mañana miré a mi alrededor en la sala y vi a los hombres (en su mayoría) que habían respondido al llamado de servir como pastores. Me imaginé que la mayoría de ellos servían como pastores de tiempo completo dedicados exclusivamente al ministerio. Imaginé que los otros que, como yo, eran pastores bivocacionales estaban, a diferencia de mí, plenamente dedicados a su trabajo pastoral, poniendo en segundo plano sus ocupaciones seculares en virtud de su llamado a servir a nuestro Dios como pastores de sus iglesias. En todo caso, me imaginé que estos líderes eran pastores de servicio completo para la congregación.

Luego estaba yo, un "pastor" de nombre solamente, pensé. En comparación, yo no imaginaba que estaba a la altura de las expectativas que el título de "pastor" connota. Soy un profesor universitario de tiempo completo que se ha dedicado de todo corazón y más allá del tiempo completo a servir a sus estudiantes durante los últimos treinta y dos años. ¡Me encanta mi trabajo! Mi papel como pastor, en el sentido tradicional, se limita en gran medida a predicar varios domingos por la mañana cada mes, asistir a las reuniones del equipo de liderazgo de la iglesia y atender a los miembros de la iglesia cuando sea necesario.

Por el contrario, mi colega en el ministerio de la Glade Mennonite Church, el pastor principal, Johnny Martin, trabaja a tiempo completo y se sumerge en sus clases de Estudio y Entrenamiento para un Ministerio Pastoral Eficaz (STEP) y hace todo el trabajo pastoral "pesado", al mismo tiempo que se esfuerza por ser el mejor esposo posible para su esposa y el mejor padre posible para sus dos hijas y su hijo recién nacido. No sé cómo hace todo eso, pero hace un gran trabajo.

No me sentí y no me siento digno del título de "pastor". Y sin embargo, cuando hago lo que siento que estoy llamado a hacer, me entrego completamente a la tarea de instruir y guiar a mis estudiantes, buscando seguir los pasos de Jesús para ayudar a aquellos con quienes estoy en contacto (mis estudiantes, compañeros de trabajo, colegas profesionales y otros; pocos de ellos seguidores de Jesús), además de servir a mi congregación a través de la predicación y motivación. Siento que estoy justo donde pertenezco. Ya sea que lo que hago merezca o no el título de "pastor", yo lo siento, lo siento en mi espíritu, estoy haciendo exactamente lo que Dios quiere que haga. Cuando dejo de analizar y comparar y confío en que la comunidad de la iglesia comprende que mi llamado es algo muy especial, me siento más tranquilo.

He tenido demasiadas experiencias en los últimos tres años desde que fui instruido para el ministerio por la LMC para pensar de otra manera, me he inspirado muchísimo por gracia del Espíritu Santo, he tenido muchas conversaciones y demasiadas "coincidencias". Dios me ha dado más oportunidades que nunca, las cuales me han permitido poder interactuar con la gente, especialmente con aquellos que no siguen a Jesús, algunos de ellos buscando tímidamente la fe y otros firmemente opuestos a ella. Estos son algunos ejemplos:

▶ No hace mucho, una amiga y colega profesional me invitó a tomar un café con ella. Ella no es seguidora de Jesús. Ella quería saber por qué muchos cristianos no parecen considerar el cuidado del medio ambiente como una prioridad importante. Mientras hablábamos, se hizo evidente que sus preguntas y preocupaciones eran mucho más profundas. Se maravillaba de la fe inexplicable de los seguidores de Jesús, pero también cuestionaba la hipocresía de algunos cristianos. Sus preguntas fueron influenciadas por la forma en la que ella veía e interactuaba con el mundo, teniendo en cuenta sus experiencia y su familia. Ella lloraba mientras hablaba conmigo. Independientemente de si lo sabe o no, ella está en busca de algo. Ella compartió lo que sentía conmigo. Yo compartí mi fe con ella. Recé Oré con ella. Ella sabía que podía hablar conmigo. Ella confió en mí para escucharla y entenderla con amor porque sabe que la quiero y lo hago sin juzgarla.

▶ El verano pasado, me contactó una joven con quien había coincidido una o dos veces en los últimos meses. Ella creció en la iglesia, pero se alejó debido a su frustración con lo que ve, como las conductas y puntos de vista odiosos, prejuiciosos, codiciosos, racistas y sexistas de los cristianos. Ella me conoció en la universidad, pero estaba especialmente interesada en hablar conmigo porque escuché que yo era pastor. Hice lo mejor que pude para escucharla y ayudarla a entender que los cristianos son, con demasiada frecuencia, seguidores imperfectos de un Salvador perfecto. Le pedí que no juzgara nuestra fe por nuestro comportamiento, sino por el ejemplo que Jesús vivió. Le pedí que reconociera que todos nosotros necesitamos desesperadamente la misericordia, la gracia y el perdón que sólo está disponible a través de Jesús. No estoy seguro de que se fuera satisfecha con nuestra conversación, pero creo que se fue sabiendo que la valoro, que me preocupo por ella, y que siempre estaré ahí para responder con humildad a sus preguntas. Confío en que Dios, gentilmente y con amor convertirá su corazón de vuelta a Él.

▶ El otoño pasado recibí un correo electrónico de una estudiante que creció en una iglesia menonita. Quería hablar conmigo sobre cómo participar en nuestro estudio sobre la migración del búho en el otoño, pero también dijo que se había enterado de que soy pastor y que estaba "impresionada e intrigada" por mi "aparente compromiso" con la universidad, la cual "le pareció un lugar increíblemente árido espiritualmente". Estaba ansioso por hablar con ella y explicarle por qué "los lugares increíblemente áridos espiritualmente" son precisamente el tipo de lugares donde los seguidores de Jesús necesitan estar más.

Dios también me ha usado para proveer consuelo, apoyo y ánimo a muchas personas, especialmente a los actuales y antiguos estudiantes y a sus familias. Por ejemplo, tengo un alumno recién graduado que es un alcohólico en recuperación, quien comenzó la universidad a los pocos días de su sobriedad y terminó siendo uno de los mejores estudiantes. Su padre fue diagnosticado a principios de 2018 con cáncer de hígado. Con la preocupación de que su padre no pudiera vivir hasta la graduación de su hijo en mayo, conducí un par de horas hacia el este para conocerlo y decirle lo orgulloso que debería estar de su hijo. Tuve una conversación maravillosa ese día con él y su esposa, y oré con ellos antes de irme. Vivió para ver a su hijo graduarse, pero sucumbió a su enfermedad dos meses después. Continué en estrecho contacto con este antiguo alumno, y también con su familia. Espero ser siempre su mentor, su apoyo y su amigo.

La frecuencia de estas experiencias ha aumentado dramáticamente en los últimos tres años desde que fui acreditado por la LMC y me convertí "oficialmente" en pastor. Y de alguna manera, como nunca antes, Dios me ha dado las palabras para expresarme en el momento justo, tanto en el púlpito como fuera de la iglesia. Ha sido una experiencia estimulante y transformadora. Rara vez me he sentido digno de ser pastor, pero siempre me he sentido preparado. No es lo que hago, es lo que Dios hace a través de mí cuando me quito de en medio del camino y dejo a un lado mis pensamientos y simplemente confío en la guía de su Espíritu.

Para ser honesto, siento que hago mucho más trabajo para Jesús fuera de los muros de la iglesia que dentro. Siento como si la Iglesia Menonita de Glade me estuviera prestando al mundo. Hasta donde puedo determinar, mi congregación entiende, acepta y apoya quién soy y lo que hago. Si ellos están de acuerdo con ello, ¿quién soy yo para discutir?

Cuando dejo de pensar demasiado las cosas y simplemente actúo y vivo tan fielmente como puedo, me siento cómodo. Tal como yo lo veo, depende de LMC decidir si el título de "pastor" es apropiado para mi papel en mi iglesia y en la comunidad. Aprecio la confianza que LMC, mi iglesia y mi mentor, Earl Yoder han puesto en mí. Sigo orando para poder continuar mereciendo esa confianza. ■

*Kevin Dodge es profesor en Garrett College, donde es Director del Programa de Tecnología de Recursos Naturales y Vida Silvestre en McHenry, MD. Se desempeña como pastor asociado en la Iglesia Menonita de Glade.*

# Steal My Show

BY JACKIE HIBSMANN

**But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" And God said, "I will be with you." Exodus 3:11-12**

If only we each received our direction or calling through a burning bush and the voice of God. That is not how it happens for most people and definitely not for me. In fact, in most ways, I'm still figuring it out, one step at a time. Our call story may be much quieter and less obvious, and most likely we will struggle with the same feelings Moses did: doubt, worry, insecurity and lack of trust.

For many years, I tried to live my faith through my everyday life. My life seemed ordinary, uneventful even. So living my faith happened mostly through my words and actions at work, during church, in my community, and at home. I felt like I was living without a call or direction. I didn't have a "burning bush" moment. It was more of an internal, Holy Spirit prompting, wake-up moment. I heard TobyMac's song "Steal My Show" (youtu.be/KA\_HoEC9ixc) and realized that all this time I had been trying to live my faith through my own power. It wasn't working. My prayer became, "God, steal my show." For me, this meant I was open to the movement and direction of the Holy Spirit at any time. I discovered that living my faith means allowing the Spirit to live and move through me. That is what God was calling me to do.

I wanted to yield to the Spirit, but it was scary. Who knew what God might ask me to do? I can understand why Moses was hesitant to take on his call, why he was naming excuses, and why he brought up "what ifs." Giving up control is difficult. But God gave him the promise, "I will be with you." And he gives that promise to each of us as well.

My confidence, trust, and faith have increased as I have watched God "steal my show" in small ways each day. Suddenly my uneventful, ordinary life is filled with opportunities to give up control and allow the Spirit to work. Sometimes it is a nudge to share an extra word of encouragement with someone, or a reminder to stop what I am busily doing and listen. As a result of allowing the Spirit to lead me, I have even had the opportunity to pray with a co-worker who was struggling with an intense, burdensome situation. Things like this never

**Sometimes allowing God to "steal my show" means being openly vulnerable and willing to share parts of my life story that aren't so pretty.**

happened before, or at least I wasn't alert to the opportunity.

After going through a particularly rough patch in my life, my prayer changed a bit to include the request, "please let some good come from this." Before long, God answered my prayer and provided me with an opportunity to share my struggles and experience with someone. This led to a very unexpected and valuable friendship. Sometimes allowing God to "steal my show" means being openly vulnerable and willing to share parts of my life story that aren't so pretty. This vulnerability has allowed me to connect with others in a completely new and very real way. As I watch God continue to bring people into my life with whom I can share, I know something good has come from my experience.

Last year I started the STEP program. It wasn't that I received a call to the ministry but more like a nudge that this was the next step in my journey. So much of what I have learned, I immediately applied to my everyday life. I trust that God is using this time to prepare me for whatever the future holds.

Some of us will be called to be missionaries in faraway places, but many of us will be called to be missionaries in our normal, everyday lives. Each opportunity is important, unique, and requires yielding to his call and ultimately, placing faith and trust in God's promise to Moses, "I will be with you." So, God, "Steal my show." ■

*Jackie grew up in New Holland, Pennsylvania and currently resides in Accident, Maryland with husband Nate and two sons, Derek and Marcus. She enjoys laughing, music, painting, and hiking.*



Jackie leads youth in spiritual formation. Photo provided by the author.

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

CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN 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 Kraybill, 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 whether women 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. ■



Above (from left): Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach, director of the MCC U.S. Washington Office; Donald Kraybill, senior fellow emeritus of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College. Photos by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford.

## 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 greater ethos of military, national, and public service to strengthen American democracy." The Commission hopes to ignite a national conversation around service and, ultimately, develop recommendations that will encourage every American to be inspired and eager to serve.



The Commission is comprised of eleven commissioners who bring together diverse experiences from service in the military, public office, on Capitol Hill, and with not-for-profit organizations.

### Members of the Commission are:

- The Honorable Dr. Joseph Heck, *Commission Chairman, former Member of the House of Representatives (NV-3)*
- The Honorable Mark Gearan, *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. Avril Haines, *former Principal Deputy National Security Advisor*
- Ms. Jeanette James, *former Professional Staff Member of the House Armed Services Committee*
- Mr. Alan Khazei, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Be the Change, Inc.*
- Mr. Thomas Kilgannon, *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.

- As long as a government Selective Service System exists, we request that it continue to be civilian-led.
- 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 conviction that no one—man or woman—should be required to register for military service. For others of us, this 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 commit 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            | • Bruderhof     | • LMC                              | • Mennonite Mission Network |
| • The Brethren Church     | • CMC           | • Mennonite Central Committee U.S. | • Old Order Amish Church    |
| • Brethren in Christ U.S. | • Evana Network | • Mennonite Church USA             |                             |

# 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 [smartin@LMCchurches.org](mailto:smartin@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 balloons and camp fires. Matthew Coredella Bontrager served as a resource speaker for the group. Of course, there was lots of food like hotdogs and S'mores.

## 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.

## STEP ORIENTATION

Orientation for the 2019-20 STEP class was held August 24. Eleven new students joined the, upper class students, instructors, and supervisors as they prepared for the new school year. Marcia Mylin was introduced to students and faculty as the new STEP director.

## EAST PETERSBURG MENNONITE CHURCH

On August, 30, EPMC hosted the second "Night of Worship" in collaboration with Millersville BIC Church, Sanctuary (a Vineyard Church), and East Petersburg Mennonite Church. These nights focused on worship directed towards God, a commonality these three churches share. On September 24, EPMC participated in Reverberate Lancaster at the Spooky Nook Sports Complex. The event was in collaboration with Water Street Mission, WJTL, Victory, Activ8, In the Light, and McCaskey High School Gospel Choir.

## MULTIPLICATION POSSIBILITIES

A number of regions across LMC report high interest in working at church multiplication. Church on the Other Side continues to work with congregations in the Weaverland, Weaverland NE,

Baltimore-Washington, and Elizabeth-town districts. Multiplication vision continues to increase as congregations ask, "To whom is God is sending us?"



## THE GATHERING PLACE

You are invited to visit the informal cafe at the LMC office, 2160 Lincoln Highway 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.

## CMC EMERGE

CMC has offered LMC congregations access to its Emerge program. Emerge is a one 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: [cmcrosedale.org/ministries/emerge](http://cmcrosedale.org/ministries/emerge)



# NEWS NOTES

## MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES

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

**Nelson Rutt** (*Christa*), was ordained as associate pastor at Parkview Mennonite Church.

**Sheldon Martin** (*Ashley*) was ordained as associate pastor at Parkview Mennonite Church.

**Gregory Stokes** (*Joanne*) was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Bender's Mennonite Church.

**Jonathan Martin** (*Miranda*) was ordained as lead pastor of Glade Mennonite Church.

**Merlin Maust** (*Felicia*) was ordained as lead pastor at Oak Grove Mennonite Church.

**Ronald Beiler** (*Lola*) was ordained as lead pastor at Meadow Mountain Mennonite Church.

**Kevin Dodge** (*Carolina*) was ordained as associate pastor at Glade Mennonite Church.

**Scott Elkins** (*Beth*) began serving as interim lead pastor at Chestnut Hill Mennonite Church.

**Gary Blosser** (*Judy*) was ordained and installed as Lead Pastor at Millport Mennonite Church.

**Tika Gurung** (*Arati*) was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Vishva Jyot Church.

**Joshua Rivera** (*Raquel*) was liscenend toward ordination as associate pastor at Bethlehem Community Fellowship.

**Raquel Rivera** (*Joshua*) was liscenend 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 Delaware 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** (*Corene*) was ordained and installed as co-lead pastor at Mellinger Mennonite Church

## ONLINE GIVING

LMC is now able to receive online donations through Vanco, a safe online giving portal. Donations by credit/debit card or automatic bank transfers can easily be set up as one-time or recurring giving through this online giving portal. We encourage you to consider this option for your personal or congregational giving to LMC. Visit: [LMCchurches.org/donate/](http://LMCchurches.org/donate/)

## 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.

## CHURCH ON THE OTHER SIDE

**Omar Guzman** continues to be denied access to a Visa for return 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.

## 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](http://eventbrite.com/e/youth-leader-resource-event-tickets-55369292043)).

## 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](http://eventbrite.com/e/provoked-to-intercede-tickets-65711975287)

# 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.**

LMC office, Lancaster, Pa.

717-293-5246

## **Thursday Night Quarterly Prayer Meeting**

**October 17, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Harvest Room, Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.

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](https://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](https://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

## **Women's Regional Gathering**

**Saturday, November 2**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Stumptown Mennonite Church

[stumptown.church/get-connected/wrg](http://stumptown.church/get-connected/wrg)

717-656-7878

## **Celebration of Church Life and Leadership Assembly**

**April 3–4, 2020**

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.

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.

**[EMM.ORG/INVEST](http://EMM.ORG/INVEST)**

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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](mailto:cdlandes@habeckerchurch.com).