



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches* Shalom NEWS

JANUARY – MARCH 2020



Stepping Into Adventure

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Welcome!

The Gathering Place

LMC's new cafe area, *The Gathering Place*, is now open for informal meetings, personal study space, or connecting with friends. The newly renovated space, next to the LMC offices, is open Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop by during weekday hours. Coffee, hot chocolate, and tea are available free of charge.

To reserve the space outside of weekday hours, please contact LMC at information@lmchurches.org or call 717-293-5246.




LMC, 2160 Lincoln Highway E. #5, Lancaster, PA 17602

¡Bienvenidos!

El lugar de reunión

LMC Cafe, The Gathering Place, ahora está abierto para reuniones informales, espacio de estudio personal o para conectarse con amigos. El espacio recientemente renovado está abierto de lunes a viernes de 9:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m. Todos son bienvenidos durante las horas de la semana. Café, chocolate caliente y té están disponibles de forma gratuita para su disfrute.

Para reservar el espacio fuera del horario laboral, comuníquese con LMC a information@lmchurches.org o llame al 717-293-5246.

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ON THE COVER:

Youth VBS leaders help younger students cross the street on the way to Crossroad Mennonite Church from RiversEdge Fellowship. Photo provided by Jonathon Charles.

SPANISH (English translation on page 6)

El Pastor Sánchez y ancianos de la iglesia realizan bautismos.
Pastor Sanchez and elders perform baptisms.

¡Concebir el futuro para disfrutar el presente!

POR EL REV. DANIEL SÁNCHEZ

Muchas veces me han preguntado: “¿Qué lleva a un hombre a abandonar su país de origen, su casa, su familia y su seguridad para mudarse a un lugar desconocido donde se habla otro idioma, impera otra cultura y grandes retos están en espera de 'abrir nuevos caminos' en su vida?”

En 2005, servía al Señor como evangelista en Chile, celebrando reuniones multitudinarias en la parte norte del país. En una de las reuniones evangelistas, una extraña vino a mí con la palabra de Dios. Dijo que el Señor le dio instrucciones sobre cómo encontrarme y que el Señor me daba la indicación de obtener un pasaporte porque lo iba a necesitar. No pude actuar según sus instrucciones debido a una variedad de razones.

Tres años más tarde, una mujer en nuestra congregación local, quien a menudo es enviada por Dios, vino a mí. De pronto me tomó de las manos y dijo: “Esto dice el Espíritu Santo: ‘¿Por qué no has sacado un pasaporte? ¡No te lo repetiré de nuevo!’”. No había manera de que tuviera conocimiento de la anterior indicación que me dieron. Al día siguiente, tan pronto como se abrió la oficina, solicité un pasaporte. No tenía ni idea de por qué que lo necesitaría. Pero pensé que no necesitamos entender por qué, ¡solo tenemos que obedecer a Dios!



Co-pastores, Daniel y Paola Sánchez y familia. Fotos proporcionadas por el autor.
Co-pastors, Daniel and Paola Sanchez and family. Photos provided by the author.

Pronto llegaron invitaciones para llevar a cabo reuniones evangelistas en Brasil, Perú, Argentina y otros países. Luego mi esposa empezó a sentir un impulso hacia los EE. UU. Empezamos a orar a Dios para que nos guiara. Sin dinero y viviendo por la fe, dije: “Si Dios nos quiere llevar a los EE. UU., nos abrirá todas las puertas”. Solicité una visa, que no es un documento fácil de obtener, y, milagrosamente, la conseguí.

Así que mi esposa y yo nos fuimos de Chile hace más de diez años para venir a los Estados Unidos. La decisión de irnos no fue fácil, pero sabíamos que estábamos obedeciendo el llamado de Dios. No sabíamos lo que nos deparaba el futuro, pero nos aferramos a la certeza de que Dios honra a quienes responden a su llamado en obediencia.

Todos nos sentimos inseguros cuando tomamos decisiones que afectan nuestro futuro de maneras desconocidas. Enfrentamos decisiones difíciles, como si ir o no a la universidad, si cambiar de trabajo, si iniciar un negocio, si volverse pastor o mudarse a otro país. Decisiones como éstas tienen consecuencias futuras desconocidas. Producen ansiedad.

Sin embargo, si conocemos la voluntad de Dios para nosotros en la Biblia, podemos concebir nuestro futuro de bendiciones y andar con fe sabiendo que Dios cumple sus promesas de victoria si nos atrevemos a creer en él. En Efesios 1:3-4, Dios nos dice: “Bendito sea el Dios y Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que nos bendijo con toda bendición espiritual en los lugares celestiales en Cristo, según nos escogió en él antes de la fundación del mundo, para que fuésemos santos y sin mancha delante de él”.

No sabíamos lo que nos deparaba el futuro, pero nos aferramos a la certeza de que Dios honra a quienes responden a su llamado en obediencia.

El texto no dice que seremos bendecidos. Más bien, dice que ya estamos bendecidos con toda bendición espiritual. Nuestras victorias se ganan primero en Espíritu, y luego recibimos en el Espíritu lo que Dios ya nos ha dado incluso antes de la fundación del mundo. ¡Aleluya! No solo Dios nos conocía desde antes de que Dios nos hiciera físicamente, sino que Dios nos dio

un futuro lleno de bendiciones. Por lo tanto, las circunstancias del presente están sujetas a las promesas pasadas de Dios de un futuro bendecido. Cuando confiamos en Dios y su palabra sobre el futuro, Dios nos puede llevar a horizontes increíbles, sin importar el idioma, la cultura o el reto.

Como Dios nos ama, entonces caminemos como alguien que es guiado y protegido por ese amor. Dios nos ha dado la vida eterna, salud, milagros, crecimiento económico, matrimonios sólidos, familias restauradas, la liberación de la esclavitud, iglesias maduras, abundantes y en crecimiento y mucho más. Si Dios nos ha bendecido, entonces hay que concebir el futuro bendecido en Cristo. ¡Pongamos de nuestra parte para hacer del futuro que Dios nos muestra parte nuestro presente! ¡La fe, una actitud de poner constante atención al futuro de Dios y la misión de Dios en el mundo es lo que la iglesia necesita hoy!



Reunión de oración al aire libre y servicio dominical de adoración dirigido por el pastor Sánchez.

Outdoor prayer meeting and Sunday worship service led by pastor Sanchez.

La mujer de la hemorragia de Marcos 5 no se conformó con una muerte lenta. Ella tenía fe, la actitud correcta y la voluntad para actuar de una manera que le cambió la vida para siempre. Marcos 5:25-29 nos dice:

Había una mujer que sufría de hemorragia desde hacía doce años. Había sufrido mucho a manos de varios médicos y se había gastado todo lo que tenía sin que le hubiera servido de nada, pues en vez de mejorar, iba de mal en peor. Cuando oyó hablar de Jesús, se le acercó por detrás entre la gente y le tocó el manto, porque pensó: “Si logro tocar siquiera sus ropas, seré sanada”. Al instante cesó su hemorragia, y se dio cuenta de que su cuerpo había quedado libre de aquella aflicción.

Al igual que la mujer, la iglesia de esta generación no puede permanecer estática y prisionera de nuestra situación. No debemos esperar a morir sin agotar todos los recursos que estén a nuestro alcance. Debemos querer demostrar la fe, la voluntad de cambio y el deseo de seguir viviendo para Dios como ella lo hizo. ¡Debemos mostrar un ferviente deseo de concebir la bendición que Dios nos ha dado y trabajar junto con Dios para alcanzar esa visión! La mujer dijo: “Si logro tocar siquiera sus ropas”, recibiré la promesa de Dios. Debemos perseverar hasta que podamos manifestar las bendiciones que Dios escribió en el pasado y fueron prometidas como las victorias de nuestro futuro.

Cuando nos entra duda, nuestra convicción sobre el amor de Dios pueda vacilar. Saber que estamos bendecidos debería hacer esa duda a un lado. Si estamos convencidos de que nada nos faltará, como se dice en el Salmo 23:1: “El SEÑOR es mi pastor, nada me falta”, entonces debemos proceder en consecuencia. Así que, ¿preocuparse por el presente tiene sentido? Si Dios ya ha garantizado nuestro futuro para el bien, y andamos con fe y actuamos con diligencia, entonces nuestro

futuro afecta a nuestro presente. ¡Hay que confiar en Dios porque nuestra vida se sostiene de las manos de Dios!

Nuestro futuro es bueno, por lo que el miedo no tiene sentido en el presente.

Nuestro futuro es bueno, por lo que el miedo no tiene sentido en el presente. No duden ni se angustien, ya que Dios tiene un futuro bueno para ustedes y para mí. Su plan es hacernos bien, así que lo que parece malo en el presente no prevalecerá. Que nuestra fe nos ayude transformar el miedo paralizante en una acción valerosa.

Hoy, mi esposa, nuestros dos hijos y nuestra hija vivimos la bendición que concebimos en la fe hace más de diez años en Chile.

Encabezamos dos congregaciones en crecimiento: La Iglesia de la Unción del Espíritu Santo en York, Pensilvania, y la Iglesia de la Restauración en Cristo en Mount Joy, Pensilvania. Sabemos que esto es solo el comienzo de nuestro papel en la misión de Dios. Debemos seguir “abriendo nuevos caminos” para la gloria de Dios. Cuando sabemos nuestro futuro, vivimos en el presente con confianza. ■



El Rev. Daniel Sánchez es pastor de la Iglesia de la Restauración en Cristo (Mount Joy, Pensilvania) y la Iglesia de la Unción del Espíritu Santo (York, Pensilvania).



Concilio Iglesias Evangélicas Shalom

Concilio Iglesias Evangélicas Shalom (CIES) es un distrito afín de LMC que se reúne en torno a un idioma común y no a la geografía. El distrito de CIES consta de 40 congregaciones en los Estados Unidos, Costa Rica, México y Nicaragua.

Los pastores Daniel y Paola Sánchez sirven como directores de comunicaciones de CIES.

www.cieshalom.com | danpaosm@gmail.com

Concilio Iglesias Evangélicas Shalom (CIES) is an affinity district of LMC which gathers around a common language and not geography. CIES district consists of 40 congregations in the USA, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

Pastors Daniel and Paola Sánchez serve as CIES Communications Directors.

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Envision the Future to Enjoy the Present!

BY REV. DANIEL SÁNCHEZ

Many times I have been asked, “What leads a man to leave his country of origin, his home, his family and his security and to move to an unknown place where another language is spoken, another culture dominates, and great challenges await to ‘break new ground’ in your life?”

In 2005, I was serving the Lord as an evangelist in Chile holding mass meetings in the northern part of the country. At one of those evangelistic meeting a stranger came to me with a word from God. She said the Lord gave her the instructions on how to find me, and the Lord was instructing me to secure a passport because I was going to need it. I failed to act on her instructions for a variety of reasons.

Three years later, a woman in our home congregation, who was often used by God, came to me. She suddenly took my hands and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, why have you not secured a passport? I will not tell you again!” There was no way she could have known about the earlier instruction to me. The next day, as soon as the office opened, I applied for a passport. I had no idea why I would need it. But, I thought, we don’t need to understand why, we just need to obey God!

Soon invitations came to hold evangelistic rallies in Brazil, Peru, Argentina and other countries. Then my wife began to sense a move to the USA. We began to pray for God to give us direction. Without money and living by faith, I said, “If God is taking us to the USA then he will open all the doors.” I applied for a visa, not an easy document to obtain, and miraculously, it came through.

So, my wife and I left Chile more than ten years ago to come to the United States. The decision to leave was not easy, but we knew we obeyed God’s call. We did not know what was in store for us in the future, but we clung to the assurance that God honors those who respond to his call in obedience.

We all feel insecure when we make decisions that impact our future in unknown ways. We struggle with difficult decisions like whether or not to attend college, to change jobs, to start a business, enter the ministry, or move to another country. Decisions like these have unknown future consequences. They create anxiety.

However, if we know God’s will for us from the Bible, we can envision our future of blessing and walk in faith knowing that God keeps his promises of victory if we dare to believe him. The word of God tells us in Ephesians 1:3-4, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, as He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, so that we might be holy and spotless before him.”

The text does not say that we will be blessed. Rather it says that we are already blessed with every spiritual blessing. Our victories are won first in the Spirit, and then we receive in the Spirit what God has already given us even before the foundation of the world. Hallelujah! Not only did God know us before God physically made us, God gave us a future full of blessings. So the circumstances of the present are subject to God’s past promises of a blessed future. When we trust God and God’s word for the future, God can lead us to amazing horizons, regardless of language, culture, or challenge.

Because God loves us, then let us walk like someone who is guided and protected by that love. God gave us eternal life, healing, miracles, financial growth, solid marriages, restored families, liberation from bondage, mature abundant and growing churches, and more. If God has blessed us, then envision the blessed future in Christ. Let us do our part to make the future God shows us part of our present life! Faith, an attitude of diligent attention to God’s future, and God’s mission to the world is what the church needs today!



Pastor Sanchez and elders perform baptisms. Photo provided by the author.

The woman with the flow of blood in Mark 5 did not settle for a slow death. She had faith, the right attitude, and the will to act in a way that changed her life forever. Mark 5:25-29 says,

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed. Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

Like that woman, the church of this generation cannot remain static and hostage to our situation. We should not expect to die without exhausting all the resources that are within our grasp. We should want to demonstrate faith, a willingness to change, and a desire to continue living for God like she did. We should show a fervent desire to envision the blessing that God has given us and work with God toward that vision! The woman said, “If I just touch his clothes,” I will receive the promise of God. We must persevere until we can manifest the blessings that God wrote about in the past and are promised as the victories of our future.

When doubt visits us, our conviction about the love of God might waver. Knowing that we are blessed should close that door. If we are convinced that nothing will be lacking, as it says in Psalm 23:1, “The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing,” then we should proceed accordingly. So does today’s worry make sense? If God has already guaranteed our future for good, and we walk in faith and act with diligence, then our future affects our present. Trust God because our life is held in God’s hands!

Our future is good, so fear is meaningless in the present. Do not hesitate or be distressed because God has a good future for you and me. His plan is to do us good, so what seems bad in the present will not prevail. May our faith help us change paralyzing fear to courageous action.

Today my wife, our two sons and one daughter, live the blessing we envisioned in faith more than ten years ago in Chile. We lead two growing congregations: Anointing of the Holy Spirit Church in York, Pa and the Restoration in Christ Church in Mount Joy, Pa. We know that this is just the beginning of our part in God’s mission. We must continue to “break new ground” for the glory of God. When we know our future, we live in the present with confidence. ■

Rev Daniel Sánchez is pastor of Restoration in Christ Church, Mount Joy, Pa and Anointing of the Holy Spirit Church, York Pa.



Process of "Becoming"... it Comes at a Cost

BY SANDRA ROMAN

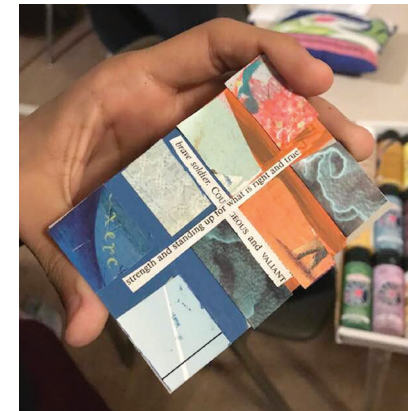
The process of "becoming", whether professional or spiritual development, requires a paradigm shift. All transformation comes at a cost. The seed, Christ Jesus, had to die for there to be a spiritual plant that produces a spiritual harvest. The process of breaking new ground and sowing seeds as servants to the Kingdom of God for the gathering of the harvest is a linear process in which things change from one stage to the next. As Christians, we are to trust that God is in control of the full process of the transformation. God works for the good of his creation. Our role as followers of Jesus is to have a tender, teachable heart, obedient to do God’s will. For we are the workers, and God is the sovereign Lord who created us with purpose to proclaim the gospel so that all might know the Savior and have life everlasting.

Does that mean we are always in a process of becoming and surrendering to God’s will? And at what cost? These questions weighed heavy on my heart seven years ago when I was baptized and started to serve God as a Children’s Ministry teacher. Although I had taught children in the public after-school system of Lancaster City for many years, I was not prepared for the challenges of teaching in the church classroom.

I developed on my own initiative a “Bible study classroom.” However, the children quickly became bored with my simplified lessons. In addition, the behavior problems of some students required putting out emotional fires instead of sparking spiritual fires in the hearts of the children. No matter how much I wanted to control the outcome, the learning was minimal. My prayer life was consumed with questions to God of why my harvest was looking bleak.

God responded with an answer of “change!” He commanded me to break new ground. God started by plowing through my own old, bad habits. God reminded me that the harvest was not mine but God’s. My role was to master plowing and sowing. The point of the plow was to break the ground to allow for sowing of seeds. Preparing the soil in this manner allowed for burying any crop residue or weeds in the process and giving the good seed a better chance.

The cost of this new start was to surrender my knowledge and to depend on God’s wisdom to direct me on how to teach the children the Bible. I pressured myself to grow the seeds but that was God’s work. I found my heart desire to teach again by trusting that God would grow the seeds. In my mind, I was already doing my victory dance. I was convinced that I had finally found the “secret sauce” that would allow me to successfully witness to every child so that they would receive Jesus. But the



Sandra shares the gospel with children through art and prayer. Photo provided by the author.



reality is that all children develop and learn in different ways at a variety of levels and timing. I had plowed the field and sown the seeds God provided. Some of the seeds were growing, but some seeds had not sprouted. I thought to myself, “I am failing again!”

My prayer life changed once again. This time I asked God to show me why I did not witness the full harvest? What do I need to change? One day after a time-demanding Bible study class, my husband asked me, “How did it go?”

My answer to him was “I don’t think this is working. I’ve done all I can do to teach the children, but I don’t see them embracing Jesus as their Savior. What am I doing wrong that the seeds I sow are falling on infertile ground?”

My husband gave me a compassionate smile, locked his eyes to mine, and asked “Did you do what God sent you to do?” I responded with a tired, “Yes.”

“Then allow God to grow the seeds you have sown in his time. Keep seeking God in prayer for help. Ask him for changes you need to make. He created you special for this work. Don’t give up on what he created you for.”

WOW! What a blessing that conversation turned out to be.

Now, when God directs me to change, to break new ground, I respond with an obedient, “Yes God, I’ll do my part.” God willing, we, as servants of God, will sow many seeds in our lifetime. Whether we see those seeds develop and grow is another story. ■

Sandra and her husband Alexis attend Restoration in Christ Church, Mount Joy, Pa. Sandra oversees the children’s ministry.



Our role as followers of Jesus is to have a tender, teachable heart, obedient to do God’s will.



Youth leaders teach a module of the VBS curriculum at RiversEdge. Photos by Jonathon Charles.



Some silliness in the parking lot, encouraged by Lam Nguyen.



Making memories by signing t-shirts.



Youth leaders perform a sock-puppet show for younger students.



Youth leaders, students, and adult leaders gather for a group picture at the 2019 VBS.

CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

Training Emerging Leaders and Discipling Children with Vacation Bible School

BY LAM NGUYEN

In July 2019, the youth of four LMC churches collaborated to deliver a Vacation Bible School for Lancaster city children. It was an amazing success. Fifty middle-school and high school youth from Habecker Mennonite Church, Lititz Mennonite Church, RiversEdge Fellowship, and Crossroads Mennonite Church worked together to plan and run the entire VBS for 65 children in southeast Lancaster city.

The "youth-led" Vacation Bible School began in 2016 with an EMM K-Team that came from middle-school youth at Kaufman Mennonite Church in Manheim, Pa. Our vision was to allow the K-Team youth to completely prepare, plan, execute and evaluate the event from beginning to end. The adult leadership team would pray, prepare, equip, and train the youth. Our hope was to provide the youth leaders with a formative leadership experience that had a lifelong impact.

During preplanning for 2019, we decided to adjust sever-

al things. Logistically, carpooling and caravanning took almost three hours every day. The travel time might be better spent in discipleship and relationship building. Second, one of the goals was to impact the local community around the homes of the youth and children in the program. Many of our youth are from the heart of Lancaster City, so we needed a more centralized city location. Last, we wanted to foster inter-congregational relationships between our mostly refugee congregation and other congregations.

During this time of preplanning, Dale Rintelman, Pastor of Agape Fellowship, shared at one of the monthly LMC Youth Leader Breakfasts about the experience of the youth from his congregation, who helped in the 2018 VBS.

Through monthly leadership meetings, the date, location, memory verse, and overall theme were set. Because the youth leaders came from such varied backgrounds – city, rural, farm,

refugee, and immigrant – we decided that an "icebreaker" weekend would be beneficial. We made the icebreaker weekend coincide with the overall theme for 2019: *Fear Less, Love More*. Interestingly, many of the youth had never heard of Vacation Bible School much less a "youth-led Vacation Bible

School." So we spent the weekend and the days leading up to the actual event training and preparing the youth leaders with four workshops. At the end of each workshop, the youth leaders decided on the theme for one of the Vacation Bible School days. Each youth leader also chose an age-group and a station that they would lead for each day's program.

The youth leaders set the following age groups: K-1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. The stations they created were Opening & Closing, Music, Bible Stories, Arts & Crafts, Games, Snacks, and Lunch. The event was held at two locations in southeast Lancaster city: RiversEdge Fellowship and Crossroads Mennonite Church. In this way, God responded to the concerns of location and relationships raised earlier by leaders at Habecker Mennonite Church.

As the event began, adult leaders took turns praying for the youth leaders and children during each station's "down time." Prayer was paramount throughout the entire

experience. I witnessed middle schoolers asking God to watch over and bless the children and to provide wisdom and guidance for all the youth leaders. In prayer, these young people began to refer to one another as "youth leaders." It was the first time they used that language to describe each other, and it caught on going forward. As 1 Tim 4:12 says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." The youth leaders are looking forward to 2020! ■

Lam, his wife Anita, and their 3 children live in Harrisburg, Pa. They attend Habecker Mennonite Church and have previously been involved in Children and Church Ministry in Philadelphia, Pa. with Church For The Needy. Lam desires to create connections and empower youth to become leaders within LMC.



Our purpose for holding a Vacation Bible School was multifaceted. We wanted to:

1. Foster growing inter-congregational relationships
2. Disciple and train emerging youth leaders
3. Allow youth to realize that they are already capable leaders
4. Create new and lasting relationships between the children and youth leaders
5. To allow all involved to focus and rely on God through Vacation Bible School

Video at LMC Channel: youtube.com/watch?v=fkv9aL7Q0qU

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.

FALL LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

Session 1 and 2 of September's leadership assembly are available online at www.lmcchurches.org. Reflecting on the data collected related to LMC mission/vision, Conrad Kanagy spoke on "Every Member a Missionary, From Petrification to Propagation." The meeting convened at Elizabethtown Mennonite Church.



WOMEN'S REGIONAL GATHERING

In November at Stumptown Mennonite Church, Bird In Hand, Pa the 4th annual Women's Regional Gathering was held. Participants came from more than 25 churches. The 15 expert workshops received positive responses. Next year's event is planned for Saturday, Nov 7, 2020.

GATHERING PLACE OPEN

On October 18, the LMC Gathering Place, an informal cafe and meeting space, officially opened. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate are always available for free. This space complements the existing small meeting rooms, the prayer room, classrooms, and the Zoom Conference room at the LMC office. Congregations and resource partner organizations may access these meeting spaces. Classrooms are used monthly by STEP students and twice a month by Seed students. The small meeting rooms are available for spiritual direction and other private meetings. Please use them often.



TRAINING IMMIGRANT LEADERS

A new program, SEED, held its first classes in September. The three-year program began this fall with leaders from immigrant congregations. Dawn and Chris Landes, Habecker Mennonite Church, are leading SEED. The program combines biblical, theological, and formation topics with language acquisition skills. September's classes covered Spiritual Formation, Leadership and Kingdom Living, and Anabaptism.

DISCOVERY COURSE AT SHILOH

The Shiloh congregation will complete an eight-session *Discovery* course in January. Fifty-three students worked through the process of personal and spiritual development as discipleship preparation for leadership and for greater embrace of God's mission in Reading, Pa. Learning and practicing spiritual disciplines, taking a variety of personal assessments, and laying plans for a year-long mentorship at the course conclusion are highlights of *Discovery*.



KARL VATERS ADDRESSES SMALL CHURCHES

Mountville Mennonite Church, as part of the Revive Initiative, hosted small church expert Karl Vaters on October 12. Vaters authored *Small Church Essentials*. Forty-five people gathered to

learn, discuss, share, and process Vaters' material. The Revive Initiative is a partnership of individuals and churches focused on finding ways to encourage, equip, and empower churches and leaders for growth and multiplication.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The seminar, "Provoked To Intercede," on October 15 drew a wonderful crowd of ministry leaders to hear Cheryl Drouillard share stories and discuss strategies of prayer for our children.

TWO CHURCHES STARTING

Please pray as new churches begin in Annapolis, Md. and Cincinnati, Ohio. Caleb and Melissa Kaye are working in Annapolis. Chet, Holly and Mary Eshelman are underway in Cincinnati. Starting a new gathering of believers is hard work, alternately euphoric and disappointing. Pray for these leaders to tap into what the Spirit is doing in their locations.

DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS

Joshua Jefferson, pastor at Sunnyside Mennonite Church, is developing a series of small pamphlets to guide discipleship in congregations and aid in friendship evangelism. Currently he has *The Road to Glory*, *The Disciple's Journey*, *The Apostle's Epic*, *How to Be Perfect*, and *The Ephesians Plan for Peace*. If you have an interest in these materials, contact Joshua at jjefferson@sunnysidemc.org.



NEWS NOTES

MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES

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

Tim Darling (*Dawn*) was installed as lead pastor at Community Mennonite Fellowship.

Joshua Jefferson (*Monica*) was ordained as lead pastor at Sunnyside Mennonite Church.

Donna Becker (*Carl*) was licensed for specific ministry as a chaplain.

Roger Weaver (*Brenda*) was ordained as co-lead pastor at Mellinger Mennonite Church.

Glen Rhodes (*Rhonda*) was affirmed as ordained lead pastor at Arthur Mennonite Church.

Ashley Litwiller was affirmed as ordained associate pastor at Arthur Mennonite Church.

Phillip Yoder (*Shena Mae*) was affirmed as ordained lead pastor at First Mennonite Church, Middlebury, Indiana.

LEGACY FOUNDATION

The LMC Legacy Foundation awarded two grants in the last cycle. Paige Harker, the GOAL Project, received a \$35,000 grant for the F.A.I.T.H. Initiatives Program (Face Addiction with Intervention and Training for Healing). GOAL's innovative F.A.I.T.H. Program provides certified, evidence-based training for clergy and lay leaders facilitated and taught by skilled, professional trainers. GOAL comes alongside churches so that they may offer transformational support for sustained healing to parishioners who may be afflicted by addiction or by the debilitating effects of loved ones struggling with addiction.



Alison Swann, Transition to Community/The Potter's House received a \$50,000 grant for The Potter's House of Ruth – Women's Addiction Recovery & Discipleship Center. The Potter's House of Ruth will specifically address mental and emotional health (substance abuse, trauma, domestic and sexual violence, etc.) and physical health (health history) through 24/7 supervision and intensive intake surveys.

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE JOINS LMC

The LMC Board of Bishops in October acknowledged the decision by Southeast Conference in Florida to join the LMC fellowship of churches. Earlier in the month Southeast Conference voted to approve the move to LMC. These congregations will be publically welcomed on April 3-4 at the 2020 Celebration of Church held at Petra Church in New Holland, Pa.

LMC, CMC, AND ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

A partnership for ministry leadership training through distance education continues to gain ground. The five-track, three-year program will offer training courses over the internet for leaders regardless of their physical location. The program is expected to launch in September 2020 with the first two courses: Pastoral Counseling and Discipling Others. Rosedale Bible College has developed an innovative electronic learning model that allows for building some of the intimacy of the in-person classroom into distance education. Promotion of the program will begin in earnest by late winter.

BISHOPS VISIT ETHIOPIAN MENNONITES

As LMC continues to move into a multiplying missional vision, five bishops began a process that will continue annually with several bishops each year. They visited Meserete Kristos Church for 10 days in August to learn about growth, outreach, training and multiplication practices. Current estimates place the number of members of MKC at over 600,000. Because of early ties to EMM and LMC, the connection has been quite natural. The travel group consisted of Alvin Motley, Glenn Kauffman, Keith Weaver, Jim Sutton, Rodney Martin, and LMC Global Delegate, Pastor Tom Eshelman. The first five bishops reported profound relational experience with these African brothers, a renewed vision for multiplication, and excitement for translating this experience into a post-Christian, North American culture.



ANABAPTIST LEADERS BREAKFAST

Leaders from various Anabaptist organizations gathered for a breakfast hosted by Resource Partners and LMC on October 24. The gathering is a biannual event with the host rotating for each gathering. Attendees at this breakfast were Doug Umble, Everence; Larry Gingrich, Landis Communities; Pam Thiessen, LMS; Mary Jensen, EMU; John Sauder, Mennonite Home; Gerry Keener, EMM; Ron Byler, MCC; Kevin King, MDS; Russ Shaner, Phil Leaman, and Glenna Nissley, Resource Partners; Keith Weaver, Brinton Rutherford, and Sherri Martin, LMC. The Spring gathering will be hosted by Mennonite Home.

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

January 16, 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

Neighbors Together at RMC Prayer Meetings

Tuesday, March 3

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Rohrerstown Mennonite Church
601 Rohrerstown Rd, Lancaster, PA

Evana Pastor and Spouse Retreat Saturday-Wednesday, Feb 13-17

Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, FL.
evananetwork.org/event-3279587

Celebration of Church Life and Leadership Assembly

April 3-4

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.



Welcoming Rain

2020 Celebration of Church Life

Friday, April 3 – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 4 – 9:00 a.m.

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. – Deut. 32:2 NIV

Join with the LMC family as we gather for the 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.

 **More at LMCchurches.org**

