



# LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches* Shalom NEWS

APRIL – JUNE 2020



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#### **ON THE COVER**

Main photo: Evangelical Church for Revival at worship and prayer.

Small photo: VBS at Pleasant View Mennonite Church, Franklin District.





# Praying in the Vision

*A vibrant French-speaking congregation takes root in Central Pennsylvania*

BY ELDER FERNANDE MBENZA-NGOMA

**T**he Prophet Elijah illustrates our church's story with the revelation of the prophecy that rain was about to come after 2½ years of drought (1 Kings 18:1). A seed of the church was planted in 1999, but only 20 years later did faith materialize so that many can testify that the Lord had a plan. During that year, several people got to know each other, and shared their desire to pray together. There was agreement to gather weekly for praise and worship in ways that were common and familiar from African heritage. We were eager to begin again the Christian practices of all-night vigils, fasting, and prayer here in the USA.

Soon after these gatherings started in 1999, the participants began meeting other believers who wanted to join the group, then called "cell group." Soon, more and more believers were coming. The fire of the Holy Spirit was attracting many to the prayer meetings during the week because everyone in the group was also part of various local churches in the community. The people diligently sought the Lord, and their thirst for God's presence was real. The desire for God to reveal Himself and to change people's lives gave the group vision for expansion. The weekly gatherings changed to twice a week, and then began to rotate around to different people's homes. Words of encouragement, fellowship, and the feeling of belonging to a nuclear family in a foreign land were very real. Eventually, the group agreed to hold prayer meetings in one designated location.



Pastor Jean-Bruno Nzey. Photos provided by the author.  
Top: Evangelical Church for Revival worship team.

Pastor Jean-Bruno Nzey arrived from Africa in 2002. He joined the prayer group. As we continued to seek the Lord's guidance, various members of the group received distinctive revelations that the "cell group" would grow into a congregation under the leadership of Pastor Jean-Bruno Nzey. It was a confirmation of God's new direction because Pastor Nzey himself had already received a similar revelation while still in Africa about being the pastor of a church in the USA. Rapid and amazing attendance was experienced. Consequently, a larger space for the weekly meetings was needed. At the end of 2002, the group began to meet at the Bethel AME Church on Strawberry Street in Lancaster, PA.

This was an amazing time of worshipping freely without the worry of disturbing next door neighbors. A year later, the congregation moved out of the Strawberry Street location to Trinity Lutheran Church on Duke Street, Lancaster. At that point, it was decided to hold Sunday services in the afternoon. The next move was to a business location for eight months on Delp Road in Neffsville, PA. Then, a fourth move to Rainbow Youth Center in Mount-Joy took place. We were there for four years. In November 2015, the Lord blessed and enabled us to receive a mortgage to purchase our current building on School House Road in Middletown, PA. Through all the moves, we learned to trust the author and finisher of our faith who gave the vision. The church now serves members from York, Harrisburg, Elizabethtown, Mount-Joy, Mountville, and Lancaster.

When the ministry was officially founded in 2004 and obtained the state license to conduct business as a church, the services were mostly attended by French-speaking members. Thus, the congregation was named "Eglise Franco-phone pour le Réveil" or the "French-Speaking Church for Revival" under the leadership of Pastor Nzey. Eventually, we added English translation as English speaking members began to join in, not to mention the number of children born to church members that speak English well.

**Our congregation is made up of people from many different nations: Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Ivory Coast, and the USA.**

As the vision continues to unfold, the ministry continues to gain strength. Lives are being transformed, people are more committed to put their gifts and talents to use, and two more congregations have started. As a result, the name of the church was changed to "Evangelical Center for Revival" (ECR) to better describe the vision. The Scripture that anchors the vision is Jeremiah 1:9-10 with the objec-

tive of stirring up and bringing revival among worshippers in Lancaster County and its surroundings. The church vision is to reach out to the nations, including America.

Our congregation is made up of people from many different nations: Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Ivory Coast, and the USA. During our gatherings, sermons are preached and translated in French or English depending on the language of the speaker of the day. We worship as one nation under one God, the Creator of all peoples, nations, and tribes. We praise and worship in different languages, incorporate traditional dances, and use indigenous instruments. Our faith is "Christ centered," and we believe in living in peace, love, and forgiveness.

Our congregation is blessed by the ministries of Senior Pastor Jean-Bruno Nzey and the Assistant Pastor and Evangelist Louis Kabamba for their commitment to serve the Lord. Additionally, the church has a body of elders and deacons in place. The church is blessed to operate with all five gift ministries found in Ephesian 4:11—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Our mission is to spread locally and extend abroad. We focus on outreach and evangelism. ECR joined LMC in 2013. ECR has received many blessings from LMC in many ways. The two



Women's ministry group at Evangelical Church for Revival.



Right: Ministry by the Evangelical Church for Revival group at Haiti Orphanage.

Below: Evangelist Louis Kabamba.



pastors of ECR meet with other church leaders of the Landisville-Manor district to assess the needs of the community.

In 2014, the church started to fulfill the Great Commission commended by Jesus Christ in the Mark 16. A team started going out on mission trips to Haiti where they established a partnership with a local ministry in Gonaives, Haiti, called "Ebenezer Mission." During the trip, they worked directly with three churches and an orphanage. Additionally, another team including Pastor Nzey went to Chad in Africa twice for mission trips to remote areas. This team was able to reach out to Muslim communities, present workshops on marriage, and teach on women's ministry. Furthermore the team distributed medicine, provided limited medical supplies, and offered medical screening, all led by a nurse on the team.

The ministry is focused on mission, deliverance and healing, and restoration of all aspects of life through the guidance

of the Holy Spirit. Many have surrendered and rededicated their lives to the Lord Jesus. We pray continuously to bring down the strongman and the strongholds in Lancaster County by taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to people and making disciples for Christ. Our ministry is blessed with a building that allows us to worship freely and hold various activities throughout the week.

We believe that the Lord, who has been with us for the last 15 years, will continue to demonstrate His unfailing love and faithfulness toward us as we march on together to proclaim the Good News until the day of Jesus Christ. ■

*Fernande Mbenza-Ngoma is a founding member of ECR, Elder. She serves on different levels of ministry at ECR including a seating member in the pastoral board. Fernande has been serving the Lord all of her life; she is a fervent believer and truly loves the Lord. Originally from Haiti, she is a wife, a friend, and a sister.*



**Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."**

*Jeremiah 1:9-10 (NIV)*

# Prier dans la Vision

PAR ANCIENNE FERNANDE MBENZA-NGOMA

Le prophète Élie illustre l'histoire de notre église avec la révélation de la prophétie selon laquelle la pluie allait arriver après 2 ans et demi de sécheresse (1 Rois 18 : 1). Une graine de l'église a été plantée en 1999, mais ce n'est que 20 ans plus tard, que la foi s'est matérialisée afin que beaucoup puissent témoigner que le Seigneur avait un plan. Au cours de cette année, plusieurs personnes ont eu à se familiariser et ont partagé leur désir de prier ensemble. Ils se sont mis d'accord pour se réunir chaque semaine, pour louer et adorer d'une manière qui soit commune et familière à leur héritage africain. Nous étions impatients de recommencer les pratiques chrétiennes des veillées nocturnes, du jeûne et de la prière ici aux USA.

Peu après le début de ces rassemblements en 1999, les participants ont commencé à rencontrer d'autres croyants qui voulaient rejoindre le groupe, alors appelé 'cellule de prière'. Bientôt, de plus en plus de croyants arrivaient. Le feu du Saint-Esprit attirait beaucoup de personnes aux réunions de prière pendant la semaine, parce que tout le monde dans le groupe faisait également partie de diverses églises locales dans la communauté. Le peuple cherchait ardemment le Seigneur et la soif de la présence de Dieu était réelle. Le désir de voir Dieu se révéler et changer la vie des gens a donné au groupe une vision d'expansion. Les rassemblements hebdomadaires ont changé à deux fois par semaine, avec une rotation dans les maisons de différentes personnes. Les mots d'encouragement, de camaraderie et le sentiment d'appartenir à une famille nucléaire dans un pays étranger étaient bien réels. Finalement, le groupe a accepté de tenir des réunions de prière dans un endroit désigné.

Le pasteur Jean-Bruno Nzey est arrivé d'Afrique en 2002. Il a rejoint le groupe de prière. Alors que nous continuions à chercher l'orientation de la part du Seigneur, divers membres du groupe ont reçu des révélations distinctes selon lesquelles la 'cellule de prière' deviendrait une congrégation sous la direction du pasteur Jean-Bruno Nzey. C'était une confirmation de la nouvelle direction de Dieu parce que le pasteur Nzey lui-même avait déjà reçu une révélation similaire alors qu'il était encore en Afrique, qu'il deviendrait le pasteur d'une église aux États-Unis. La fréquentation a été rapide et incroyablement. Par conséquent, un espace plus grand pour les réunions hebdomadaires était devenu nécessaire. En fin 2002, le groupe a commencé à se réunir à l'église Bethel AME, sur Strawberry Street à Lancaster, en Pennsylvanie.

C'était une période incroyable pour adorer librement sans craindre de déranger les voisins. Un an plus tard, la congrégation a déménagé de Strawberry Street à Trinity Lutheran Church sur Duke Street, Lancaster. À ce moment-là, il a été décidé d'organiser les services du dimanche dans l'après-midi. Le déménagement suivant a eu lieu dans un établissement commercial pendant huit mois sur Delp Road à Neffsville, en Pennsylvanie. Ensuite, un quatrième déménagement à Rainbow Youth Centre à Mount-Joy a eu lieu. Nous y sommes restés pendant quatre ans. En novembre 2015, le Seigneur nous a bénis et nous a permis d'obtenir une hypothèque pour acheter notre immeuble actuel sur School House Road à Middletown, en Pennsylvanie. À travers tous les mouvements, nous avons appris à faire confiance à l'auteur et consommateur de notre foi qui a donné la vision. L'église sert maintenant des membres de York, Harrisburg, Elizabethtown, Mount-Joy, Mountville et Lancaster.

Lorsque le ministère a été officiellement fondé en 2004 et a obtenu la licence d'état pour opérer en tant qu'église, les services étaient principalement fréquentés par des membres francophones. Ainsi, la congrégation avait été nommée "Eglise Francophone pour le Réveil" ou "French-Speaking Church for Revival" sous la direction du pasteur Nzey. Finalement, nous avons ajouté la traduction anglaise au fur et à mesure que les membres anglophones ont commencé à se joindre à nous, sans parler du nombre d'enfants nés de membres de l'église qui parlent bien l'anglais.

Alors que la vision continue de se développer, le ministère continue de gagner en

force. Des vies sont transformées, et les gens sont plus déterminés à utiliser leurs dons et leurs talents. C'est ainsi qu'en 2012, le nom de l'église a été changé en "Centre Évangélique pour le Réveil" (CER) pour mieux décrire la vision. Le versé clé qui englobe la vision est Jérémie 1 : 9-10 avec l'objectif de susciter et de ramener le réveil parmi les fidèles dans le comté de Lancaster et ces environs. C'est aussi dans cette vision qu'en 2005, un des leaders en la personne du pasteur Maurice Baruti a déménagé avec sa famille pour Philadelphie et commencer une église sœur sous le même nom.

Notre congrégation est composée de personnes de nombreux pays différents : Angola, Cameroun, Tchad, République centrafricaine, Congo-Brazzaville, République démocratique du Congo, Haïti, Côte d'Ivoire et États-Unis. Lors de nos rassemblements, les sermons sont prêchés et traduits en français ou en anglais selon la langue de l'orateur du jour. Nous adorons comme une seule nation sous un seul Dieu, le Créateur de tous les peuples, nations et tribus. Nous louons et adorons dans différentes langues, incorporons des danses traditionnelles et utilisons des instruments indigènes. Notre foi est "centrée sur le Christ" et nous croyons qu'il faut vivre dans la paix, l'amour et le pardon.

Notre congrégation est bénie par les ministères du pasteur principal Jean-Bruno Nzey et du pasteur adjoint et évangéliste Louis Kabamba pour leur engagement à servir le Seigneur. De plus, l'église a un corps d'anciens et de diacres en place. L'église est bénie de fonctionner avec les cinq ministères de dons trouvés dans Ephésien 4 : 11 - apôtres, prophètes, évangélistes, pasteurs et enseignants. Notre mission est de se propager localement et de s'étendre à l'étranger. Nous nous concentrons sur la sensibilisation et l'évangélisation. CER a rejoint (Lancaster Mononite Convergence) LMC en 2013. CER a reçu de nombreuses bénédictions de LMC à bien des égards. Les deux pasteurs du CER rencontrent d'autres dirigeants des églises du district de Landisville-Manor pour évaluer les besoins de la communauté.

En 2014, l'église a commencé à remplir la Grande Commission recommandée par Jésus-Christ dans les épîtres de Marc 16. Une équipe a commencé à partir en mission en Haïti où elle a établi un partenariat avec un ministère local à Gonaïves, en Haïti, appelé "Ebenezer Mission". Pendant le voyage, ils ont travaillé directement avec trois églises et un orphelinat. De plus, une autre équipe, incluant le pasteur Nzey, s'est rendue deux fois au Tchad en Afrique pour des missions dans des régions reculées. Cette équipe a pu atteindre les communautés musulmanes, présenter des ateliers sur le mariage et enseigner le ministère des femmes. De plus, l'équipe a distribué des médicaments, fourni des fournitures médicales limitées et offert un dépistage médical, le tout dirigé par une infirmière de l'équipe.

Le ministère est axé sur la mission, la délivrance et la guérison, et la restauration de tous les aspects de la vie grâce à la direction du Saint-Esprit. Beaucoup ont rendus et ont consacré leur vie au Seigneur Jésus. Nous prions continuellement pour faire tomber l'homme fort et les forteresses du comté de Lancaster en apportant l'évangile de Jésus-Christ aux gens et en faisant des disciples pour le Christ. Notre ministère est doté d'un bâtiment qui nous permet d'adorer librement et de tenir diverses activités tout au long de la semaine.

Nous croyons que le Seigneur, qui est avec nous depuis 20 ans, continuera de démontrer son amour et sa fidélité sans faille envers nous alors que nous marchons ensemble pour proclamer la Bonne Nouvelle jusqu'au jour de Jésus-Christ. ■

*Fernande Mbenza-Ngoma est membre fondatrice d'ECR, Elder. Elle sert à différents niveaux du ministère à ECR, y compris un membre du siège au conseil pastoral. Fernande a servi le Seigneur toute sa vie; elle est une fervente croyante et aime vraiment le Seigneur. Originale d'Haïti, elle est une épouse, une amie et une sœur.*





# Revelation, Prayer, Healing and Provision

DEACON CHANTAL KABAMBA

**At the Evangelical Center for Revival, we believe in the power of prayer and the command given to us from our Lord in Colossians 4:2, “Devote yourselves in prayer, being watchful and thankful” (NIV). We have two intercession teams within the church that meet twice a week on a prayer chain. These two prayer groups intercede for the needs of the congregation and the body of Christ.**

This past year the congregation experienced God’s glory, faithfulness, and miraculous healing power as a result of obedience to a revelation. In March of 2019, God revealed through the Holy Spirit the need to pray for a particular family in the church by the name Mossengo. The Mossengo family resides in York, PA. They joined the congregation in 2005. At the time of the revelation, God didn’t give any specific details about why we were to pray for this family. However, we were obedient to the call. Only later did we understand the reason for such urgent prayer. We did not know the trial that awaited this family, and the impact the prayers would have on them. In August 2019, fifteen-year-old Angy-Mike, one of the Mossengo children, was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, a condition resulting from an enlarged heart.

Angy-Mike was a typical teenager who enjoyed spending time with friends and family. As a young wrestler since 7th grade at Red Lion school in York, Pa., all his sports ambitions collapsed in the summer of 2019. He began to experience shortness of breath and fatigue while wrestling and even when taking a flight of stairs. As his symptoms worsened, wrestling became more and more difficult.

After school one day, Angy-Mike told his mother about his breathing and energy problems. He told her that he felt very weak and thought he might pass out. He was barely able to walk from the bus stop to his house. His health deteriorated so quickly that his parents rushed him to the Emergency Room. Test results revealed an abnormal heart enlargement and fluid in his lungs. He received an immediate, emergency transfer to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Specialists determined that Angy-Mike’s heart function was



**God revealed through the Holy Spirit the need to pray for a particular family in the church by the name Mossengo.**



Left: Angy-Mike Mossengo recovering from surgery in the hospital. Photos provided by the author.

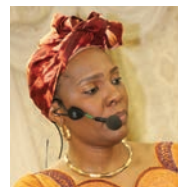
Above: The congregation interceding before God for Angy-Mike.

only 10% of capacity. After unsuccessful attempts to manage his condition conservatively with medications, the decision was made for surgical intervention. Doctors inserted a temporary left ventricular-assist device (LVAD) to support his failing heart while he waited for a heart transplant, the last available option. This shocking news led the church to remain in prayer and fasting, believing God for a miracle. We had total confidence in the Lord because the Spirit had prepared us months in advance by having this family in our prayers. We trusted that our Lord would ultimately provide a new heart for Angy-Mike.

Finally in the beginning of November, news came from the transplant team that a heart was found. The process moved quickly, and Angy-Mike received the new heart on November 6, 2019. The transplant was successful, and he was discharged home one week before Christmas. A GoFundMe account was setup for Angy-Mike Mossengo to share his miraculous story. There was an outpouring of prayers and support. So far, \$22,000 came through GoFundMe towards the \$1,000,000 medical expenses.

Angy-Mike’s story is a living testimony that Jesus Christ still heals and provides. This story has been told everywhere to show the world that our Lord Jesus is the ONLY healer. ■

*Chantal Kabamba is a deacon at ECR and is engaged in many ministries, particularly the women’s ministry where her commitment to serve the Lord has had a tremendous impact. Originally from the Republic of Congo, She is the wife of Evangelist Louis Kabamba and the mother of 3 children.*





## DISTRICT PROFILE

# Franklin District of LMC

ALLEN LEHMAN

**Franklin District of LMC is still getting used to its new name. We were Franklin Conference for many years, but now we have joined forces with LMC, hoping that together we can do a lot more damage to the dominion of darkness.** We still have much of the organizational apparatus in place. We have an annual meeting for inspiration and encouragement, a board, a mission board, bishop-district relations committee, delegates to pass budgets and make decisions, quarterly ministers meeting, pastor peer meetings, and an annual leadership retreat at Cove Valley Camp.

Franklin District feels great satisfaction for the institutions begun, not by Franklin District vision and leadership, but by men and women who had a vision for something and set about to bring it into being. Menno Haven, a large retirement community was begun in the 1960s by men of the district that had a vision for caring for our own Mennonite elderly in a dignified way. Today, it is ever expanding with the addition of a new skilled nursing facility, a new state of the art rehabilitation center, new memory care houses, new independent living cottages, and a new Life Center which will be a hub of many activities

for all residents to enjoy. Cove Valley Camp was the vision of Aden Diller who, along with the support of the district, brought it into being. A number of families envisioned a Christian school, and now after 40 years of ministry, Shalom Christian Academy with its 500 students Pre-K through 12th grade is thriving and needing to enlarge. Norman Martin had a vision for missions, and with the guidance of EMM, Franklin District landed in Kekchi country in Guatemala. Presently there are approximately 130 Kekchi Mennonite congregations.

Serious church planting happened in the late 1940s and 1950s. Cedar Street, Shady Pine, Rock Hill, Bethel and North Side were started by very conservative Mennonites who did not shy away from proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And they succeeded. Some regularly passed out the evangelistic tract, *The Way*, in the community. They started house churches, and people came to Christ and the need for a building became obvious.



## A HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF FRANKLIN DISTRICT

Compiled by Edsel Burdge

### 1730s-1740s

First Mennonites settle in the Conococheague (Cumberland Valley), coming mainly from Lancaster County.

### 1790

Daniel Lehman, originally from Lancaster County, appointed first bishop in Franklin County

### 1810-1830

Bishop Peter Eby, moderator of Lancaster Conference, is active in overseeing the churches in the Cumberland Valley.

### 1850s

English preaching and hymn singing first make their appearances in Washington-Franklin churches.

### 1861-1865

Civil War: Washington-Franklin Mennonites resist military service and endure three Confederate army invasions.

### 1893

The first protracted (revival) meetings are held in the Stouffers Mennonite congregation in Washington County, with Martin Whisler, a Lancaster Conference minister from York County, as evangelist.

### 1905-1927

Numerical growth and a new interest in outreach results in the formation of new congregations (Cedar Grove, Pleasant View, Pond Bank, Horse Valley, Pinesburg, and Flintstone).

### 1921

The mission board sponsors the Mennonite Old People's Home in Maugansville, Md.

### 1839

Washington-Franklin Mennonite Conference is formed, with Bishop Peter Eshleman as moderator, but it maintains a close working relationship with Lancaster Conference

### 1790-1825

Second wave of Mennonites from Lancaster settle in Franklin County, Pa. and Washington County, Md., providing the critical mass to sustain a permanent community. Eight congregations are organized, as part of Lancaster Mennonite Conference.

### 1776-1783

Conococheague Mennonites maintain their peaceable convictions in the face of demands to support new Revolutionary government.

### 1881

Washington-Franklin Conference adopts Lancaster Conference's first printed discipline as its own. The new discipline allows Sunday schools. Clear Spring Mennonite Church in Washington County, is the first congregation in Washington-Franklin to open a Sunday school.

### 1917-1919

World War I: Washington-Franklin conscientious objectors are ordered to the army camps, where most follow the Conference's directives: do not wear the uniform, refuse any military service, do not accept combatant or noncombatant status, do nothing to aid the war effort.

### 1915

Washington-Franklin Conference organized the Washington-Franklin Mission Board to oversee and promote local mission work.



Today we are recovering that missional church DNA. Recently, I heard three stories from three of our pastors. In each case, a member in the church made a contact with a person in their neighborhood and invited them to visit the church service. In all three cases, each person came to the service. One of those wants to be baptized and another was assimilated into the live of the congregation.

God is still calling people to “feed my sheep.” Why does that come as a surprise? We have two recent examples where God has called from within the congregation when we least expected it. The challenge of raising up new leaders is with us, but I do have a renewed confidence that the one who called Peter is still concerned about a flock of people that need to be fed.

An equipping event we have held for five years is called *School for Disciples*. This year, four Saturdays in February were given to equip the saints. Such training sessions help to enlarge and encourage our vision and calling. ■

*Allen and his wife Laura have have three children and nine grandchildren. He pastored at Pleasant View Mennonite Church for nearly 30 years before becoming an overseer in Franklin Conference in 2013. Before pastoring he worked in printing and studied at Elim Bible Institute, Lima, NY. Prior to that he served 2.5 years in Guatemala in Voluntary Service from 1974-1976 through EMM.*



## A SNAPSHOT OF FRANKLIN DISTRICT



**14**  
member  
churches

**Five member churches are in Maryland and nine are in Pennsylvania.**

Bethel Community Church

Cedar Grove

Cedar Street

Christian Missionary Fellowship International – Westminster

Christian Missionary Fellowship International – Riverdale

Community

Marion

Mercersburg

Mt. Zion

North Side

Pleasant View

Rock Hill

Salem Ridge

Shady Pine



**100**  
+ years

**Franklin District's local mission board celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2015.**



**1,000**  
members

**Average attendance is approximately 70 people per church on Sundays.**



**Outreach**

**Some congregations engage the community through clothing banks, food banks, prison ministry, and youth programs.**



**A regional cluster of churches**

**Most Franklin District churches are located within a 30 to 40 minute drive of Chambersburg, Pa.**



### LEARN MORE

*Building On The Gospel Foundation: The Mennonite of Franklin County, Pennsylvania and Washington County, Maryland 1730-1970* by Edsel Burdge Jr. and Samuel L. Horst details the history of this group of churches.

#### 1941–1946

World War II: 28 young men from Washington-Franklin Conference were drafted. With only one man accepting military service, Washington-Franklin Conference had the highest percentage of draftees among the Old Mennonite conferences who opted for Civilian Public Service.

#### 1939

Merle and Sarah Eshleman from the Millers congregation are the first persons from Washington-Franklin Conference to serve under Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities in Africa.

#### 1964

Franklin County Mennonites start Menno-Haven, a retirement home.

#### 1965–1970

Washington-Franklin-North congregations sponsor several new church starts (Bethel, Fairview, Yarrowsburg, and Mountain View).

#### 1965

Local Mennonite Disaster Services Unit organized.

#### 1967

Washington-Franklin-North in cooperation with EMBMC sponsors a mission in Guatemala.

#### 1976

Franklin County Mennonites along with persons from other peace churches start Shalom Christian Academy.

#### 2004

Franklin Conference joins Mennonite Church USA.

#### 2017

Franklin Conference joins LMC and becomes Franklin District of LMC.

#### 1936–1959

Conflict between the Franklin County district and Washington County district over competing visions of church order lead to a committee of three Lancaster Conference bishops being appointed to serve on the Washington-Franklin bishop board.

#### 1965

A three-decade long conflict over nonconformity and jurisdiction result in a schism. The Franklin County district with a small group from Washington County form Washington-Franklin Mennonite Conference-North.

#### 1967

Cove Valley Christian Camp founded.

#### 1946–1954

Responding to a post-war push in the Mennonite Church at large, Washington-Franklin starts four new church starts (Shady Pine, Rock Hill, Burns Valley, and Ponds ville).

#### 1980

Washington-Franklin Conference-North changes its name to Franklin Mennonite Conference.

#### 1972

Bishop Amos Martin leads six congregations out of Washington-Franklin-North to form the Cumberland Valley Church.

#### 2016

Franklin Conference leaves 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).

## DESAYUNO PARA PASTORES DEL CONCILIO HISPANO SHALOM

*El sábado 25 de enero, pastores y cónyuges de Concilio Iglesia Evangelica Shalom (CIES) se reunieron en la oficina de LMC para un almuerzo. Después de la comida, los líderes de CIES fueron presentados a una variedad de recursos disponibles para ellos. Un resultado notable de la reunión fue un plan para traducir el Curso Discovery al español para fin de año. Se ha formado un equipo de traducción para comenzar una evaluación de la aplicabilidad de los componentes del curso a la cultura y hacer los ajustes editoriales necesarios como resultado.*



## LMC BRUNCH FOR CIES PASTORS

On Saturday, January 25, pastors and spouses from Concilio Iglesia Evangelica Shalom (CIES) gathered at the LMC office for a brunch. After the meal, CIES leaders were introduced to a variety of resources available to them. One notable outcome of the meeting was a plan to translate the Discovery Course into Spanish by the end of the year. A translation team has formed to begin an assessment of the applicability of the course components to the culture and make any necessary editorial adjustments as a result.

## ALIVE CHURCH HOSTS DISCIPLEMAKING EVENT

Alive Church hosted the Global Disciples, Multiplying Disciples, conference March 23–26. The limited-space event led 25 participants through nine cross-cultural aspects of discipleship, which are applicable in any culture.

## LMC GATHERING PLACE UPDATE

With the completion of the cafe at the LMC office, LMC staff are exploring the potential of beginning a missional community in the space. Several prayer groups have added the initiative to the prayer guides. Studying the demographics to aid in planning outreach to the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the cafe is underway. Current thinking is to offer a summer event, a fall recreational offering, and a final holiday event. The goal of these events is to find the person of peace in the neighborhood.



## DISCOVERY COURSE

The Fall Discovery Course at Shiloh Mennonite Church in Reading completed January 22. Elizabethtown Mennonite Church and Goods Mennonite Church have courses planned for the Winter months. Alive Church Ephrata will offer the Discovery Course in the Spring, beginning in March. Discovery seeks to help Christians hear the voice of God, better know themselves, and plan for growth toward what each hears God calling them. In this respect, Discovery is both basic discipleship and leadership training. If you would like to offer Discovery in your congregation, contact the LMC office for help in getting the study up and running.

## CHURCH MULTIPLICATION TRAINING

LMC, EMM and Church on the Other Side will offer two experiential opportunities for church multiplication training during 2020. The multiplication experience at

West End Mennonite Fellowship began in March. A second initiative will take place late summer at Elizabethtown Mennonite Church. Both experiences involve classroom, practicum, internship and coaching activities. The 10-month content is highly practical and hands-on.

## NYC DISTRICT STARTS EIGHT NEW CHURCHES

The New York City district reported eight new church starts during 2019. The new starts are as follows:

- a new Garifuna plant in Tampa, led by Pastor Selvin Peppersburg
- a new Garifuna plant in Atlanta, led by Pastor Deo Arauz
- a new plant at 344 Brook Ave, Bronx, started by Linda Rodriguez
- a new group meeting at King of Glory, led by the Damasos family
- a new group meeting in Brooklyn from Amador's church
- three new plants on Faro Divina in the Dominican Republic

## NEW MISSION MODEL

In January, New Danville Mennonite Church decided to assist New Providence Mennonite Church in its mission to Providence Township as one fellowship. New Providence Mennonite Church will now identify with the New Danville District of LMC. The prayerful result of this unprecedented level of cooperation will be enhanced mission in southern Lancaster County. Please bless and pray for these two congregations as they seek to "hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."



# NEWS NOTES

## MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES

**Amanda Rohrer** (*Doug*) was ordained as lead pastor at Gingrich Mennonite Church.

**Doug Gerber** (*Dawn*) was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church.

**Daryl Erb** (*Laurie*) was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Goods Mennonite Church.

**Keith Roberts** (*Beth*) was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at New Danville Mennonite Church.

**Joseph Kindon** was ordained as lead pastor at Diller Mennonite Church.

**Randolph Smith** (*Marianna*) was installed as ordained lead pastor at Cedar Grove Mennonite Church.

## CELEBRATION OF CHURCH LIFE 2021

Save the date for the next Celebration of Church Life. LMC congregations will gather together on March 19–20, 2021 at Petra Church in New Holland, PA. The event will feature worship, prayer options, a plenary speaker, seminars, lunch, and an ice cream social.

## SPECIAL ADVANCE NOTICE

Celebration of Church Life **2022** is projected to include four days, three nights in late Summer in Western Maryland near Deep Creek Lake. Bring the whole family and plan a vacation around the event. Offerings will include expanded children and youth options, major educational opportunities. More details will be announced at this year's Celebration on April 3–4 at Petra Church. The event will have a registration fee. Chartered transportation likely from southeast, PA.

## NEWLY CREDENTIALLED ORIENTATION

LMC will offer the orientation for newly credentialed leaders again on April 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Leaders may attend at the LMC office or join by Zoom. If you would like to connect by Zoom, contact Sherri Martin, [smartin@lmchurches.org](mailto:smartin@lmchurches.org), and she will send you the Zoom link.

## LEGACY FOUNDATION

At the January Legacy Foundation meeting, the board advanced five letters of intent to application status. These projects now move to application stage with a final determination for funding made in April 2020.

## WORLD FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Plan an Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday sometime this year. Both your bishop and your pastor received planning information for this celebration. The materials come from Mennonite World Conference and can be used in a great variety of ways. Need help? Contact the LMC office.

## EMM GROUNDBREAKING

Eastern Mennonite Missions celebrated groundbreaking on February 9 for the renovation of their new building at 350 N. Prince Street. The goal for this new building is to house staff, provide a hospitality center with a café, and rental for events. The renovation cost is just over \$4 million and will be completed by the end of 2020.



## OMAR GUZMAN UPDATE

In January, US Immigration postponed any decision on Omar's case for another 3–6 months. Omar has suggested Church on the Other Side look at alternate leadership. He will remain on the team. In the meantime, he continues to minister in Honduras and in nearby Central American countries. He most recently spent two weeks with the Mennonite church in Cuba.

## CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS

Remember to annually review the status of the required checks for staff and volunteers. All checks may not be older than five years. Review your policy to insure your training regimen is current. If your congregation does not have a child protection policy or if your policy does not reflect the 2014 rewrite of the PA law, contact the LMC office. Congregations in other states must meet their states requirements and are encouraged to meet PA standards if PA standards are higher.

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Marganne Hoffman met with the Board of Bishops in December to review the benefits of the three counseling sessions per year available to all credentialed leaders in LMC. LMC contracts with Philhaven/Wellspan each year to make this benefit possible. To access the service visit [wellspan.org](http://wellspan.org) or call 1-800-673-2514.

## 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

### **Multiplication Quarterly Prayer Meeting** **Thursday, April 16, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** Harvest Room, Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa. 717-293-5246

### **Women's Prayer Gathering** **First 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)

### **LMC Celebration of Church Life** **April 3–4 , 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Petra Church, New Holland, Pa. [ccl2020.eventbrite.com](https://ccl2020.eventbrite.com)

### **LMC Newly Credentialed Leaders Orientation** **April 15, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** LMC Office, Lancaster, Pa. 717-293-5246

### **STEP Graduation** **May 16, 1:30 p.m.** Slate Hill Mennonite Church Camp Hill, Pa.

### **EMM Global Fair** **July 11, 11:00 a.m.** 1849 Hans Herr Dr, Willow Street, 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.

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everyone moving in mission



**Landis**   
**Adult Day Services**

**June 5, 2020**

**Landis Adult Day Services**  
**Benefit Golf Outing**

For more info, call 717-509-5490  
or visit [LandisAdultDay.org](http://LandisAdultDay.org)