



# *Welcoming Rain*

## Leadership Assembly and Celebration of Church Life

April 2020



# INTRODUCTION

The Celebration of Church planning team has expanded its level of planning in preparation for the 2022 event in Western Maryland. In response to the enlarged geographic footprint of LMC over the last two years, decisions have been made to respect, honor, and include in meaningful ways this expansion. As a result, the CCL planners will develop three CCL events simultaneously at various stages of detail. Theme, connection to previous year, and connection to next year.



## Welcoming Rain

To aid in multi-year planning, broad themes have been selected that have the potential to connect over multiple years. Last years theme of breaking new ground continues with this year's theme of *Welcoming Rain*. The icon for both years contains previous elements as well as new ones. A similar result will occur next year. We hope you enjoy this years inspiration, teaching, training, fellowship and networking. **Welcome the Rain!**

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# INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Celebration of Church Life, 2020, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Video** of the plenary sessions is posted on the homepage of the LMC website ([lmcchurches.org](http://lmcchurches.org)) and at the LMC Youtube Channel ([www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsF6LNUfsjICGNudO0j6j2zlaLhh8XoR4](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsF6LNUfsjICGNudO0j6j2zlaLhh8XoR4)). Keith Weaver, Glenn Kauffman and Keith Nyce all provided their content.

**ePacket** with resource partner organization reports at [lmcchurches.org/downloads](http://lmcchurches.org/downloads) and select resource partner eReport.

**Seminar content**, planned for Saturday, April 4, 2020 at Celebration of Church Life, as possible, will be moved to next year's event, scheduled for March 19-20, 2021 at Petra Church in New Holland.

## LMC Media Options

LMC website: [lmcchurches.org](http://lmcchurches.org)

LMC YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/user/2160LMC](https://youtube.com/user/2160LMC)

LMC Facebook: [facebook.com/LMCchurches/](https://facebook.com/LMCchurches/)

**Save the date for next year:** March 19-20, 2021 Petra Church.

**Celebration of Church Life, 2022**, includes four days, three nights in late Summer in Western Maryland near the resort at Deep Creek Lake. Bring the whole family and plan a vacation around the event.

# Donate Today

Although Celebration of Church Life was canceled, some expenses remain. Certain deposits were required and some purchases were made for the event in advance.

- ▶ Give online at: [lmcchurches.org/donate/](https://lmcchurches.org/donate/)
- ▶ Check mailed to the LMC office (payable to LMC)

## COVID 19 Relief

Individuals or businesses who receive Federal Phase three stimulus money (lump sum, Payroll Protection Plan, expanded unemployment) and who feel they do not personally need some or all of the money might consider making a donation to the LMC Deacon's Fund. This money will be directed to places of need related to the pandemic. Select the Donate button on the LMC Website, then select "Other Payments including COVID 19 Relief." Place your donation in the box for Coronavirus Relief Aid and type COVID 19 in the text box beside it to assure the donation goes to the right account. This is a tax deductible contribution that will be administered by the LMC Deacons Fund committee.

Donations

Welcome to LMC's online giving portal. If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

LMC Giving

-General Fund:	0.00	
-Coronavirus Relief Aid:	0.00	
-Celebration of Church Life:	0.00	
-Global Church Sharing Fund:	0.00	

# LMC WORKING GROUPS

## Conference Executive Council

Moderator: L. Keith Weaver

Assistant Moderator: Stephen S. Weaver

Secretary: Lloyd E. Hoover

Treasurer: Daryl Weaver

Bishop Members-at-Large: J. Allen  
Lehman, Rodney Martin, Joe Miller

Non-Bishop Members: Joy Fasick,  
Sandra Gonzalez, Omar Guzman,  
David Pegarella

## LMC Staff

Thomas Eshelman, *Global Delegate*

William Higgins, *Resource Staff*

Mindi Hoover, *Administrative Assistant*

Conrad Kanagy, *Staff Consultant*

Felixa V. de Kunkle, *Receptionist,*  
*Webmaster*

Sherri Martin, *Administrative Assistant*

Marcia Mylin, *Resource Staff*

Brinton Rutherford, *Resource Staff*

Dale Stoltzfus, *Conference Minister*

L. Keith Weaver, *Moderator*

## Celebration of Church Life Big Picture Planning Team

Marcia Mylin, *Chair*

Kathy Brown

Joy Fasick

Sandra Grantham-Roman

Mindi Hoover

Caleb Kaye

Alexis Roman

Brinton Rutherford

## Credentialing Commission

Paul Nisly, *Chair*

Sandra Granthon-Roman

Eric Marshall

Margie Peters

Adalberto Santiago

Dale Stoltzfus

## Finance Committee

Joel Harnly, *Chair*

Trisha Good

C. Kenneth Martin

Sheryl Mummau

Daryl Weaver

L. Keith Weaver, *Moderator*

## Grants Committee

Daryl Weaver, *LMC Treasurer*

Brinton Rutherford, *Chair*

Mindi Hoover

Chantal Kabamba

Lam Nguyen

L. Keith Weaver

Sherrie Ober

## STEP Oversight Commission

Conrad Kanagy, *Chair*

William Higgins, *Course Instructor*

Mindi Hoover, *Administrative Assistant*

Tuyen Nguyen, *Lecturer*

Brian Martin, *Lecturer*

Marcia Mylin, *Director*

Lynn Shertzer, *Course Instructor*

Krishana Suchau, *Course Instructor*

Dale Stoltzfus, *Lecturer*

# DWELLING IN THE WORD

## Acts 1:1-14 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

<sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

# LMC AT A GLANCE



## 245+ Congregations

86 new congregations joined in the last 3 years

50% of LMC congregations are majority non-white.



## Geographic Reach

13 states with LMC congregations

4 countries outside the USA with LMC congregations

24 Global Fraternal Relationships

## 44 Church Plants

in the last 10 years

5 networks established

3 emerging networks



## 20,000+ People

10 LMC staff

28 Bishops

451 Active Credentialed Leaders

## Education / Training

28 STEP students in 3 cohorts

10 STEP graduates in 2020

8 SEED students

4 Education Scholarship programs

44 CCL workshops this year



## Finances

\$930,252 operating budget in 2019

## NEW MEMBER CHURCHES

**Alden Mennonite Church** – Great Lakes East District, Bradley Baer

**Vishva Jyoti Church** – Great Lakes East District, Tika Gerung

**North Leo Mennonite Church** – Great Lakes West District, Steven Showers

**Arthur Mennonite Church** – Great Lakes West District, Glen Rhodes

**First Mennonite Church Of Middlebury** – Great Lakes West District,  
Phillip Yoder

**Gortner Union Church** – Western Maryland District, Edward Petersheim

**Iglesia Cristiana Ebenezer** – Florida District, Eligio & Juanita Nunez

**Iglesia E. M. Nueva Vida** – Florida District, Ambrosio Encarnacion

**Newtown Gospel Chapel** – Florida District, Al Singleton

**Sarasota Community Church** – Florida District, Roger Shenk

**Assemble de la Grace** – Florida District, Laurent Louis

**Iglesia Arca de Salvacion** – Florida District, Marcial Domingo,  
Armando & Celita Pacheco

**Prince of Peace** – Florida District, Hilaire Louis Jean

**Unity Pentecostal (Miami)** – Florida District, Ducois Forestal

**Unity Pentecostal (Homestead)** – Florida District, Peres Desir

**11 Additional Congregations from the Dominican Republic**



# CHURCH PLANTS

## Baltimore-Washington District

**Revive Faith, Annapolis, MD**, Caleb & Melissa Kaye

**Shalom Community, Washington DC**, Jonathon Bailey

## Florida District

**Shalom Church, Princeton, FL**

**The Gathering Tree, Key West, FL**, Michael Zehr & Jeff Smith

## NYC District

**Garifuna Church Tampa, FL**, Selvin Peppersburg

**Jehovah Light of Hope, Atlanta, GA**, Deo Arouz

**Valley of Jesus Bronx, NY**, Linda Rodriguez

**Ebenezer Bronx, NY**

**King of Glory church plant**, Damasco family

**New Church Brooklyn, NY**

**Three new plants in Faro Divina in the Dominican Republic**

## Ohio District

**Peach Church, Cincinnati, OH**, Chet & Holly Eshelman

## Weaverland NE District

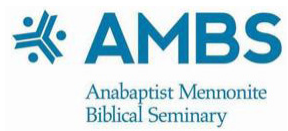
**WayLife Community, Mountain Top, PA**, Michael & Lori Deckman

## West End Network

**Harbor Fellowship, Lancaster, PA**, Chad & Monica Neufeld

**Trinity Fellowship, Lancaster PA**, Krishana Suchau

resource partner ORGANIZATIONS



# LMC 411

## Acronyms:

<b>BB</b>	Board of Bishops	<b>MCC</b>	Mennonite Central Committee
<b>CC</b>	Credentialing Commission	<b>MWC</b>	Mennonite World Conference
<b>CEC</b>	Conference Executive Council	<b>SOC</b>	STEP Oversight Commission
<b>CCL</b>	Celebration of Church Life	<b>SSA</b>	STEP Study Award
<b>EMM</b>	Eastern Mennonite Missions	<b>STEP</b>	Study & Training for Effective Pastoral Ministry
<b>LEG</b>	Leadership Education Grant	<b>TCP</b>	The Corinthian Plan
<b>LMC</b>	Anabaptist fellowship of over 200 churches in 10 states	<b>UEG</b>	Urban Education Grant
<b>LMHS</b>	Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society	<b>WEG</b>	Women's Education Grant
<b>LMS</b>	Lancaster Mennonite School		

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

**Celebration of Church Life:** an annual gathering for LMC churches at the end in March. All LMC members are invited to this event that includes worship, resourcing, displays, ice cream and more.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Corinthian Plan:** a health care plan available to LMC pastors and other church leaders, operated by Mennonite Church USA.

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

**Discovery:** an eight-week discipleship course to deepen one's spirituality and the ability to hear God speaking to the Christian.

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

**Email Announcements:** an every other week email of information from the conference office to credentialed leaders and congregations sent. To receive this, contact the LMC office.

**EMM:** Eastern Mennonite Missions sends missionaries around the globe. It is the mission arm of LMC.

**Explore the Core:** A 13 session curriculum to explore LMC Anabaptist values in two versions.

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

**Flourish:** a missional community movement that exists to birth, resource, and multiply clusters of Christ-followers where we live, work, and play. Through “huddles” discipleship and coaching promotes the development of new communities.

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

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

**Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society:** The Historical Society archives LMC records, includes a library, museum and bookstore and includes the Mennonite Information Center and Tabernacle.

**Landis Communities:** A group of related adult, aging and retirement organizations with facilities located in south central PA.

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

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

**Leadership Development:** resources for credentialed and lay leaders that are God-honoring, Spirit-directed, and congregation-centered are offered to call, cultivate, and support leaders to grow in competency and character as life-long learners. Leaders and congregations develop a lifestyle of learning, growth, and change.

**Leadership Education Grants:** scholarship funds to support credentialed and emerging leaders with tuition costs and/or educational materials for leadership education and training. The amount will be based on availability of funds, need, number of applicants, and references from church leaders.

**Life Stages Resourcing:** resourcing for all life stages from infant to elderly, single, married, or widowed, in school, at work, or retired. Marcia Mylin is available for ministry resourcing consultation.

**LMC:** a fellowship of about more than 230 congregations six conference agencies, and 17 resource partner organizations. Congregations are located in 13 states and emerging church plants are located around the country. Worship occurs in many different languages.

**LMC Legacy Foundation:** a new charitable foundation to assist LMC to continue a vision to nurture mental health, broadly construed, with resilience and innovation.

The foundation accepts grant requests for funding that relate to mental health needs in local communities of LMC congregations.

**LMC Office:** 2160 Lincoln Highway East, #5, Lancaster, Pa. 17602. The office is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Everyone is welcome to stop by the office to browse and borrow re-sources for congregational or personal use.

**Mennonite World Conference:** Global Fellowship of Anabaptist and Mennonite groups from around the world. LMC has been a member since 2018.

**Mission Statement:** A Spirit-led movement to make disciples of Jesus, mobilize every member as a missionary, and multiply faith communities locally and beyond!

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

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

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

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

**Shalom News:** published four times per year, the magazine covers the LMC fellowship of churches with stories from congregations and leaders.

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

**STEP:** a three-year training program for people considering congregational leadership and want to gain practical ministry training. It is a joint effort between LMC, who administers the program, and EMU, who grants academic credit. STEP combines formation, pastoral topics, and pastoral skills in very practical ways.

**STEP Study Award:** A scholarship program available to all LMC STEP students.

**Urban Education Grants:** grants given for tuition assistance to urban students or students of color with a recommendation from their pastor and with the approval of the Conference's Urban Education Grant Committee. Money is made

available for these grants through the generous support of LMC churches.

**Web-Site: [www.lmcchurches.org](http://www.lmcchurches.org):** Access to the church directory, congregational openings, regular blog posts, conference announcements, and general information.

**Women's Education Grant:** A new scholarship program that supports training of women for ministry.

## MENNONITE WORLD FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

The date for World Fellowship Sunday was set to commemorate the first known Anabaptist rebaptisms in Zurich Switzerland, January 21, 1525. However, LMC staff is suggesting we commemorate the day as a fellowship of churches on July 19, 2020, or whatever date works for your congregation.

Here are three suggested options for participation:

- ▶ Congregational pulpit announcement, bulletin notice, and special offering to MWC (identify the offering to MWC as coming from an LMC congregation).
- ▶ Portion of service—10-15 minutes—to highlight the Global Anabaptist Church. The focus for 2019 is the United States and Can-ada. Special offering to MWC (identify the offering to MWC as coming from an LMC congregation).
- ▶ Special service using the worship resources provided by MWC and developed by leaders in the United States and Canada. Spe-cial offering to MWC (identify the offering to MWC as coming from an LMC congregation).

Pastors are asked to facilitate this commemoration in order to build the new relational connection with MWC. The financial support will help LMC meet the funding commitment to MWC as a requirement for our membership.

The LMC office forwarded a package of materials to pastors and bishops earlier this year. Worship planners and worship teams should ask for that packet or request another from the LMC office.

## CREDENTIALING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

**Bernardo Rodriguez** (Linda) was ordained as co-pastor at Iglesia Cristiana Valle de Jesús.

**Brandon Dasilva** was licensed for specific ministry as pastor of student ministries at Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community.

**Carlos Saravia** (Emelva) was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Evangelical Garifuna Church de Houston.

**Edward Sharpe** was ordained as lead pastor at Rock Hill Mennonite Church.

**Jane E. Good** (Travis) was licensed for specific ministry in Christian counseling at Alive Church Ephrata.

**Lew Wagner** (Jean) was ordained as lead pastor at Erb Mennonite Church.

**Linda Rodriguez** (Bernardo) was ordained as co-pastor at Iglesia Cristiana Valle de Jesús.

**Matthew Cordella-Bontrager** (Rachel) was ordained for a pastoral role as a missionary to Kosovo.

**Michael Deckman** (Lori) was installed as Pastor at WayLife Community.

**Richard Rutter** (Jean) was ordained as pastor at Crossroads Mennonite Church.

**Scot Wilson** (Sharon) was ordained as Lead Pastor at Michigan Avenue Mennonite Church. 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 Men-nonite 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.

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

**Joshua Jefferson** (Monica) was ordination 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/Middletown Indiana.



## Save the date for next year

**March 19-20, 2021 Petra Church**

Event costs will be announced soon.



## Special advance notice for 2022

**Celebration of Church Life 2022:** 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. Event costs will be announced soon.



# LMC

*a fellowship of anabaptist churches*

2160 Lincoln Highway East, #5  
Lancaster, PA 17602  
717-293-5246 | 800-216-7249

**[lmcchurches.org](http://lmcchurches.org)**