



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches*

# Shalom NEWS

JANUARY – MARCH 2021



## 'A Spirit-Led Movement'

*Shaping LMC mission and identity*





## TRAINING in ministry



### Winter Classes: January 4–March 12

- ▶ **Leader Self-Care** facilitates a healthy ministry by setting and maintaining boundaries, working with a Pastor Congregation Relations Committee, creating a ministry/family balance, and other activities.
- ▶ **Caring for the Congregation** helps leaders develop fundamental skills of caring for people who are hurt and/or seeking guidance through life stages.

### Spring Classes: March 22–May 28

- ▶ **Spiritual Formation** deepens and enriches a student's walk with God by training, teaching and practicing the spiritual disciplines.
- ▶ **Congregational Gift Development** enables congregational leaders to develop lay leadership through teaching, modeling, and feedback.

To learn more and register, visit [rosedale.edu/tim](https://rosedale.edu/tim)



January – March 2021

Issue 1 / Volume 41

L. Keith Weaver, Moderator

#### Shalom News Team

Sherri Martin, Managing Editor

Brinton L. Rutherford, Contributing Editor

Magazine design by Yoder Design Co.

*Shalom News* is published quarterly by LMC.

2160 Lincoln Highway E. #5

Lancaster, PA 17602

717-293-5246 / 800-216-7249

[www.LMCchurches.org](http://www.LMCchurches.org)

*Shalom News* (ISSN 0747-2706) is published by LMC, 2160 Lincoln Hwy E., Lancaster, PA 17602, quarterly for free distribution to all congregations in the Conference. Individual subscriptions are \$15 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Lancaster, PA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Shalom News*, LMC, 2160 Lincoln Hwy E., Lancaster, PA 17602.

© 2020 LMC, all rights reserved.

Questions or comments can be directed to [information@LMCchurches.org](mailto:information@LMCchurches.org)

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

#### ON THE COVER

Photo by Jon Tyson ([unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com))



Celebration of Church Life 2019 seminar. Photos by Jonathan Charles.

Below: Karen youth from Habecker Mennonite Church.

# A Spirit-led Movement

BY KEITH WEAVER

**I**n 2019 at our Celebration of Church Life, I led a workshop where I described the growing geographic footprint of LMC. Someone asked the question, “Keith, are we an area conference or is LMC a denomination or are we a fellowship of churches?” After fumbling around and not really answering the question, Richard Showalter, who was in the audience, helped me out when he said, “I think LMC is a movement following the Spirit in mission.”

I found this word “movement” an interesting choice of words, and I have thought about often since that day. Movement implies change. It implies advocacy for change that is redemptive and transformative. This word “movement” seems like a good word to describe our fellowship of churches.

The essential qualifier in the LMC mission statement, however, is the phrase, “Spirit-led.” Our Dwelling in the Word text this year is Acts chapter 1 and that text makes it abundantly clear that to be engaged in God’s mission requires the infilling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1: 4-5 reads:

**While staying with them, Jesus ordered them, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father. ‘This,’ He said, ‘is what you have heard from me, for John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”**

And then in verse eight:

**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

Our Dwelling in the Word text last year was Romans 8, which talks extensively about the role of Spirit in the life of the believer. Verse 9 and following says:

**“But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal body through His Spirit that dwells in you.”**







So, I think we can say that if we belong to Christ, then we have the Spirit within us, and we have all the resources we need to engage in the mission of God.

I believe this phrase, “a Spirit-led movement,” is both descriptive of LMC and an aspiration. It will always be an aspiration in the sense that we “see through a glass darkly” and follow Jesus as we are able. But the LMC narrative of mission over the centuries tells a story of congregations engaged in the mission of God. That story is not over yet.

For example, I see the Spirit of God at work in the many creative adaptations that have been made in congregations through the whole corona virus experience. Congregations are very much engaged in the caring and outreach ministries of the church, right through this experience. I see the Spirit of God at work in the generosity of God’s people as they contributed \$130,000 to the LMC corona virus relief fund. I see the Spirit of God at work in congregations and leaders who are working at racial reconciliation. I see the Spirit at work as congregations start new churches that have taken a variety of new forms.

In an effort to keep pace with the activity of the Spirit, LMC leaders work at renewing governing structures. We pursue mis-

**I believe this phrase,  
“a Spirit-led movement,”  
is both descriptive of LMC  
and an aspiration.**

sional engagement through fostering congregational church planting. We are seeking racial reconciliation. In the last weeks and months, all of these initiatives have converged so that the governance and structure task force is rolling them all into a single plan for the future of LMC.

I think this is evidence of the Spirit of God at work all across our conference.

The EMM and LMC collaboration discussions over the last 9–10 months as LMC and EMM are equally encouraging. With Marvin Lorenzana taking over as EMM President, LMC leaders expect significant collaboration in the mission of God. I believe the grace of the Spirit is at work within LMC.

But there are a few sobering indications that this phrase, “a Spirit-led movement” is less descriptive than I like to acknowledge. I understand some of the political polarization I see in the society around the church. I think, however, that when that same polarization takes concrete form in the church, it shows we have lost something.

I have heard brothers and sisters in the church say that if someone votes one way, they are betraying the peace and justice of God. Others said that if you vote the other way, then



you can't possibly be a Christian. In fact, several weeks ago, a well-meaning brother, in all sincerity, told me that he is not sure their congregation can be faithful until those other people leave the church. How did political ideologies begin to define our commitments to the kingdom of Jesus Christ? To the extent that socio-cultural norms define the church, then I'm afraid that we have the form of godliness but are denying its power. I would go so far as to say that the degree of polarization in the church today is a denial of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2 makes it very clear about the truth of who we are in Christ. Ephesians 2:13 and following says:

***"But now, in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace. In His flesh, He has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commands and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body, through the cross, thus putting to death the hostility through it. So He came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who are near. For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."***

This beautiful text describes our place in Christ and his reconciling work. We are called to be, and we can be, a healthy vibrant church as we live into the fullness of the power of the Spirit that is in fact within us. I pray that this new mis-

sion statement can be encouraging for all of us to aspire to flow in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, nurturing a sensitivity to where the Holy Spirit is moving, and following the leading of the Spirit into mission.

Practical ways to nurture a greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit include spending more time in God's Word, reducing our time in social media, encouraging the spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting and confession. Leaders can and must find intentional ways of discipling people toward fullness in Christ and into the kingdom of Light, being transformed by the renewing of our minds and conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. ■

*Keith Weaver serves as Conference Moderator for LMC to provide directional spiritual oversight and promote a missional vision. His vision is to see LMC become a fellowship of congregations fully engaged in the mission of God and multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ and new faith communities.*



Taking a break at 2019 Spring Leadership Assembly. Photo by Jonathan Charles.

## LMC's Mission Statement

A Spirit-led movement to:

- Make disciples of Jesus.
- Mobilize every member as a missionary.
- Multiply faith communities locally and abroad!

## በመንፈስ የሚመራ እንቅስቃሴ

ኤል ኤም ሲን በመንፈስ ቅዱስ ተልዕኮ የሚመራ እንቅስቃሴ በማለት እገልጸዋለሁ እንቅስቃሴ የሚለው ቃል ምርጫ መልካም ትኩረትን የሚሰጥ ነው። እንቅስቃሴ ለውጥን በውስጡ አቅፏል። በሎም ድንታዊና ፍጹም ለሚቀይር ለውጥ ተሟጋችነትን በውስጡ ያዘለ ነው። ስለሆነም እንቅስቃሴ የተሰኘው ቃል የአብያተ ክርስቲያኖቻችንን ህብረት የሚገልፅ መልካም ቃል ይመስላል።

“በመንፈስ የተመራ” የሚለው በኤል ኤም ሲ ተልዕኮ ውስጥ የተካተተው ሐረግ አንድ ዋና የሆነ መግለጫ ያስጨበጣል። በሐዋርያት ስራ 1:4-5 እንደተጠቀመው የእግዚአብሔር ተልዕኮ የመንፈስ ቅዱስን ሙላትና ሃይል ይጠይቃል።

ይህ “በመንፈስ የሚመራ እንቅስቃሴ” የሚለው ረግ በአንድ ጎኑ ኤል ኤም ሲን የሚገልፅ ሲሆን በሌላ ጎኑ ደግሞ ጉጉትን ይገልጻል። ዛሬ በመስታወት በድንግዝግዝ ስለምናይ” እና ጌታን የምንከተለው በቻልነው መጠን በመሆኑ ይህ ጉዳይ ሁሉም ጉጉት እንደሆነ ይቀጥላል። ሆኖም በምዕተ ዐመታት የታየው የኤል ኤም ሲ ታሪክ የሚያስገነዝበው አብያተ ክርስቲያናት ሁሉም በእግዚአብሔር ተልዕኮ ላይ መጠመዳቸውን ነው።

በኮሮናቫይረስ ሳቢያ በተፈጠረው ክስተት ውስጥ የእግዚአብሔር መንፈስ በስራ ላይ እንደሆነና አብያተ ክርስቲያናትም በአዳዲስ ዘዴዎች ስራቸውን እንደሚሰሩ እመለከታለሁ። የእግዚአብሔር ህዝብ በቸርነት ተነሳሰቶ በወረርሽኝ ሳቢያ ለተቋቋመው የእርዳታ መዋጮ ገንዘብ የበኩሉን ሲያዋጣና የእግዚአብሔርም

መንፈስ በዚህ መንገድ ሲሰራ እያየሁ ነው። በአብያተ ክርስቲያናትና በመሪዎች በኩል የዘር እርቅን ለማምጣት የእግዚአብሔር መንፈስ በስራ ላይ እንዳለ እየተገነዘብሁ ነው እንዲሁም በኢ ኤም ኤምና በኤል ኤም ሲ መካከል ባለፉት ከዘጠኝ አስከ አስር ወራት የነበረው የጣምራ ስራና ውይይቶች የሚያደፋፍሩ ናቸው።

ሆኖም ይህን “በመንፈስ የሚመራ እንቅስቃሴ” የሚያደርገዝና በኤል ኤም ሲ ዙሪያ ያሉ ፤አኔ ከምመኘው በታች ገላጭ የሆኑ አሉታዊ ምልክቶችም አሉ። በህብረተሰብ ውስጥ ያለው የፓለቲካ ፅንፈኛነት ወደ ቤተ ክርስቲያን ዘልቆ ሲገባ ይታያል። ይህ ፅንፈኛነት በቤተ ክርስቲያን ውስጥ ማን እንዳለ በሚገልጥበት መጠን፤ የአምልኮ መልክ እንዳለንና ይሉን ግን እንደካድን ይሰማኛል። ዛሬ በቤተ ክርስቲያን ውስጥ ያለው ፅንፈኛነት የየሱስ ክርስቶስን ወንጌል መካድ ነው።

ይህ አዲስ የተልዕኮ መግለጫ በመንፈስ ቅዱስ ሙላት እንድመላለስ፤ የእርሱን እንቅስቃሴ በማዳመጥና ይህንንም ችሎታ በማዳበር ፈለጉንም በመከተል ተልዕኮውን መተግበር እንዲሆንልን ፀሎቴ ነው።

በመንፈስ በመራመድ ዕለት ተዕለት ተግባራዊ ሊሆኑ የሚችሉ ነገሮች፤ በቂ ጊዜ በእግዚአብሔር ዙሪያ ማሳለፍ፤ በሰሻል ሚዲያ ላይ የምናሳልፈውን ጊዜ መቀነስ፤ እንደ ያም፤ ፀሎትና ኑዛዜ በመሳሰሉ መንፈሳዊ ልምዶች መጠመድ ያለት ናቸው። መሪዎች ሆነ ብለው ምዕመኑ ወደ ክርስቶስ ሙላት እንዲደርስ በደቀ መዝሙርነት ሊያሳድጉት ይገባል። ■

## Harakati inayoongozwa na Roho Mtakatifu

Napenda kueleza LMC kama ni harakati za kumfuata Roho katika kutumwa. Ni kwa kusudi tunaposema ni harakati. Lengo la harakati ni mabadiliko yanayokomboa na kubadilisha hali na nia. Hivyo ushirika wetu wa makanisa ni harakati.

Maneno “kuongozwa na Roho” yanavyoandikwa katika kauli ya makusudi ya LMC ni ya maana, jinsi ilivyo katika Matendo ya Mitume 1:4-5, kwamba kazi ya Mungu hutegemea hali ya kujazwa na kuwezesha na Roho Mtakatifu.

Ninaamini kwamba maneno haya “harakati inayoongozwa na Roho” yanaeleza hali ya LMC pia ni matarajio yake. Maneno hayo yatakuwa matarajio kwa sababu sisi wadamu “tunaona kwa kioo kwa jinsi ya fumbo” na tunatarajia kumfuata Yesu kadiri tuwezavyo. Hata hivyo, historia ya LMC hueleza habari za makanisa waliyofanya jinsi walivyotumwa na Mungu.

Ninaona kazi za Roho wa Mungu kati ya makanisa jinsi yalivyofanya mabadiliko kufuatana na coronavirus. Naona Roho akifanya katika ukarimu wa watu wa Mungu walivyotoa sadaka zao kwa mfuko wa LMC kwa ajili ya misaada ya coronavirus. Ninaona Roho akifanya katika makanisa na viongozi wanaotafuta upatanisho wa rangi. Naona Roho akifanya katika uinjilisti wa makanisa na wanapoanzisha mashirika mapya.

Na pia majadiliano ya kuimarisha ushirikiano kati ya EMM na LMC katika miezi 9-10 iliyopita yanatia moyo.

Lakini kuna dalili kadhaa za kutisha katika LMC ambayo inafanya maneno “harakati inayoongozwa na Roho” kupunguzwa maana. Ninaona utengano na ubaguzi wa kisiasa zilizo katika jamii zimefikia kanisa. Kwa kiwango ambacho ubaguzi kama huo hufafanua ni nani aliye kanisani, basi ninaogopa kuwa tuna sura ya utauwa lakini tunakataa nguvu zake. Ubaguzi wa kisiasa kanisani leo ni kukataa injili ya Yesu Kristo.

Sala yangu ni kwamba kauli ya makusudi hiyo mpya itatutia moyo kutamani kuenenda katika utimilifu wa Roho Mtakatifu, kuimarisha uwezo wetu wa kutambua hapo Roho Mtakatifu anapofanya, na kumfuata Roho anavyotuongoza na anapotutuma.

Hivyo tunashirikiana na Roho kwa kushinda wakati mwingi katika Neno la Mungu, kupunguza wakati wetu kwenye mitandao ya kijamii, na kuhamasisha nidhamu za kiroho kama sala, kufunga na kukiri. Viongozi wana uwezo na lazima watafute njia za kuwafundisha watu kuelekea utimilifu katika Kristo. ■



# Excessive Happiness

BY STEVE SHANK

When I graduated from college in my early twenties, I was not really following Jesus. I knew about Jesus, but I wasn't on fire for God until I connected with a group of believers that challenged and changed my life. There I met Jesus as a real person, and I was filled with the Holy Spirit. For me everything changed. I caught the revelation that Jesus loves me, Steve Shank. All the old things passed away. I needed the filling of the Holy Spirit. We all need the Holy Spirit. We don't necessarily need more teaching, but we do need transformation. We need a revelation of Jesus such that we just can't help but share the good news.

One of the leaders of the church asked if I would go on a lay-witness mission. For me this involved going to other churches to work with the youth groups. So I did. I did not know what to do. All I knew was Jesus. The youth would gather in a room, and I would tell them about Jesus. I would put a chair in the middle of the room. With one person at a time in the chair the kids would gather around and pray for

one another. What happened is that Jesus showed up! These youth started weeping, confessing, and repenting. Their lives changed. Not because of me, but because of Jesus. The parents waited outside the door for their youth. This went on for weeks as we went to different churches.

After a couple months of this, the deacon at the church came to me with tears in his eyes and told me that I wouldn't be able to go anymore. I asked if I had done something wrong. He said there was just too much happening among the youth, and by the way, the senior pastor wanted to talk to me. I thought maybe that was a good sign that the senior pastor wanted to talk to me. I went to his office with expectancy. The senior pastor told me there was something wrong

with me. Confused, I asked what was wrong. He said "you have excessive happiness."

Well, you see, when you get the revelation of Jesus, you get the revelation of the joy of salvation. We are messengers. We are on a mission, whether that mission is across the street, at the grocery store, or around the world. We have a message. That message is, "Jesus Christ changed my life." He can change your life. We need that kind of revelation of Jesus. I pray, "Holy Spirit fill us anew with your revelation power of Jesus. Fill us with your power to be a witness." Those who catch that kind of revelation cannot help but tell others about Jesus. They too will suffer from excessive happiness. ■

Steve Shank serves as Mission Team Coach at EMM, everyone moving in mission. He loves connecting with EMM's national partners and missionaries as they fulfill the apostolic call to make disciples of all nations.



*I pray, "Holy Spirit fill us anew with your revelation power of Jesus. Fill us with your power to be a witness."*



እኔ እጸልያለሁ ፣ “መንፈስ ቅዱስ በኢየሱስ ራዕይ ኃይልዎ እንደገና በኦዲስ ይሞላን ። ምስክር እንድንሆን በኃይልህ ሙላን ። ”

*Ninaomba, "Roho Mtakatifu tujaze upya na ufunuo wako nguvu ya Yesu. Tujaze nguvu zako kuwa shahidi."*

# ONE MISSION, FOR MANY LANGUAGES

- A Spirit-led movement to:**
- **Make disciples of Jesus.**
  - **Mobilize every member as**
  - **Multiply faith communities**

## Amharic Translation

በመንፈስ የሚመራ እንቅስቃሴ ሆኖ፦

- ለእየሱስ ክርስቶስ ደቀመዛሙርትን የሚያፈራ ፡
  - እያንዳንዱን አባል እንደ ሚሲዮናዊ አዘጋጅቶ የሚያስማራ ፡
  - የእምነትን ሕብረተሰብ በቅርብም በሩቅም የሚያበዛ ፡
- ነው።።

## THE MOVE OF GOD IN BALTIMORE

BY EECB ELDERS

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Baltimore is located in Baltimore, Maryland. Believers from Ethiopia and Eritrea gather together in fellowship. We are affiliated with Meserete Kristos Church. Our worship is conducted in Amharic, the national language of Ethiopia. The church started in 1991 when a few believers met and formed a Bible study group. Later the Lord grew the group, and they started to have church services on Sunday afternoons. Soon after that it became affiliated with LMC. In 1998 the church became incorporated, and in 2004 it acquired its own building and facilities.

Community outreach is three-fold. First, our local evangelism team takes the message of the gospel to Ethiopians and Eritreans who live in the Baltimore Metro area through street and door-to-door ministry. Second, our youth group is growing into an English-speaking church with its own mission to reach English speaking communities. This is our plan, and we believe "...with God all things are possible" (Mathew 19: 26). Third, we have a mission outreach in Ethiopia and are supporting gospel workers in rural areas. We believe that work will soon grow into a church planting movement.

These strategies are our approach to implement the Great Commission. Our overall approach is to encourage every believer to be an effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

## THE AMHARIC LANGUAGE

Amharic is the official language of Ethiopia. It is one of the many Semitic languages, which includes Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabic. It is the second-most common Semitic language in the world. Amharic is also spoken in Eritrea and Egypt. More than 9 million people speak the language in Africa, the middle East and among immigrant populations around the world. It has a unique alphabet.



Top: Meserete Kristos Church leaders share their growth plan. Photo by Carl Horning.

Bottom: Worship at the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Baltimore. Photo provided by EECB Elders.



**a missionary.  
locally and abroad!**

## Swahili Translation

*Harakati inayoongozwa na Roho Mtakatifu:*

- *kuwateka wafuasi wa Yesu.*
- *kuhamasisha kila mjumbe kama mmishonari.*
- *kuzidisha jamii za imani katika jimbo letu na nje!*

### SWAHILI AT STUMPTOWN

BY KEITH NYCE

"Come join us for dinner," my friend said in broken English. Sitting down for dinner and having a basic understanding of the language can be interesting. You certainly have a nice evening, but at the end of the night, you wonder what exactly happened. At Stumptown Mennonite Church, God has blessed us by experiencing many cultures with about 6 different countries of origin in the congregation. "Pastor," one of our International men said, "we dream of a service in Swahili here at Stumptown." Believing this was God calling, we began an additional service led by Internationals for Internationals on November 1, 2020.

Currently, the service is in Swahili and translated into English. We are already seeing people find deeper, meaningful worship experiences as they can hear in a language they fully understand and worship in styles that they enjoy. While this is still a new experience for us, we are working hard to move as one church, not two, as an extension of the mission and vision of Stumptown. Sometimes cultures clash, but we can learn from each other. There is much work to be done, but the service provides an opportunity to raise up new leaders. Mumbo Sawa Sawa Yesu akiwa enzini ... things are already better when Jesus is on the throne. We are honored and humbled that we have the chance to advance the Kingdom of God in this way.

Learn more at [www.stumptown.church](http://www.stumptown.church).

### THE SWAHILI LANGUAGE

Swahili, also known as Kiswahi, is a common language across large portions of East and South Africa. It is estimated to be spoken by more than 100 million people. The language originates from a Bantu tribal language and also incorporates some Arabic influences. It is the official language of several African countries. Written Swahili uses the Roman alphabet.



Preaching (top) and worship (bottom) at Stumptown Swahili service. Photos provided by the author.

# 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).*

## CENTRAL AMERICA HURRICANES

Two powerful hurricanes crashed into Nicaragua and Honduras in recent months. The Garifuna-occupied areas of the country took the storm head on. Anyone wishing to make a donation to aid LMC congregations in Central America should send a check to the LMC Deacon's Fund designated for Hurricane Relief. Your aid is appreciated.

## CUBA CHURCHES

The LMC Board of Bishops accepted the request of six Cuban Mennonite congregations to join the LMC fellowship of Anabaptist Churches. These congregations will be formally welcomed at the March Celebration of Church Life.



## EMM UPDATES

Marvin Lorenzana has been named the new President of EMM and will begin his role in February. EMM staff have begun their move to the new office space at 450 N. Prince St. EMM board and the LMC Conference

Executive Council are also in discussion for the possible relocation of LMC staff to 450 N. Prince Street location.

## GARIFUNA IN HONDURAS

In collaboration with MCC, LMC sent a letter to the US State Department about endangered land rights of the Garifuna people in Triunfo de la Cruz, Honduras. LMC has six Garifuna churches in its fellowship. The letter is posted at [lmcchurches.org/statement-honduras](http://lmcchurches.org/statement-honduras).

## ILLUMIN8

The Young Adult gathering at Mellinger Mennonite Church meets every first Thursday of the month. Enjoy fellowship, teaching, music, and food. Livestream at [linktr.ee/Illumin8](https://linktr.ee/Illumin8). Check the Instagram page at [instagram.com/illumin8mmc](https://instagram.com/illumin8mmc). Covid-19 precautions are in place.



## LMC SPRING CLASSES

William Higgins will offer Love Your Enemies, a six-session study on Matthew 5:43–48, on Thursday evenings from 6:30–8:00. For more information or to register for connect with William at [whiggins@lmcchurches.org](mailto:whiggins@lmcchurches.org). Brinton Rutherford will be offering a Church History class, Reformation to the 20th century beginning on March 4 for 10 Thursday evenings from 6:30–8:00 pm. Cost is \$30. Register here: [lmcchurches.org/donate/](http://lmcchurches.org/donate/).



**Anabaptist  
World Fellowship  
Sunday**

## MWC WORLD FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Each year, Anabaptist-related churches around the world are encouraged to worship around a common theme. On that date in 1525, the first Anabaptist baptism took place in Zurich, Switzerland. In 2021 that day will be January 24. Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday provides an opportunity to remember our common roots and celebrate our

worldwide koinonia. Planning packets prepared by the Mennonite churches in Asia were sent to your bishops in November, or you can download the packet in several languages at: [mwc-cmm.org/resources/anabaptist-world-fellowship-sunday-2021](http://mwc-cmm.org/resources/anabaptist-world-fellowship-sunday-2021).



## EMM CHRISTIAN MUSLIM RELATIONS TEAM

The EMM Christian Muslim Relations Team resources can now be accessed at: [emm.org/resources/christian-muslim-relations-team](http://emm.org/resources/christian-muslim-relations-team). Select the CMRT Resources tab.

## OMAR GUZMAN

LMC Garifuna church leader Omar Guzman had his meeting with the Embassy in Honduras in November. Based on the report from that meeting, his visa to return to the USA will be reinstated in the near future. The Guzman family is thankful for the many prayers on behalf of his immigration difficulties.



# NEWS NOTES

## CREDENTIAL ACTIVITY

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

**Joshua Buser** (*Elizabeth*) was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at East Petersburg Mennonite Church in East Petersburg, PA.

**Dale Zimmerman** (*Jill*) was licensed toward ordination as pastor of life ministries at Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community, East Earl, PA.

**Dawit Dange** (*Elizabeth*) ordination credential was transferred from MKC as a church planter at Heavenly Sunshine, Silver Spring, MD.

**Beza Marna** (*Yetnayet*) ordination credential was transferred from MKC as church planter at Christ Peace Church, Alexandria, VA.

**Eric Marshall** (*Cheryl*), **Brian Martin** (*Shirley*), and **James Weick** (*Alison*) were installed as bishops of the Bowmansville/Reading district, Weaverland/NE district, and the Hammercreek congregation.

**Brian Stauffer** was ordained as associate pastor at Green Terrace Mennonite Church, Wernersville, PA.

**Joshua & Raquel Rivera** were ordained as co-lead pastors at Bethlehem Community Fellowship, Bethlehem, PA.

**Robert M. Weatherholtz** (*Beth*) was licensed for specific ministry as a pastor or addiction recovery and discipleship at Carpenter Community Church, Talmage, PA.

**Derek Thompson** (*Alisia*) was ordained as ministry coordinator at West End Mennonite Fellowship, Lancaster, PA.

**Reginaldo Hill** (*Celia*) was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Ministerios Peniel Internacional, Ephrata, PA.

**Celia Hill** (*Reginaldo*) was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at Ministerios Peniel Internacional, Ephrata, PA.

**Marvin Lorenzana** (*Mariana*) ordination credential was affirmed for service as President-elect of EMM.

**Jay Reiff** (*Amanda*) and **Jonathan Martin** (*Lisa*) were ordained as associate pastors at Martindale Mennonite Church, Martindale, PA.

**Jerry Hurst** (*Joanna*) was ordained as deacon at Martindale Mennonite Church, Martindale, PA.

## CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

LMC has distributed \$142,439.00 to date. Applications are still being accepted from congregations in need.

## STEP GRADUATION

The postponed graduation for the 2020 STEP class took place on October 10 at Slate Hill Mennonite Church. Ten students received their LMC certificates of completion. Graduates were David Buch, Jeremy Chubb, Debra Gates, Stephen Jaynes, Jonathon Martin, Mert Maust, Robert Sacks (not pictured), David Torres (not pictured), Dan White, and Micah Zeiset.



## AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

African American credentialed leaders are meeting as a group and interacting with bishops, staff and the Governance and Structure task force around discussions of racism and intercultural competency. LMC bishops are currently engaged in taking the Intercultural Development Inventory and developing their personal action plans to increase their cultural competency.

## LMC LEGACY FOUNDATION GRANTS

The LMC Legacy Foundation in its most recent cycle awarded two grants.



► **Jordon Kauffman, New Person Ministries**, received a \$25,000 grant for "Pursuing Mental Wellness." The initiative seeks to spearhead mental health wellness training within the context of the church via the evidenced-based curriculum, Wellness Recovery Action Plan®.

► **Stephanie Winkeljohn Black, Penn State Harrisburg**, received \$38,903 for aiding the mental and spiritual health of church-based volunteers who work with refugee populations in Cumberland and Dauphin counties.

A new grant cycle is accepting applications through June 30, 2021. Visit [lmc-legacyfoundation.org](https://lmc-legacyfoundation.org) for more information.

## CELEBRATION OF CHURCH LIFE

Celebration of Church Life 2021 will take place on March 20, 2021. It will be a half day event and completely virtual event because of Covid-19. In addition, the Spring Leadership Assembly, which is typically the day before Celebration of Church Life is postponed until later in 2021, date and place to be announced. Check the LMC website for more details.

# 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 – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

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 Spring Leadership Assembly 2021

Date TBD – details to follow

(will be held on a different date than CCL)

## Women's Prayer Gathering

Every first Friday of each month

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

LMC office, Lancaster, Pa.

717-293-5246

## Celebration of Church Life 2021

March 20, 2021

Virtual Celebration - via Zoom only

(will NOT be held at Petra Church)

**Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society**  
**Winter Workshop**  
**Paint a fraktur and create a grain-painted frame.**



Learn more about the online workshop at [bit.ly/FrakturFrame](https://bit.ly/FrakturFrame) or call 717.393.9745.

Introducing EMM's ninth president  
**Dr. Marvin Lorenzana**

Learn more at [EMM.ORG/PRESIDENT](https://EMM.ORG/PRESIDENT)



**EMM**  
everyone moving in mission

**Call for a personal tour!**

**Landis Homes**  
*Enriching Lives, Together*



1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz  
[LandisHomes.org](http://LandisHomes.org) • 717.581.3935

 

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**CELEBRATION OF CHURCH LIFE**  
**March 20, 2021**  
**Virtual Only!**

This virtual event includes a plenary speaker, adult breakout seminars, and a pre-recorded puppet show for children.

 **LMC**  
a fellowship of anabaptist churches

For more information, go to [lmchurches.org/celebration-church-life/](https://lmchurches.org/celebration-church-life/)



## LMC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Church History for Anyone – Part 2

Reformation to Modern Church. The registration fee goes to the STEP Study Award. Google Classroom and Zoom will deliver the course to students. Begins March 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Brinton Rutherford at [brutherford@lmchurches.org](mailto:brutherford@lmchurches.org).

### Love your Enemies

What does Jesus mean? This class will look at Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:43-48 on loving enemies. Six sessions on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 starting March 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be available in-person and via Zoom. Questions? Contact William Higgins [whiggins@lmchurches.org](mailto:whiggins@lmchurches.org).

### STEP

Study and Training for Effective Pastoral Ministry teaches the basics of congregational ministry leadership for pastors, those exploring a call, and other leaders at a first-year college-level. For more information about STEP 2021–2022 contact Marcia Mylin at [mmylin@lmchurches.org](mailto:mmylin@lmchurches.org).