



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches*

Shalom NEWS

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2021



**'Multiply Faith Communities
Locally and Beyond!'**

Pandemic Preaching

Sermons and Lessons from LMC Leaders



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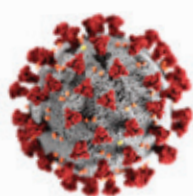
ON THE COVER

Main photo: *Revive* church prepares bags for students in Annapolis Md. Photo provided by Caleb and Melissa Kaye.

Small photo: Pastor Deepak Rai performs a baptism at the Bhutanese Nepali Church of Lancaster. Photo by Dale D. Gehman.

Pandemic Preaching

Sermons and Lessons from LMC Leaders



Free E-book Resource

The COVID 19 pandemic has had a profound effect on churches throughout the world. This collection of materials from LMC leaders is a snapshot of responses written and preached during and after the shutdown – providing comfort to the distressed. The materials offer guidance to frame our mutual experience and wisdom for dealing with various conflicts. Our prayer is that you will be encouraged, challenged, and blessed as you read these selections.



Scan QR code to
access the online
resource

Predicaciones sobre la Pandemia

Sermones y Lecciones De los Líderes de LMC



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QR para acceder al
recurso en línea

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Melissa and Caleb speak in front of their church trailer at an outdoor gathering. Photos in this article dprovided by the authors.

Below: People at Revive's outdoor pop-up pantry.



New Wine

A new hybrid digital/physical church plant in Annapolis reaches out to their community during the pandemic

BY CALEB & MELISSA KAYE

Revive is a new church reaching out to the residents of Annapolis, Maryland with the hope of Jesus. Melissa, our five children and I share the vision of Revive as a safe place to develop authentic faith. We believe in collaboration and teamwork. Together we can do so much more than on our own! We believe that authentic faith is developed through creative gatherings for children and adults, shame-free conversations, and action-oriented community service where we live, work, and play! Revive wants to be known as *good news* in our community. We started Revive in a way that is consistent with the mission of LMC: to multiply faith communities locally and beyond.

A PLAN FOR ANNAPOLIS

The path to start a new church began in January 2020. We were building our team, planning to meet in a local school,

and planning to use a trailer to bring in the things we needed, and then setting up and tearing down each week. Then the pandemic began in March, and we pivoted, hoping this reality would soon pass. We began live-streaming to stay connected to the community and team. We jumped into serving with a local “pop-up pantry” to meet the needs of our community because of COVID-19. However, it soon became apparent that this new reality was here for longer than we expected. So, in the middle of a pandemic, when meeting in person on a Sunday morning did not feel safe to those we were reaching, we decided to launch on our originally planned date in September, but starting in a completely digital format.

REVIVE FAITH VISION

Revive vision seeks to live life connected to faith, to people, and to our community. Those things can be done both inside

and outside of a church building on a Sunday morning. But the question is, "How might we do that?" In addition to our "pop-up pantry" and our digital gatherings, we created a "Mobile Resource Center" that takes resources into communities that need them and also gathers resources from people who have extra. In these acts of giving and receiving, we are seeing the formation of a community with depth.

As we look at the life of Jesus here on earth, we see how tactile and tangible he was with regards to reaching out to those in need who were right around Him. We feel the expanding multiplication efforts of the church here in the West should focus on that kind of physical outreach. God is calling all of us to be missionaries in our backyards, grocery stores, and local pubs. The impetus for making those connections is deeply rooted in relationships. People are desperate to feel

In addition to our "pop-up pantry" and our digital gatherings, we created a "Mobile Resource Center" that takes resources into communities that need them and also gathers resources from people who have extra.

connected to something and to feel a sense of purpose. Our job as leaders in the church is to do all we can, as creatively as we can, to build spaces for community and with purpose in order to thrive.

We want to see every man, woman and child – no matter their background – experience a fulfilled and fruitful life with Jesus. We believe that this can happen with a well-guided localized strategy that is grass-rooted and Spirit-led. Our goal, as we live in this "Phygital" (digital and physical) reality, is to never lose sight of what we are called to do, which is to introduce people to the power of the gospel through Jesus



Above: Promotional materials for the launch of Revive in fall 2020.

Left: Streaming Revive worship from the Kaye home.

and to work with the Spirit of God in seeking restoration for the local community. Jeremiah 29:7 says, "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

MULTIPLY FAITH COMMUNITIES LOCALLY AND BEYOND!

We find that the definitions and qualifiers that often exist in the conventional, established church are not the same when working to create a multiplying faith community. At *Revive*, we spend much time using and teaching the word "faith." We believe that faith is the starting point for many people who have walked away from church communities but still retain space in their hearts for Jesus. *Revive* uses this openness to faith as a catalyst for people to explore where faith comes from and how we can connect that faith to the person of Jesus. Each person has a particular journey with faith. *Revive* seeks to create unique and compelling faith opportunities for people, knowing that in those moments, the Holy Spirit is faithful to reveal the life-changing good news of a life surrendered in faith to Jesus.

I am reminded of Matthew 14:33, where it says, "And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, 'You are certainly God's Son!'" These men were engaged with Jesus. But with this particular experience, they verbalized an understanding of Jesus as divine. As we meet online or in person at parks, pubs, and patios, we hope people will have those pinnacle faith experiences where they encounter Jesus and say, "You are certainly God's Son!"

This digital/physical hybrid may be a catalyst to the restoration of the "neighborhood church." We are striving to be a church that is looking at the distinct and detailed research of what individual neighborhoods need. While we learn and as we bring resources into local communities, we also look for "persons of peace" whom God has already placed in those neighborhoods. We then seek to train, equip, and resource them to become local neighborhood pastors who lead a micro-localized congregation (multiplication).

The days, weeks, months, and years ahead of us are exciting and unclear. We do not know what the final impact will be on the church after a pandemic. Yet, we are confident that the Holy Spirit will teach us how to live and lead differently in a future



Outdoor baby dedication at *Revive* during the height of Covid-19 in 2020.

In your context, culture, and traditions, how are you embracing "new wine," and what might your "new wine skin" look like?

that embraces a neighborhood church with multiplication. I believe we are all being offered "new wine," and we are each being asked a key question: "What will we do with that new wine?"

Mark 2:22 says, "And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

In your context, culture, and traditions, how are you embracing "new wine," and what might your "new wine skin" look like? If we are going to *multiply faith communities locally and beyond*, we must be willing to try new things, ask fresh questions and run in any direction we see the Spirit of God moving! Each journey will look different, which is precisely the beauty of a multiplying movement. ■

With their five children, Caleb and Melissa Kaye co-lead *Revive* in Annapolis MD.



नयाँ दाखमद्य

एनापोलिस मेरिल्याण्डको बासिन्दाको निम्ति जागृति ल्याउन मण्डलीमा येशुलाई घोषित गर्नु हो ।

मलिसा र हाम्रो पाँच नानीगरुलाई मैले जागृतिको दर्शनको बारेमा बताएको छ । हामीले यस जागृतिको सेवाकाईलाई हाम्रो स्थानीय ठाउमा र अन्य ठाउमा सेवाकाई वृद्धि गर्न शुरू गर्यौं ।

एनापोलिस विचारः

हामीले जेनवरी २०२० मा सेवाकाई शुरू गर्यौं । मार्चवाट शुरू भएको पेन्डामिकले गर्दा हाम्रो सेवाकाईहरूले अर्कै मोड लिएर अनलाइन सेवा गर्न पर्यौं । हामीले “लोकल पप-अप” (local pop-up) पेन्ट्री उपलब्ध गरायौं । मोबाईल रिसोर्स सेन्टर (mobile resource) शुरू गर्यौं, जहाँ आवश्यकता भएको मानिसहरूलाई सुविस्ता पुर्यायौं र प्रस्थित भएको मानिसहरू वाट सहायता भेला गर्यौं ।

विस्वासिय जागृती दर्शनः

येशुले पनि आवश्यक परेकाहरूलाई व्यवहारिक (hands-on) रूपले सेवाकाई पुर्याउनु भयो । त्यसरीने यस जागृती सेवाकाईले विश्वास, विश्वायोग्य मानिस, र समाजलाई जोड्दछ । यो अनलाइन सेवाकाई वा प्रत्यक्ष भेटेर गर्ने सेवाकाईले हाम्रो “छिमेकी मण्डलीहरू” फेरि पुणर्स्थापन गर्नसक्छ । एनापोलिसमा रहेका हरेक जनाले येशुमा प्रसस्त जीवनको अनुभव गरेको हामी चाहन्छौ ।

यर्मिया २९:१७ “मैले तिमीहरूलाई निर्वासित गरेको सहरको भलो चिन्ताओ, र त्यसको निम्ति परमप्रभुसित प्रार्थना गर किनभने त्यसको उन्नति भएकोमानै तिमीहरूको उन्नति हुनेछ।”

विश्वायोग्य समाजहरूको वृद्धिः

हामीले शान्त मन भएको मानिसहरूको खोजी गर्यौं जसलाई परमेश्वरले हाम्रो छिमेकी बोलाउनु भएको छ । उनीहरूलाई स्थानीय पास्टर हुन सिकायौं र सिक्ने सामाग्रीहरू उपलब्ध गरायौं । यस्तै परिकारले हामीले सेवाकाईलाई वृद्धि भयौं । भविष्य आनन्दित छ र अनिश्चित छ । हामीलाई थाहा छैन अब मण्डलीहरूमा पेन्डामीकको कस्तो प्रभाव पर्नेछ भनेर । तर हामीलाई विश्वस्त छ कि पवित्र आत्माको नै भविष्यमा हुने जागृति देखाउनु हुनेछ । हामी सबैलाई नयाँ दाखरस दिएको छ । मर्कुस २:२२ “अनि कसैले नयाँ दाखमद्य पुरानो छालाको मशकमा हाल्दैन, नत्रता त्यस दाखमद्यले छालाका मशकहरू फुटाइदिन्छ, र दाखमद्य र मशकपनि नष्ट हुन्छन्।

तर नयाँ दाखमद्यचाहिँ नयाँ भाँडामा हालिन्छ।”

Rượu Mới

Phục Hưng là lời công bố mới của một hội thánh về Chúa Giê-xu cho những người dân ở Annapolis, Maryland. Melissa, năm đứa con của chúng tôi, và tôi cùng có chung khái tượng Phục Hưng. Chúng tôi bắt đầu Phục Hưng với một sứ mệnh là tăng theo cấp số nhân cho các cộng đồng những người tin Chúa tại địa phương cũng như ở các nơi xa!

Chương Trình Annapolis

Chúng tôi đã bắt đầu từ tháng Giêng 2020. Bệnh dịch thế giới vào tháng Ba bắt buộc chúng tôi phải hướng về các buổi họp trên mạng và buổi họp có-mặt. Chúng tôi cung cấp một cái “lều cấp tốc phát thức ăn” địa phương. Chúng tôi cũng thành lập một “Trung Tâm Cung Cấp Lưu Động” để mang những nhu phẩm đến những nơi có cần và thu những vật đó từ nơi người ta có dư.

Khái Tượng Phục Hưng Đức Tin.

Chúa Giê-xu đã ban cho những người có nhu cầu qua sự trao cho “bằng chính tay” Ngài. Tương tự như vậy, Phục Hưng tìm cách để nối kết niềm tin, người và cộng đồng. Một hệ thống nữa nẩy nĩa kia kết hợp cả hai phương pháp dùng kỹ thuật số và thể chất vật lý có thể phục hồi lại “nhà thờ địa phương”. Chúng tôi muốn mỗi người tại Annapolis kinh nghiệm được cuộc sống sung mãn với Chúa Giê-xu. Giê-rê-mi 29:7 nói: “Hãy tìm sự hòa bình và sự trù phú cho thành phố mà nơi Ta đem các ngươi tới. Hãy cầu nguyện với Chúa cho thành phố đó, vì nó được dư dật, thì các ngươi cũng được dư dật.”

Tăng Theo Cấp Số Nhân Các Cộng Đồng Địa Phương Và Các Nơi Xa!

Chúng tôi tìm “các người của sự bình an” là những người Chúa đã đặt trong các khu xóm giềng. Chúng tôi huấn luyện, trang bị, và cung cấp cho họ để họ trở thành những mục sư địa phương. Đây là cách chúng tôi phát triển.

Tương lai rất là hào hứng và không rõ ràng. Chúng tôi không biết kết quả cuối cùng của hội thánh sau trận dịch quốc tế. Nhưng mà chúng tôi biết chắc Đức Thánh Linh sẽ hướng dẫn cho chúng tôi trong một tương lai có sự tăng trưởng cấp nhân. Chúng tôi đang được ban cho “rượu mới”.

Mác 2:22 chép, “Cũng không ai chế rượu mới vào các bầu da cũ; nếu vậy, rượu làm vỡ bầu, rượu mất và bầu cũng chẳng còn. Không, họ chế rượu mới vào các bầu mới”.

“Các bầu da rượu mới” của bạn giống như thế nào? Nếu chúng ta muốn tăng cấp số nhân các cộng đồng đức tin gần và xa, chúng ta phải sẵn sàng thử nghiệm những việc mới, hỏi những câu hỏi mới, và đi đến nơi nào Thần Linh của Chúa đi! ■

I Am Not Alone

Finding a place of belonging at Revive

BY BRANDON VOSS

Revive is true to their name. They want to revive the need for faith in Jesus's love in our lives. Their effort to spread and show love throughout our community illuminates a pathway to the kingdom of heaven. The most intriguing part of that message, for me, is that no requirements or qualifications are needed to join in the effort. You just need to be human.

You know that inclusion and acceptance are core values of *Revive* because it never needs to be said, it is modeled and understood. What is understood doesn't need to be spoken. It is simply felt by the heart.

They proudly demonstrate that a traditional church building is not the nucleus of the journey with Jesus. Acceptance, collaboration, inclusion and vulnerability are critical components of the journey, and you can find those things out in the world. In fact it is better to seek those things out in the world where God's people are.

I feel like *Revive* was built for me personally. They figured out what it takes to bring the lost sheep to Jesus. I, like many others, struggle with my faith journey. My interaction with *Revive*, and more specifically, with Caleb and Mel Kaye has been nothing short of fascinating. I have learned I am not alone. There are others that struggle with faith issues just like I do. Churchgoers know there are people in the world that need guidance and need to be shown the way to the Lord. *Revive* doesn't just know those people like me exist. They actively go find them and invite them to be part of the pack.

I first met Caleb and Mel in a traditional church setting. They were already a large part of that environment in an amazing way. Then one day they decided they were going to create a church entity that was fundamentally designed to bring the message of Jesus into the darkest corners of the local community. Combined with the idea that you don't have to follow "me" to know Jesus, you don't have to come to "my" church building to experience Jesus. We can just talk about Jesus right here on the street corner, and furthermore if you don't want to discuss God and religion that's cool. We just extend our love to you. I don't read the

Revive doesn't just know those people like me exist. They actively go find them and invite them to be part of the pack.



Brandon Voss (right) with his wife and daughter, along with Caleb and Melissa Kaye (left) at an outdoor baby dedication. Photo provided by Caleb and Melissa Kaye.

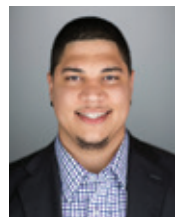
Good Book nearly as much as I should, but I'm pretty sure that's how the Man Himself did it when he walked among us.

One of the things I love most about *Revive* is the "come as you are mentality." No one is there to impress anybody else, which is why I personally have always disliked the phrase "your Sunday best." You're the best you are on the Sabbath because you are you, not because you woke up early to do your hair and put on your nicest clothes just so you wouldn't be judged at church that day. We all come into this world stark naked, cold and screaming. That entrance testifies to how much God cares about what we wear and whether or not that qualifies us to be part of The Kingdom.

Revive is a type of community that will begin to help the world understand faith and help us understand that religion is based in love, not how many Bible verses you can recite by heart, or type of suit you wear, or car you drive, or how much you tithe, but about the genuine regard we have for other people. That's why Jesus loves us, simply because we exist. There isn't a qualification exam. It is simply a matter of existence.

The *Revive* community is not based on membership, affiliation, or a certain level of struggle just to participate. They want us because we just happen to share this planet with them too. A community that recruits others only because the people of this world deserve love, might be the most "religious" effort I've ever had the pleasure of being a part. ■

Brandon Voss has recently connected with Revive in Annapolis, Md.



मलाई लाग्छ कि रिवाइभ मेरो लागी व्यक्तिगत रूपमा बनाइएको थियो। तिनीहरूले हराएको भेडालाई येशूकहाँ ल्याउन के लिच्छन् भनेर पत्ता लगाए।

Tôi cảm thấy như Revive được xây dựng cho cá nhân tôi. Họ đã tìm ra những gì cần thiết để mang những con chiên bị lạc đến với Chúa Giê-su.

LMC'S MISSION FOR MANY LANGUAGES

Nepali Translation

आत्मा ले डोर्याएको सेवकाई:

- ख्रीष्ट येशुको चेलाहरू बनाउनु।
- मिसिनेरी हुनका निम्ति हरेकलाई उत्प्रेरित गर्नु।
- स्थानीय र अधिक ठाउँहरूमा विश्वासी समुदायहरूको वृद्धि गर्नु।

BHUTANESE NEPALI CHURCH OF LANCASTER

BY DEEPAK RAI

Bhutanese Nepali Church, Lancaster (BNCL) started as a house fellowship during early refugee settlements from Nepal in 2009. BNCL received official recognition on January 1, 2010. Believers began to meet for worship services at West End Mennonite Church in downtown Lancaster. The church is grateful and blessed to proclaim the powerful Word of God in the Nepali language over the last 11 years. Deepak Rai is the lead pastor of BNCL, and his vision for the church is "Church should be a missional body of Christ." BNCL leadership team is mostly a younger generation who received Christ as Savior after coming to the USA. Working with both the young generation and an older generation combines God's gifts to accomplish the great commission.

BNCL mission is to reach out to the Nepali community, families and friends to share God's love and freedom in Christ. Support, counsel and prayer for each other are customary practices in BNCL. The Church gathers every Sunday afternoon for prayer and fellowship on Zoom on Wednesday evenings. Youth have a service on Friday evenings. A Mother service and house fellowship occur on Saturday evenings. Older generation believers support, advise and pray every day. BNCL is part of West End Network of churches, and it holds membership in the Bhutanese Nepali Churches of America (BNCA) with 65 other churches. BNCL also participates with 13 Youth Unity Fellowships from neighboring Nepali churches in the northeast USA who meet quarterly.

THE NEPALI LANGUAGE

Nepali, an Indo-Aryan language, is the official language of Nepal and one of the 22 recognized languages of India. Smaller Nepali speaking communities exist in Bhutan, Brunei, and Myanmar. About 25% of the people in Bhutan speak Nepali. Nepali is spoken by more than 17 million people around the world. In Bhutan, native Nepali speakers, also known as Lhotshampa, make up about a third of the population. This number includes displaced Bhutanese refugees.

Historically, the language was called Khas Speech, spoken by the Khas people of southern Asia and also called Gorkhali, which was the language of the Gorkha Kingdom, located in what is today western Nepal. Nepali uses the Hindi alphabet for the written form of the language.



Bhutanese Nepali Church of Lancaster outside their meeting place on West End Ave. Photos by Dale D. Gehman.



Pastor Deepak Rai performs a baptism at the Bhutanese Nepali Church of Lancaster.

A Spirit-led movement to:

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

Vietnamese Translation

Một phong trào tập thể hướng dẫn bởi Đức Thánh Linh:
Để đào tạo môn đồ Chúa Giê-xu
Huy động mỗi thành viên thành người truyền đạo
Gây dựng các cộng đồng tin Chúa tại địa phương và các nơi xa

MENNONITE PHENOMENON IN VIETNAM

BY TUYEN NGUYEN

In March 2019, the Vietnamese Mennonite churches of LMC stopped meeting in person and moved to Zoom. That change led us to experience what the apostle Paul said in Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him." People in Vietnam began to join our worship services in the USA by Zoom. They began to participate in our Bible studies by Zoom. After a month of meditation and prayer, the Lord said "Start English Zoom Classes." So in April, the first English class started. In a few weeks, we had three English classes. Many of the students were pastors from Vietnam.

The churches in Vietnam prayerfully set goals for the year. As teams of evangelists went out, they reported weekly results. The Lord answered their prayer abundantly. From 500 new believers and 10 churches (approved by the government) in 2019, the Lord gave an increase to 10 new churches and 789 new believers in 2020. By July 2021, they numbered about 1840 new believers. Sick people were healed and many baptized. Because of the Covid delta-variant, the churches in Vietnam have stopped gathering again except by Zoom. Most churches now have as many as 50 people joining Zoom worship. One church has 800 participants on Zoom. The local people call this "the Mennonite phenomenon." A revival is happening among the Vietnamese Mennonite churches around the world.

THE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE

Besides being the official language of Vietnam and the native language of the Vietnamese people, it is spoken by a total of 93 million people around the globe. That number makes it the most common Austroasiatic language in the world.

Vietnamese employs six tones. A change in a tone changes the meaning of the word. For example: *ca* (mug), *cà* (eggplants), *cả* (all), *cá* (fish). The current written system of Vietnamese was developed by Catholic missionaries in the seventeenth century but was not officially used until the beginning of twentieth century. French colonial rule of Vietnam led to the official adoption of the Vietnamese alphabet based on the Latin alphabet. Sentence structures in Vietnamese language have the same "subject-verb-object" word order as used in English.



Praying for new believers in a house church in Vietnam. Photos provided by Bishop Nguyen.



A congregation in Vietnam watches Bishop Nguyen streaming a sermon from the 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.

BISHOPS MEET IN GRANTSVILLE

A joint Bishop Board and Conference Executive Council meeting was held in Grantsville, MD in June. In response to an increasing geographic footprint, LMC leaders will gather in locations outside of PA once or twice a year. This most recent meeting included bishops speaking in Western Maryland district congregations on Sunday morning. Plans include a meeting in Ohio with the Great Lakes East district in 2022.



MINISTRY TRAINING

The STEP team had an extremely successful year recruiting for the 2021–22 academic year. Eighteen students are enrolled with an expected graduation in 2025. STEP is one of two accredited training options for LMC leaders. Over the past 14 years STEP has graduated over 130 leaders, seven of which just graduated in May of 2021. The other formal training option in LMC is the new, collaborative Training in Ministry (TiM) program, which is administered jointly by LMC with Rosedale Bible College and CMC.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

First Mennonite Church in Berne, Indiana has assembled a team to write an adult Sunday-school curriculum. This team will offer a pilot curriculum series for the Winter and Spring Sunday school quarter at

no charge. The curriculum will follow the Universal Series five-year cycle. Congregations who have interest in participating in the pilot and providing the writers with feedback should contact Jeff Linthicum at jeff@firstmennonite.org. First Mennonite will continue to prepare and offer the curriculum in future quarters for a fee. Delivery of the materials will be electronic only.

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

Bishops, CEC members and LMC staff have all completed the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) during 2021. This initial IDI work helps LMC establish a baseline as long-term work is undertaken to increase intercultural competency within LMC. With more than half of LMC congregations made up of people of color, increased intercultural competency is seen as essential for mission success. Karl McKinney, a new staff member, will manage a Legacy Foundation grant for this work, oversee administration of the IDI, and work at increasing intercultural competence within LMC leadership and congregations.

CCL 2022

Celebration of Church Life is planned for June 10–12 at Camp Hebron, 957 Camp Hebron Road, Halifax PA. The event is intended as a family event, so plan to attend as part of your family vacation. Lodging, meals, and approximate costs will be available soon. Because LMC has dramatically increased its geographic footprint over the last four years, Celebration of Church Life will be held outside of the Lancaster, PA area every three years. CCL 2025 may be held in western Maryland or possibly Ohio. This regional

movement of CCL is hoped to aid in the building of relationships and increasing our knowledge of one another.

DISTRICT NAME CHANGES

Several LMC districts have recently merged, some have changed their names plus a couple new districts formed. The prior Lancaster, Lititz and Mellinger districts have merged to form the Conestoga River district. These congregations are overseen by bishops Rodney Martin and Joe Miller. The Bowmansville-Reading and Weaverland-NE districts have merged to form the Valley-Mountain-PA East. This new district is led by the bishop team of Eric Marshall, Brian Martin, and James Weick. The prior Ohio district was divided into Great Lakes West and Great Lakes East. Bishop John Nissly provides oversight for Great Lakes West. Great Lakes East is in a bishop search process. The addition of congregations from Florida created a new district, SouthEast Mennonite Conference with oversight in process. Another new district, Central Penn, formed and is led by bishop Alan Kauffman. To explore districts and bishop oversight across LMC, check out the About Us tab on the LMC website.

175TH ANNIVERSARY

Yellow Creek Mennonite church celebrated their 175th anniversary September 11–12. Activities included a museum, games for children, videos, cemetery tours, trail walks, a hymn sing, sharing memories, an ice cream social, and fireworks. L. Keith Weaver, LMC moderator, spoke in the Sunday morning service.

NEWS NOTES

CREDENTIAL ACTIVITY

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

Steve Musselman (*April*) was installed as lead pastor at Witmer Heights Mennonite Church in Lancaster, PA.

Mery Alvarez (*Cruz Martinez*) was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at Believers Mennonite Church in Bronx, NY.

Aristidez Shee (*Olga*) was ordained as lead pastor of Centro Misionero Cristiano in Queens, NY.

Brenden Cola (*Sarah*) was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Stony Brook Mennonite Church in York, PA.

Steven Mann (*Gloria*) was licensed for specific ministry as next-gen pastor at Gingrichs Mennonite Church in Lebanon, PA.

Lilian Flores (*Christobal*) was licensed toward ordination as lead pastor at Evangelical Garifuna Church in Bronx, New York.

Aureliano Fernandez & Maria Santamaria were licensed toward ordination as pastors at Iglesia Unida de Avivamiento de Mata de Falfal in Dominican Republic.

Ron Tinsley (*Janelle*) licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at Oxford Circle Mennonite in Philadelphia, PA.

Timothy Bentch (*Lorri*) was licensed toward ordination as EMM mission team director, Mountville Mennonite Church in Mountville, PA.

Lorri Bentch (*Timothy*) ordination was affirmed as Global Disciples global worship specialist, Mountville Mennonite Church in Mountville, PA.

NEW BISHOPS



R. Alan Kauffman (*Nancy*) was placed as bishop for the new Central Penn District. Kauffman's vision is to encourage local congregations to see themselves as missional outposts in their communities, using their unique giftedness to make disciples and make use of the opportunities God gives to share the Good News of Jesus' love for the whole world.



John Nissley (*Lois*) leads the new Great Lakes West district. His vision for the district is expressed by Colossians 2:2 (NIV): "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ."

LMC CHANGES OF OFFICERS

New officers of LMC were recently affirmed. Assistant moderator Stephen Weaver and secretary Lloyd Hoover stepped away from those positions in early 2021. Bishop Al Motley, pastor at Way Thru Christ, Chester, PA, was affirmed as the new assistant moderator. Supervisor Adalberto Santiago, also pastor at Congregación Menonita Shalom, was affirmed as the new secretary.

INTERCULTURAL MINISTER



Karl McKinney joined the LMC staff in September as Intercultural Minister. McKinney has extensive experience as a pastor in LMC and in congregations in Virginia and Chicago. He also served for a time with Mennonite Mission Network. Within LMC, he served on a number of committees, including the Strategic Directions Task Force. He is a member of the African-American Intercultural Leadership Team. He holds a Masters degree in Mission from Asbury Theological Seminary and a BA in Interpersonal and Group Communication from Trinity International University. He also has experience with the Intercultural Development Inventory.

SHALOM NEWS CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Sandra Granthon-Roman is preparing to serve as a part-time contributing editor for *Shalom News*. She will work alongside Sherri Martin to create each issue of the magazine. Sandra is married to Alexis Roman. They are members at Iglesia Restauración en Cristo. She merges her gifts in ministry, discovering the creative joy in the Kingdom.



EDUCATION GRANTS

In August, the LMC Education Grants Committee awarded \$19,000 to 20 applicants. LMC provides education grants through four scholarship funds: Leadership Education Grant, Urban Education Grant, Women's Education Grant, and STEP Study Award. The next education grant cycle closes January 31, 2022. To apply for an education grant, visit lmcchurches.org/consolidated-application-for-lmc-education-grants/.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at LMCchurches.org.

Virtual Monday Night Prayer Gathering

Every first Monday of each month
7:00–8:00 p.m. via Zoom
717-293-5246

Women's Prayer Gathering

Every first Friday of each month
8:00–9:00 a.m.

LMC at 450 N. Prince St. Lancaster, Pa.
717-293-5246

Multiplication Prayer Team

October 21, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Harvest Room, Landis Homes, Lititz, Pa.
717-293-5246

LMC Office Move to 450 N. Prince Street, Lancaster, Pa.

Week of October 25–29, 2021

Same contact information: website, phone, and email

Newly Credentialed Orientation

April 14, 2022 6:30–8:30 p.m.

LMC at 450 N. Prince Street, Lancaster and virtual, 717-293-5246

Spring Leadership Assembly

April 29, 2022

On location (TBA) and virtual

STEP Graduation

May 14, 2022

Location TBA

LMC Celebration of Church Life 2022

June 10–12, 2022

Camp Hebron, Pa.
On location and virtual

SAVE THE DATE for the EMM Banquet

November 4 at Hub 450

More details to come at EMM.ORG/BANQUET

November

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Winter Quarter - January 3 – March 11, 2022

Three courses to choose from:

- Bible Survey (Reuben Sairs)
- Congregational Care (Preston Yoder)
- Leader Self Care (Mark Miller)

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In memoriam of Laped Gwamzhi at Capital Christian Fellowship. His son, Pledge, authored the article, [An Orange Well-squeezed](#), in the April 2021 issue of *Shalom News*.