



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches*  
**Shalom NEWS**

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2022



## Journey towards Shalom

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

# Renew

## Sunday School Curriculum Now Available

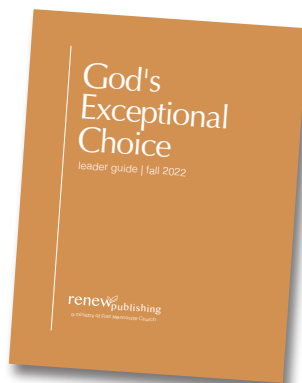
Renew adult Sunday school curriculum provides an educational resource with an Evangelical Anabaptist distinctive. It follows the Standard Lesson Quarterly based on the International Sunday School Lessons (ISSL)/Uniform Series.

Unique to Renew is the Faith Connection section. It seeks to interpret scripture through the lens of Jesus, to show how Jesus fulfills the prophecy and the symbolism of the Old Testament, or to show how to live out community and reconciliation according to the life and teachings of Jesus. Another feature of this curriculum is that it has multiple writers instead of one. This offers a unique voice from lesson to lesson, which provides variety within the structure.

Renew strives to meet a very real need. Many Mennonite pastors are searching for materials which fit the theology of their churches while reminding them of their Anabaptist perspective. Our prayer is that you find what you're looking for with Renew.

**To receive a PDF of the quarterlies, contact First Mennonite Church, Berne, Indiana by email at [renew@firstmennonite.org](mailto:renew@firstmennonite.org).**

**renew**publishing  
a ministry of First Mennonite Church



**October–December 2022**

Issue 4 / Volume 42

### **Bishop Elders Team**

Keith Blank  
Rodney Martin  
Marcia Mylin  
Tuyen Nguyen

### **Shalom News Team**

Sherri Martin, Managing Editor  
Sandra Granthon-Roman, Contributing Editor  
Pastor Bartimaeus Sungbin Kim, Guest Editor

Magazine design by Yoder Design Co.

*Shalom News* is published quarterly by LMC.  
PO Box 1635  
Lancaster, PA 17608-1635

717-293-5246 / 800-216-7249  
[www.LMCchurches.org](http://www.LMCchurches.org)

*Shalom News* (ISSN 0747-2706) is published by LMC, PO Box 1635, Lancaster, PA 17608-1635, 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, PO Box 1635, Lancaster, PA 17608-1635.

© 2022 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**

Main photo: Pastor Sungbin and his family enjoy a recent trip to South Korea. Photo by Soyoung Park.

Small photo: Abigail Huber ministers to children at Celebration of Church Life 2022. Photo by Sandra Granthon-Roman.





# Gospel-Centered Holy Reconciliation Movement

*In the era of tolerance and openness to diversity*

Men from a halfway house with Pastor Sungbin following a baptism. Photo by Cory Martin.

BY BARTIMAEUS SUNGBIN KIM

**Tolerance and openness to diversity are the characteristics that represent the virtues and moral standards in our current time.** The Oxford English Dictionary defines tolerance as the quality of being willing to accept or tolerate somebody/something, especially opinions or behavior that you may not agree with, or people who are not like you. With the help of smart devices to explore the world, public opinion frequently identifies those who are intolerant as biased, or at the very least outdated in terms of embracing diversity.

As an ex-Presbyterian and currently a Mennonite, I have a growing thankfulness to God for what I have learned about the need and the sweetness of tolerance and openness to diversity through my personal faith journey. The more I meet people who are different from myself, the more I become humble and learn from various perspectives. Describing church leaders, the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Timothy 3:7:

***“Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.”***

The gospel leads me to ask who are the outsiders? Do they include people who have a difference in religion and moral values than Christians? If this is the case, how do outsiders view Christians? How can Christians live a Gospel-centered life through tolerance and openness to diversity?

Let’s turn to the gospels where we read how Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s





Praying for Sungbin and Shinae during his ordination service on June 5, 2022. Photo by Yvonne Pasqualone.

well where we are reminded of the foundational theological truth of the Christian faith that God is Spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4:21-24 reads:

***“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”***

The gospel teaches me that Jesus is relational, in tolerance and openness to diversity, to draw marginalized people close to him, those who are consistently and deliberately pushed aside by society. Whom Jesus calls, he qualifies. It was not primarily the Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, scholars, the wealthy, the famous, the powerful political or military leaders. No. Jesus called upon a broken woman who had been isolated because of her sinful lifestyle, for she lived with six men in her life and all were not her husband. Through this encounter with Jesus the Samaritan woman would go on to impact many, as it is written in John 4: 39-41:

***Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers.***

Shalom is a multi-layered word. Peace is its primary translation in the Bible but also it has other significant meanings such as wholeness, welfare, completeness, security, and well-being (physically and mentally).

Living in an era in which the worth of tolerance and openness to diversity is strongly urged, how can Christians keep and esteem their Gospel-centered identity and faith when it is in opposition to primary worldly virtues? Here are three humble suggestions.

First, to refresh our minds daily to manifest the shalom received in the gift of Jesus Christ, Son of God. Shalom is a multi-layered word.

Peace is its primary translation in the Bible but

also it has other significant meanings such as wholeness, welfare, completeness, security, and well-being (physically and mentally). Christians receive shalom “peace” of God’s Holy Spirit by believing and following the life, the words, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus gave his life as ransom on the cross for our sins so we may live in shalom, reconciled with God.

It is the shalom of God’s Holy Spirit that saves us from our own brokenness and directs the brokenness of the world around us to Jesus as we engage in Gospel-centered relationships. In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul called Christian ministry “the ministry of reconciliation.” The gospel reminds us that we are free of sin, as Christ’s ambassadors; the shalom of God in our Christian faith appeals to the broken world to seek Jesus. Christians must be attentive, careful, and humble with the brokenness of the world and to ourselves in our bold and courageous evangelism, the tolerant ministry of reconciliation.

Second, the Gospel-Centeredness. As God’s shalom we live out the process of the ministry of reconciliation understanding and defining the character of it as the body of Christ. A call to a Gospel-centered holy reconciliation movement that occurs

when Christians live in diversity, opening up the circle of those with whom we share life.

I lament that some people today tend to underestimate the message of the Gospel which is extensively highlighted in the New Testament. Some seem even ashamed of misunderstanding the message of the Gospel as “unethical” or “immoral.”

If Christians underestimate and even neglect the message of the Gospel in Christian faith and Christian living, then, what do Christians abide by?

In the Roman Empire, there were many gods but Christians believed and confessed that Jesus is LORD and many Christians become martyrs. Now, being surrounded by vast diversity, should we let go of the message of the Gospel because it seems too exclusive?

Yes, the message of the Gospel is exclusive to a certain degree, and yet universal, able to radiate God’s righteousness and justice to the world. Christians are to balance exclusivity and universality of the message of the Gospel – it is the mystery of God’s shalom at work.

I have learned that the Anabaptist tradition of biblical hermeneutics is to center the four Gospels in interpreting the whole Bible and I do love it. So, in rendering Christian ministry of reconciliation, the Gospel-Centeredness must be the first and foremost principle. I support tolerance and that support by no means weakens my conviction, my joy, and my freedom in the message of the Gospel. Rather, the deeper I understand the message of the Gospel, the better tolerance I can practice relying against the ever-unfathomable humbleness of Christ.

Third and lastly, in pursuing God’s shalom through the ministry of reconciliation, my last humble suggestion is to restore holiness in the Gospel. Jesus chose and restored the woman at the well. However, that does not mean Jesus compromised his teaching about marriage and divorce. Here again, the centrality of the message of the Gospel reappears because without the message of the Gospel, the word holiness could become too sacred to be perceptibly defined. As we see, the Bible contains some stories which are dark and agonizing. So, without the light of the message of the Gospel, Christians might commit serious mistakes in understanding and practicing the holiness that God requires through his Son.

In our current time, distractedness and shallowness are growing rapidly. Advanced technology is a great feature and can benefit our time. But we must not allow it to become a spirit-taking threat, with obsessions with smartphones, internet, SMS, etc. that can make us unholy. People are also easily caught up by social and political issues which are 24/7 being delivered by smart devices within reach. Relationships become shallow,

even broken within our Christian living and with our commitment to Christ.

Christians’ notion on holiness has become thin. Our relationship with God has become distant, no longer focused on the daily practice of reflective prayers asking God to search our hearts. “How am I near to holiness?”, “How much am I dedicated to my daily prayer life?” or “How much am I consistent with my daily devotion?”

In the message of the Gospel, God’s holiness is best revealed to the world. It shows God’s self-sacrifice for the sake of sinners. God gave His only Son to save sinners. The innocent died for the sinful.

Highlighting self-sacrifice could cause some odds against the social justice movement which is also critical in our time. Speaking of self-sacrifice might fan any kinds of abuses or exploitations even without cause. However, abandoning the holiness which shows the divine self-sacrifice can be one of the worst mistakes Christians can make because it is the same with abandoning the source of our healing. “With his wounds we are healed.”

The clear understanding that we are being saved by God’s holy sacrifice directs us to be humble with our character, restrains us in the indulgent entertainments of the world, prompts us to open and learn from the Bible again. It creates willingness in us to serve and sacrifice for our brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as for this world which does not know or hasn’t tasted yet that humbling holiness.

Here is the second meaning of tolerance from the Oxford learner’s dictionary: *the ability to suffer something, especially pain, difficult conditions, etc. without being harmed*. I believe growing the holiness of Jesus’ Gospel will grow our tolerance so that even in our current suffering in this world, we Christians may stay unharmed with our commitment toward God’s shalom through the process of reconciliation. ■

*Bartimaeus Sungbin Kim and his wife, Shinae, with their teenage son, live in Kentucky. He will begin studies at Asbury Theological Seminary in the Fall. He is ordained by LMC as a Pastor and church planter from Yellow Creek Mennonite Church.*

*Pastor Sungbin lived 39 years in South Korea hearing much about the cruelties of North Korea. Immigrating to the USA, he found a different culture. His belief in holy reconciliation springs from a deep love for people, learning to bridge diverse cultures, and a desire to share the whole and true Gospel of Jesus Christ. His specific calling to mission in the world is toward reconciliation. When he was in South Korea in the Presbyterian church, Sungbin noted that he was too caught up in spiritual warfare, winning and losing, and right and wrong. In the Asian context, the peace of the Lord is still too low. He desires to go back to Asia to introduce the peace of Jesus there. His vision for reconciliation in South Korea is Gospel-centered. The culture is steeped in Buddhism and Confucianism. He wants to restore full respect to what is written in the Bible.*





# 복음 중심의 영적 화합 운동

## 다양성에 대한 포용과 열린 마음의 시대를 살아가며

바디매오 김성빈 집필

다양성에 대한 포용(Tolerance)과 열린 마음(Openness)은 현시대의 미덕과 도덕적 수준을 나타내는 하나의 특성이 되었습니다. 옥스퍼드 영어 사전(the Oxford English Dictionary)에서는 포용을 어떤 사람이 사물, 특히 나와는 다른 사람 또는 동의를 의견이나 행동을 기꺼이 받아들이고 수용하는 것이라 정의하죠. 스마트 기기를 통해 세계를 살펴보면, 포용하지 못하는 사람을 편협한 사람, 또는 적어도 다양성을 받아들이는 측면에서 시대에 뒤떨어진 사람으로 판별되는 여론을 빈번하게 확인할 수 있습니다.

전에는 장로교 교인이었고 현재는 메소파 교인이 된 저는 개인적인 신앙 여정을 통해 다양성에 대한 포용과 열린 마음의 필요성 및 감미로움을 깨닫게 되어 하나님을 향한 감사의 마음이 날로 커지고 있습니다. 나와 다른 사람을 만나면 만날수록, 나 자신은 더욱 겸손해지고 여러 다양한 관점을 배울 수 있죠. 디모데전서 3장 7절에 보면 사도 바울은 교회 지도자들에 대해 다음과 같이 말하고 있습니다.

**“또한 외인에게서도 선한 증거를 얻은 자라야 할지니 비방과 마귀의 울무에 빠질까 염려하라.”**

이 말씀에서 말하는 외인은 누구일까요? 기독교인과는 다른 종교와 도덕적 가치를 지닌 사람을 외인이라 하는 것일까요? 만약 그렇다면 외인은 기독교인을 어떻게 바라볼까요? 기독교인은 어떻게 하면 다양성에 대한 포용과 열린 마음을 통해 복음 중심의 삶을 살 수 있을까요?

예수님께서 야곱의 우물가에 있던 사마리아 여인에게 하신 말씀이 담긴 성경 구절을 살펴보면, 이를 통해 ‘하나님은 영이시니 예배하는 자는 영과 진리로 예배해야 한다’라는 기독교 신앙의 근본적인 신학적 진리를 되새겨 봅시다. 요한복음 4장 21-24절:

**“예수께서 이르시되 여자여 내 말을 믿으라. 이 산에서도 말고 예루살렘에서도 말고 너희가 아버지께 예배할 때가 이르리라. 너희는 알지 못하는 것을 예배하고 우리는 아는 것을 예배하노니 이는 구원이 유대인에게서 남이라. 아버지께 참되게 예배하는 자들은 영과 진리로 예배할 때가 오나니 곧 이때라. 아버지께서는 자기에게 이렇게 예배하는 자들을 찾으시느니라. 하나님은 영이시니 예배하는 자가 영과 진리로 예배할지니라.”**

이 말씀을 통해 저는 사회로부터 계속해서 의도적으로 배척당했던 소외된 사람들을 가까이하신 예수님께서 다양성에 대한 포용 및 열린 마음과 관련이 있음을 깨닫게 되었죠. ‘예수께서 찾으시는 이, 자질을 얻으리라’. 예수님께서 찾으시는 이는 바리새인도 서기관도 아니며 사두개인, 학자, 부유한 자, 유명한 자, 힘 있는 정치인 또는 군 지도자도 아니었습니다. 그렇습니다. 예수님께서는 죄 많은 생활로 인해 소외된 상심한 한 여인을 부르셨습니다. 그녀는 평생 여섯 남자와 함께 살았는데, 모두 그녀의 남편이 아니었기 때문이죠. 요한복음 4장 39-41절에 적혀있는 것처럼, 예수님과과의 만남을 통해 사마리아 여인은 계속해서 많은 이들에게 영향을 줄 것입니다.

**“여자의 말이 내가 행한 모든 것을 그가 내게 말하였다 증언하므로 그 동네 중에 많은 사마리아인이 예수를 믿는지라. 사마리아인들이 예수께 와서 자기들과 함께 유하시기를 청하니 거기서 이들을 유하시며, 예수의 말씀으로 말미암아 믿는 자가 더욱 많아,”**

다양성에 대한 포용과 열린 마음의 가치가 강하게 요구되는 시대에서, 기독교인들은 자신의 복음 중심의 정체성과 믿음이 중대한 세속적 미덕과 반대되는 상황에 부닥칠 때 어떻게 해야 이러한 복음 중심의 정체성과 믿음을 지키며 따를 수 있을까요? 이에 대하여 미흡하지만 세 가지를 제안하려 합니다.

첫째, 하나님의 아들, 예수 그리스도께서 내려 주신 선물인 샬롬(Shalom)을 드러내기 위해 우리의 마음을 새롭게 해야 합니다. 샬롬은 다양한 의미를 지닌 단어입니다. 성경에서 샬롬은 주로 평화를 뜻하지만, (정신적으로나 육체적으로) 완전함, 행복, 완벽함, 안전함, 안녕 등의 다른 중요한 의미도 있죠. 기독교인은 예수 그리스도의 삶과 말씀, 죽음과 부활을 믿고 따름으로서 하나님 성령의 ‘평화’인 샬롬을 얻습니다. 예수님은 우리의 죄를 위해 희생양으로써 십자가 위에서 자신의 목숨을 바치셨고, 그로 인해 우리는 하나님과 다시 하나가 되어 샬롬 안에서 살 수 있게 되었습니다.

나 자신의 상처로부터 날 구원하고 우리 주변 사회의 상처를 예수님께로 이끌어주는 것, 그것이 바로 우리가 복음 중심의 관계를 맺으면서 얻은 하나님 성령의 샬롬입니다. 고린도후서에 보면, 사도 바울은 기독교 사역을 ‘화합 사역’이라 칭했습니다. 복음은 우리가 그리스도의 사도로서 죄에서 자유롭게 됨을 다시 일깨워주며, 기독교 신앙에서 하나님의 샬롬은 상처받은 사회에 예수님을 좇아가기를 호소하고 있죠. 기독교인은 포용이 넘치는 화합 사역과 융합하고 대범한 전도 속에서 우리 자신과 세상의 상처에 귀를 기울이고, 세심해야 하며, 겸손해야 합니다.

두 번째, 복음 중심화입니다. 하나님의 샬롬으로서 우리는 그리스도의 지체가 되어 화합 사역의 특성을 이해하고 밝히며 그 과정을 실행해야 합니다. 기독교인이 다양성 속에서 살아가면서 받

는 복음 중심의 영적 화합 운동에 대한 소명으로, 삶을 함께하는 사람들과의 만남을 가능하게 하죠.

몇몇 현대인들이 신앙에서 광범위하게 강조되고 있는 복음 메시지를 과소평가하는 경향이 있다는 사실에 애석하고 마음이 아픕니다. 심지어 일부 사람들은 복음 메시지를 “비윤리적”이거나 “부도덕한” 것이라 잘못 이해한 것을 부끄러워하는 것 같습니다.

기독교인이 기독교 신앙과 그리스도인의 삶 속에서 복음의 메시지를 과소평가하고 심지어 도외시한다면, 기독교인은 따라야 할 것은 무엇일까요?

로마 제국에는 많은 신이 있었지만, 기독교인들은 예수님이 주님이시며 많은 기독교인이 순교자가 되고 있다고 믿고 고백했습니다. 방대한 다양성에 둘러싸인 오늘날, 우리는 복음의 메시지가 너무 배타적이라는 이유로 그것을 포기해야 할까요?

인정합니다. 복음의 메시지가 어느 정도 배타적이긴 하지만, 그런데도 여전히 보편적이며 이를 통해 하나님의 의로움과 정의를 세상에 널리 알릴 수 있죠. 기독교인은 복음의 메시지의 배타적인 부분과 보편적인 부분의 균형을 맞춰야 합니다. 그것이 현재 행해지는 하나님의 살롬의 신비로움이죠.

성서 해석학의 재세레파 전통이 성서 전체를 해석하는 데 있어 네 복음서의 중심을 잡는다는 것을 배웠고, 정말 맘에 드는 내용이었죠. 따라서 기독교 화합 사역을 하는 데 있어 복음 중심화가 최우선 원칙이 되어야 합니다. 저는 포용을 지지하며, 제 뒷받침이 복음의 메시지 안에서의 나의 확신과 기쁨 그리고 자유를 결코 약화시키지 않을 것입니다. 오히려 복음의 메시지를 더 깊이 이해할수록 그리스도의 헤아릴 수 없는 겸손함에 의지하여 더 나은 포용을 실천할 수 있을 것입니다.

세 번째이자 마지막으로, 화합의 사역을 통해 하나님의 살롬을 추구하며 복음의 거룩함을 회복하는 것이 미흡한 저의 마지막 제안입니다. 예수님께서서는 우물가의 여인을 선택하고 회복시키셨죠. 그러나 그것이 예수님께서 결혼과 이혼에 대한 자신의 교리를 반복했다는 의미는 아닙니다. 이 부분에서 복음 메시지의 중요성이 다시 한번 더 드러납니다. 복음의 메시지가 없다면 거룩함이란 단어는 너무 신성해져서 지각할 수준조차 없게 되는 것이죠. 우리가 알고 있듯이, 성경은 어둡고 고통스러운 이야기들을 담고 있습니다. 그래서 복음 메시지의 빛이 없다면, 기독교인들은 하나님께서 그의 아들을 통해 요구하시는 거룩함을 이해하고 실천하는데 심각한 오류를 범할지도 모릅니다.

현재 우리 시대에서는 어수선�함과 천박함이 빠르게 커지고 있습니다. 첨단 기술은 하나의 훌륭한 특징이 되어 현시대를 이롭게 하죠. 하지만 우리를 고결하지 못하게 만드는 스마트폰, 인터넷, SNS 등 이러한 것들에 집착하여 첨단 기술이 우리의 영혼을 갈취하는 위험이 되도록 내버려 두서는 안 됩니다. 또한 사람들은 손안의 스마트 기기로 인해 24시간 내내 전달되는 사회적, 정치적 이슈에 쉽게 휘말려 들기도 합니다. 인간관계는 알아지고, 심지어 기독교인의 삶에서의 관계도 망가지며 그리스도에 대한 헌신을 그만두기도 합니다.

거룩함에 대한 기독교인들의 개념이 희박해져 가고 있습니다. 하나님과 우리의 관계는 소원해지고, 더 이상 하나님께 내 마음을 알아달라 요구하며 매일 성찰적인 기도를 올리는 것에 치중하지 않습니다. “나는 거룩함에 얼마나 가까워지고 있는가?”, “나는 내 일상 기도 생활에 얼마나 헌신하고 있는가?”, “나는 내 일상의 예배와 얼마나 일관되는가?”

복음의 메시지를 보면, 하나님의 거룩함이 세상에 잘 드러나 있습니다. 이를 통해 죄인을 위한 하나님의 자기희생을 확인할 수 있죠. 하나님은 죄인을 구원하기 위해 그의 외아들을 내놓으셨습니다. 아무 죄가 없으신 분이 죄짓는 자를 위해 돌아가셨죠.

자기희생의 강조는 현대에서 마찬가지로 중요한 사회 정의 운동에 불리하게 작용할 수 있습니다. 자기희생에 대한 발언은 아무런 이유 없이 학대나 착취를 부추길 수 있습니다. 그러나 신성한 자기희생을 드러내는 거룩함을 버리는 것은 기독교인이 저지르는 가장 최악의 실수 중 하나가 될 것입니다. 왜냐하면 그것은 치유의 근원을 버리는 것과 마찬가지로이기 때문이죠. “그가 채찍에 맞으므로 우리는 나음을 받았도다.”

우리가 하나님의 신성한 희생으로 구원받았음을 분명하게 이해한다면, 우리의 성품은 겸손해지며, 세상의 방종한 오락으로부터 자신을 자제하게 되고, 성경책을 다시 열어 공부하게 될 것입니다. 이로 인해, 우리는 그리스도 안에 있는 형제자매는 물론 아직 그 겸손한 거룩함을 알지 못하거나 경험하지 못한 이 세상을 위해 기꺼이 섬기고 희생하게 될 것입니다.

옥스퍼드 학습자 사전을 살펴보면 포용에 대한 두 번째 의미를 찾아볼 수 있습니다. 두 번째 의미는, 특히 고통이나 힘든 상황 등을 해를 입지 않고 겪는 능력을 뜻합니다. 예수님의 복음의 거룩함을 키워가는 것이 우리의 포용력을 자라게 하여, 이 세상에서 오는 현재의 고통 속에서도 우리 기독교인들은 화합 과정을 통해 하나님의 살롬을 향한 헌신으로 아무런 해도 입지 않을 것이라 저는 믿습니다. ■

# No Longer An Outsider (Servant), I Call You Friend

## A Reflection of Gospel-Centered Relationship

BY WES BONTREGER

**The Yellow Creek Mennonite Church congregation is deeply grateful for the opportunity to share fellowship with Sungbin, Shinae, and Seungju and for their significant contribution to the service and leadership of our ministries.**

We continue to joyfully support and partner with them in mission with God's blessing and rejoice in our lifelong friendship.

John 15:15-17 reads: ***I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.***

Sungbin is an outstanding person of character, faith, and integrity. He is committed to using his gifts for God's purpose in the world. He came to Yellow Creek Mennonite Church six years ago. Originally from South Korea, he transitioned from a Presbyterian background in ministry to pursue Anabaptism as a student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Prior to his arrival in the United States Sungbin made significant connections with many in the growing Anabaptist Network in South Korea, connecting with Yellow Creek's work in a church planting in Seoul and related mission agency gatherings.

Sungbin's faith journey demonstrates a strong commitment to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a desire to faithfully follow God's call. His lifestyle, relationships, and spiritual care of his family deeply convey both consistencies with scripture and an attitude of Christ. Sungbin is genuinely humble, compassionate, and faithful in prayer.

Sungbin demonstrates a keen ability to navigate cross-cultural, racial, ethnic, and language differences with genuine

compassion and understanding. During his years at Yellow Creek, he joyfully served in teaching, preaching, and worship leading. For three years he took the role of Worship Coordinator for the congregation. This is especially notable given the need to use his second language, in which he quickly gained proficiency and some humor with staff assistance. A regular part of staff meetings included time to clarify the meaning of idioms, references, or sayings which were new to Sungbin. One example was "your eyes are bigger than your stomach." We laughed a lot together and frequently had to look up the etymology of certain phrases.

Sungbin also showed exceptional ministry versatility as a Jail Chaplain for the Elkhart County Jail. He became the first chaplain specifically assigned to the Work Release Center which was deeply appreciated by the inmates and affirmed by the jail staff and officials. Sungbin also pioneered a new ministry in the jail in the formation of a first-ever jail choir that performed in various services. These choir services were spiritually moving experiences where the redeeming power of God's love in Jesus Christ was so evident in joyful expressions of praise and victory.

It has been a blessing and honor to walk with Sungbin as a mentor, supervisor, and co-worker in ministry. I affirm his pursuit of a genuine call to further the kingdom of God "on earth as it is in heaven," as he continues to be equipped through his doctoral studies at Asbury Theological Seminary this fall. Sungbin's love and commitment to God's written word will continue to energize his theological studies and preparation for continued service. ■

*Wes Bontrager serves as the Senior Pastor at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church. Wes and his wife Cheryl were married in 1991 and have 3 children, Benjamin, Jesse, and Mallory. Wes is a root beer connoisseur and enjoys fishing in Canada as well as traveling anywhere.*



Photo by Yvonne Pasqualone

### YELLOW CREEK MENNONITE CHURCH

Located in Goshen, Indiana, Yellow Creek Mennonite Church is a community of believers striving to put genuine faith into practice. While they have a long history, they are defined more by their love for others and the pursuit of God's call. Their mission is to call and prepare everyone to be fully committed followers of Jesus Christ. They joined LMC's fellowship of churches in June 2018.



# COME TO THE TABLE – Luke 13:29

## YOUTH

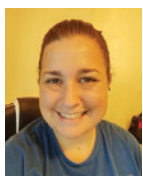


Youth and adults participate in Messy Games during CCL 2022. Photos by Kathy Brown.

## Youth Rally at the 2022 Celebration of Church Life

BY KATHY BROWN

Planning for this event began back in 2019. Did we plan to wait this long to actually get together? Nope. Pandemics have a funny way of not caring about your plans. But God. Almost 100 youth in grades 6–12 met at Camp Hebron to hear Deke Rider, Pastor Al Motley Jr., and Pastor Rafael Perez. David Cain, Juggler for Jesus, wowed the youth (and adults) with his wide array of skills, and Greg Donough and his horse showed off their skills. Remix Worship led us in singing every day. The youth got nice and filthy during Messy Games and we rocked out to a dance party complete with glow sticks and beach balls. Despite our best-laid plans, which were thwarted more often than not – but God. God knew what He was doing. God worked through us, at least one life was dedicated to Christ, and numerous others made re-commitments to the Lord. Despite the failures – but God. We look forward to Focus Youth Rally 2024! Special thanks to Jann Denlinger, Dave Houser, and Krista Martin for putting up with my craziness and having a huge hand in making this weekend happen.



To watch more of the LMC 2022 CCL Youth Rally please scan the QR code. ■

Kathy Brown and her husband are members of North Lima Mennonite Church. They have been married for 8 years and have 2 wonderful girls.



Youth listen to Pastor Rafael Perez speak during Sunday worship.

### CCL THEMES OVER THE YEARS

- 2018:** *Rebuild, Repair, Revive* – Isaiah 64:1
- 2019:** *Breaking New Ground* – Isaiah 43:19
- 2020:** *Welcoming Rain* – Deuteronomy 32:2
- 2021:** *Enlarge our tent and expand our territory* – Isaiah 54:2-3
- 2022:** *Come to the Table* – Luke 13:29



## Children



Abigail Huber shares scripture under the theme of Come to the Table.  
Photos by Sandra Granthon-Roman.



Keila Santos leads children in praying for the Children's Ministry in Mexico.



Greg Donough sits on his horse, demonstrating unconditional love to the master, as children look on.

## Nourishment Comes through Creative Ministry

BY SANDRA GRANTHON-ROMAN

On June 10 – 12, 2022, LMC held its annual Celebration of Church Life event, this year, hosted at Camp Hebron. Over 30 children from infants to 12 years of age came to the table to receive nourishment of the good news of the love of Jesus. They engaged in Bible stories, participated in arts and crafts projects, and much more. The children experienced the creative Christ-centered ministry presentations of David Cain, Juggler for Jesus, and Greg Donough, Spiritual Fruit Farm (equestrian ministry). Keila Santos introduced the children to the mission project of the Little Church of the Tree located in Colonia Guadalupe Rios, Mexico. The children joined the adults in praying for the children's ministry in Mexico, which needs a brick-and-mortar building to call "church". Their creative solution for safe shelter under 100-degree weather is to hold church service under the coverage of a tree.

CCL 2022 Children Ministry was led by Abigail Huber with planning, teaching assistance by Letitia Weaver and Sandra Granthon-Roman. A special thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with childcare to provide a safe place for our children to encounter Jesus.

Scan the QR code to see a video about the CCL Children's Ministry. ■



[christianjuggler.com](http://christianjuggler.com)



[spiritualfruitfarm.org](http://spiritualfruitfarm.org)

To learn more about the Little Church of the Tree:  
[lmchurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AprJun2022-ShalomNews\\_e-version.pdf](http://lmchurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AprJun2022-ShalomNews_e-version.pdf)



# Jesus is Lord!

## *Congregations of Concilio Iglesias Evangelicas Shalom (CIES) Celebrate 52 Years of God's Faithfulness*

BY SANDRA GRANTHON-ROMAN

**O**n Saturday, July 9, 2022, over 530 brethren gathered under one roof at Groffdale Mennonite Church in Leola, Pa. As one united church body, we praised God for his faithfulness for over 52 years to the congregations of Concilio Iglesias Evangelicas Shalom (CIES).

Among them were men, women, and children of all ages, from English to Spanish-speaking cultures. They traveled from as far as Mexico, Dominican Republic, and as near as New Holland, Pennsylvania. The body of Jesus Christ, the church, beaming as a radiant light, voices united to praise, and worship in love to proclaim Jesus is Lord!

Each CIES congregation walked triumphantly up the center aisle with banners raised in affirmation of the many years God had sustained them.



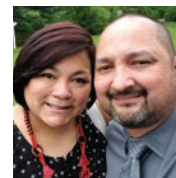
Keith Weaver (right) shares words of reflection with CIES congregations, while a CIES member provides Spanish translation. Photos by Pastora Paola Sanchez. Below: CIES congregations unite in worship.

L. Keith Weaver, Lancaster Mennonite Conference (LMC) Moderator, spoke words of life through a reflective message of the indispensable Holy Spirit movement that must be present, to make disciples of Jesus, mobilize every member as a missionary, and multiply faith communities locally and beyond. It was shared that on a recent mission trip to Cuba, Keith witnessed the Spirit of God moving through numerous CIES Pastors, including Pastor Freddie Gonzalez, CIES Moderator, from Iglesia Faro Ardiente in New Jersey. It was here that God used Pastor Freddie to pray the power of healing through the Holy Spirit to free the captives.

Keith Weaver joyfully proclaimed that only Spirit Power, Spirit Movement transforms the lost into a new creation – not man! Man's wisdom and schoolbook knowledge cannot compare to the omnipresence of God's Holy Spirit to convict the hearts of the lost, to repent, and seek our Savior, Jesus is Lord! The sanctuary filled with a victorious response of AMEN! HALLELUJAH!

CIES President Samuel Lopez presented Keith Weaver with a Mexican handwoven cloth (a sarape) in appreciation for the many years of LMC walking alongside CIES in fellowship and as brethren in the Anabaptist Faith. Marvin Lorenza, EMM President, and Rolando Flores, an MCC representative, also received a sarape as gratitude and appreciation. ■

*Sandra Granthon-Roman and her husband Alexis serve as Deacons at Iglesia Restauracion en Cristo in Mount Joy. They also serve in the Children's Ministry for Concilio Iglesias Evangelicas Shalom (CIES). They have been married for 9 years and live in Millersville, PA.*





# NEWS NOTES

## CREDENTIALING REPORT

In recent months, the following men and women were licensed, ordained, or installed:

**Jeff McLain** (*Katie*) was installed as lead pastor of River Corner Mennonite Church in Conestoga, Pa.

**John H. Miller** (*Helen*) was ordained as bishop of the Great Lakes East District with congregations in western Pa. and eastern Oh.

**Michael and Alyson Teague** were licensed toward ordination as associate pastors at Bethlehem Community Fellowship in Bethlehem, Pa.

**Michael Booth** (*Eliza*) was ordained as lead pastor at Rivers Edge Fellowship in Lancaster, Pa.

**Cheryl Drouillard** (*John*) was licensed toward ordination as a community pastor in the Willow Street-Strasburg district.

**Samuel Perez** (*Jenny*) was ordained as lead pastor at Iglesia Evangelica Menonita Ebenezer in Bronx, New York.

**Marcia Mylin** (*Dale*) was ordained as bishop to serve on the LMC Bishop Elders Team. LMC's office is located in Lancaster, Pa.

**Joshua Buser** (*Elizabeth*) was ordained as associate pastor of worship at East Petersburg Mennonite Church in East Petersburg, Pa.

## LMC GRANTS

LMC Grants Committee is thankful to be able to support and award 30 individuals with a total of \$26,040 in their educational journeys.

- ▶ Leadership Education: \$8,300
- ▶ Urban Education: \$3,000
- ▶ Women's Education: \$840
- ▶ Ministry and Pastoral Health and Wellness: \$5,700
- ▶ STEP Study Award: \$8,200

Learn more about LMC grants at [lmcchurches.org/lmc-grants](https://lmcchurches.org/lmc-grants)

## BISHOPS VISIT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CHURCHES

Bishop Adalberto Santiago and Bishop Nicolas Angustia traveled to the Dominican Republic to visit the Faro Divino congregations from August 13 to 18. As part of the New York City district of LMC, Bishop Nicholas provides leadership to these congregations. The purpose of this visit was to strengthen the relationships between LMC, New York City District and the Dominican Republic Council. Adalberto spoke to a group of 400 at the Faro Divino Council annual Convention as LMC Conference Minister. Praise God for the many opportunities in the DR for LMC's mission of a Spirit-led movement to flourish!

## BISHOP JOHN MILLER – GREAT LAKES EAST DISTRICT



John H. Miller was ordained as Bishop in LMC's Great Lakes East District on July 31, 2022. John brings a wealth of church leadership experience to his new oversight role. He served as Pastor of New Hope Christian Center in Orrville, Ohio for 29 years. He also has church planting experience and served in an oversight role for eight years. John also served on the National Executive Board for Victory Churches USA, a fast-growing church planting movement in North America. John has a heart for seeing the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the church for reaching many people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## KEITH WEAVER RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS

Keith and Joanne Weaver were honored at retirement celebrations for Keith's twenty-two years of faithful service as LMC Moderator. Keith gave himself selflessly to the cause of the church and the coming of God's Kingdom among us. Bishops and leaders held a special service on Saturday, September 24 at Stumptown Mennonite Church during Fall Leadership Assembly. A drop-in dessert reception was held on Sunday, September 25 at the Hub 450 in Lancaster. With joy, friends and family from near and far, gathered to give thanks for the many years of service.

## LMC LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

On Sunday, June 12, 2022, during the Celebration of Church Life, those gathered participated in a significant time of worship. After 21 years of bringing the *LMC State of the Conference* address, Keith Weaver gave an impassioned final address as Moderator. Keith was honored to install and commission the new Bishop Elders Team affirmed to lead LMC for the next 3-5 years. This team will also continue the



ongoing discernment and development of a new governance/structure for LMC. The Bishop Elders Team members are Keith Blank, Rodney Martin, Marcia Mylin, and Tuyen Nguyen. Bishop Joe Miller led a commissioning prayer. To hear Keith's address, go to [lmcchurches.org/video](https://lmcchurches.org/video) or scan the QR code.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at [LMCchurches.org](https://LMCchurches.org).

## LMC Virtual Monday Night Prayer Gathering

Every first Monday of each month

7:00 p.m. via Zoom

[lmchurches.org](https://lmchurches.org)

## LMC Women's Prayer Gathering

Every first Friday of each month

8:00 a.m.

LMC at 450 N. Prince St. Lancaster, Pa.

717-293-5246 ext. 114 for more

information

## Mennonite Life - Maize & Snitz Market Fair

October 7-8

1719 Museum, 1849 Hans Herr Drive

Willow Street, Pa.

Register at [mennonitelife.org](https://mennonitelife.org)

## EMM Banquet

October 13 & November 3 at HUB 450

December 5 at Landis Homes

Register at [emm.org/banquet](https://emm.org/banquet)

## Explore Retirement Living Open House

October 15, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Crossings at Landis Homes

Lititz, Pa.

## LMC/EMM Multiplication Prayer Gathering

October 20, 7:00 p.m.

West Community Room, Landis Homes,

Lititz, Pa.

717-293-5246 ext. 102

## Friendship Community 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Featuring speaker Chris Nikic

October 20, 6:30 p.m.

Shady Maple Banquet Center

Register at [friendshipcommunity.net](https://friendshipcommunity.net)

## LMC Spring Leadership Assembly

March 31, 2023

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.

## LMC Celebration of Church Life

April 1, 2023

Petra Church, New Holland, Pa.



## Mennonite Life

Experience  
Mennonite History  
& Culture

[mennonitelife.org](https://mennonitelife.org)



## Friendship Community

Discover Your  
**PURPOSE**

Apply Now!

[friendshipcommunity.net/employment](https://friendshipcommunity.net/employment)

## Join Our Supportive Team

Careers at  
**Landis**  
Communities

Learn about our excellent benefits,  
competitive rates and flexible scheduling.

Lititz, PA | 717.963.2509  
[LandisCareers.org](https://LandisCareers.org)

## YOU'RE INVITED

THE EMM BANQUET IS BEING  
OFFERED 3 TIMES THIS FALL!

REGISTER NOW AT  
[EMM.ORG/BANQUET](https://emm.org/banquet)

> OCT. 13 AT HUB 450  
> NOV. 3 AT HUB 450  
> DEC. 5 AT LANDIS HOMES



everyone moving in mission