



LMC *a fellowship of anabaptist churches*

Shalom NEWS

APRIL–JUNE 2023



The Glory of Unity

Jesus' intention for love within the church



GET EQUIPPED with STEP

- Expand your leadership skills
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STEP provides three years of non-traditional ministry leadership training. Training occurs through online assignments and one monthly classroom meeting for nine months each of the three years. The monthly class is held at 450 N. Prince St. Lancaster, with a virtual option available for students living long distances. Students travel together through the three years on a cohort model.

Graduates earn a Certificate of Ministry from LMC and 30 undergraduate credits from Eastern Mennonite University for completing the 3-year program.

Registration is open, and classes are forming for the 2023-2024 academic year. For more information, contact Marcia Mylin, STEP Director, at mmysin@lmcchurches.org or visit lmcchurches.org/ministries/step



"I would consider some of my best memories of STEP to be from my cohort. The times that we spent together sharing our life struggles and joys during class, over lunch, and outside of class. I felt that our cohort developed a bond of respect, confidentiality, and care that was helpful during our time in STEP."

— STEP Student

Tuition and Financial Aid

Standard tuition is \$300 per credit hour or \$3,000 per year. Textbook costs are included. Congregations and districts are encouraged to assist with the tuition of their students. LMC awards Leadership and Education grants.

To apply for a grant see: lmcchurches.org/endowment-fund-application-education-grants



April–June 2023

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Bishop Elders Team

Keith Blank
Rodney Martin
Marcia Mylin
Tuyen Nguyen

Shalom News Team

Sherri Martin, Managing Editor
Sandra Granthon-Roman, Contributing Editor
DaQuan Gibson, Guest Editor

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smartin@LMCchurches.org

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ON THE COVER

Main image: artwork by
La Cassette Bleue / Adobe Stock

Small photo: Children's Ministry special event
led by Nely Lara at New Holland Mennonite
Church Jesucristo es el Señor, New Holland, Pa.

A Prayer for Us

Jesus' vision for unity in the church

BY DAQUAN GIBSON

Before Jesus' crucifixion, He prays for Himself, His disciples, and us. This is a futuristic prayer. It is a prayer that focuses on unity, on all being one. Not uniformity but unity, true friends!

I imagine that as the disciples gathered for their final meal with Jesus (even though they did not know it), they did not feel united. They had to be frightened, uncertain, insecure, and un-united. Thomas was skeptical, Peter was grouchy, and Judas was malevolent. James and John were probably still jockeying for positions. They were far from being described as one.

This is Jesus' last hour with His disciples before He goes to the cross. The focus of Jesus' prayer is both for the disciples who are present with Him and all those who would later become His disciples. Jesus is praying this prayer while the opposition is getting closer.

Christ extended His prayer to ***"those who will believe"*** (John 17:20) through the witness of the original disciples. What Jesus prays for us is the same thing that He prays for the original first disciples – that we would be one.

This is not simply a unity of love. No. This unity is predicated on adherence to the Father's revelation to the first disciples through His Son, the revelation they believed and preached. This oneness is comparable to the oneness of the Godhead.

The Father is in the Son to the extent that we are told in John 14:10: ***"Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works."***

The Father and the Son are distinguishable yet still God – distinct personalities and yet one. In the same way, we Christians, believers, are to be one in purpose, one in love, and for one another and in submission to the revelation of Christ.

The indwelling of the Father in the Son is to the extent that we can be told that it is the Father performing the Son's work.

And yet the Son is in the Father, not only in total dependence and complete obedience to the Father, but also the very one who created everything and for and through whom everything was created. He was in the beginning with God. ***"All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."*** (John 1:3).

The Father and the Son are distinguishable yet still God – distinct personalities and yet one. In the same way, we Christians, believers, are to be one in purpose, one in love, and for one another and in submission to the revelation of Christ. Yet I am me, and you are you. I do not have to become you or be like you.





DaQuan Gibson preaching. Photo provided by the author.

The glory of Christ is quite different from the glory that many seek and display in the Church today. Jesus often referred to His cross as His glory. You want glory? Humble yourself. You want glory? Serve. You want glory? Lay down your life. You want glory? Get involved with the very work of unity.

Jesus envisions the great multitude before the throne of God of every nation, skin color, language, class, and social level (Revelation 7:9-10). Jesus prays that we would rise above our differences and understand our unity: that ***"they may all be as one."*** (John 17:21).

Jesus prays for the unity of the disciples that the Father gave Him. They were all from the same place and time with similar backgrounds. It's as if Christ is saying, *"Father I know more are coming and they are coming from everywhere, speaking different languages, with different customs, different tastes in music, using various colloquialisms, from different classes, and from every age for the rest of time. Father, make them one."*

Yes, we will have doctrinal differences. If we do not, then it means that we are not thinking. Yes, the doctrine will cause some lines to be drawn. Rightfully so. We will not agree on everything but we are not to be of a contentious spirit, separating ourselves from those who are living members of the one and indivisible body of Christ. Some promote the faith by creating divisions or pointing out our differences. It should not be so. We must cultivate both our love of truth and our love of the brothers and sisters.

I have become really good friends with another pastor with whom I have some significant doctrinal differences. And what I find amazing is that we can talk about those differences and enjoy breakfast and lunch together. We will sit for hours, praying for one another, telling pastoral stories, discussing doctrine and covenants and dispensations, marriage, children, and sports.

And there are those with whom I have doctrine in common, and they wouldn't spit on me if I were on fire.

Doctrine may cause us to worship in different places, but nothing should cause us not to be one in Christ. If you claim to be in the Father and in the Son and thereby identify with God and depend on Him for life and eternity, then we are the residency of the Father's work in this world. And we become the Father's display of love and unity, so much so that it is unworldly.

The unity envisioned in **verse 21** is not institutional but observable. We don't get there by lowering our doctrinal standards; we get there by having a common adherence to the Gospel, being joyfully self-sacrificing with a commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ (glorifying the Father), by dependence on God for everything. Our unity must be intentionally worked at, but it will be perfected when Christ returns.

"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." (John 17:22-23).

Jesus prayed that the church would be marked by glory. The Father and the Son share – and have always shared – glory. The Son transmits that glory to those who have heard and believe the words of His disciples, the Gospel. I define glory as the manifestation of God's character or person in a revelatory context.

Jesus mediates the glory of God in His person and work to his first followers and through them to those who believe their



REDEMPTION CHURCH

Meeting at Red Lion Christian Academy: 1390 Red Lion Road, Bear, Delaware 19701
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. | Sunday School 11:30 a.m.

The vision of Redemption Church is to be a community of believers, worshiping and working together as guided by the Holy Spirit. We exist to glorify God through the preached word (God), authentic relationships (Family) and charity (Others).

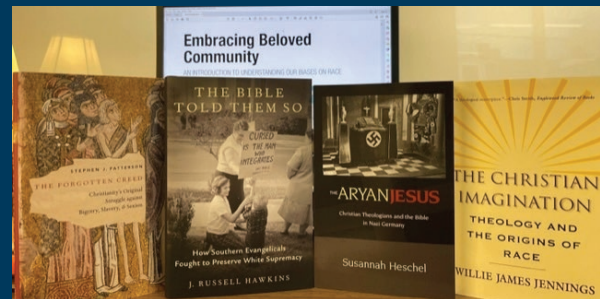
For more information visit Redemption Church's website: redemption.global
Pastor DaQuan Gibson's sermons: facebook.com/redemptionchurch.global

message. And he has done all of this ***“that they may be one as we are one”*** (v. 22) so that the world will come to know that the Father had sent Jesus.

It is worth remembering that the glory the Father gave to the Son often appeared humble, weak, and suffering. That same glory was ultimately displayed in Christ's revolutionary sacrifice. The glory of Christ is quite different from the glory that many seek and display in the Church today. Jesus often referred to His cross as His glory. You want glory? Humble yourself. You want glory? Serve. You want glory? Lay down your life. You want glory? Get involved with the very work of unity.

We are never closer to God and His glory than when we are lowly, humble, and serving. Unity is much easier when there is a sense of God's glory. When we have a God-centered unity based on God's glory, the things that divide us get pushed to the back, and we realize how small they actually are. To God be the glory. ■

DaQuan Gibson is currently the planter and pastor of Redemption Church in Bear, Delaware. He has preached to and counseled thousands and continues to have an impact on families for the sake of the Gospel. With every opportunity given, DaQuan loves to share the simple message of The Gospel. You can find DaQuan at a coffee shop, in a local park, or hanging out with his family.



LMC RESOURCE:

Intercultural Leadership Ministry

As ethnic diversity continues to increase in LMC's fellowship of churches, Karl McKinney, Intercultural Leadership Minister, and Tuyen Nguyen, Bishop Elders Team, offer tools for interested congregations and individuals to grow in the area of intercultural competency. A library of resources is provided as part of the purpose of the ILM – which exists to help LMC in its pursuit of justice, to dismantle racism from its systems, and to equip leaders to become increasingly interculturally competent. To learn more, please contact Karl at kmckinney@lmcchurches.org or Tuyen at tuyennguyen4mail@gmail.com.

Una Oración por Nosotros

POR DAQUAN GIBSON

Antes de la crucifixión de Jesús, Él ora por sí mismo, por sus discípulos y por nosotros. Esta es una oración futurista. Es una oración que se enfoca en la unidad, en que todos sean uno. ¡No uniformidad sino unidad, verdaderos amigos!

Me imagino que cuando los discípulos se reunieron para su última comida con Jesús (aunque no lo sabían), no se sintieron unidos. Tenían que estar asustados, inseguros, inseguros y desunidos. Tomas era escéptico, Pedro estaba malhumorado y Judas era malévolo. Santiago y Juan probablemente todavía estaban compitiendo por posiciones. Estaban lejos de ser descritos como uno.

Esta es la última hora de Jesús con sus discípulos antes de ir a la cruz. El centro de la oración de Jesús es tanto por los discípulos que están presentes con él como por todos los que más tarde se convertirían en sus discípulos. Jesús está rezando esta oración mientras la oposición se acerca.

Cristo extendió Su oración a **"los que han de creer"** (Juan 17:20) a través del testimonio de los discípulos originales. Lo que Jesús ora por nosotros es lo mismo que ora por los primeros discípulos originales: que seamos uno.

Esto no es simplemente una unidad de amor. No. Esta unidad se basa en la adhesión a la revelación del Padre a los primeros discípulos a través de su Hijo, la revelación que ellos creyeron y predicaron. Esta unidad es comparable a la unidad de la Deidad.

El Padre está en el Hijo en la medida en que se nos dice en Juan 14:10: **"¿No crees que yo estoy en el Padre y el Padre está en mí? Las palabras que os digo no las hablo por mi propia cuenta, sino que el Padre que mora en mí hace sus obras."** La morada del Padre en el Hijo es en la medida en que se nos puede decir que es el Padre quien realiza la obra del Hijo.

Y sin embargo el Hijo está en el Padre, no sólo en total dependencia y completa obediencia al Padre, sino también el mismo que creó todo y para y por quien todo fue creado. Él estaba en el principio con Dios. **"Todas las cosas por él fueron hechas, y sin él nada de lo que ha sido hecho, fue hecho."** (Juan 1:3).

El Padre y el Hijo son distinguibles y sin embargo, Dios-personalidades distintas y sin embargo, una. De la misma manera, nosotros los cristianos, los creyentes, debemos ser uno en propósito, uno en amor, uno por el otro y en sumisión a la revelación de Cristo. Sin embargo, yo soy yo, y tú eres tú. No tengo que convertirme en ti o ser como tú.

Jesús visualiza la gran multitud delante del trono de Dios de toda nación, color de piel, idioma, clase y nivel social (Apocalipsis 7:9-10). Jesús ora para que superemos nuestras diferencias y entendamos nuestra unidad: que **"todos sean como uno"**. (Juan 17:21).

Jesús ora por la unidad de los discípulos que el Padre le dio. Todos eran del mismo lugar y tiempo con antecedentes similares. Es como si Cristo estuviera diciendo: **"Padre, sé que vienen más y vienen de todas partes, hablando diferentes idiomas, con diferentes costumbres, diferentes gustos musicales, usando varios coloquialismos, de diferentes clases y de todas las edades por el resto del tiempo. Padre, hazlos uno."**

Sí, tendremos diferencias doctrinales. Si no lo hacemos, entonces significa que no estamos pensando. Sí, la doctrina hará que se dibujen algunas líneas. Con razón. No estaremos de acuerdo en todo, pero no debemos ser de espíritu contencioso, separándonos de aquellos que son miembros vivos del cuerpo único e indivisible de Cristo. Algunos promueven la fe creando divisiones o señalando nuestras diferencias. No debería ser así. Debemos cultivar tanto nuestro amor a la verdad como nuestro amor a los hermanos y hermanas.



Me he hecho muy buen amigo de otro pastor con quien tengo algunas diferencias doctrinales significativas. Y lo que encuentro increíble es que podemos hablar sobre esas diferencias y disfrutar del desayuno y el almuerzo juntos. Nos sentaremos durante horas, orando unos por otros, contando historias pastorales, discutiendo doctrina, convenios y dispensaciones, matrimonio, hijos y deportes. Y hay aquellos con quienes tengo doctrina en común, y no me escupirán si estuviera en llamas.

La doctrina puede hacer que adoremos en diferentes lugares, pero nada debe hacer que no seamos uno en Cristo. Si afirmas estar en el Padre y en el Hijo

y por lo tanto te identificas con Dios y dependes de Él para la vida y la eternidad, entonces somos la residencia de la obra del Padre en este mundo. Y nos convertimos en la muestra de amor y unidad del Padre, tanto que es sobrenatural.

La unidad prevista en el **versículo 21** no es institucional sino observable. No llegamos allí bajando nuestros estándares doctrinales; llegamos allí teniendo una adhesión común al Evangelio, siendo gozosamente abnegados con el compromiso con la misión de Jesucristo (glorificar al Padre), por la dependencia de Dios para todo. Nuestra unidad debe trabajarse intencionalmente, pero será perfeccionada cuando Cristo regrese.

"La gloria que me diste, yo les he dado, para que sean uno, así como nosotros somos uno. Yo en ellos, y tú en mí, para que sean perfectos en unidad, para que el mundo conozca que tú me enviaste y que los has amado a ellos como también a mí me has amado." (Juan 17:22-23).

Jesús oró para que la iglesia fuera marcada por la gloria. El Padre y el Hijo comparten- y siempre han compartido- la gloria. El Hijo transmite esa gloria a los que han oído y creen las palabras de sus discípulos, el Evangelio. Defino la gloria como la manifestación del carácter o persona de Dios en un contexto revelador.

Jesús comunica la gloria de Dios en Su persona y obra a sus primeros seguidores y, a través de ellos, a aquellos que creen en su mensaje. Y todo esto lo ha hecho **"para que sean uno, como nosotros somos uno"** (v. 21) para que el mundo sepa que el Padre ha enviado a Jesús.

Vale la pena recordar que la gloria que el Padre dio al Hijo muchas veces se mostró humilde, débil y sufriente. Esa misma gloria se mostró finalmente en el sacrificio revolucionario de Cristo. La gloria de Cristo es muy diferente de la gloria que muchos buscan y exhiben en la Iglesia de hoy. Jesús a menudo se refirió a Su cruz como Su gloria. ¿Quieres gloria? Sé humilde. ¿Quieres gloria? Atiende a otros. ¿Quieres gloria? Deja tu vida. ¿Quieres gloria? Involúcrese en la obra misma de la unidad.

Nunca estamos más cerca de Dios y de Su gloria que cuando somos humildes, modestos y sirvientes. La unidad es mucho más fácil cuando hay un sentido de la gloria de Dios. Cuando tenemos una unidad centrada en Dios basada en la gloria de Dios, las cosas que nos dividen quedan atrás y nos damos cuenta de lo pequeñas que son en realidad. A Dios sea la gloria. ■

DaQuan Gibson es actualmente el plantador y pastor de Redemption Church en Bear, Delaware. Ha predicado y aconsejado a miles y continúa teniendo un impacto en las familias por causa del Evangelio. Con cada oportunidad que se le brinda, a DaQuan le encanta compartir el mensaje simple del Evangelio. Puedes encontrar a DaQuan en una cafetería, en un parque local o pasando el rato con su familia.

Unity

BY JANAI GIBSON

"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Do you remember the statement, "there is no 'I' in team"? Maybe you have heard it from managers in the workplace, while volunteering with an organization, or even when working in groups in the classroom. I cannot count the many times I have heard this statement in an attempt to promote the idea or picture of unity. It is most often said to inspire or foster the concept of oneness. Typically to meet some goal or reach an accomplishment. Yet, one of the greatest forms of unity I have ever experienced is the togetherness practiced and felt as an athlete out on the field, court, or even on the track.

As an athlete, throughout my high school experience, I fell in love with the sport of volleyball. I vividly remember walking into the gymnasium for the first day of practice during my senior year and trying to adjust to the group of girls I'd be playing with for that season. Some of the girls from the prior year had graduated, transferred schools, or just decided not to play, and a few new girls had joined the team. So, it all felt a bit different. As we began to practice and move through our different rotations, there was a bit of a struggle. We had not developed or garnered this idea of togetherness nor gotten a feel for one another's play styles.

One day, our coach walked us through our rotations and explained that it should all resemble a well-put-together dance. We should be in sync with one another and on the same accord, not stepping on one another's toes and stumbling to find the rhythm or catch the beat. When one member of the team moves, the rest should follow. No one should be apart from the team, doing their own thing. We move as one because we are one. He made it clear that through unity, we would find our success.

The fun had just begun, as it took some time to adjust and get acclimated with one another. Everything moved a bit smoother after this. We started to form and strengthen relationships with one another. We started to enjoy playing alongside each other truly. We were able to accomplish so much more out on the court. The use of unity and truly being "all in" to becoming one and working alongside one

Just like my volleyball team, we as Christians should have one goal and one desire, to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

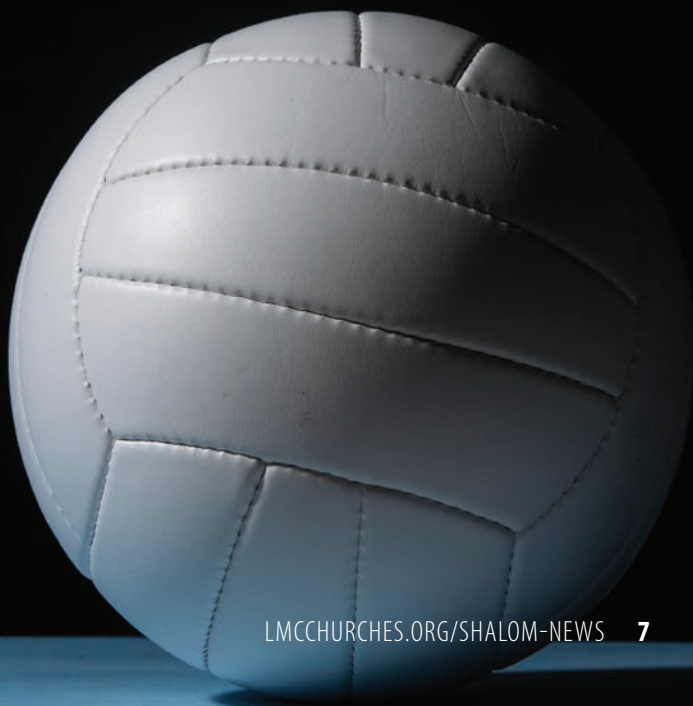
another did nothing but benefit us. We performed better both in games and practice as we had one goal and desire – to play the best volleyball possible.

This concept of oneness or togetherness does not have to stop when the shot clock buzzes or the game ends. In fact, unity in Christ should never end. It should outlast our unity in sports, togetherness in the classroom, and even oneness in the workplace. There is no "I" in team! We should be unified and come together as the body of Christ. Despite small differences, Christ is the one essence we will always have in common, the one unifying center. Just like my volleyball team, we as Christians should have one goal and one desire, to glorify God and enjoy him forever. ■

Janai Gibson is the daughter of Pastor DaQuan Gibson from Redemption Church in Bear, Delaware.



Stock photos by Adobe Stock.



The Power of Hope

As the world seems to grow darker and more polarized, finding hope is more imperative than ever. That's why LMC Legacy Foundation's life-changing mission is to promote hope, healing, and wholeness through integrative behavioral healthcare resources that nurture mental health, resilience, and innovation.

As essential beacons of light and hope in the community, churches are in special positions of influence. Although we offer grants to mental health organizations, we are delighted to help any 501(c)3 nonprofit, including a church, with programs that have unique mental health missions and meet our grant specifications: programs that are innovative, faith-based, sustainable, and measurable.

When even a small light is kindled, it can grow, and its glow can illuminate entire communities. LMC Legacy Foundation is passionate about engaging with you to fuel that kind of spark in your church and your town as we explore more innovative and paradigm-shifting mental health care together.

On Thursday morning, April 20, 2023, LMC Legacy Foundation will host "A Better Way Forward: Connecting Faith and Mental Health," a generative exploration to shift

paradigms for mental health treatment through innovative programming and faith-based approaches. Attendees at this FREE event held at HUB 450 in downtown Lancaster will participate in engaged listening, collaborative experiencing, and generative thinking to see what emerges as we, together, explore thinking outside of the box in meeting current mental health needs in our local communities. Exciting projects already funded by LMC

Legacy Foundation will also be described. Special guests, including President Greg Henson from Kairos University, will also inspire participants toward new ways of thinking.

This event, like LMC Legacy Foundation's grants, is aimed at improving mental health care and, in so doing, improving and enhancing society as a whole. Our partnerships with those working to spread wholeness and healing benefit entire communities because once that small light catches, it only grows brighter and brighter. That's the power of hope! ■



Scan the QR code to learn more, or go to:
lmc-legacyfoundation.org



LMC Legacy
Foundation

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 | 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

A BETTER WAY
FORWARD

Innovate & Collaborate



Above left: Children's Ministry special event led by Nely Lara at New Holland Mennonite Church Jesucristo es el Señor, New Holland, Pa. Above right: Event for Iglesia Roca de Salvación located in Lancaster City, Pa. Photos provided by the author.

Unity Builds a Future

BY NELY ELIZABETH LARA

Dear brothers and sisters in the faith, may God pour out unto you his love, peace, and an ardent desire to serve Him as He has done with me. Within Concilio Iglesias Evangelicas Shalom (CIES) I work as a leader of the children's ministry.

I have been a children's leader and a youth counselor for ten years. I have had the privilege of serving God since my childhood. I was baptized with the Holy Spirit at the age of nine and submerged in the waters of baptism at the age of eleven.

Teaching the word of God to children and youth is sowing in good soil. God has provided me the opportunity to visit many CIES churches, working in unity with leaders, teachers and pastors to work with children and youth because that is where there is life and a great future.

During my visits I share the word of God with the children and pray for them. Together with their pastors and leaders, we anoint them with oil, hug them, and show them God's love. We bring gifts, games, crafts, and prepare delicious meals for the children. The rooms are beautifully decorated so that the children are in a happy environment where they feel good.

I have seen young people and children be filled with the Holy Spirit and cry in the presence of God as they speak in new

tongues. I have seen children grow up serving God and now they are youth who continue to love God.

Each visit to a congregation has been a wonderful experience because we are carrying out the call that God has given us. Working with children and youth is the battlefield most fought by the enemy. Let's pray for the children's leaders because their battles are strong. We never give up because the coming of Jesus is near and our work is not in vain – everything will have its reward.

Let us continue to work united with love and a commitment to lead children to salvation and eternal life. Glory and honor be to God. A thousand blessings, my beloved. ■

Nely Elizabeth Lara is a children's leader for CIES Children's Ministry. She and her husband and four children attend Iglesia Evangélica Puerta de Sion in Trenton, New Jersey.



Scan the QR code to read more, or go to:
facebook.com/InfantilGuerreros/

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.



MOTLEY DINNER CHURCH

Motley Dinner Church was birthed from the New Danville District out of a need to reach people who don't fit into a traditional church format. Twenty to thirty people gather each Tuesday evening at HUB450 around the dinner table. Together, they are learning about Jesus through discussion rather than lecture.

CUBA CONCILIO DE IGLESIAS EVANGÉLICAS SHALOM (CIES)

Supervisor Samuel Lopez, Bishop Omar Guzman and Pastor Tom Eshelman, LMC Global Delegate, traveled to Cuba on January 18–25, 2023. The mission trip was to participate in the CIES-Cuba annual assembly and to visit the churches in the area of Bauta. The purpose for the assembly, besides worship and reports, focused on teaching Anabaptist history and theology.



MYNEIGHBORS GIFT TO LMC

Throughout last year, MyNeighbor cardholders earned donations for LMC with every purchase made

with their MyNeighbor credit cards from Everence Federal Credit Union. Lynette Morales who serves as a Everence Stewardship Consultant in the Central Penn

region presented the LMC Bishop Elders Team with a check for \$1,886 donation. To learn more visit everence.com/MyNeighbor or call 800-451-5719.

IPD RESOURCING DAY

On Thursday January 19, 2023 a resourcing day was held for LMC's International Partner Delegates and others from EMM and LMC involved in engagement with the global church. It was a day of learning, praying, encouraging and envisioning together in the renewed collaboration the Holy Spirit is stirring between mission and church. The International Partner Delegate (IPD) program began five years ago for the purpose of tending the relationships LMC stewards with churches that have a historic, apostolic connection with LMC through the mission efforts of EMM.



MISSION DIRECTOR OF MESERETE KRISTOS CHURCH

Abayneh Anjulo, National Missions Director of Meserete Kristos Church (MKC), traveled to the States in February 2023. In addition to bringing blessings from MKC to the LMC Board of Bishops, brother Abayneh spoke at the EMM chapel and met with LMC staff. LMC Bishops hosted Abayneh for a tour of Mennonite and Amish history and the contemporary story of the original Lancaster settlement. Meserete Kristos Church is a Men-

nonite denomination in Ethiopia with over 350,000 baptized members. MKC plans to send twenty-five missionary couples to neighboring countries in the next few years.



LMC SEED PROGRAM – OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY STUDY

LMC SEED participants tour the Tabernacle replica at the Mennonite Information Center in Lancaster, PA, as part of their Old Testament Survey study with Instructor Jim Leaman. SEED is designed to equip second-language, cross-cultural leaders who are serving the church in the United States.

CIES TRIP TO MEXICO VISITING CHURCHES

Supervisor Samuel Lopez, Pastor Hugo Garcia, and Pastor Hector Mejía traveled to Tijuana, B.C., Mexico on February 3–6, 2023 to visit Monte Horeb and Pan de Vida churches. They baptized Jose Rostro, age 90, a man who almost died a week before the baptism. Two children were presented during a dedication ceremony. They also visited Casa de Misericordia (House of Mercy) where Juana Cruz has a ministry to the elderly who have been abandoned by their families.

NEWS NOTES

CREDENTIALING REPORT

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

Thomas Linderman (*Susan*) was ordained as interim lead pastor at First Mennonite Church in Morton, Il.

Chad Sufficool (*Tiffany*) was licensed toward ordination as equipping pastor at East Petersburg Mennonite Church in East Petersburg, Pa.

Gabriel & Ruth Njika were ordained as lead pastors at Christian Missionary Fellowship International in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Dale Zimmerman (*Jill*) was ordained as pastor of life and student ministries at Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community in East Earl, Pa.

Anthony Witmer (*Theresa*) was ordained as lead pastor at Bowmansville Mennonite Church in Bowmansville, Pa.

Larry Weber (*Sandra*) transitioned from lead pastor to associate pastor at Bowmansville Mennonite in Bowmansville, Pa.

Philip Bollinger (*Sarah*) was licensed for specific ministry as interim pastor at Gingrichs Mennonite Church in Lebanon, Pa.

Jeffrey L. High (*Janet*) was installed as lead pastor at Alive Church Ephrata in Ephrata, Pa.

Kevin D. Martin (*Janelle*) was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at Alive Church Ephrata in Ephrata, Pa.

David R. Buch (*Lisa*) was installed as associate pastor at Alive Church Ephrata in Ephrata, Pa.

Omar Guzman (*Tania*) was ordained as bishop of Evangelical Garifuna Mission, a district of LMC.

Celmali Okonji (*Moise*) was ordained associate pastor at Inspiración Center in the Evangelical Garifuna Mission in Nairobi, Kenya.

James Westmoreland was installed as lead pastor at Parkesburg Mennonite Church in Parkesburg, Pa.

Elvin & Wendy Kennel were licensed toward ordination as associate pastors at Parkesburg Mennonite Church in Parkesburg, Pa.

Roger Hartman was ordained as lead pastor at Moorhead Mennonite Church in Shreve, Ohio.

Mark Mentzer (*Cathy*) was installed as apostle/pastor in the Groffdale District.

Paul Livengood (*Jan*) was ordained as bishop of the Western Maryland district at Pinto Mennonite Church.

Sunoko Lin (*Natalie*) was ordained as lead pastor at Maranatha Christian Fellowship in Lake Balboa, Ca.

Krista Snader (*Brian*) was licensed toward ordination as associate pastor at Groffdale Mennonite Church in Leola, Pa.

Fausto De Jesus Gomez Duran was ordained as lead pastor of Iglesia Faro Divino Hacienda Estrella, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Rosa Morel De Santana (*Adalberto*) was ordained as associate pastor of Iglesia El Calvario in the Caleta, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Manuel De Jesus Marte Rondon (*Homobonas*) was ordained as lead pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Evangelica, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Homobonas Mateo Frias de Marte (*Manuel*) was ordained as associate Pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Evangelica, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Yisa Reyes de Bautista (*Danis*) was ordained as associate pastor of Iglesia el Calvario in the Caleta, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

EVANGELICAL GARIFUNA MISSION JOINS LMC

Omar Guzman was recently called as Bishop of the Evangelical Garifuna Mission district. On June 24, 2022, the LMC Board of Bishops affirmed the EGM as a network of Garifuna congregations within LMC and as a district of LMC. Bishops gathered with joy around Omar Guzman for prayer and blessing. With approximately 1,200 members, Evangelical Garifuna Mission is now a network of LMC congregations, including 17 in the USA, eight in Honduras, and church plant initiatives in Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio, Colorado, and Spain.



WESTERN MARYLAND DISTRICT BISHOP TRANSITION

Pinto Mennonite Church hosted a special worship service on Sunday, February 12, 2023. Adalberto Santiago and Keith Blank were privileged to represent LMC as Paul T. Livengood was ordained as the new Bishop of the Western Maryland District. Paul attended his first Bishop Board meeting on February 17. Bishop Earl Yoder was honored at the February board meeting for his years of service in the Western Maryland District.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete calendar and more details available at LMCchurches.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

Prayer for the Nations

**Every first and third Tuesday of
the month**

EMM/Hub450 at 450 N. Prince Street,
Lancaster, Pa.
Questions? Contact Becca@hub450.org

Thursday Night Quarterly Prayer Meeting

April 20, 2023

7:00 p.m.

West Community Room, Landis Homes,
Lititz, Pa.
717-293-5246 ext 102

Mennonite Life – Plain Living Series Weaverland Mennonites: 300 Years of Growth

April 4, April 10, & April 24, 2023

7:00–8:30 p.m.

Garden Spot Village Chapel,
New Holland, Pa.
www.gardenspotvillage.org

Landis Homes – Used Book Sale

April 25, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

West Community Room, Landis Homes,
Lititz, Pa.
[www.landishomes.org/2017/04/21/
earth-day-events-april-25/](http://www.landishomes.org/2017/04/21/earth-day-events-april-25/)

Friendship Community – Fest & 5K

May 12–13, 2023

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lititz, Pa.
Register: [www.friendshipcommunity.net/
event/fest-5k/](http://www.friendshipcommunity.net/event/fest-5k/)

Looking for a meaningful opportunity to serve?

Grow in leadership and discipleship skills while serving in a camp counselor-like role during the summer Kingdom Team (K-Team) program for middle and high school youth groups. Help to make disciples of Jesus while leading youth both in discipleship training and in service opportunities connecting with immigrant and refugee children in Lancaster.

EMM.ORG/KSTAFF

EMM
everyone moving in mission



— LANDIS ADULT DAY SERVICES —

GOLF OUTING

Friday, June 2nd, 2023

LandisAdultDay.org/golf

Help support the Landis Adult Day Services Program providing care for aging adults who need daytime assistance with activities, companionship, meals and medicine.

Landis
Adult Day Services

Learn your own & others' stories

Become a member of Mennonite Life!

mennonitelife.org

717.393.9745



Mennonite Life

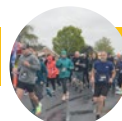


FEST & 5K

MAY 12-13, 2023



**TALENT
NIGHT**



5K RUN



**TENT
SALES**

FRIENDSHIPCOMMUNITY.NET/FEST



Summer Scripture Study: A Survey of the Book of Acts

William Higgins, LMC Anabaptist Teacher, is offering an eight-session summer study on the book of Acts. Throughout eight sessions, participants will work their way through the entire book. The interactive study will examine the overall storyline, key themes, and interpretive issues. Students can sign up to participate Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting June 6 or Thursday mornings starting June 8 at 10:30 a.m. For more information and to sign up, please contact William Higgins at whiggins@lmchurches.org or 717-293-5246 ext. 121. The class is free, but for those who can, a \$20 donation is suggested toward the STEP scholarship fund.