



# **GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE**

## **Brethren in Christ U.S.**

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THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
MINUTES

***“The Stewardship of  
Opportunity”  
I Kings 17***

April 28-29, 2017

Hosted by  
Amherst Community BIC  
Massillon, OH

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# 2017 Annual Meeting

## ***“The Stewardship of Opportunity”***

The Sixtieth ANNUAL MEETING of the Great Lakes Regional Conference convened Friday, April 28, and Saturday, April 29, 2017, in Massillon, OH. The meeting was hosted by the Amherst Community Brethren in Christ congregation and all sessions were held at the **JACKSON FRIENDS CHURCH**, 7945 Portage St., NW., Massillon, OH. 44646. Host Pastor, Galen Oakes II, and the Amherst Community congregation are to be commended for the gracious hospitality extended to the more than 135 registered delegates and attendees during the two-day event.

Friday evening's rally began with a cordial welcome by Bishop Lynn Thrush and the Host Pastor, Galen Oakes II. Worship Pastor, Joy Brown (Amherst), and the Praise Team (composed of members of several congregations) led us in enthusiastic and inspiring singing. Pastor Jeff Williams (Nappanee) and daughter, Andrea, dramatically presented the story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath which included being fed by a flapping raven (“McCaw” a.k.a. “the Bishop” bearing a McDonald's brown bag lunch)!

Bishop Thrush then brought a challenging word to attendees based upon the Annual Meeting theme above utilizing the text of I Kings 17 wherein he called each to rise beyond “rusty thinking”. He reminded us to 1. “Do Not Fear” 2. “Establish Right Priorities” and 3., “Persevere” since we serve the God of Resurrection and unlimited possibilities and opportunities.

Songs of Faith culminated the challenge. An opportunity to invest in the work of the Kingdom was provided through an offering. Upon concluding the service, attendees were dismissed to a Dessert Fellowship and refreshments in the Café area of the facility prior to departure for the evening.

Saturday's morning session started with a welcome from Bishop Thrush followed by great congregational singing led by Praise Team. Bishop Thrush provided a brief recap of Friday's Rally message and the business of the conference commenced. Various Church leaders addressed the attendees late morning bringing denominational and fraternal greetings. Prior to lunch break, Bishop Thrush addressed the body under the theme: “Leaning Forward – Directing our conversation”. Key focus was upon the change in Pastors' Quarterly reports, the introduction of Pastor John Weaver as Executive Assistant to the Bishop, and Dr. Matt Lewis as the Director of Practical Theology and Ministry.

Saturday afternoon session included Pastoral stories by Brett Bever (New Vision), Paul McGhee (Western Hills), Luke Embree (Plowshares-Lexington, KY), Dylan Stillman (Warsaw, IN.), and Jeff McKinnon (Rolling Acres, McMinnville, TN.) A second offering was received for Annual Meeting expenses and conference ministries.

Newly elected Assistant Moderator, Tracie Hunter, presented a “wrap-up” summation of the conference's theme, focus, and spirit which was highlighted by closing Songs of Faith preceding the Benediction and adjournment mid-afternoon.

# Part I: Organization

## Registration of Moderators and Clerical Staff

<i>Moderator</i> .....	<i>Lynn Thrush</i>
<i>Assistant Moderator</i> .....	<i>Keith Tyson</i>
<i>Secretary</i> .....	<i>Cal Hamblin</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	<i>Jana Waters</i>
<i>Assistant Recording Secretary &amp; Reading Clerk</i> .....	<i>Sheila Beach</i>
<i>Tellers</i> .....	<i>Mike &amp; Karen Zurn</i>

## Registration of Delegates

<b>Illinois</b> .....	<b>Minister(s)</b>
Morrison – Mike & Karen Zurn, Cynthia Weisel (Deacon) .....	Craig Sipes

### Indiana

Christian Union – Geoff McCord, Ron Remke .....	
Nappanee – Gail Wing, Ed & Nettie Meyer .....	Jeff Williams
Union Grove – Bernard & Violet Weldy .....	
Sacred Space (Warsaw) – Sara Sharik, Alissa Tracy .....	Dylan Stillman

### Kentucky

Plowshares (Lexington) .....	Luke Embree
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### Michigan

Bethel Merrill – Carmen Lang .....	Jim Lang
Lakeview Community – Jana Waters, Sandy Grimshaw .....	Jon Grimshaw

### Ohio

Amherst – Tim & Lynette Hershberger, Darlene Boda, Dave & Mary Sams (Deacons) .....	
.....	Galen Oakes, Joy Brown, Atlee Hershberger
Ashland – Duane Weaver, Karen Weaver .....	Keith Tyson, Matt Lewis, Andrew Beach
Dayton Mission – Ruth Pawelski .....	John Pawelski, Paul Pawelski
Fairview – Larry Domsher, Ralph Cassel, Sheri Simpson, Georgette Hall, Lynn Mosher .....	
.....	Mark Ballard
Gethsemane – Lori Heeter, Amanda Bierman, Jake Bierman .....	Chris Heeter
Highland – Larry & Beverly Drusen, Denver Paulus (Deacon) .....	Harve Bowman
Pleasant Hill – Carl Knepper, Margaret Weaver, Samantha Weaver .....	John Weaver
Shepherd's Table - Liz Latham-Davis, Guy & Jenny Spidel .....	Zach Spidel
Valley Chapel – Barbara Jenkins, Morris Dubose (Deacon) .....	Chuck Burkett
Westside Christian Community – Beth Saba .....	Costandy Saba, Eryca Testermert
Western Hills - Jennie Brown .....	Tracie Hunter, Paul McGhee

### Tennessee

Rolling Acres – Julie McKinnon .....	Jeff McKinnon
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### Wisconsin

New Vision – Steve Lindstrom, Susan Lindstrom .....	Brett Bever, Vicki Podjasek
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## Registration of Boards, Teams, and Other Personnel

**BOLD= Annual Meeting Registrant**

### Board of Directors

David Espinosa (2020), **Cal Hamblin** (2018), **Sheila Beach** (2019), **Jana Waters** (2018), **Natalia Espinosa** (2021), **Keith Tyson** (2017), **David Weisel** (2017), **Lynn Thrush, Bishop**

### Congregational Growth Team

**Robyn Bowman** (2018), **Guy Spidel** (2018), **Mike Beach** (2017), **Jon Grimshaw** (2018), **Jim Lang** (2019), **Malinda Oakes** (2019), **Keith Tyson** (2019)

### Relationship Development Team

**Eryca Testermont** (2018), **Sandy Grimshaw** (2017), **Winnie Knepper** (2018), **Josiah Lewis** (2018), **Kathi Sipes** (2017), **Tim Decker**(2019), **Grady Robinson** (2017), **Ken Meinsma** (2019)

### Memorial Holiness Camp Management Team

**Zach Spidel** (2018), **Tim Agnolutto** (2018), **Bev Drusen** (2016), **Dawn Dubose** (2016), **Ron Niesley** (2017), **Elizabeth Sweeney** (2019), **Rachel Ulloa** (2019)

### General Conference Board Representative

*David Espinosa(2020)*

### MCC Great Lakes Board of Directors Representative

**Cynthia Weisel**(2018)

### Messiah College Board of Trustees Representative

*Eunice Steinbrecher*

### Personnel Secretary

**Jean Paulus**(2018)

### Director of Quizzing

**Jeff Williams**

## Seating of Honorary Members

John Burns – BIC Foundation  
Peter Guinther – Human Resources Administrator  
Donna Sturr – Assistant for Leadership Development  
Dr. Bob Rosa – Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary  
Kelly Troyer - Stewardship Consultant, Everence  
Krista Dutt - MCC Great Lakes Program Coordinator

**MOTION: to seat honorary members**

**ACTION: Motion Carried**

## Instructions in Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order served as the guide for conducting Conference Business

## Presentation of the 2016 Great Lakes Conference Minutes

**MOTION: to approve the 2016 Minutes as prepared and published**

**ACTION: Motion Carried**

# Part II: Board and Team Reports

## Board of Directors: General Report

Highlights of the work of the Board of Directors this past year include:

1. Reviewed and acted on information from GLC teams, various requests from churches, and current church property agreements.
2. Served as Bishop Selection Committee and presented the name of Lynn Thrush to 2016 Annual Meeting for confirmation.
3. Affirmed allocation of funding for *Leadership Summit*(Willow Creek)for Team members and pastors, *Impact Seminars* for pastors, and *Catalyst Conference* (Pastors and Lay persons)
4. Approved the funding of two Internship participants ( Fairview, Westside)
5. Approved the personnel for Nominating Committee for 2017  
Wisconsin-Illinois: Vicki Podjasek (New Vision)                      Northern Ohio: Kathy Tyson (Ashland)  
Michiana: Stephen Mead (Bethel Community)                      Southern Ohio: Larry Drusen (Highland)  
Michigan: Linda Bulgrien (Mooretown)
6. Approved the Memorial Holiness Camp Management Team as follows:  
Zach Spidel – Director through Camp 2017  
Robin Bowman – Camp Director (2020)                      Ron Niesley - Treasurer (2017)  
Eryca Testermert (2018)                      Dawn Dubose (2019)  
Rachel Ulloa (2019)                      Elizabeth Sweeney (2019)
7. Prepared 3 recommendations to present to the Great Lakes Conference Annual Meeting.
8. Adopted the MHC Management team recommendation re: 2017 MHC Camp re- location to Ludlow Falls.
9. Propose Vision Statement: *“So that the Church is faithful in God’s mission to bless all the families of the earth, the Great Lakes Conference encourages pastors, boards, and congregations to increase their competency, capacity, and connections”*

Cal Hamblin, *GLC Secretary*

## Board of Directors: Bishop’s Report

Greetings to the Great Lakes Conference in the Name of Jesus, the Messiah of God and the Lord of the Church,

It is the high privilege to serve as Bishop of the Great Lakes Conference of the Brethren in Christ Church; I yield to this calling with great gratitude to God and His Church. I have experienced the support of the National Director and the entire staff at the BIC offices in Mechanicsburg, PA, and have deeply appreciated the partnership of the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Conference as we have begun our journey together. Carol and I live near the intersection of the 70 and 75 Freeways, Tipp City, OH, and have joined the Fairview Church in Englewood, OH where we have the delight of reconnecting with our longtime partners in ministry from Southern California, Pastor Mark and Jenny Ballard.

The great promise of God in Genesis 12:3 is that through Abraham, and thus ultimately through Jesus and His followers, all the families of the earth would be blessed. It is this promise that informs my leadership vision as I serve the GLC: “So that the Church is faithful in God’s mission to bless all the families of the earth, the Great Lakes Conference encourages pastors, boards, and congregations to increase their competency, capacity, and connections.” So it is that all of us lean forward into God’s good future.

To keep this seminal vision before us I am constructing quarterly reporting around the words competency, capacity, connections, and dreams/visions. (I have taken those first three words from the work of Peter Drucker.) Further, I aim to construct the mid-term and end-of-term discernment occasions for pastors and church boards around these words. You have heard the truism, “we pursue what we measure.”

This promise from God, filled with His grace and love, is accomplished through the whole Church, not just the leader. The story of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, found in Exodus 18, is instructive to me and all of us. In addition to the excellent work of my Office Administrator, Hannah Ditzler, I am establishing a position, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, to assure that mid-term conversations with pastors and church boards, and end-of-term conversations with pastors and church boards, are clustering around the "leaning forward" stories of growth in competency, capacity, connections, and dreams/visions. I anticipate having a person in this role beginning July 1, 2017. I am pleased to announce that Pastor John Weaver has accepted this assignment, and the Pleasant Hill Church Board has affirmed Pastor John in this one-day per week role, beginning July 1, 2017.

Another part of the Jethro/Moses interest is the development of a role, Director of Practical Theology and Ministry. It is my observation that theological and ministry growth occurs in settings of grace/kindness, respected/competent leadership, and an appropriate frequency of engagement. When I learned that the role of Dr. Matt Lewis was concluding at Ashland Theological Seminary, I began conversation with him about availability in serving the Great Lakes Conference on a quarter-time basis, allowing us to resource our pastors and church boards in ongoing theological and ministry growth. I am pleased to announce that Matt will be available to the GLC the second half of 2017.

The Lord of the Church faithfully is calling out workers into the white harvest; our task and privilege is to come alongside Jesus and partner with Him as we affirm new initiatives and participate in connecting pastoral leaders and congregations. Pastor Brett Bever, his wife Christina, and their three young sons have accepted the invitation of the New Vision, Pewaukee, WI congregation for a five-year term beginning in June, 2017. Pastor Luke Embree, his wife Christina, and their young family of two daughters and a son will be planting a church in the Greater Lexington, KY area, linking from the outset with the resources of Asbury Theological Seminary in church planting. The Embrees envision a church that plants churches, and a church that is an incubator for Brethren in Christ church planters from across the denomination. Dylan Stillman, recently licensed with the Brethren in Christ, along with his wife Megan, are leading a group of five couples in Warsaw/Winona Lake, IN, while Dylan pursues seminary training at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. I look forward to introducing these persons at our Annual meeting.

Transitions occur in the life of the Church. Pastor Steve Porter and his wife Janet retired from ministry at the Leonard Community BIC Church in Leonard, MI at the end of 2016. Pastor John Fickett and his wife Toni, concluded service at the New Vision, WI congregation in January of 2017. They now are living and serving in Thailand. The pastor of the Mooretown, MI congregation concluded ministry at the Mooretown, MI congregation in early 2017. Pastor Costy Saba, at Westside Christian Community Church in Springfield, OH, Pastor David Book of Knifley Chapel, in Knifley, KY, and Pastor Chuck Burkett, of Valley Chapel in Canton, OH all anticipate retirement from pastoral ministry in 2017. Pastor Chris Heeter, of Gethsemane Fellowship in New Carlisle, OH, Pastor John Weaver of the Pleasant Hill, OH congregation, and Pastor Phill Unti, of Blessed Hope, Franksville, WI all are continuing with new five-year terms.

Our Pastors/Spouses Retreat was held in September at Shipshewana, IN with excellent participation. Our theme was from Isaiah 43:19a – "I Am About to Do a New Thing." In 2017 our Pastors and Spouses Retreat will be held at the same place, but a week later, September 22-24, so as to avoid a conflict with Leadership Council and General Conference Board meetings. Our theme for the retreat will be "Tending the Shepherds: Helping Ministers Thrive."

I have enjoyed connecting to fraternal organizations within the Conference: MCC Great Lakes personnel, and leaders from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Asbury Theological Seminary, and Ashland Theological Seminary.

Our Conference office is now located at 7023 Old Troy Pike Rd., Huber Heights, OH. 45424. You are welcome to stop by. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 24710, Huber Heights, OH 45424. Our email address is: [bicgreatlakes@bicus.org](mailto:bicgreatlakes@bicus.org). Our office phone number is: 937-952-5429.

This Annual Meeting our theme is "The Stewardship of Opportunity." Join me as we lean forward into the work that God is wanting to increasingly do among us. For His praise and glory!

Lynn Thrush, *Bishop, Great Lakes Conference*

## Board of Directors: Treasurer's Report

### Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2016	Cash Basis
ASSETS	Dec 31, 16
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1010 · Checking-US Bank	22,690.77
1021 · TAP - WMCC Funds (Designated)	581,138.70
1022 · TAP - Sale of WRF Property	232,609.27
1030 · TAP - Money Market	
1035 · Great Lakes Conf. TAP Acct.	81,444.45
1030 · TAP - Money Market - Other	837.74
Total 1030 · TAP - Money Market	82,282.19
Total Checking/Savings	918,720.93
Other Current Assets	
1200 · Consolidated Reserve- BICF	560,946.62
Total Other Current Assets	560,946.62
Total Current Assets	1,479,667.55
Other Assets	
1270 · Notes Receivable	
1275 · Blessed Hope	96,179.64
1277 · Note Rec-Mortg WMCC (COG)	500,000.00
Total 1270 · Notes Receivable	596,179.64
Total Other Assets	596,179.64
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,075,847.19</b>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3010 · Excess(Revenues)Expense	-65,371.28
3020 · Consolidated Reserve Fund	560,946.62
3040 · Reserve Interest Fund	23,544.72
3050 · Great Lakes Conf.TAP	230,055.10
3060 · RDT (BCL) Program Subsidy Fund	50,000.00
3070 · Scholarship & Training Fund	40,000.00
3095 · Church Plant Lending Fund	301,321.11
3110 · Bishop's Aid Fund	-1,000.00
3120 · Board of Directors	79,924.05
3130 · Relationship Development Team	
3135 · Quiz Pool Fund	190.00
3130 · Relationship Development Team - Other	2,758.07
Total 3130 · Relationship Development Team	2,948.07
3140 · Congregational Growth Team	-38,803.20
3150 · Contingency Fund	152,069.50
3202 · Equity in WMCC	500,000.00
3900 · Retained Earnings	171,356.74
Net Income	68,855.76
Total Equity	2,075,847.19
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>2,075,847.19</b>



## REVENUE AND EXPENSE STATEMENT

January through December 2016						February 8, 2017		
	WMCC		BOD-Othr					
	BAF	(BOD)	(BOD)	Total BOD	CGT	General	RDT	TOTAL
Revenue								
4010 • CM Funding-Shared	0.00	0.00	7,797.60	7,797.60	28,275.28	0.00	3,898.80	39,971.68
4040 • Program Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,043.00	0.00	4,085.00	5,128.00
4050 • Direct Contributions	0.00	0.00	2,200.02	2,200.02	13,058.94	0.00	10.00	15,268.96
4060 • Investment Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,976.84	0.00	25,976.84
4074 • Payment-WMCC Land Contract	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
Total 4070 • Other Conference Income	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
Total Revenue	0.00	100,000.00	9,997.62	109,997.62	42,377.22	25,976.84	7,993.80	186,345.48
Expense								
5001 • Cooperative Ministries	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
5010 • Benevolent Aid	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
5031 • Bank Service Charge	0.00	0.00	-30.00	-30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-30.00
5040 • Conference Hosting	0.00	0.00	570.47	570.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	570.47
5045 • Conference Program	0.00	0.00	136.74	136.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	136.74
5050 • Teen/Youth Camping	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	720.00	720.00
5054 • Training/Resourcing	0.00	0.00	180.00	180.00	23,160.34	0.00	0.00	23,340.34
5065 • Honorarium	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
5066 • Insurance	0.00	0.00	2,329.02	2,329.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,329.02
5090 • Meals	0.00	0.00	156.67	156.67	37.95	0.00	0.00	194.62
5100 • Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	145.00	145.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	145.00
5110 • Mileage	0.00	0.00	1,403.73	1,403.73	607.14	0.00	83.70	2,094.57
5130 • Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	1,699.99	0.00	0.00	2,199.99
5150 • Office Expense	0.00	0.00	4,458.40	4,458.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,458.40
5152 • Mailing Expense	0.00	0.00	89.15	89.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.15
5160 • Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	327.46	327.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	327.46
5180 • Promotion/Advertising	0.00	0.00	126.40	126.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	126.40
5190 • Quizzing Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
5210 • Retreats	0.00	0.00	7,791.41	7,791.41	175.00	0.00	4,432.03	12,398.44
5211 • RDT Grants and Subsidies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
5215 • Church Plant Subsidies								
5215-23 • Subsidy-Sheboygan, WI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,600.00	0.00	0.00	33,600.00
5215-4 • Subsidy-Fairview Church	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	0.00	0.00	9,000.00
5215-6 • Subsidy-Christ Community etc	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,800.00	0.00	0.00	10,800.00
Total 5215 • Church Plant Subsidies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53,400.00	0.00	0.00	53,400.00
5320 • Telephone	0.00	0.00	563.42	563.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	563.42
5330 • Travel	0.00	0.00	75.21	75.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.21
5380 • Utilities	0.00	0.00	250.49	250.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.49
Total Expense	1,000.00	10,000.00	20,073.57	30,073.57	81,180.42	0.00	5,235.73	117,489.72
Net	-1,000.00	90,000.00	-10,075.95	79,924.05	-38,803.20	25,976.84	2,758.07	68,855.76

## Board of Directors: Recommendations

### Recommendation 1: Date & Place of Next Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors recommends that the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes conference be hosted by the Fairview Brethren in Christ (Englewood, OH.) on April 20, 21, 2018.

**MOTION: to adopt recommendation 1**

**ACTION: recommendation adopted**

### Recommendation 2: Use of Budgeted CM Shared Fund

Common Ministries shared funds anticipated for 2017 will be allocated on a percentage basis to the Board of Directors **(30%)**, Relationship Development Team **(15%)**, and Congregational Growth Team **(55%)**

**MOTION: to adopt recommendation 2**

**ACTION: recommendation adopted**

### Recommendation 3: Selection of Assistant Moderator (2-yr term)

The Board of Directors recommends that Pastor Tracie Hunter (Western Hills) serves as Assistant Moderator for a 2-yr. term (2017-2019).

**MOTION: to adopt recommendation 3**

**ACTION: recommendation adopted**

**MOTION TO AMEND:** to have Pastor Tracie Hunter declared Assistant Moderator by consensus. Following an inconclusive voice vote, Bishop Thrush proceeded to conduct a vote by written ballot. By a majority vote, Pastor Hunter was elected to serve as Assistant Moderator

## Relationship Development Team: General Report

### Ministry for Youth

Youth Directors, Eryca Testement and Ian Thompson were approved for a 2 year term to lead MHC Youth Camps during Great Lakes camp meeting. They also led a Fall Retreat in 2016. Youth attendance at MHC continues to be very strong. Subsidy from the RDT was provided for some of the youth to participate.

### Ministry for Seniors (older adults)

Autumn Retreat was held at the Lake Placid Christian Conference Center on Sept 12-14, 2016. Guest Presenters were Ron and Linda Sprunger, a music ministry team. There were 26 in attendance at the retreat. Ideas were discussed regarding increased promotion and transportation for more to attend the retreat in the future.

Much thanks to Barb Stansfield for her oversight of the retreat for many years. Karen Weaver has been asked to replace Barb in that position.

Next Autumn Retreat: September 11 – 13, 2017

### Clusters/Special Interest Groups

Southern Ohio Cluster: People (100+) from several congregations were together to enjoy fellowship and good times at a Dayton Dragons game in July.

### New Ministries Developing

The after-high school & older age group met during Memorial Holiness Camp. Thanks to Rachel Ulloa and other volunteer organizers for activities arranged for the group at various times during the week of camp.

Consideration is being given for ministry to families some time during the year other than at MHC camp.

#### **Documents Available from RDT**

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE SUBSIDY APPLICATION\_-To be used for subsidy requests by Clusters, Retreats (Seniors & Youth), and Youth Campers. Guidelines for handling requests are being developed.

Grady Robinson, *RDT Chairperson*

## **Bible Quizzing Report**

2016 was another great year for Bible quizzing in the Great Lakes Conference. We had Senior quiz teams from New Vision BIC, Nappanee BIC and Fairview BIC/Westside BIC. We also had Junior quiz teams from New Vision BIC, Nappanee BIC and Pleasant Hill BIC.

In the 2015-16 quiz season, we studied five Pauline epistles: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. The Jr. quizzers learned Philippians. As always, it was truly powerful to study God's word in such a deep and intentional way.

A highlight of the quiz season was our March retreat in Wisconsin. On March 18-20, 2016, we met at a retreat center to spend a few days quizzing, worshiping, studying and playing games. During the retreat, we split the teams (each team had quizzers from each of the churches) and had a full tournament. In between the quizzing, we had a number of devotionals/studies from our quizzing material. We enjoyed the opportunity to worship together, both Saturday evening (the quiz teams) and Sunday morning (as part of New Vision BIC's worship service). We look forward to our upcoming retreat March 17-19 of this year!

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, we held the GLC Jr. quiz finals at New Vision BIC. New Vision BIC finished in first place, followed by Nappanee BIC and Pleasant Hill BIC. Therese Kalt from New Vision BIC was the top overall quizzier.

On May 21, we held our GLC quiz finals at Nappanee BIC. Nappanee BIC won first place, followed by New Vision BIC and Fairview BIC/Westside BIC. Alex Davies (from New Vision) was the top overall quizzier.

New Vision BIC was the only GLC team that went to denominational finals (in Florida) in July 2016. They finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Dillsburg BIC finished first)! Baruch Fickett was 5<sup>th</sup> top overall quizzier and Wes East was the 7<sup>th</sup> top overall quizzier.

In the 2016-17 quiz year, we have Sr. quiz teams from New Vision BIC, Nappanee BIC and a team from a combination of three OH churches: Fairview, Highland and Westside. Nappanee BIC is the only Jr. quiz team. The quiz material for this year is the Gospel of Luke.

It is a blessing to work with the quizzers and coaches. As a former coach and parent of current quizzers, I value Bible quizzing as a unique ministry that teaches the Bible in an in-depth way that trains youth to study, memorize and meditate on Scripture, that forms lasting friendships across our conference and that forms those same friendships among youth in each church family.

If anyone is interested in starting a quiz team, please feel free to contact me for more information. You can reach me by email at [nappanee.bic@hotmail.com](mailto:nappanee.bic@hotmail.com) and by phone at 574-773-3365.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Williams, *GLC Regional Quiz Director*

## Relationship Development Team: Financial Report

January through December 2016	
Revenue	
4010 · CM Funding-Shared	3,898.80
4040 · Program Income	4,085.00
4050 · Direct Contributions	10.00
Total Revenue	7,993.80
Expense	
5050 · Teen/Youth Camping	720.00
5110 · Mileage	83.70
5210 · Retreats	4,432.03
Total Expense	5,235.73
Net	2,758.07

## Congregational Growth Team: General Report

### Church Plant Report

#### A. *The Shepherd's Table* – Dayton, OH

- a. Average monthly attendance: 28
- b. Average monthly giving: \$1969.00

#### B. *Christ Community Etc.* – Owosso, MI

- a. Average monthly attendance: 27
- b. Average monthly giving: \$1117.20
- c. CCE has moved into a new facility.

#### C. *Hope community* – Sheboygan, WI

- a. Average monthly attendance: 73
- b. Average monthly giving: \$6,089.60
- c. Hope Community purchased a building this year and continues to use Celebrate Recovery to grow their church.

### Internships

- A. Rebecca Lockhart – Fairview Church, Englewood, OH a. 12 months @ \$250/month = \$3,000
- B. Michael Avitts – Christ Community Etc, Owosso, MI a. 6 months @ 150/month = \$900
- C. Luke Niesley – Highland BIC, West Milton, OH a. 10 months @ \$250/month = \$2,500
- D. Brian Barker – Westside Christian Community, Springfield, OH a. 10 months @ \$500/month = \$5,000

### Resourcing and Training Update and Projections

- A. Catalyst Conference: April 21-22, 2016
- B. Leadership Summit: 38 Attendees from the GLC - \$5,602
- C. BICF Outreach Grants - \$3,476.93
  - a. Lakeview Community - \$500
  - b. Amherst - \$500
  - c. Hope Community - \$500
  - d. Carland-Zion - \$69

- e. New Vision - \$367.12
- f. Nappanee (Backyard BBQ) - \$220.94
- g. Fairview BIC (Father's Day Car Show) - \$488.12
- h. Highland BIC - \$500
- i. Shepherd's Table - \$331.75
- j. Hope Community - \$455.18
- k. Amherst - \$500

We look forward to continued growth and opportunities for growth in 2017.

Submitted by  
Michael Beach, *Chairman CGT*

## Congregational Growth Team: Financial Report

January through December 2016

	<u>Cong. Growth Team</u>
<b>Revenue</b>	
4010 · CM Funding-Shared	28,275.28
4040 · Program Income	1,043.00
4050 · Direct Contributions	13,058.94
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>42,377.22</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
5054 · Training/Resourcing	23,160.34
5090 · Meals	37.95
5110 · Mileage	607.14
5130 · Miscellaneous	1,699.99
5190 · Quizzing Expense	1,500.00
5210 · Retreats	175.00
5211 · RDT Grants and Subsidies	600.00
5215 · Church Plant Subsidies	
5215-23 · Subsidy-Sheboygan, WI	33,600.00
5215-4 · Subsidy-Fairview Church	9,000.00
5215-6 · Subsidy-Christ Community etc	10,800.00
<b>Total 5215 · Church Plant Subsidies</b>	<u>53,400.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>81,180.42</u>
<b>Net</b>	<u><u>-38,803.20</u></u>

# Memorial Holiness Camp Meeting

## Introduction

When God chose Abram, from amongst all the descendants of Adam to found a holy people, he issued this call to faith: “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” Abram did not know where he was headed – he didn’t need to know – he only knew *whom* he was following and the *purpose* of the journey to which this God had called him. He journeyed by faith, without knowledge of his ultimate destination, because God promised him blessing. Blessing for himself, for his family, and ultimately for “all the families of the earth.”

The MHC Camp Leadership Team has chosen this biblical story as the thematic passage for our camp meeting in 2017. It serves as a clear encapsulation of the journey of faith to which God calls all of us, and it serves as an especially powerful model for the camp ministry itself as we take a step of faith away from the location we’ve loved for so long into an as yet unknown future. We may not know exactly what camp will look like five years from now, but we know the God who beckons us to follow him and we know that following him will lead us into blessing.

## Summary of the Camp Week

By 2014 average attendance at camp worship services had shrunk to 140 persons. In 2015 that number increased by over 35% to 192, and in 2016, it increased still further to 214 – praise God for this renewed engagement in ministry! Our closing service was the largest in some time with 266 persons present.

Bishop Perry Engle preached throughout the five night camp week. The theme for the year was taken from the book of Joshua – “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” These messages had a significant spiritual impact on many people, especially amongst the 73 youth at camp. Among the many spiritual commitments made, nine youth requested baptism by the end of the week. While in the future we will refer such requests back to the young people’s home churches, this year we held a baptism service during camp at which these young people surrendered their lives to Jesus, dying to themselves as they entered the water, and rising from the water into new lives of discipleship.

Our youth directors, Eryca Testermont and Tim Agnolutto (who was completing his last year in the role) did a remarkable job in often difficult circumstances. Many of the youth in attendance had significant spiritual problems, came from difficult and broken backgrounds, and, as a result, engaged in sinful behavior and conversation while at camp. As a camp ministry we are dedicated to reaching such young people, and introducing them to the life altering love of Jesus. We are so glad they were with us. At the same time, we are dedicated to providing a camp experience that is edifying to all who come, and are working to find ways of more carefully monitoring and supervising youth behavior, even as we realize we cannot fully eliminate the occurrence of behaviors or conversations of a sinful nature amongst lost young people at the camp.

Children’s ministry and the adult daytime programming were both very strong this year. Attendance at the daytime programming was up and multiple excellent speakers shared with us about God’s call to holiness in our lives. The children had a blast as they grew closer to Jesus through songs, games, memorization of scripture, crafts and much else besides.

I could go on to speak about Mission’s Day, our incredible team of camp volunteers, including our kitchen crew and the many meals they served us, the renewed operation at the Snack Shack, or a new generation of leaders at the information booth. I could talk about the fellowship amongst adults at several key places each night at camp, and of the youth’s off campus field trips. I could talk about the prayer ministry and so many other aspects of camp, but already this report is going on too long. God blessed our camp this year, and I believe even bigger – much bigger – blessings lie in store for us as we follow him into the future.

## Looking Ahead

After multiple public discussions at camp last year, and much private weighing of the camp’s needs amongst the leadership team, we discerned a call from God to move forward as a camp ministry with the search for a new camp location. We knew that our current grounds have become a serious impediment to our threefold mission: providing a space where Spirit of God can *revive* the hearts of his followers, *win* the hearts of those who do not yet

serve him, and *refresh* all those who come in a restful environment full of fellowship. We knew, further, that we could not stay at our current grounds long term even if we wanted to, and we believed that God was calling us to take a step into the unknown rather than wait for the end of our time at the current grounds.

The path God beckoned us down happened not to lead so far away – in 2017 we will be meeting at the Ludlow Falls Campground, barely five miles from our current meeting place. We will be meeting at this new location – with its superior facilities – on a new week. Camp will run from Friday night, July 7<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday night, July 11<sup>th</sup> – five nights of meetings. The new Great Lakes Conference Bishop, Lynn Thrush, will preach for us each night on our theme, which was shared above. On Saturday night, July 8<sup>th</sup>, we will hold a Sending Service for the camp in the Main Tabernacle of our traditional meeting site. This will be a special time for saying farewell to a beloved place, and gathering ourselves up for the journey to come. This will be the camp's own Abram moment.

Much like Abram, we do not know where we go from here. Perhaps we will settle at Ludlow Falls Campground, perhaps God will call us on somewhere else. We don't know what the camp will look like or where it will be five years from now. "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." And, I might add, so it is with every ministry led by the Spirit. While our ultimate destination remains unknown, the one who leads us and his purpose in the journey are not. The camp exists to provide space for three blessings – revival, evangelism, and refreshment – may God pour out his Spirit in abundance in these three ways for many summers to come amongst his people at Memorial Holiness Camp.

Your brother in Christ,  
Zach Spidel, *MHC Director*

## Memorial Holiness Camp Meeting: Financial Report

### MEMORIAL HOLINESS CAMP MEETING GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE Treasurer's Report For the Year 2016

RECEIPTS		<u>Operations</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Offerings/Donations	19,240.56		
Meal Donations	937.71		
Lodging	1,046.00		
Repayment of Youth Prior Advance	1,000.00		
Camp Portion of Auction	343.33		
Total Receipts for Operations		22,567.60	22,567.60
Missions-BIC World Missions	3,301.27		
Church Planting – GLC & EOTK	1,899.30		
Children's Missions Offerings	<u>51.00</u>		
Total Receipts For Missions			5,251.57
Youth Receipts – Registrations	10,926.67		10,926.67
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>22,567.60</u>	<u>38,745.84</u>
DISBURSEMENTS			
Honoraria	9,135.00		
Travel Allowance	1,405.46		
Kitchen	4,532.60		
Church of God – Camp Utilities	1,620.00		
Church of God – Golf Carts, Supplies & Misc.	1,275.00		
Children's Ministry	186.07		
Cabin Rentals to Former Owners	858.00		
Snack Bar	150.00		
Web Site, Brochures & Misc.	<u>1,292.64</u>		
Total Costs Of Operations		20,454.77	20,454.77
Missions – BIC World Missions	3,316.27		
Church Planting – GLC & EOTK	1,884.30		
Children's Missions Offering	<u>520.00</u>		
Total Disbursements For Missions			5,720.57
Youth Camp Activities & Related	<u>7,824.33</u>		7,824.33
Young Adult Activities & Supplies	<u>198.06</u>		198.06
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		<u>20,454.77</u>	<u>34,197.73</u>
Net 2016 ACTIVITY (Receipts in Excess of Disbursements)		<u>1,112.83</u>	<u>4,548.11</u>



MEMORIAL HOLINESS CAMP MEETING  
GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

Treasurer's Report - Fund Balances  
For the Year 2016

General Fund Balance at 1/1/16	25,598.97	
Youth Fund Balance at 1/1/16	<u>1,964.41</u>	
TOTAL		27,563.38
General Fund Net 2016 Activity	1,445.77	
Youth Fund Net 2016 Activity	<u>3,102.34</u>	
TOTAL		4,548.11
General Fund Balance at End of Year	27,044.74	
Youth Fund Balance at End of Year	<u>5,066.75</u>	
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR</b>		<b><u>32,111.49</u></b>

**MOTION: By aggregate action, to receive and approve all Team Reports listed above**

**ACTION: Motion Carried**

# Part III: Agencies & Institutions Reporting

## General Conference Board / National Director's Report

### 2016 National Director's Report, Brethren in Christ U.S. (BIC U.S.)

"The purpose of the Brethren in Christ U.S. is to foster a fellowship of believers whose objective is to worship and obey the triune God and to proclaim the gospel to all people."

Several things are noteworthy about our current purpose statement:

- 1) BIC U.S. is to "foster." The word "foster" means to "encourage or promote the development of."
- 2) BIC U.S. is to foster a "fellowship." It is interesting that the word is singular. There is no doubt that the emphasis was on the desire for a single, united fellowship/family/brotherhood.
- 3) The (singular) fellowship that we are to foster "is to worship and obey the triune God and to proclaim the gospel to *all* people." In addition to the fact that *all* is a big word, the purpose of the fellowship in regard to humanity is one of proclamation of the gospel, not the making of disciples.

#### "Foster"

The missional edge of the Church—the place where the Church engages directly with the needs of the world—is not denominational or regional conference offices but rather local congregations and the lives of individuals. The role of BIC U.S. is to foster, to encourage, to promote the development of the ministry of congregations across the U.S. and missions and missionaries around the world.

The primary mechanism that BIC U.S. uses to foster the work of congregations in the U.S is the regional conference structure and personnel. It is the bishop and the regional conference board of directors who assist congregations with the appointment of pastors, the support and encouragement of those pastors, and resources to help congregations. In addition, regional conferences remain the focal point of church planting efforts of BIC U.S. We are grateful to each bishop and to their staff for all they do to assist congregations.

#### World Missions

The primary mechanism that BIC U.S. uses to foster the work of missions and missionaries around the world is that of the Commission for World Missions (CWM). Jonathan Lloyd, director of World Missions; World Missions staff; and the Commission members work to recruit, prepare, deploy, and support missionaries. They also interact with many BIC persons in established (and developing) conferences around the world.

In response to the Great Commission, we continue to prioritize proclaiming the gospel and championing the needs of the *least reached*—individuals and families with little or no access to the gospel.

Our missions vision is to see

A church for every people

The gospel to every person

A mission from every church

JESUS WORSHIPPED IN THE NATIONS

A few recent highlights of World Missions:

#### • Global Church

- o Supervised more than 80 projects in support of the global Church—including helping more than 700 children through the SPICE program.

- o Provided training scholarships to more than 80 emerging international leaders.
- o Strategized with international leadership to strengthen the vision and method of the Church's growth in countries with an established conference.

- **Missionaries**

- o Engaged the call to make disciples in 23 nations.
- o Equipped and sent both long and short-term workers—with plans to deploy three individuals as long-term missionaries in 2017.

- **North American congregations**

- o Communicated what God is doing in World Missions more than 130 times in various congregations and settings across the U.S. and Canada.

Earlier this year, Jake Shenk retired from regional administrator duties in Southern Africa. We are grateful for Jake and Nancy Shenk's many years of faithful service in this role. Matt Lewis, who has extensive experience in World Missions, has been named interim regional administrator in Southern Africa. A former regional administrator for Europe and the Mediterranean, Matt also served on the BIC Board for World Missions for eight years.

We are grateful to Jonathan and his staff for all they do to advance our missions efforts.

#### *Shared Services*

In support of all our ministry activity is the Shared Services department in the Grantham offices.

Organized beginning of 2016, Shared Services was created to combine functions from the General Church, World Missions, and the Foundation in order for all facets to operate as one organization. The purpose of creating Shared Services was to streamline administrative processes. Rick Snyder, director of Shared Services, oversees the finance, human resources, and communications functions that support ministry occurring in the field.

A few recent highlights of Shared Services:

- **Launching the *Ministry Path Workbook*** . Distributed to BIC U.S. pastors in every regional conference, the *Ministry Path Workbook* is a ministry calling and discernment tool for leaders to help them reflect on their God-given gifts and callings.
- **Supporting congregations:** In 2016, the team assisted 12 congregations and pastors with more than \$5.5 million in loans, while also providing planning assistance and guidance on financial stewardship. The team provided financial-planning assistance in situations of financial distress, as well as worked with congregations on their ongoing planning for multiplication.
- **Streamlining World Missions reporting processes.** In 2016, further process improvements for World Missions field workers were designed and implemented providing report automation in expense reporting and payroll processing. The team is also helping to navigate the cash crisis in Zimbabwe by benchmarking with peers, working with the bank, and collaborating closely with the field.

We are grateful to Rick and his staff for all they do in support of the ministry of the regions, World Missions, and the overall work of the Church.

#### *Honor the Past: Build the Future*

Honor the Past: Build the Future campaign is intended to raise additional funds for the defined benefit pension plan and for church planting and other mission initiatives. The goal for the campaign is to raise \$5 million over five years. It comprises two components: (1) raise \$3.2 million for the pension fund and (2) raise \$1.8 million for church multiplication.

We are happy to announce that donors who wish to remain anonymous have pledged \$1.4 million toward the campaign in matching dollars.

Specific details we have agreed upon:

- 1) BIC U.S. will work to encourage others to give in order for the donors' gifts to be matched.
- 2) January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2019 is the period in which contributions to the campaign from other sources can be matched (up to \$1.4 million).
- 3) Contributions that will be eligible for the match may come from individuals, congregations, regional conferences, or other organizations.
- 4) BIC U.S. will provide donors a report each quarter on the value of contributions to be matched.
- 5) Donors will give the matching dollars over a period of five years at the approximate rate of \$280,000 per year. The matching contributions will be to BIC U.S., designated for the Honor the Past: Build the Future campaign.

We are thankful for the generous proposal, and we ask that we each work to leverage this opportunity across the Church.

### *Theological credentialing*

During the last few months, the Commission on Ministry and Doctrine (CMD), which oversees credentialing for ministers, theological education, and the doctrinal integrity of BIC U.S., has worked with Leadership Council (LC), the team managing responsibilities of the wider Church, to revise the process for becoming a credentialed minister with BIC U.S.

The goals of this revision included having a clear and consistent process to provide adequate initial screening for theological compatibility with BIC U.S. and consistent processes for individuals to receive minister's licenses and, where appropriate, ordination. We are pleased to report the implementation of the new process and documentation is going well, and we are grateful to LC, CMD, and Donna Sturr, assistant for leadership development, for their excellent work on this major project.

### **"A fellowship"**

The Brethren in Christ U.S. continues to emphasize our "oneness." We are a family, a fellowship, a brotherhood. This sense of unity—even with diversity—has been one of our significant characteristics.

This sense of unity has, however, experienced substantial and increased challenges in recent years. The growing number of pastors and others coming to the BIC from outside the denominational family and from other diverse countries and cultures has led to a stress on some of the historic BIC theological understandings. While we have charged the Commission on Ministry and Doctrine with the direct responsibility of preserving doctrinal integrity in the Church, this has become more and more difficult, and it is not even certain that we know what "doctrinal integrity" means in concrete terms. The availability and prevalence of technology and social media that allow for widespread dissemination of a person's beliefs and opinions (not only on theology but on all kinds of social and political issues), has led to an awareness of the variations in the family and even a "how can s/he be BIC if s/he believes *that*?"

During 2016, LC and CMD worked on hosting a number of gatherings across the Church to discuss the way in which we categorize our beliefs into dogma (essential for Christian faith), doctrine (a particular understanding that may be held by a denomination), and different opinion (something where agreement is not required). I attended a number of these conversations. My observations led me to conclude that my assumptions were accurate—there is *not* agreement across the Church on these matters. Given this reality, I think the BIC U.S. is going to face increasing difficulty in what it is that we consider appropriate and acceptable BIC theology. It may be helpful for us to remember that our current purpose statement locates the unity of the fellowship in missional activity, not theological agreement. I believe this distinction can continue to help us remain "a fellowship" as we face the future.

### **"Whose objective is to worship and obey the triune God and to proclaim the gospel to all people"**

The fellowship that we are to foster is to be one that worships, lives in obedience to God, and proclaims the gospel to all people. This purpose is very generic and could be used for any evangelical denomination. It does not make any statement about our particular theological heritage and/or identity. For some people this is acceptable, but for others, it is a weakness that should be addressed. Should our purpose (or mission) be in some way related to our heritage, and/or our identity, and/or stated in terms of disciple making rather than merely proclamation?

In 2017, Leadership Council and General Conference Board (GCB) will be prioritizing reviewing our purpose, mission, and vision, as well as seeking to craft statements that reflect our identity.

#### *General Conference Board (GCB) report*

As your representatives to handle Church affairs between General Assemblies, we have focused particularly on our assignment from General Conference 2016:

- Updating the Brethren in Christ U.S. bylaws and the *Manual of Doctrine and Government* (MDG).
- Continuing to monitor our financial health at the denominational level, including reduction of the pension underfunding.

Our supervision has also included exploring issues resulting from the diversity in our midst—theology; political views; global, urban, suburban, and rural cultures, language; and regional differences. We continue to see much to celebrate and much work to be done in order to be the Kingdom of God in a way that is pleasing to him.

We have also chosen to look at best practices for boards, including updating our own evaluation practices of our board meetings, to be better stewards of the responsibilities that you have given us.

In meeting only twice a year, it continues to be a challenge to accomplish all that is before us. We are doing our best to be your administrative board for the Church.

#### *Bylaws revision update*

At General Conference 2016, the conference body discussed a major revision of the denominational bylaws—the first significant reworking of the bylaws in at least two decades. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the work but concern over outstanding questions and issues in the bylaws.

Given the magnitude of the revision and the time constraints on those involved, it seemed prudent to extend the work into the next biennium. Thus, the conference body approved the Amended and Restated Bylaws in principle as the operational bylaws for 2016 to 2018, with the understanding that the revision would continue, and the full bylaws would be brought again for consideration at General Assembly 2018 (the new name given to General Conference gatherings under the new bylaws).

With the input from the entire board and Leadership Council, the governance committee of GCB has continued to address the following two issues in the bylaws:

1. No defined process to add or remove documents from the *Manual of Doctrine and Government* (MDG) exists.
  - o Resolution: Create new section in the revised bylaws explaining the process of supplementing or removing documents in the MDG. (Revised bylaws will be presented at General Assembly 2018.)
2. Several bylaws do not pertain to governing the legal entity of the denomination, but to oversight of congregations and congregational leadership.
  - o Recommendation: Move bylaws focused on subjects not affecting the denomination's governance to a new section in the MDG.
  - o Note: Articles transferred from the bylaws into new segments of the MDG would retain their authority over internal operations of the Church and would undergo the same revision process as the bylaws. Our legal counsel has suggested which articles to keep in the bylaws, as well as which articles to place in other sections of the MDG.

*Beyond the changes listed above, GCB does not envision other significant revisions to the bylaws.* Most additional changes would only seek to clarify or fine-tune the content of the Amended and Restated Bylaws rather than substantially revise the document.

Process: The governance committee hopes to complete its work on the bylaws by the September 2017 meeting of GCB. At that meeting, GCB will provide feedback on the bylaws revision. Following the September GCB meeting, we expect to share the work in a forum with pastors and congregational leaders in order to hear their feedback—prior to finalizing the bylaw recommendation by GCB at their February 2018 meeting. All advance work will be done to prepare for the consideration, and, hopefully, approval of the Amended and Restated Bylaws at General Assembly 2018.

While editing the bylaws may seem mundane, it is a necessary part of helping us to function together as BIC U.S. To that end, it supports our purpose of making disciples of Jesus, and we look forward to the completion of this work and the way it will enable us to focus more effectively on our common mission and ministries.

#### *International Brethren in Christ Association (IBICA)*

The International Brethren in Christ Association (IBICA), which held its first assembly in Paraguay in 2009, was founded to foster deepening levels of collaboration within the global BIC community.

This February the IBICA executive committee met to prepare for the May meeting where IBICA will invite the leader (singular) from every country with an official BIC presence. The goal of the May meeting will be to develop greater BIC understanding, identity, and international relationships. It is hoped a meeting of BIC national leaders will occur through IBICA every year or two.

#### **Conclusion**

In reflecting on BIC U.S.' purpose, we have highlighted several important issues and questions affecting our denomination. One of the greatest strengths of the BIC community is that we are willing to come together to discern God's ongoing mission for the Church. As we wrestle with theological and practical matters, we ask you to join the dialogue: *prayerfully consider and share how Christ is calling us to embody his work through BIC U.S.* Annual meetings, General Assembly, and discussions with your bishop are just a few of the many forums to start conversations about your hopes and dreams for the Church.

Finally, we are grateful for the dedicated, competent volunteers and staff across the country and around the world who enable the Church to "foster a fellowship of believers whose objective is to worship and obey the triune God and to proclaim the gospel to all people." Through their service, we are able to wisely steward the gift Christ has given us of joining him in his work of restoration and reconciliation. Most of all, we are humbled that Christ continues to invite us to extend the Kingdom of God through the vehicle of the Church.

Respectfully submitted,

**Alan Robinson**, *National Director, BIC U.S.*

## MCC Great Lakes Board of Directors Report

Thank you for partnering with us to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee. We can't do it alone. In every country where MCC works, we partner with local churches and organizations with similar values. And here locally so many of you give of your time, your talents, your prayers and your financial resources.

### Our connections

In July, staff member Krista Dutt had the honor of speaking at the Memorial Holiness Camp in West Milton, Ohio.

Ashland (Ohio) BIC connects with the MCC Material Resource Center in Kidron, Ohio, and they sold apple butter to raise funds for MCC.

Nappanee (Indiana) BIC supports the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale in Goshen, Indiana, particularly the My Coins Count initiative. In September, Les Gustafson-Zook visited the congregation, gave the sermon and led Sunday School.

MCC staff presented programs or moments in mission at Shepherds Table (Dayton, Ohio), Ashland BIC and Western Hills BIC (Cincinnati, Ohio), and enjoyed visits with pastors at Fairview BIC (Englewood, Ohio) and Westside Christian Community BIC (Springfield, Ohio).

Eric Kurtz and Krista Dutt met with incoming Bishop Lynn Thrush to speak about shared vision and priorities.

MCC is grateful for the ongoing gifts of funds from Brethren in Christ churches, whether through the conference office, directly from individuals to MCC or by estate bequests.

### MCC at work around the world

In India, Nepal, Zambia and Zimbabwe, MCC works with Brethren in Christ partners to improve food security for families through the adoption of conservation farming techniques and improving water sources by building sand dams and wells.

In a Malawi refugee camp, MCC works with the Zambia BIC church to analyze complex conflicts and builds peace among the camp's residents who come from eight different African countries

In Mozambique, MCC and the BIC church assist orphans and people living with HIV/AIDS to experience more positive and sustainable lives.

MCC partners with BIC church run schools in Zambia and Zimbabwe by providing textbooks, desks, chairs, science equipment and teacher training thereby encouraging the success of their students.

### Representatives and contacts

The Great Lakes BIC Regional Conference is represented on the MCC Great Lakes Board by Cynthia Weisel.

Krista Dutt is the MCC liaison to BIC congregations in the Great Lakes Conference. She is available to speak with your congregation or help connect you with resources. Subscribe to MCC's *In Touch* monthly e-newsletter to get the latest news and information.

Thank you for your ongoing support of MCC's work. We look forward to our continued connections.

Thank you for being part of MCC's ministry in the name of Christ,

Eric Kurtz, *Executive Director for MCC Great Lakes*

## Brethren in Christ Foundation (BICF)

The Brethren in Christ Foundation (Foundation) exists to serve the Brethren in Christ U.S. (BIC U.S.), its institutions, agencies, congregations, and members by offering investment and planned-giving opportunities and financing for congregations and pastors. As a service organization, we connect those within the denomination willing to invest their financial resources to pastors and church leaders whose ministries need financing—be it for purchasing, expanding, remodeling, or refurbishing their facilities, or by providing a source of income for charities.

My second anniversary at the Foundation recently passed, and I am entering into my third year. Conventional thinking suggests that when you take on a new job assignment, the first year is spent learning the operations and developing process improvements, the second year is spent implementing process improvements, and the third is spent sustaining the operations and looking to the future. During 2016 we started to see fruit from process improvements and made progress toward an overall framework of growing younger and hearing the voice of our customers.

### **Key strategic priorities:**

#### **I. Attract New Investors:**

We debuted the first Foundation awareness video at 2016 General Assembly (formerly known as “General Conference”). The feedback received from attendees was encouraging; pastors were expressing their willingness to play the video for their congregations. We’ve started using the video as an opener for seminars that the director of advancement conducts with congregations. The next steps are to create supporting videos focused on key strategic needs, such as the need for new investors or to promote loans. The video was successful enough that this will be the model for creating awareness of the BIC U.S. Common Ministries. This past year, we also made significant progress to update our website. The first phase is complete; a new platform has been created, and the user experience has been updated. The next phase will be to bring the content up-to-date. Modifying the content is a complicated process as it may involve certain regulatory approvals.

#### **II. Planned Giving:**

Planned giving is a way for people to distribute wealth to charities. This is done through a variety of methods, such as outright gifts, charitable trusts, and designating charitable gifts in one’s will. The Foundation has a long history of providing planned-giving assistance through education and consultations. We routinely conduct seminars to educate BIC congregations on planned giving; we will continue to bring awareness of the ministry impact when prayerful consideration is given to providing for BIC ministries – the congregation as well as the ministries common to all congregations – when planning for life accumulated wealth distribution.

#### **III. Talent Readiness:**

In July of 2016, we welcomed Mitch Martin, who joined the Foundation team as assistant controller. Mitch carries a successful background as an auditor, CPA, and CFE. The skills that Mitch brings to the Foundation will benefit both the Foundation and BIC U.S. With Mitch on board, we were able to reorganize the staff in both the Foundation and BIC U.S. to create a shared services structure. Shared



Services is now organized based on functional activity to bring about process consistency and efficiency. The teams are made up of people from the Foundation, General Church, and World Missions that once operated independently.

### **Ongoing Operations:**

The Foundation had an active and successful year overall in both the Brotherhood Loan Fund and the Trust Fund. The Foundation worked with twelve churches and pastors to process almost \$5.5 million in loans supporting pastoral mortgages, building purchases, major remodeling, and refurbishments. I'm finding it rewarding to see the ministry of these congregations and being able to assist in their multiplication efforts.

One risk associated with providing loans for organizations is that they may run into financial difficulty, potentially requiring the Foundation to foreclose on a property. Unfortunately, a non-BIC church went into financial distress and, after working with them, they conceded that they were not able to meet their financial obligations. Both parties agreed listing the property for sale was the best solution. The property sold in 2016 enabling full debt recovery. Another ministry challenge occurred early in 2016 with one of our longtime camps. The camp is becoming operationally solvent and is developing a capital strategy to fund its loan repayment.

Other operational items include the change in banking service provider to Centric Bank, sale of the Chambersburg property to New Life Thrift Shop, and an information technology audit conducted to evaluate the security of our infrastructure, processes, and behaviors.

The Federal Reserve raised rates by .25 percent (25 basis points) in mid-December and is expected to take rates up slowly over time. The markets are not anticipating significant rate increases, and it will largely depend on how the markets react to the new presidential administration. The Foundation is beginning the year by keeping interest rates the same as 2015 and 2016 on the belief that holding rates flat will also benefit the congregations and make the Foundation more attractive to borrowers.

The Trust Fund manages investments of more than \$12 million, which is a reduction from the previous year by \$2.8 million. The reduction is due to a transfer of investments by the Defined Benefit (DB) Pension Plan from the Trust Fund to the Brotherhood Loan Fund as part of the new investment strategy. The new investment strategy of the DB Pension Plan has led to a need to look at how overall investments are managed and the structure of the investment advisory committee.

In our Matching Grant Program, 36 grants were awarded in 2016 for a total of \$21,000. The program encourages and funds new outreach initiatives launched by BIC congregations. We are blessed to participate with these congregations as they creatively and enthusiastically use these funds. In addition, our interaction with pastors gives us an opportunity to remind church leaders that the Foundation is available to assist them in other financial areas, such as will clinics, personal finance seminars, and planned-giving programs.

### **Facility Upgrades and Work-Space Layout:**

We've continued to modify the layout of the building and improve its operational efficiency. The ceiling lighting was replaced with energy-efficient LED lighting, creating a brighter, yet warmer and quieter

environment. The water fountains were replaced with energy-efficient units that have bottle-refill stations providing filtered water for individual and meeting use. In support of creating the shared services structure, all staff members are located on the same floor with the exception of one person, so that we have someone to greet visitors. As a result, we've created a large meeting space on the first floor that will be used to host leadership meetings and training sessions and smaller spaces for break-out meetings and office space for those meeting with outside people. We've replaced all of the desk chairs due to age, condition, and safety concerns and are in process of buying tables and chairs to support the new, larger meeting and training space. In addition, we've replaced all personal computers due to age and functionality. Replacing them simultaneously standardized the platform improving the efficiency of maintenance and support, while the laptops allow staff to be mobile both in and out of the office. All of this is facilitating collaboration and is providing better meeting and break-out space for individuals and groups. Future building upgrades include an elevator and décor-related items like carpet and paint.

### **Change in Leadership:**

In 2016 Karl Brummer was asked to continue serving on the board as an elected director, and Karl agreed. Prior to 2016 Karl was an ex officio director due to his role as treasurer on the board of directors of BIC U.S. The board also welcomed Bill Strausbaugh as the new ex officio member replacing Karl. Going forward, the board will be looking to add directors to provide greater insight and experience in key strategic areas.

Your partners in ministry,  
*Brethren in Christ Foundation*  
Rick Snyder, *CEO*

## Messiah College Report



SUBMITTED BY PRESIDENT KIM S. PHIPPS· JANUARY 2017

### **Report to the Great Lakes Regional Conference of the Brethren in Christ Church**

I am pleased to report that at the start of the 2016-2017 academic year, **we welcomed 685 first-year students to our campus**, exceeding our goal and celebrating a strong enrollment of new students from under-represented U.S. populations and from international students. The College has established key partnerships in recent years in Malaysia and Vietnam, which—combined with outreach efforts in China and the implementation of an Academic English Program—has continued to help us increase the global diversity of our student body. With the planning and implementation of new programs, we are also steadily and purposefully increasing our graduate enrollment. **We launched the 2016-2017 academic year with 517 graduate students enrolled, which put Messiah's total undergraduate and graduate headcount during the fall semester at 3,305.**

**During the spring semester, two members of the Messiah College community earned prestigious academic achievement through the Fulbright Award program. Tim Sensenig '15** (German and English major with secondary teaching certification, and former Student Government Association President) received a Fulbright U.S. Student Grant to complete an English Teaching Assistantship abroad. He will be teaching English as a second language to middle school students in Hamburg, Germany through June 2017. **Christina McIntyre '16** (Politics and international relations major, with further majors in sustainability studies and community and urban development) received a Fulbright research scholarship to Canada for 2016-17. She will be pursuing an M.A. in political science at the University of Toronto, with a thesis on urban housing policy as a means of poverty de-concentration.

The past year has been a significant one for our graduate programs. In February 2016, **the College re-organized/consolidated all of Messiah's graduate programs under its own school—the School of Graduate Studies.** And in August 2016, **Messiah launched its first doctorate program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), with a family nurse practitioner track.** Demand for the program was strong, and we exceeded our enrollment goal for our first cohort of DNP students. In other exciting news, **implementation and initial accreditation processes for new graduate programs in occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT) are also underway,** for launch in July 2017 and July 2018 respectively. In fact, Messiah began accepting its first OT students in January 2017!

In October 2016, I was pleased to announce to the campus community that **Messiah College exceeded its fundraising goal for the Campaign for Wellness, which funds as its key priority a new fitness center addition and renovations to the existing Sollenberger Sports Center.** We began constructing this much-needed new facility and renovations in March 2016, with completion scheduled for summer 2017. The new fitness center addition will be named the “Falcon Fitness Center” in recognition of the Messiah College Falcons’ commitment to pursuing athletic excellence and developing Christian character.

Continuing that tradition of athletic excellence—in December 2016, Messiah’s field hockey team won its first-ever NCAA Division III national championship with an exciting overtime win over Tufts University. Messiah’s women’s soccer also made it all the way to the final game of the national championship, falling just short of the national title by one goal in overtime play! The Messiah community was delighted to celebrate these exciting accomplishments of our student-athletes as 2016 came to a close.

Looking ahead to 2017, we remain thankful for God’s grace and faithfulness and for our continuing covenant relationship with the Brethren in Christ Church. Our world needs Messiah College graduates now more than ever, and we aspire towards a promising future of preparing our students toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith to serve, lead and reconcile in Church and society.

## Everence Report

# A shared tomorrow

## Everence 2017 report

### **Everence® values our strong congregational partnership**

For more than 70 years, Everence has worked with congregations and their members to help people of faith “build up the common life” through their financial decisions. These connections are vital to us, and we look forward to many more years of focusing on the best interests of your members – helping them create and implement plans tailored for their needs and aspirations to share with others. As we have since 1945, we will continue to serve the faith community as partners in stewardship throughout 2017 and beyond.

### **Congregations do more good with help from Everence Sharing Fund**

The Everence Sharing Fund encourages churches to help people in their communities by providing matching grants. Thousands of individuals and families benefit each year, including a former pastor and district minister in Virginia. Several congregations pitched in to help Randy Coblentz when his doctor prescribed medications to treat a disease that affected his speech and mobility. The disease wasn’t responding to an oral medication, and a different form of medication often works better in situations like Randy’s when an infection affects the brain. But his insurance didn’t cover the type of long-term treatment prescribed, and the cost topped \$30,000. Grants from the Sharing Fund supplemented the congregational assistance.

### **Reaffirming our commitment to strengthen the broader church**

Everence is reviewing our church relations programs and activities to find ways to strengthen our focus on helping congregations remain healthy during a time of shifting member participation and changing patterns of giving.

We are reaffirming our commitment to the broader church and evaluating how Everence can be most effective in supporting the faith community. Our five-year plan includes a priority to strengthen our church relationships. We will continue to partner with congregational leaders on lifting the faith community through stewardship, mutual aid and generosity.

### **Generous living in a self-centered world**

A new Everence curriculum, *Generous living in a self-centered world*, is designed to help us live counter to our culture through biblical models of generosity. The curriculum starts with Cain and Abel and ends with the Apostle Paul, exploring biblical stories and the connections with our modern-day American context.

The six-lesson study is an exploration of the biblical world to help first-world Christians wrestle with how to embody generosity while living as citizens of the most privileged and wealthy nation in the world. It takes a sense of purpose and discipline to not get caught in the riptide of culture that draws us into the world's flow.

Download the leaders guide at [everence.com/resources-for-adults](http://everence.com/resources-for-adults).

### **Using our credit card aids more charitable groups**

Everence Federal Credit Union donated \$16,200 to Friends United Meeting and Christian Peacemaker Teams (\$8,100 to each organization) in 2016 from our Rebate for Missions program. Rebate for Missions is supported by the credit union's 10 percent tithe of income generated when people use their Everence Visa credit cards.

Our members voted online to choose the recipients, and we had a record of nearly 2,000 votes cast – more than triple our number from previous years. In addition to these awards to national agencies, our credit union branch offices share Rebate for Missions money with charities in their communities.

Since the program started in 1995, Everence Federal Credit Union has given more than \$400,000 in grants to churches, missions and relief organizations. Learn more at [everence.com/banking](http://everence.com/banking).

### **MCC volunteer honored with National Journey Award**

Johanna Sutter of Goshen, Indiana, received the Everence National Journey Award for 2016 because of the ways she models Christian stewardship. As part of this recognition, Everence donated \$5,000 to Mennonite Central Committee in her honor.

Johanna has volunteered for years at the MCC Great Lakes Material Resource Center in Goshen, collecting items for school kits and relief kits and assembling them for distribution to people in need throughout the world. Johanna grew up in Germany during a time when food, clothing and other essentials were in short supply after World War II. Her family received a bundle from MCC, and she later worked at an MCC children's home in Germany. She moved to the United States in the mid-1950s and started volunteering for MCC after a long teaching career.

### **Stewardship education resources for all ages are available from Everence**

If you need a good topic for study for a Sunday school class or another setting, visit [Everence.com/resources-for-adults](http://Everence.com/resources-for-adults) to see all kinds of adult education resources. Leaders guides and

curriculum resources are available for you to download. We offer a variety of topics related to stewardship, including discipleship and Jesus' stories about money. Everence also offers educational resources for church leaders at [everence.com/resources-for-churchleaders](http://everence.com/resources-for-churchleaders), featuring tools for increasing generosity within your congregation and ways to assess stewardship initiatives you already have in place.

Stewardship-related resources for youths and children are available at [everence.com/resources-for-youth](http://everence.com/resources-for-youth), including materials on how real-life topics relate to biblical perspectives about how we use our gifts of time, talents and money.

## Messiah Lifeways Report



Thank you for the opportunity to provide this report to the General and Regional BIC Conference Boards. We greatly appreciated the support and encouragement of denominational leaders, members, and others in BIC-related organizations. I'm pleased to report on our highlights this past year living out our mission as a ministry which "responsibly enhances the lives of older adults with Christ-like love." To show the impact our ministry is having on older adults in our region, here is a summary of some activities in the Messiah Lifeways service area this past year:

- Across the organization, we saw an increase in the number of total persons served. In total, 2,903 older adults were served by all service lines. Individuals served were predominately from seven counties in South Central PA. We are pleased that this exceeds our five year goal to reach 2,600 persons served by 2016.
- Mount Joy Country Homes completed construction on the last of 18 new cottages on its campus located diagonally across from the Crossroads BIC church. This active adult cottage community is now home to over 120 residents.
- Out of commitment to our mission as a ministry serving older adults with Christ-like love, our Pastoral Ministries team includes four pastors along with a number of volunteers to support the spiritual needs of our residents. The Messiah Village Church is a BIC congregation which meets on the Messiah Village Campus.

In addition to these broader activities, here is an update on our Messiah Village campus:

- All areas of occupancy on our campuses have been well over 90%. Our census in Enhanced Living (Personal Care) has been strong in 2016. This can be a slower area to fill due to people delaying making a move so it is good to see a strong interest in this level of care. Residential Living occupancy remains strong also. We have begun renovations in our Nursing neighborhoods, and occupancy remains strong during the season of these improvements. We see needs for charitable care increasing, which makes campus occupancy goals very important. Thank you for your prayers as we minister to many older adults with varying needs.

- We provided over \$2.8 million in charitable and unreimbursed care for residents who cannot pay for the full cost of their care. We are grateful to provide this benefit, as it supports our mission and values. It is only possible through the generosity of our donors in the past and present. At Messiah Village, some residents have outlived their financial resources, but development activities over the years have provided security for these. Generous donors once again added to the Endowment Fund for benevolent care so all residents, regardless of their ability to pay, receive services enhancing their lives. Our endowment, as of June 30, 2016, was \$16.7 million, and we used \$887,000 from the proceeds to help offset some of this charitable obligation. We are very appreciative to you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, who share in this journey by including Messiah Lifeways in your charitable giving plans.
- We are also pleased that a number of our programs like Mount Joy Country Homes, Connections, At Home and Adult Day are accessible to a wide spectrum of income groups. Messiah Lifeways is a ministry providing services for many.
- All Messiah Village residents had opportunity to participate in our biennial satisfaction survey in the late fall of 2015. We have just received feedback from Holleran, the company who administered the questionnaire for our community as well as over 230 similar communities across the nation. Messiah Village received Highest Honors for achieving scores that exceed the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of Holleran's National Benchmark for multiple Independent Living survey factors. We continue to seek ways to improve the experience for our residents and clients.

We continued construction on the Messiah Village campus for Phase 1 of our strategic repositioning plan called Project Envision. This includes constructing a new independent living apartment building, increasing the number of private rooms for nursing care, and adding some larger-sized rooms to our enhanced living program. Village Square will include a new Wellness Center, with a larger pool and fitness area. At the same time, we began remodeling and renovating existing nursing neighborhoods to improve their function and resident quality of life. These changes will allow us to address the changing demands for aging services in a manner that makes sense from a financial feasibility standpoint. This project is scheduled to be completed in late summer 2017. Visitors to the Messiah Village campus should be aware that our main entrance has been temporarily moved during construction to the Northwest end of the property off Mt. Allen Drive.

We are pleased that our network of options for individuals 55 and better allows us to serve a larger number of older adults—including Brethren in Christ persons--across south central PA. We realize some may choose to age in place in their homes while others choose to move to one of our two resident communities. Regardless of where they may call home, we are pleased to serve many persons who are 55 and better in a variety of ways.

Again, thank you for your interest in Messiah Lifeways, and we look forward to ministering together in the year ahead.

Curtis D. Stutzman, *President/CEO*

**MOTION: to receive all reports in Part III: Agencies and Institutions reporting**  
**ACTION: Motion Carried**

# Part IV: Confirmations

## Confirmation of Trustees of Local Church Property

Church	Term Expired/Resigned	Elected	
Amherst	Stewart Domer	Elden McVicker	2020
Ashland	Karen Dohner	Karen Dohner	2020
	Linda Nowakowski	Linda Nowakowski	2020
	Barbara Stansfield	Ronald Graves	2019
	Eleanor Wynn	Martha Crone	2020
	Ronald Graves	Eleanor Wynn	2018
Bethel Merrill	----	Bruce Byler	2019
Carland-Zion	Charmaine Beers	Rose Lawton	2020
Fairview	Kent Logan	Kent Logan	2019
Highland	----	David Keihl	2020
	Travis Jones	Steve Miller	2019
	----	John Hammond	2020
Hope Community	----	Butch Graff	2019
		Mark Hiebing	2019
		Robert Schroedor	2019
Lakeview Community	Bob Dixon	Avery Morford	2019
Mooretown	Dave Parrott	Dave Parrott	2020
Morrison	Robert Deter	Jim Ellicott	2020
Nappanee	Roy Espinosa	Roy Espinosa	2019
	Gene Zercher	Gene Zercher	2019
New Vision	Paul Reese	Payson East	2020
	Bruce Kells	Bruce Kells	2020
	Brad Davies	Cheryl Moore	2020
Pleasant Hill	Eunice Steinbrecher	Jane Delcamp	2019
Valley Chapel	Sonny Conner	Randy Dunn	2019
Western Hills	Tracie M. Hunter	Jennie Brown	2020

**MOTION: To confirm Trustees of Local Church Property**

**ACTION: Motion Carried**



## Confirmation of Nominees

### Board of Directors

#### Scrutinizers of 2017 Minutes

##### Term Expiring

Daniele Rossi (2017)

Jana Waters (2017)

##### Nominee

John Weaver (2018)

Jana Waters (2018)

### Nominating Committee

#### Board of Directors

##### Term Expiring/Resigned

David Weisel (2017)

##### Nominee

Mike Zurn (2020)

#### Congregational Growth Team

##### Term Expiring/Resigned

Mike Beach (2017)

##### Nominee

Mike Beach (2020)

#### Relationship Development Team

##### Term Expiring/Resigned

Grady Robinson (2017)

Sandy Grimshaw (2017)

Kathi Sipes (2017)

##### Nominee

Grady Robinson (2020)

Joy Brown (2020)

Jeff McKinnon (2020)

**MOTION: To confirm Nominees as printed**

**ACTION: Motion Carried**

## 2016 Statistical Data

	Conversions	Baptisms	Average Attendance Weekly Worship Service(s)	Average Attendance Discipleship Group(s)	Average Attendance Youth Programs	Average Attendance Children's Programs	# of Worship Services Weekly	# of Worship Site or Locations	Membership Dec. 31, 2016	Growth through Conversions	Growth through Transfers	Births	Deaths
<b>Great Lakes</b>													
<b>Reporting</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>
Amherst Community BIC	0	0	70	50	0	2	1	1	57	0	4	1	4
Ashland BIC	4	3	89	24	6	10	1	1	91	1	7	1	1
Bethel (Merrill) BIC Church	0	0	23	22	2	4	3	1	26	0	0	0	0
Bethel Community BIC	0	4	17	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Blessed Hope	0	0	10	6	1	0	1	1	11	0	0	0	0
Carland-Zion BIC	0	0	26	12	0	0	2	1	16	0	0	0	1
Christ Community Etc	2	0	24	6	0	3	1	1	0	2	0	1	0
Dayton Brethren in Christ Mission	20	0	10	26	0	0	1	1	21	0	0	0	0
Fairview BIC	51	9	113	98	16	51	2	2	138	4	2	0	2
Gethsemane Fellowship BIC	3	8	31	16	8	8	1	1	36	3	1	1	0
Highland BIC Church	4	7	70	39	15	20	3	2	37	0	2	2	1
Hope Community BIC	19	7	59	51	0	0	1	1	39	3	0	0	5
Lakeview Community BIC	5	4	41	35	9	2	1	1	42	0	0	1	3
Mooretown BIC	0	0	61	52	4	12	1	1	53	0	0	1	1
Morrison BIC	0	1	60	7	8	6	1	1	45	0	2	1	0
Nappanee BIC Church	0	0	51	48	9	5	1	1	115	0	0	0	1
New Vision BIC	1	0	59	50	6	5	1	1	47	0	1	1	0
Pleasant Hill BIC	1	2	48	28	1	6	1	1	62	0	0	2	0
The Bridge @ Beans	0	0	18	15	0	2	1	1	20	0	0	0	0
Union Grove BIC	0	0	30	10	2	4	1	1	47	0	1	1	0
Westside Christian Community	8	3	66	8	5	13	2	1	39	3	0	2	5
<b>Non Reporting</b>													
Christian Union BIC Church													
Dayton BIC													
Leonard Community BIC													
Mt Zion BIC													
Valley Chapel BIC													
Western Hills BIC													
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>

## 2016 Financial Data

	INCOME			GIVING				
	Undesignated Donations (tithes and offerings)	Designated Donations (e.g. building campaign)	Total Income	BIC U.S. Common Ministries	BIC U.S. Ministry Projects	BIC Partner Ministries	Non BIC Ministries	Total Giving
<b>Great Lakes</b>								
Reporting	\$ 1,261,983	\$ 172,698	\$ 1,477,962	\$ 102,635	\$ 3,582	\$ 21,996	\$ 25,067	\$ 153,280
Amherst Community BIC	\$ 141,071	\$ 23,573	\$ 164,644	\$ 7,800	\$ 225	\$ 3,225	\$ -	\$ 11,250
Ashland BIC	\$ 144,442	\$ 35,931	\$ 180,373	\$ 16,125	\$ 420	\$ -	\$ 1,900	\$ 18,445
Bethel (Merrill) BIC Church	\$ 40,035	\$ 5,870	\$ 45,905	\$ 4,800	\$ 279	\$ 910	\$ 269	\$ 6,258
Carland-Zion BIC	\$ 29,021	\$ 7,049	\$ 36,259	\$ 160	\$ -	\$ 160	\$ 320	\$ 640
Christ Community Etc	\$ 7,356	\$ 9,985	\$ 17,341	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dayton Brethren in Christ Mission	\$ 72,287	\$ 6,668	\$ 78,956	\$ 170	\$ 476	\$ -	\$ 8,492	\$ 9,138
Fairview BIC	\$ 224,266	\$ 787	\$ 268,145	\$ 25,728	\$ 259	\$ 1,065	\$ -	\$ 27,052
Hope Community BIC	\$ 67,600	\$ 21,000	\$ 88,600	\$ 6,766	\$ -	\$ 6,766	\$ 3,900	\$ 17,432
Lakeview Community BIC	\$ 95,792	\$ 12,225	\$ 108,017	\$ 1,146	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,146
Mooretown BIC	\$ 99,537	\$ 17,400	\$ 116,937	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 12,000
Morrison BIC	\$ 91,961	\$ -	\$ 91,961	\$ 11,434	\$ 1,503	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,937
Nappanee BIC Church	\$ 79,619	\$ 9,496	\$ 89,115	\$ 5,574	\$ -	\$ 650	\$ -	\$ 6,224
Pleasant Hill BIC	\$ 117,481	\$ 9,943	\$ 127,424	\$ 14,800	\$ 210	\$ 2,220	\$ 10,186	\$ 27,416
The Bridge @ Beans	\$ 10,820	\$ -	\$ 10,820	\$ 1,582	\$ 210	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 2,792
Union Grove BIC	\$ 40,695	\$ 12,770	\$ 53,465	\$ 550	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 550
Non Reporting				\$ 36,656	\$ 423	\$ 1,173	\$ 4,197	\$ 42,449
Bethel Community BIC				\$ 628	\$ -	\$ 628	\$ 853	\$ 2,109
Blessed Hope				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Christian Union BIC Church				\$ 2,469	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,469
Dayton BIC				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Gethsemane Fellowship BIC				\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 320	\$ -	\$ 620
Highland BIC Church				\$ 7,203	\$ 198	\$ 225	\$ 3,344	\$ 10,970
Leonard Community BIC				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mt Zion BIC				\$ 1,760	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,760
New Vision BIC				\$ 17,217	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,217
Valley Chapel BIC				\$ 2,220	\$ 225	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,445
Western Hills BIC				\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500
Westside Christian Community				\$ 4,360	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,360
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,261,983</b>	<b>\$ 172,698</b>	<b>\$ 1,477,962</b>	<b>\$ 139,291</b>	<b>\$ 4,005</b>	<b>\$ 23,169</b>	<b>\$ 29,264</b>	<b>\$ 195,730</b>