

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

Brethren in Christ U.S.

THE 61ST ANNUAL MEETING

AGENDA

“FLOURISHING”

Isaiah 58:11
Ephesians 4:16

April 20-21, 2018

Hosted by
FAIRVIEW BIC
Englewood, OH

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2018 Annual Meeting Theme

Flourishing

“The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”

ISAIAH 58:11

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

EPHESIANS 4:16

The 2018 ANNUAL MEETING of the Great Lakes Regional Conference is scheduled to convene Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 21, 2018, in Englewood, OH. The meeting is being hosted by the Fairview Brethren in Christ congregation. Conference sessions will be held at: 750 Union Blvd. Englewood, OH 45322.

Your pastor has already received information concerning the location of the Annual Meeting, directions, and lodging information. Contact your pastor first for this information. The contact at Fairview Brethren in Christ is:

Annual Meeting Coordinator

Sheri Simpson | sherisimpson@ymail.com | 937-609-4898 (cell)

Registration for voting members and honorary guests of the Annual Meeting will begin Friday prior to evening service and again on Saturday morning before the business meeting. According to the Code of Regulations, *“The voting membership of the Conference shall consist of the bishop, pastors, ordained and licensed ministers, assigned deacons, duly elected delegates, members of boards, committees and teams of the Conference, the clerical staff, and persons from the Conference serving on General Conference Boards.”* Board members whose terms are expiring **and** persons being confirmed for those positions are eligible to vote.

Schedule (Eastern Standard Time)

Friday, April 20

Noon - 5:00 pm	Board/Team meetings
5:45 pm	Registration table open
7:00 pm	Worship and Inspiration <i>Flourishing: Promoting Compassion in the GLC</i> (Pastor John Weaver)
8:20 pm	Refreshments and Fellowship

Saturday, April 21

8:00 am	Registration table open
9:00 am	Welcome and Inspiration <i>Flourishing: Promoting Structures of Health in the Church, Part I</i> (Rebekah Basinger)
10:30 am	Morning Break
11:00 am	Reconvene for Business Meeting
12:00 pm	Lunch break
1:00 pm	<i>Flourishing: Promoting Structures of Health in the Church, Part II</i> (Rebekah Basinger)
2:00 pm	Songs of Faith
2:30 pm	Benediction

General Information for the Annual Meeting

Conference Courtesy

For those attending the Annual Meeting, the following information will help facilitate the meeting:

- A person may speak from the floor of the Annual Meeting only after being recognized by the moderators. That person should stand when addressing the moderators and/or the assembly, identify themselves and use a microphone, if available.
- On any question being discussed, pros and cons should alternate.
- If a person makes a motion not already published in the Agenda to the Annual Meeting, that person needs to be prepared to give the motion to the conference secretary in written form.

Parliamentary Procedures/Guidelines

While *Robert's Rules of Order* will be the guide to facilitate parliamentary procedure during the Annual Meeting, it is anticipated that Biblical principles of brotherhood and Christian courtesy will prevail. The following are brief explanations of motions and amendments adapted from generally accepted parliamentary procedures.

Motions:

1. A motion must be seconded before it can be discussed, although questions of clarification may be permitted. If no one seconds the motion, it fails for lack of seconding. The mover of the motion may speak to the motion first, in order to allow clarification of the motion.
2. The chair must not allow two separate motions to come before the assembly at the same time except those listed under the Amendments section.
3. Privileged motions take precedence over any other motion; they are not debatable. Once seconded, a privileged motion is voted on immediately. Privileged motions include: a motion to limit discussion, a motion to close discussion, a motion to have an immediate vote (to move the previous question) which requires a two thirds majority, a motion to table a motion, and a motion to refer.

Amendments:

- A motion to amend takes precedence over the main motion. After it is seconded, it may be discussed.
- There may be an amendment to an amendment. However, amendments of the third degree are not accepted.
- An amendment changes one aspect of the main motion. It may not negate the main motion or introduce an entirely new motion. Similarly, an amendment to an amendment may not negate the main idea of the first amendment.
- Substitute motions normally are difficult to define and are seldom a clear substitute to the proposal. For this reason, substitute motions will probably be treated as an amendment. When an amendment and/or a motion have been lost, the floor may be opened for a new motion.

Errors, Typographical Errors, etc. in the Agenda

If you find any errors, you may bring these to the conference Secretary's attention either personally or via a note left at the registration table. Those suggestions will contribute to the accuracy of the final product that becomes the Annual Meeting Minutes and are much appreciated!

Part I: Organization

Registration of Moderators and Clerical Staff

Moderator	Lynn Thrush
Assistant Moderator	Tracie Hunter
Secretary	Cal Hamblin
Recording Secretary	_____
Assistant Recording Secretary & Reading Clerk	_____
Tellers	Phill & Jenny Unti

Registration of Delegates

Illinois	Minister
Bridge@Beans	Bruce Johnson, Ken Von Holten
Morrison – Kathi Sipes, Karen Zurn	Craig Sipes
Indiana	
Christian Union – Maryjo Deihl, (Alt: Sue Kratzman)	Joe Laher
Mt. Zion	George Elam
Nappanee –Ed Meyer, Nettie Meyer, Gail Wing	Jeff Williams
Union Grove – Bernie Weldy, Violet Weldy	Darin Simms
Kentucky	
Bloomington Chapel	Ralph Foster
Beulah Chapel	Clifton Bennett
Knifley Chapel	Tony Streeval
Millerfield - Avelene Weber, Ernest Weber	_____
Plowshares	Luke Embree
Michigan	
Bethel Merrill – Carmen Lang	Jimmy Lang
Bethel Community	Stephen Mead
Carland-Zion – Howard Kirby (Alt.: Bobbie Stanton)	Eric Stanton, David Stanton
Christ Community ETC	Tim Decker
Lakeview Community	Jon Grimshaw
Leonard Community	Joshua Whipple
Mooretown	Dan Wells
Ohio	
Amherst – Ann Hamblin, Malinda Oakes	Galen Oakes II, Cal Hamblin, Joy Brown
Ashland – Keith Crone (Alt: Andrew Beach) Martha Crone	Keith Tyson, Lori Lower, Andrew Beach
Dayton	Chad Chafin
Dayton Mission – Ruth Pawelski	John Pawelski
Fairview – Jenny Ballard, Mary Collins, Georgette Hall, Eleanor Hatfield, Deb Logan, Guy Spidel (Alt: Becca or Jenny Spidel)	Mark Ballard
Gethsemane	Chris Heeter
Highland – Steve Miller, Wes Beeson (Alt: Larry & Bev Drusen)	Harve Bowman
Pleasant Hill – Anita Schilling, Mark Schilling, Margaret Weaver (Alt: Kerri Shade, Carl Knepper)	John Weaver
Shepherd’s Table	Zach Spidel
Valley Chapel – Barbara Jenkins	Suzanne Runge
Westside Christian Community – Lisa Zimmerman, Roger Payne	Joel Zimmerman, Eryca Payne
Western Hills – Jennie Brown	Tracie Hunter, Paul McGhee

Tennessee

Center Hill Larry Steffee
DeRossett Tim Lewis
Pomeroy Chapel Bryan Jones
Rolling Acres Jeff McKinnon Sr.

Wisconsin

Blessed Hope Phill Unti
Hope Community Michael Lueck
New Vision – Steve Lindstrom, Susan Lindstrom Brett Bever, Vicki Podjasek

Registration of Boards, Teams, and Other Personnel

Board of Directors

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

Congregational Growth Team

Robyn Bowman (2018), Guy Spidel (2018), Mike Beach (2020), Jon Grimshaw (2018), Jim Lang (2019), Malinda Oakes (2019), Keith Tyson (2019)

Relationship Development Team

Eryca Payne (2018), Sandy Grimshaw (2020), Winnie Knepper (2018), Josiah Lewis (2018), Jeff McKinnon (2020), Tim Decker (2019), Grady Robinson (2020), Ken Meinsma (2019)

Memorial Holiness Camp Management Team

Robyn Bowman (2020), Dawn Dubose (2019), Ron Niesley (2017), Elizabeth Sweeney (2019), Eryca Payne (2018), Rachel Ulloa (2019)

General Conference Board Representative

David Espinosa (2020)

MCC Great Lakes Board of Directors Representative

Cynthia Weisel (2018)

Personnel Secretary

Jean Paulus (2018)

Director of Quizzing

Jeff Williams

Seating of Honorary Members

John Burns (BIC Foundation)
Krista Dutt (MCC Great Lakes Program Coordinator)

Instructions in Rules of Order

Presentation of the 2017 Great Lakes Conference Minutes

Part II: Board and Team Reports

Board of Directors: General Report

Highlights of the work of the Board of Directors include:

1. Affirmed allocation of funding for *Leadership Summit* (Willow Creek) for Team members and pastors, *Impact Seminars* for pastors, and *Pastor and Spouse Retreat*.
2. Approved the internship of Lori Lower At Ashland BIC and Ian Thompson at Highland BIC
3. Approved the establishment of a church planting effort in Lexington, KY, “Plowshares BIC” led by Luke and Christina Embree and granted a congregational request for \$10,000 to be used for rent and Leadership training.
4. Approved funding for the position of ***Executive Assistant to the Bishop*** (John Weaver)
5. Approved Funding for the position of ***Director of Practical Theology and Ministry*** (Matt Lewis)
6. Received recommendation from the Congregational Growth Team and the Relationship Development Team that the purpose and duties of each team as stated in the Code of Regulations be reviewed.
7. Confirmed Robyn Bowman (2020) as Director of Memorial Holiness Camp
8. Recommended to the Leadership Council and the General Conference Board that the states of Kentucky and Tennessee be included in the Great Lakes Conference and that the GLC, in consultation with the churches of Kentucky and Tennessee be invited to recommend the name of the regional conference that then includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.
9. Acted to adopt the BICUS Financial Office as the “processing center” for Great Lakes Funds.
10. Acted to adopt the current working vision statement as the official Great Lakes Conference 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

Flourishing

I bring warm greetings to the Great Lakes Regional Conference. I am using three categories to report to you.

First, I report to you that Carol and I are doing well. We are blessed to be part of the Fairview (Englewood, OH) congregation where our relational connections are growing. Our home in Tipp City, nearer Huber Heights, not far from Dayton, and close to the 70/75 Interstate intersection serves us very well. We are becoming acculturated to distances: once upon a time a two-hour trip seemed substantial; now, that seems rather close. I am grateful for Carol's partnership with me in this assignment. She brings wisdom, insight, and helps me pace myself in a job that is thoroughly enjoyable and never done.

Second, the GLC Board of Directors has adopted the mission 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."* This works out in my ministry in encouraging the emphasis "multi" rather than "mono." I encourage pastors to think in terms of establishing multi-bible studies, developing multi-leaders, and, where the setting warrants, thinking in terms of starting multi-congregations/churches.

I am also planning for our Conference witness in population centers of our Conference. The agricultural roots of the Brethren in Christ took us to agricultural settings across the country. Along with that, early Brethren in Christ also served cities: Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Dayton come to mind. Currently, in the Great Lakes Conference we are in the cities of Cincinnati, Dayton, Sheboygan, and Canton. Twenty-seven years ago my own calling was to a population center, and it was my privilege to invest twenty-five years in the Los Angeles area. Today I am having conversation with persons interested in beginning a Brethren in Christ movement (my word) in Chicago; I've had conversation with the President of Ashland Seminary about a joint Brethren in Christ/Ashland Seminary work/center in Columbus, and conversation with Brethren in Christ World Missions Director Jonathan Lloyd about joining God's work of befriending and serving the Muslim population of Detroit.

Third, we are blessed with faithful, godly pastoral, staff, and board leadership in this Conference. Pastors faithfully, diligently, and graciously serve. It is my continual privilege to say, "thank you for your important service to God and His Church." The Conference staff: Hannah Ditzler, Administrative Assistant; Pastor John Weaver, Executive Assistant to the Bishop; and Dr. Matt Lewis, Director of Practical Theology and Ministry are gifted and Spirit-filled blessings to our Conference. The Board of Directors and Memorial Holiness Camp Management Team bring their best selves to their respective ministries. I am grateful for each person serving. Our Conference Secretary, Cal Hamblin, concludes his service after this Regional Conference meeting. He has served the Great Lakes Conference with distinction for many years. His gifts of administration are noteworthy. Especially do I recognize his passion and participation in God's great work of blessing all the families of the earth, and he has used his leadership influence on the BOD to move us into the fresh grace in which we presently stand. I am deeply grateful for Cal's partnership, and we do well to thank him when we see him.

Our mission participates in the flourishing of God's salvation and shalom. We flourish as we serve those whom God loves, indeed the world. (John Weaver's focus.) We flourish when we align our organizational life for each part to work properly. (Rebekah Basinger's focus.) We flourish when our pastors are experiencing well-being. (Pastors/Spouses' Retreat focus in 2018).

Dear Great Lakes Conference – "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." Isaiah 60:1

To the praise and honor of the living God,
Bishop Lynn

Lyn Thrush
Bishop

Board of Directors: Statement of Activities 2017

Description	Actual YTD
REVENUE	
COMMON MINISTRY FUNDING	
CM - Church Planting Grant	\$ 15,000
CM - Conference Ministry Grant	\$ 23,924
Shaping Leaders for Tomorrow Grant	\$ 1,894
TOTAL COMMON MINISTRY FUNDING	\$ 40,818
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Contributions	\$ 8,127
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 8,127
OTHER INCOME	
Investment Income	\$ 78,936
Registrations	\$ 4,027
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,885
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$ 85,848
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 134,793
EXPENSES	
REGIONAL CONFERENCE GRANTS	
Church Planting Grant	\$ 81,275
Conference Ministry Grant	\$ 11,837
TOTAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE GRANTS	\$ 93,112
OPERATING EXPENSES	
SALARY & BENEFITS	\$ -
TRAVEL EXPENSE	\$ 11,593
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 6,022
TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT	\$ 5,186
CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$ 17,570
CM CONTRIBUTION	\$ 10,000
OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 7,140
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 57,511
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 150,623
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (15,830)

Board of Directors: Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	12/31/17	12/31/16	Inc/(Dec)
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 37,356	\$ 22,758	\$ 14,598
Accounts Receivable	\$ 8,604	\$ 6,604	\$ 2,000
Investments	\$ 1,525,864	\$ 1,456,977	\$ 68,887
Other Assets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Notes Receivable	\$ 494,865	\$ 596,180	\$ (101,315)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,066,689	\$ 2,082,519	\$ (15,830)
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NET ASSETS - UNRESTRICTED			
Undesignated Net Assets	\$ 1,166,689	\$ 1,182,519	\$ (15,830)
Member Designated Net Assets - Sale of West Milton Camp	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	\$ -
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 2,066,689	\$ 2,082,519	\$ (15,830)
TOTAL TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 2,066,689	\$ 2,082,519	\$ (15,830)
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 2,066,689	\$ 2,082,519	\$ (15,830)

Board of Directors: 2018 Budget

This space intentionally left blank.
The 2018 proposed budget
will be presented on site during the annual meeting.

Board of Directors: Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Date & Place of Next Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors recommends that the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes conference be hosted by the Nappanee Brethren in Christ (Nappanee, IN) on April 19-20, 2019.

Recommendation 2: Repeal of Code of Regulations

"In keeping with Part VI of our Code of Regulations regarding amendments, and Part V, Article I, Section 3, n, regarding the BOD responsibility to review the Code of Regulations biennially, The Board of Directors recommends to the Great Lakes Regional Conference that Article II, Relationship Development Team, and Article III, Congregational Growth Team, - Great Lakes Conference Code of Regulations, Part V, Boards and Teams - be repealed, effective as of the action of the GLC Regional Conference action on April 21, 2018, in order to give opportunity for the Board of Directors to develop new structures to accommodate the Conference vision and to present the new structures to the GLC Regional Conference meeting in 2019."

Recommendation 3: Adoption of 2018 Budget

Bible Quizzing Report

In 2017, teens from around our conference were spending significant time each day memorizing and studying the Bible. One of the great things about Bible quizzing is that it helps teach spiritual disciplines. It has been wonderful to see teenagers (including some of my own children!) learn to take time each day and devote it to learning Scripture.

During the 2016-17 quiz season, the quizzers studied the Gospel of Luke. Luke is, by number of verses, the largest amount of material the quizzers learn in the 8-year quiz cycle. We had three teams (from 5 congregations) participate: Fairview, Highland, Nappanee, New Vision and Westside Community. Nappanee also had a junior quiz team. At conference finals (May 2017), Nappanee finished first. Earl Williams from Nappanee won “top quizzier” at our conference finals.

Nappanee also finished first in two different BIC Bible quiz tournaments in Pennsylvania, thus emerging as the top quiz team in the denomination. Unfortunately, it was unable to participate in denominational finals (due to a church mission trip scheduled during the same weekend). None of the GLC quiz teams were able to participate in denominational finals.

Each year, the quizzers attend a Bible quizzing retreat. In March 2017, the quizzers gathered at New Vision for a weekend of quizzing, games, devotionals and worship.

The new Bible quiz season (2017-18) began in the fall of 2017. The quizzing material for this season is 1 & 2 Corinthians. We have two churches involved this year: Nappanee and Fairview. Nappanee also has a junior quiz team.

So far this year, Nappanee finished first at a November BIC quiz tournament held in Pennsylvania. We are looking forward to the quiz retreat in March, to two tournaments in PA in April and May and to conference finals at the end of May.

We would love to have more teams, churches and quizzers involved! Several of you contacted me last off-season to get more information. I am available to answer any questions you may have and to help in any way I can. Bible quizzing is available for youth ages 8-19. You can reach me at nappanee.bic@hotmail.com or at 574-773-3365.

During the 2017-18 season, we will be quizzing on the Gospel of John. Those quizzing would want to start around October.

Finally, I would like to thank the Great Lakes Conference for your continued support of this ministry. As a quiz director, pastor and parent, I see it having such wonderful effects on the young people of our conference and denomination.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Williams

GLC Bible Quiz Director

Memorial Holiness Camp Meeting

Introduction

The year of 2017 was an historical event in the life of Memorial Holiness Camp. Our theme was “Faith is a Journey” and was built upon the passage “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” This was God’s call to Abram, to leave everything familiar and trust Him; to take a huge step of faith. This is the call to all of us, but this passage was especially meaningful as we took a step of faith and moved our meeting to another facility.

In 2016, the decision was made to leave the campgrounds where Memorial Holiness Camp Meeting had been held for so many years. We chose to move the gathering to Ludlow Falls Campgrounds, only five miles or so from the West Milton camp.

The move brought uneasiness to many because of the tradition, sentiment and lives that had been changed at the old facility.

2017 Camp Week Summary

Praise God! July 8-12, proved to be a very positive experience and most of us realized that as long as the Great Lakes Conference family was together, we were still MHC!

The grounds were a definite upgrade from the deteriorating facility we had left. Things were clean and ready for us and we even had air conditioning! Our speaker for week was our very own Bishop Lynn Thrush as he expounded on the passage from Genesis 12, reminding us that God wants to “bless all the families of the earth.” A special thank you to our daytime speakers from within the conference.

On Saturday evening, we returned to the old campgrounds for a “Sending Service” to allow us all to say farewell, snap some pictures and worship together one last time in that venue.

Our worship leader for the week was Ivana Dubose. The youth leaders were Ian Thompson and Eryca Testament and they chose the theme “Level Up”. The youth speaker was Jason Ostrander and youth worship leaders were “Kindred”. Rachel Ulloa led the young adult studies and the nursery. Kate Roe taught our youngest children and Carmen Lang and Krista Duff taught our older children.

Monday was our Mission Day and we were blessed with the Chris and Kara Kacmar, Paul and Heidi Reese, LH, Vicki Landis, partnering missionaries Krista Dutt and Paul Pawelski. As they shared their mission experiences and the call that God had given them. John Burns was there to represent the BIC Foundation.

There are so many people to thank: Michelle Mullican and family for registration, the kitchen staff led by Sherri Simpson and Pasty Burnside, John and Ruth Pawelski for leading prayer time, Fairview for providing the cookout, Highland for running the snack bar, Bob Zook for heading up the ushers, Winnie Knepper and Amy Laughman for being our nurses, Carl Knepper and Denver Paulus for sound, Ken Winger- Uber Services and so many other volunteers!

Although our attendance was down, it was awesome to see those in attendance get excited about the new facility and the possibilities. All misgivings seemed to pass away. The Lord definitely blessed our time together.

Looking Forward

The dates for Memorial Holiness Camp Meeting in 2018 are July 6-11. However, we are allowing registration on July 5 beginning at 7pm. The facility will be available earlier but children and youth on campus must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult.

Youth may register between 7pm and 9pm but must remain under supervision of a responsible adult until they are registered. Friday morning our camp will officially begin. There will be no food provided or official services on July 5.

Because of the positive reception indicated in evaluations and discussion of the Ludlow Falls Campground, we made the decision to return there again this year. We will continue to meet there until we feel led in another direction. We are praying a better week will open for us to hold our camp meeting in following years so we do not conflict with the Fourth of July holiday which is a time for many family reunions.

Surveys at the pastoral retreat, and evaluations following camp meeting encouraged us to hold the camp meeting in future years all in one week because of the difficulty for individuals to get split week vacation time. We were also encouraged not to have camp meeting on Sunday morning. This will be discussed at camp this year.

In 2018, we will face still more changes. Zach Spidel resigned as camp director due to an overload with pastoring and working on his doctorate. We will miss his wisdom, incredible energy and leadership. Thank you, Zach, for your sacrificial work and dedication. Robyn Bowman is the new director and is excited to be a part of camp meeting leadership that has impacted her family in such a positive way over the years.

Ian Thompson resigned as youth leader. Eryca Testement, now Mrs. Bryon Payne, resigned because she and Bryon are expecting a child the week before camp meeting. We wish both Ian and Mary, his new bride, and Eryca and Bryon and their new little one many blessings and offer much gratitude for their hard work and the lives they touched. Clay Shade will bring new energy as the new youth director for 2018. His assistant director will be Andrea Rumble.

Our main speaker this year will be Jason Ostrander, who shared with us last year on Sunday morning. The youth speaker will be Noah Walkup. The worship leaders for both main tabernacle and the youth will be "Kindred."

In addition, last year Ludlow Falls Camp blessed us by only charging half price per individual per night. This year that will be full price. This money goes for utilities and use of the grounds. Although this is not the price of lodging, and will not be passed on to the campers, we will need to raise the funds to cover it.

We have some exciting changes in the schedule for 2018 as we look to our threefold purpose, "Rest, Revive and Reach" to set our tone for the week. We hope to see a larger representation of our conference participate this year. Our theme for 2018 will be "Abide" based on John 15:4, "Abide in me and I in you" as we learn to remain in Christ, in the Holy Spirit, in all areas of our lives and at all times.

In His Service,
Robyn Bowman
Camp Director

Memorial Holiness Camp Meeting: Financial Report 2017

Treasurer's Report

RECEIPTS

		Operations	Total
General Offerings/Donations	14,287.05		
Meal Donations	914.55		
Lodging	3,953.00		
Camp Portion of Auction	-		
<hr/>			
Total Receipts For Operations		19,154.60	19,154.60
Missions - BIC World Missions	4,987.25		
Children's Missions Offerings	-		
<hr/>			
Total Receipts For Missions			4,987.25
Youth Receipts - Registrations	4,530.67		4,530.67
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TOTAL RECEIPTS		19,154.60	28,672.52

DISBURSEMENTS

Honoraria	6,960.00		
Travel Allowance	100.00		
Kitchen	4,093.31		
Ludlow Falls Camp - Fees	4,110.25		
Ludlow Falls Camp - Lodging Fees	4,524.00		
Other Disbursements - Storage,Carts, Bus etc	2,124.20		
Children's Ministry	231.77		
Snack Bar	-		
Web Site, Brochures & Misc	1,360.00		
<hr/>			
Total Costs Of Operations		23,503.53	23,503.53
Missions - BIC World Missions	4,987.25		
Children's Missions Offering			
<hr/>			
Total Disbursements For Missions			4,987.25
Youth Speaker, Music, & Travel	2,900.00		
Youth Camp Activities & Related	3,096.21		
<hr/>			
Total Youth Disbursements			5,996.21
Young Adult Activities & Supplies	-		-
<hr/>			
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		23,503.53	34,486.99
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NET 2017 ACTIVITY (Disbursements in Excess of Receipts)		(4,348.93)	(5,814.47)

Treasurer's Report - Fund Balances

General Fund Balance at 1/1/17	27,038.74	
Youth Fund Balance at 1/1/17	5,066.75	
<hr/>		
TOTAL		32,105.49
General Fund Net 2017 Activity	(4,348.93)	
Youth Fund Net 2017 Activity	(1,465.54)	
<hr/>		
TOTAL		(5,814.47)
General Fund Balance at End of Year	22,689.81	
Youth Fund Balance at End of Year	3,601.21	
<hr/>		
TOTAL FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR		26,291.02

Part III: Agencies & Institutions Reporting

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

I am privileged to provide this summary of the ministry of the Brethren in Christ U.S. in 2017.

The work of the BIC U.S. is primarily accomplished in local congregations across the country and mission locations around the world. For this reason, a report of this nature cannot possibly convey the things that have been accomplished in and through each congregation and mission location as they have partnered with God in the ministry of reconciliation. Only God knows the full extent of what has been accomplished. Together, we give thanks for each way God's Kingdom has come among us and God's will has been done on Earth as it is in heaven. I am deeply appreciative for your contribution in this great work. Thank you for praying and giving, serving and leading, so that people could come to know, love, and follow Jesus.

I encourage you to carefully read the BIC U.S. *2017 Annual Report*. Delivered to every congregation for distribution to attendees, the *2017 Annual Report* shares stories of how God has been at work among us. It also provides a statistical summary of important metrics. The national director's report to regional conferences is intended to provide a summary of organizational and administrative work during 2017 and should be read as a companion to the *2017 Annual Report*.

Missional Congregations/Missions and Developing Leaders

Because ministry happens in local congregations, the work of the denomination is to help, support, guide, resource, and oversee the many missional locations and activities of the Church. The primary way we do our work for U.S. congregations is through bishops and regional conferences. Assigning, supporting, encouraging, and resourcing pastors and church boards are the most important parts of the bishop's role. I am grateful to each of our bishops for their ministry.

The Commission on Ministry and Doctrine (CMD) provides assistance to bishops in screening and credentialing pastors. I am grateful for CMD members (each regional conference has a member representing it), as well as for additional persons in each region who read doctrinal questionnaires and other documents submitted by persons seeking to be credentialed as a BIC U.S. minister or individuals seeking a new or renewed BIC ministerial credential. These are critically important tasks. During 2017 we continued our work to improve and to strengthen our credentialing process. Such changes have been well received. I am grateful for the excellent administrative work of Donna Sturr, assistant for leadership development, as she handles all the administrative details of the credentialing process. At the end of 2017, John Arthur Brubaker retired from his part-time role as CMD associate. John has served in this role for many years and his knowledge, wisdom, and gracious spirit will be greatly missed. John, thank you for the many ways you have served the Church. I am also grateful for Eduardo Llanes in his role as CMD associate for our Spanish-language congregations and pastors.

Theological Conversations

The topic of open theism has been discussed at multiple CMD and Leadership Council (LC) meetings. This was especially the case because of a request from the Midwest Conference to place the item on the agenda for General Assembly 2018. While not including open theism on the agenda, we will hold breakout seminar opportunities at General Assembly 2018 to continue conversation together as brothers and sisters. The future process for conversation has yet to be determined, though it could include further study days.

During 2017 Leadership Council released a statement on women in ministry leadership. We needed a statement reflecting the BIC U.S. position on women in ministry to provide to persons seeking credentialing, as it's a topic often controversial among Christians and even among some BIC members. Overall, the statement was well

received. We also have received letters and emails expressing concern about the position of the Church and also questioning the reasons for the recent statement. Some letters, including from some pastors, have expressed the view the Church has accepted this position due to the current cultural climate, and some have suggested the Church will next move from its current stance on human sexuality toward acceptance of homosexuality. Another recent question: Is the Church's egalitarian position on women in ministry going to be required of all BIC pastors and congregations, or is it one where freedom is allowed?

Both the open-theism and women-in-ministry discussions are, I believe, examples of the way in which the Church needs further conversation and decisions on separating the matters we believe are *required for all BIC credentialed persons* to theological differences we *allow a variety of views*. In the past, the Church has allowed for a variety of views on other matters including the *peace position*; therefore, it is important to ask ourselves where theological conformity is required versus theological variety accepted.

BIC Foundation and Shared Services

During 2017 Rick Snyder, CEO of the Brethren in Christ Foundation (BICF) and director of shared services for BIC U.S., retired. We are all grateful for the excellent leadership Rick provided to these ministries during his time with us.

Interim leaders were appointed to the roles Rick had assumed: Jim Reynolds, BIC Foundation, and Mitch Martin, shared services (shared services include finance, human resources, and communications). Grateful to Jim and Mitch for accepting these interim assignments, I was delighted when the respective leadership groups decided to offer permanent positions to Jim (executive director of BIC Foundation) and Mitch (director of finance and shared services).

The BIC Foundation continues to provide important services and resources to congregations, pastors, and BIC individuals. Its leadership continues to look ahead to remain effective in an ever-changing business environment.

Finance and Fundraising

One of the shared service departments that has experienced the greatest transition in the last few years is finance. Significant changes have occurred regarding personnel as well as policies and processes. It is a credit to everyone involved that these changes have been as smooth as they have been.

The financial health of BIC U.S. has been a challenge for many years. In addition to the unfunded liability in the defined benefit plan (BIC Pension Fund, now frozen to new applicants) and the demands this underfunding placed on operational funds, the Church also has experienced declining revenue from congregational giving. We have worked diligently to provide transparency and clarity in our financial operations and reporting. Second, we have been clear and consistent in our request that every congregation donate 10 percent of its undesignated tithes and offerings to support the ministry we do together, the ministry we have in common, our *Common Ministry*. However, like other denominations, we continue to face ongoing funding challenge created, in part, by the increasing number of causes to which a person (or a congregation) can give, combined with the decreasing organizational loyalty that characterized previous generations of donors.

Honor the Past: Build the Future

At the 2016 General Conference, we launched a ministry fundraising campaign titled *Honor the Past: Build the Future*. This campaign had a goal of raising \$5 million over a five-year period (2016-2021) to meet two successive goals: (1) \$3.2 million to *Honor the Past* by meeting the needs of the defined benefit plan (BIC Pension Fund) that provides retirement income to missionaries and pastors who served and led the Church in the past (and some who have yet to retire). The Church of today stands upon their shoulders, and we are deeply grateful for their ministry. (2) \$1.8 million to help *Build the Future* by providing funds to assist church multiplication.

In early 2017 we were delighted to announce generous donors (who wish to remain anonymous) pledged to match all donations to the campaign up to \$1.4 million. Inspired by this generous pledge, regional conferences, congregations, and individuals have given abundantly: Thank you!

Because of such generous gifts, financial goal 1 — to *Honor the Past* (\$3.2 million) — is within reach! We are working hard to meet it by 2018 General Assembly, *where can celebrate this milestone together!* You can help us — no contribution is too small, and your donation will be doubled by the matching donor.

Please designate your gift to *Honor the Past: Build the Future*.

Relationships

Relational connections within and outside BIC U.S. continue to be a significant part of my role. Within BIC U.S., I attend events and activities such as the annual meetings of the regional conferences, pastor and spouse retreats, pastor development days, Impact Seminars, the Southeast annual convention, camp meetings, etc.

A significant amount of my time is spent building and maintaining relationships outside of BIC U.S. In the last year, this has included the International Brethren in Christ Association (IBICA), Messiah College board of trustees, Messiah Lifeways board of directors (Mitch Martin now attends these meetings as our representative), Mennonite Central Committee, the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), and BIC national Churches in Mexico, Costa Rica, and the U.K.

Leadership Council Transitions

A significant part of my role in the last year (and most of the last nearly 5 years) has been to manage transitions within Leadership Council. During 2017 the Susquehanna Conference board of directors (BOD) undertook a search to fulfill the bishop position that will be open once Bishop Ken Hoke retires end of July 2018. I was delighted by the excellent working relationship that developed among the search committee, whose deliberation led to the nomination of Bob Beaty. Bob will begin his role August 1, 2018. This is the third bishop search and transition in which I have been involved (Atlantic Conference, Great Lakes Conference, Susquehanna Conference), and I also have been grateful to have taken part in the search processes for the director of World Missions, the director of finance (twice), and the CEO of the Brethren in Christ Foundation (twice).

To begin the conversation about bishop oversight when Perry Engle, bishop of Pacific and Midwest Conferences, concludes his term 2020, the BOD of the Pacific Conference and I have met, and I plan to meet with the Midwest Conference BOD this year. In preparation for the end of Bishop Rob Patterson's term, which will also occur 2020, I plan to meet this year with the BOD of the Allegheny Conference.

A common misunderstanding is that the national director chooses/nominates LC members. However, my role as chair of the search committee is to guide and to oversee the process, but I have not voted in any of the LC search processes. This is similar to Leadership Council and the Commission on Ministry and Doctrine: While chair of both of these groups, I do not vote on decisions (with the exception of a tied vote). I often describe my role as a person who facilitates groups of people in decision-making.

Governance

The governance committee of GCB, chaired by Adam Forry, has continued to meet regularly. They have done excellent work revising the *Manual of Doctrine and Government* (MDG). It has been a joy to work with this team. The work that remains is primarily communicating the proposed changes to be incorporated into the 2018 MDG and explaining the reasons for them.

We hope to continue this work in the coming months so that the voting delegates at 2018 General Assembly will feel well prepared to vote and approve the changes.

Project 250

The Brethren in Christ will be 250 years old in 2028 — 10 years from now. While some debate exists as to the actual start date of the Brethren in Christ, the North American General Conference did celebrate the denomination's 200th anniversary in 1978, so 2028 will be our 250th birthday.

Project 250 refers to a Church-wide conversation to occur over the next two years. At General Assembly 2020, our goal is to bring a vision statement with goals and objectives to be accomplished by 2028. (As an aside, *Project 250* is not an official name or title; rather, it is my attempt to find a term to focus our discussion. Likely, the creative writers among us will create a title more helpful and inspiring.)

It is our desire to make the vision conversation as wide as possible across the BIC U.S. Please begin to prayerfully dream about who and what we will be when we reach our 250th birthday. And be prepared to engage in the conversation as it develops over the next two years.

Conclusion

It continues to be a privilege for me to serve the Church in this way. I am grateful for each of you and the time, skills, and experience that you contribute to the important task of governance. Thank you for your partnership in this great work.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Robinson
National Director
Brethren in Christ U.S.

Awaken Annual Report 2017

Awaken serves as an informal network designed to affirm, encourage, and equip Brethren in Christ women in ministry. We celebrate women who are answering God's call to serve the body of Christ as senior or executive pastors, teaching or associate pastors, care pastors, church planters, youth leaders, children's directors, worship leaders, and more within the local congregation. Based on the current BIC directory of congregations, more than 140 women are currently ministering in assigned staff or volunteer ministry positions in our seven regions and internationally. That number does not include the many others who are serving in a para-church ministry, retired, or the spouse of a pastor. We honor this host of BIC women who are using their gifts and talents to serve the Body of Christ.

In 2017 Leadership Council released a new "Women in Ministry Leadership Statement" to provide clarity to the already existing BIC position regarding women serving in ministry. This statement emphasizes the formal action taken by General Conference in 1982 and re-emphasized again in 1992. It fully affirms women in ministry leadership at all levels of church life.

Awaken is providing a half-day Pre-Assembly Seminar at Grantham Church on July 13, 2018 beginning with a lunch buffet. Guest speaker, Katelyn Beaty, Christianity Today editor at large, will give a presentation on "Women Were the First: Following in the Footsteps of the Women Evangelists in Every Sphere of Life", focusing on Jesus' relationship with women and how he interacted with them in a radically patriarchal culture.

A second part of the seminar led by Pastor Meredith Dancause and Pastor Josh Crain from The Meeting House, Carlisle, will feature a dialogue followed by Q and A and practical suggestions for strengthening church staff relations. This seminar is open to both women and men and will be recognized in this bi-ennium for LifeLong BIC Learning credit. Registration for this seminar will take place on the BIC US Website under "General Assembly". Awaken will also present a workshop option, "Empowering Women in Ministry Leadership", for attendees at General Assembly.

Mentorship continues to be an important focus of the Awaken Network. Women in ministry often benefit by having a mentor. It can be particularly helpful to women who have been recently assigned or those facing challenging situations. We are currently in need of additional seasoned women to serve as mentors who will share their wisdom, encouragement, and ongoing prayers. You can learn more about this valuable ministry on our website and steps to become either a mentor or mentee.

We are committed to helping every BIC individual recognize that God has poured out His Spirit on both His sons and daughters (Acts 2: 18) so that "each one can use whatever gift he/she has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. " (I Peter 4:10).

Pauline Peifer
Awaken Director

MCC Great Lakes Board of Directors Report

In every country where MCC works, we partner with local churches and organizations with similar values. We are thankful for partnerships that make MCC's projects as reliable, effective and efficient as they can be. And we are grateful to supporters like you who make this work possible through your time, talents, prayers and financial gifts.

Our connections

- In July, staff member Krista Dutt co-taught the 7 to 11 year-old class at the Memorial Holiness Camp in West Milton, Ohio. They spent the five days of camp learning about 10 of the countries where MCC works. Activities including putting together hygiene kits for MCC to distribute around the world.
- Krista preached at Pleasant Hill BIC (Pleasant Hill, OH) and gave a moment in mission at Fairview BIC (Englewood, OH).
- Krista attended the 2017 BIC Impact Seminar in Dayton, OH. She also met with Bishop Lynn Thrush several times throughout the year.
- MCC is grateful for the ongoing gifts of funds from Brethren in Christ churches, whether through the conference office, My Coins Count, directly from individuals to MCC or by estate bequests.



MCC at work around the world

- MCC engages with BIC churches and para-church organizations in Southern Africa, South Asia, Central America and the Caribbean. In partnership with BIC churches, MCC responds to conflict and disasters, builds the capacity of vulnerable people through agricultural and livelihoods development, and supports education and peace-building initiatives.
- MCC also provides year-long service and cultural exchange opportunities for young adults from Brethren in Christ churches around the world through the International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) and Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network (YAMEN).
- In Cuba, MCC and the BIC church are responding to Hurricane Irma in Villa Clara, Las Tunas and Cienfuegos through housing repair, food assistance and repair of agriculture infrastructure. MCC is also supporting training for women church leaders in psychological and pastoral care.
- MCC partners with the Brethren in Christ church in Zambia to improve the quality of education in BIC administered schools and provide personnel support through MCC service worker placements.
- In India, MCC works with the BIC and Mennonite service agency in the implementation of food security, peace training and sustainable livelihoods programming.

Representatives and contacts

- We want to recognize and thank Cynthia Weisel who completed her term as BIC representative on the MCC Great Lakes board in March. She has served nine years and has represented the conference well. We are grateful for her service and commitment to MCC's ministries. David Swartz from Plowshares BIC (Lexington, KY) has been appointed to represent the Great Lakes Conference of BIC, and we look forward to his contributions.
- 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.) and its congregations and members through lending, investing, and planned giving. The Foundation has helped congregations large and small, old and new, continue to grow and to serve God's Kingdom for more than 45 years. Our members have made it possible to meet this need through faithful investing and giving.

During the last three years, the Foundation has focused on improving our internal processes, increasing our visibility throughout the BIC U.S., and expanding services offered to the denomination. Though we have made great progress, there remains a great deal more to accomplish. We look forward to the challenges the future holds.

Loans

For 2017, the Foundation emphasized growing our loan portfolio. During the year, I am pleased to report we funded 19 new loans totaling \$7.2 million. Fifteen of these loans went to churches or BIC U.S. institutions. We funded four new loans to pastors for the purchase or repair of their homes. The Foundation's loan portfolio grew by a net of \$5.3 million or 16.3%. We were able to provide loans in every regional conference for a variety of projects ranging from \$3,000 equipment purchases to multimillion dollar buildings. Each project has served to strengthen our Church family and those we serve in the community

Securities

Fiscal-year 2017 was another strong year for our securities offerings: Remaining competitive in the rising interest rate environment, the Foundation continues to provide stable investment options for those who have a heart for ministry. Several congregations have invested their building funds with the Foundation for a number of years. In 2017, these churches were able to use these investments to fund a large portion of their building projects. The Foundation is thankful for the loyal support of our investors throughout the years. They have enabled the Foundation to support the ministries of the BIC U.S.

Ministry

The Foundation continues to support our local congregations with their outreach efforts through our Matching Grant program. During 2017, we funded 39 grants for 33 different congregations in every regional conference. The creativity of our local congregations to bring God's Word to the community is inspiring, and the number of community members reached is too numerous to count. We at the Foundation continue to encourage our congregations to seek new and creative ways to tangibly share the love of Christ in their local communities. During September, Hurricane Irma struck Florida, a state the Foundation has a large number of mortgages. The effects of Irma ranged from wind and rain damage to the cancellation of two to three services for churches throughout the state. Several BIC congregations opened their buildings to the community to provide food and shelter in the aftermath of the storm. The Foundation was able to help the affected congregations in a number of ways. We granted loan deferments to congregations for September, allowing them to use these funds to recover from the effects of the hurricane. In consultation with the Bishop, we provided funds to those in the greatest need.

Looking Forward

Over the coming months, staff will be striving to meet a number of goals:

1. Leadership – In July 2017, Rick Snyder retired as director of shared services and chief executive officer. Jim Reynolds has been appointed executive director of the BIC Foundation, and Mitch Martin has been appointed director of finance and shared services of BIC U. S. As a result, the Foundation will be hiring

a new lead accounting person in the near future. The position will be responsible for a number of accounting functions for both the Foundation and BIC U.S.

In November, the board of directors welcomed Chad Wenger as a new member. Chad serves as pastor of Mechanicsburg Community Church. Chad has experience in business as well as ministry. His skill set is an excellent fit for the Foundation's board of directors.

2. Services – The Foundation has been fortunate to have the support of long-term, loyal investors. Their investments have enabled us to provide a stable lending facility to our pastors and congregations. We are grateful for their faith in us. We continue to evaluate new offerings and services to keep the Foundation relevant with our ever-changing membership.
3. Marketing – We have completed a set of three videos marketing the Foundation. Our hope is these videos will increase the exposure of the Foundation throughout the denomination. We continue to focus on developing plans to promote the Foundation, BIC U.S., and our planned giving efforts.

As I begin my service as executive director, I am thankful to our dedicated staff, board members, and constituents who have all made the Foundation a healthy ministry of the BIC U.S. I look forward to further strengthening the Foundation's services enabling us to continue to support the future growth of the BIC U. S. and its congregations and pastors.

Your partner in ministry,
Jim Reynolds
Executive Director

Messiah College Report



SUBMITTED BY PRESIDENT KIM S. PHIPPS· JANUARY 2018

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

I am pleased to report that at the start of the 2017-2018 academic year, **we welcomed 665 first-year students and 93 transfer students to our campus**, meeting our goal and celebrating a strong enrollment of new students from underrepresented U.S. populations and from international students. In fact, our 13.2 percent ratio of underrepresented students (364 students) and our 4.7 percent ratio of international students (131 students) are Messiah's highest on record since 1975! With the planning and implementation of new master's and doctoral programs, we are also steadily and purposefully increasing our graduate enrollment. **We launched the new academic year with 572 graduate students enrolled (compared to 517 last year)**, which put Messiah's total undergraduate and graduate headcount during the fall 2017 semester at 3,331 (an increase of 26 students over last year).

This year was significant for adding new academic programs. **At the undergraduate level, the College added two new majors: finance and actuarial science**, both which have been in high demand by our students and employers. **We also added two new minors: speech and language pathology**, preparing undergraduate students for graduate school admission in that fast-growing profession; and **digital humanities**, equipping students to study various cultural aspects through new, emerging media. **The College also launched its first cohort in its Master of Occupational Therapy program**, enrolling 32 students (exceeding its goal of 30); and applications for 2018 are tracking ahead of last year. **The College also began marketing/recruiting for its newest doctoral program, the Doctor of Physical Therapy**. Early demand has been strong, and we are currently accepting students for a course launch date of July 2018. Looking ahead for graduate programs—the curriculum for a new master's in athletic training program is being finalized, and a new Master of Science in Nursing: nurse administration track has been approved for launch in summer 2018.

This summer, I was delighted that **Dr. Todd Allen joined the Messiah College community in the role of special assistant to the president and provost for diversity affairs**. Dr. Allen, who comes to Messiah from Grove City College, is the newest member of my President's Cabinet, and we are already benefiting from his wisdom, experience, and his leadership of the College's strategic institutional diversity plan.

This fall, our campus was excited to open several exciting new facilities to students. **In August 2017 we opened the new Falcon Fitness Center and renovations to the existing Sollenberger Sports Center**. These much-needed new athletic facilities were the keystone projects of the College's Campaign for Wellness, which was successfully completed last year. **We also opened in August the new Ralph S. Larsen Finance Lab**, a cutting-edge learning space that prepares students for careers in finance through state-of-the-art technology and real-time market data in a Wall Street trading floor atmosphere, complete with multiple Bloomberg terminals.

Continuing Messiah's tradition of athletic excellence—in **December 2017, Messiah's men soccer won their 11th NCAA Division III national championship** with an exciting win over North Park University! **Messiah's women's field hockey also made it all the way to the final game of the national championship**, falling just

short of the title, ending their season as the national runner-up. The Messiah community was delighted to celebrate these exciting accomplishments of our student-athletes as 2017 came to a close.

It is clearly an exciting time to be a part of the Messiah College community! Looking ahead to 2018, we are thankful for God's grace, guidance and faithfulness, and for our continuing covenant relationship with the Brethren in Christ Church. Thank you for all of your contributions to the life of our campus and to our institutional mission to educate students toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in Church and society.

Kim S. Phipps

President

Everence Report: Neighbor to Neighbor

*Therefore encourage one another
and build up each other, as
indeed you are doing.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Everence values our strong congregational partnerships

For nearly 75 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 2018 and beyond.

MyNeighbor users generating charitable contributions

The MyNeighbor credit card generated more than \$180,000 in donations for charitable organizations from the start of a concerted marketing/awareness campaign in spring 2017 through the end of January 2018.

The MyNeighbor card from Everence is available for business or personal use. Everence donates 1.5 percent of each transaction total to the charity the cardholder chooses

from a list of thousands of possibilities, including churches.

The MyNeighbor card gives people a chance to name the nonprofit (the Neighbor) where they want contributions to go.

Cardholders can even use MyNeighbor to donate to a charity, then designate the same charity as the recipient of the 1.5 percent contribution.

Complete information is available at everence.com/myneighbor.

Sharing Fund helps churches provide financial relief

Thousands of people every year get financial help through the Everence Sharing Fund, which supplements congregational outreach efforts.

Sharing Fund grants help our partner churches assist more people with basic, everyday needs such as medical care, rent, food, clothing and utilities.

Here’s an example: The fund recently reimbursed a church that helped a woman who needed surgery to get back on her feet. She wasn’t able to work during her recovery – she’s her family’s financial provider – and fell

behind on her mortgage payments.

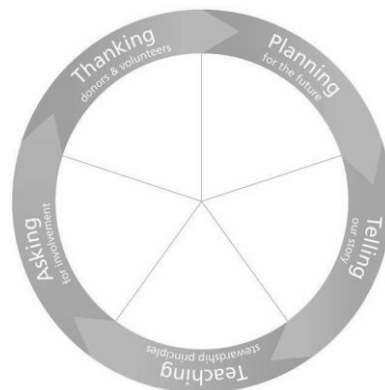
Her bank threatened to foreclose on the family home, but a bank employee told the woman she’d be in compliance if she made a payment by the end of that month. Her congregation made the payment and received a matching Sharing Fund grant.

Gain a deeper understanding with the Stewardship Ministry Wheel

Everence stewardship consultants are helping our congregational advocates, pastors and other church leaders strengthen their stewardship efforts through the Everence Stewardship Ministry Wheel.

The wheel was created to help people gain a deeper understanding of what stewardship is all about.

The wheel features five areas of stewardship – planning for the future, telling our story, teaching stewardship principles, asking for involvement, and thanking donors & volunteers.



The tool can help congregational leaders assess which activities



may need more attention and which are already working well.

Talk to an Everence advocate or stewardship consultant to find out more.

Everence Charitable Services is ready to help you maximize your generosity

Generosity's outlook is bright. Americans broke all records for charitable giving in 2016, according to a Giving USA 2017 report.

Everence Charitable Services is prepared to help you and other members of your congregation realize your vision for generosity.

You often can be more generous than you imagined and realize tax benefits as well. Our financial advisors can help you map out a plan for your giving.

You'll find a variety of individualized options, including a donor advised fund that offers simplicity and flexibility. You can donate cash or other assets, such as stocks, land and farm commodities. The assets are sold and the money is available for distribution to charities you recommend, when- ever you wish.

Contact your Everence office, visit everence.com/charitable-giving or call (800) 348-7468.

Confidential counseling can help with debt, overall money management issues

Everence has partnered with Lutheran Social Service Financial Counseling since 2008 so our members and others we serve can access free, trustworthy, expert help with credit card and student loan debt, foreclosure

prevention, and overall money management.

To date, more than 1,100 people have sought this help, and as of Jan. 1, 2017, LSS helped them pay off \$1,832,429 in debts.

Every person is eligible for up to six sessions per year of financial counseling through LSS. The service is confidential; LSS only reports total utilization numbers to Everence – never any names or personal details.

The counseling is designed to help people assess their situation, create a spending plan and do a better job of budgeting to help them pay off debts and plan ahead with more confidence.

Call (877) 809-0039 to set up a telephone appointment with a certified LSS financial counselor.

Messiah Lifeways Report



Annual Report to BIC General Conference and BIC Regional Conferences

January 2018

122 years after our founding as Messiah Rescue & Benevolent Home, we remain grateful for deep roots and connections to our Anabaptist heritage. Offering this update to the General and Regional BIC Conference Boards is just one way we can express gratitude for the support and encouragement of many denominational leaders, members, and others in BIC-related organizations.

As we work to “responsibly enhance the lives of older adults with Christ-like love,” please find this brief summary of some of the ways our ministry positively impacted our community and those we serve in various ways.

- Across the organization, we saw an increase in the number of total persons served. In total, 2,955 older adults were served by all service lines, and the persons served span at least seven counties in South Central PA.
- The Messiah Lifeways Coaching service completed the year having connected with 236 individuals through workshops, coach helpline calls, and discovery coaching sessions. The vast majority of these individuals are from the broader community.
- Messiah Lifeways Connections was created in 2013 as a grassroots membership group dedicated to helping members age in place at home with the help of trusted vendors, a strong social network, volunteer opportunities, and a member helpline. Connections’ membership continues at around 100 persons, with many engaged and enthusiastic members reporting satisfaction.
- Mount Joy Country Homes, an active adult cottage community located diagonally across from the Crossroads BIC church, is now home to about 120 residents.
- Messiah Lifeways At Home provided 34,799 hours of service in the last fiscal year to 1,943 clients in the Central PA area.

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

We provided over \$3.5 million in charitable and unreimbursed care for residents who cannot pay for the full cost of their care. We are grateful to provide this charitable benefit, as it supports our mission and values. We are also pleased that a number of our programs like Mount Joy Country Homes, Connections,

Messiah Lifeways At Home, and Adult Day are accessible to a wide spectrum of income groups. Messiah Lifeways is a ministry providing services for many. 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 for charitable care as of June 30, 2017 was \$17.4 million, and we used \$876,000 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.

2017 brought completion of the first phase of Project Envision, our strategic repositioning plan for the Messiah Village campus. We first celebrated in July as we cut the ribbon on two new skilled nursing neighborhoods, Greenwood and Engle. These 32 private suites will better serve long-term care residents who need nursing care. Thanks to generous estate gifts from the late Dr. Harold H. Engle & Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Engle and Miss Alma Engle, the Engle neighborhood bears their name, and a specially commissioned calligraphy of Romans 12:12-13 hangs in the entrance to welcome all who visit. On November 6 we cut the ribbon on Village Square and toured hundreds of residents, team members, and neighbors during the opening week festivities. At year's end Village Square was 60% occupied, and we look forward to opening the Center for Vitality & Wellness and Cerise Day Spa in mid-January. On January 4, the first residents moved into Hopewell, the new enhanced living neighborhood.

We continue to work at a major renovation project in our older nursing neighborhoods to improve functionality and resident quality of life. The newly remodeled rooms and living areas promote a more homelike feel and increased options for conversation and gathering with others. We expect Wohlsen Construction to complete this effort in the spring of 2018.

We are pleased that our expanding 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 the ways most helpful to them.

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

Part IV: Confirmations

Confirmation of Trustees of Local Church Property

Church	Term Expired/Resigned	Elected	
Amherst	Shane Brown	Shane Brown	2020
	Roger Endress	Lynn Huff	2020
	----	Kathy Oakes	2020
Ashland	----	Sheila Beach	2021
	----	Jeffrey Moore	2019
	----	Chris Vallowe	2019
	Eleanor Wynn	Seth Vetter	2021
Bethel Merrill	Brian Cook	Brian Cook	2020
Beulah Chapel	----	Jack D. Collins	2019
	----	Frances Reynolds	2020
	----	Kenny Bennett	2020
Carland-Zion Center Hill	Dennis Reppenhagen	Dennis Reppenhagen	2021
	James Dunn	Larry Bain, Sr.	2021
	Edward Martin	Dennis Harris	2021
Fairview	Nate Hitson	Nate Hitson	2020
	Dale Ison	Dale Ison	2020
Highland	Denver Paulus	Denver Paulus	2021
	Larry Warner	Josh Kessler	2021
Hope Community Millerfield	Robert Schroeder	Santos Medina	2021
	----	Royce Burton	2019
	----	Jorday Burton	2019
	----	David Abrell	2020
	----	James Roberts	2020
Morrison	Russ Deter	Lisa Nice	2021
Nappanee	Newel Clouse	Newel Clouse	2020
Pleasant Hill	Ray Hoover	Carl Knepper	2020
Valley Chapel	Lucas Mathie	Lucas Mathie	2020
Westside Christian	Archie Waldron	Roger Payne	-----

Confirmation of Nominees

Board of Directors

Scrutinizers of 2018 Minutes

Term Expiring

John Weaver (2018)
Jana Waters (2018)

Nominee

Phill Unti (2019)
Keith Tyson (2019)

Nominating Committee

Term Expiring

Board of Directors

Jana Waters (2018)

Nominee

Phillip Unti (2021)

Rep. MCC Great Lakes BOD:

Cynthia Weisel (2018)

David Swartz (2021)

Personnel Secretary:

Jean Paulus (2018)

Jean Paulus (2021)

Statistical Data 2017

2017 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 sites or locations	Membership Dec. 31, 2017	Growth through Conversions	Growth through Transfers	Births	Deaths
Great Lakes													
Reporting	126	58	1,487	665	109	201	110	43	1,359	33	74	23	34
Amherst Community BIC	2	-	60	40	-	2	1	1	52	-	-	-	1
Ashland BIC	-	-	84	41	4	15	1	1	98	-	3	3	1
Bethel (Merrill) BIC Church	-	-	24	25	3	4	4	2	26	-	-	-	1
Bethel Community BIC	-	-	15	-	-	1	1	1	5	-	-	-	1
Beulah Chapel BIC Church	3	3	36	21	3	6	1	1	27	-	-	1	1
Bloomington Chapel BIC Church	8	2	147	-	-	-	3	2	78	8	-	3	1
Carland-Zion BIC	-	-	23	12	-	-	2	1	19	-	3	-	1
Center Hill BIC Church	1	1	19	20	-	-	1	1	26	3	-	2	1
Christ Community Etc	1	-	18	-	-	3	1	1	-	1	-	1	1
Christian Union BIC Church	-	-	28	11	-	-	1	1	27	-	-	-	1
Dayton BIC	3	9	31	-	2	11	1	1	31	2	-	2	1
Dayton Brethren in Christ Mission	11	-	9	13	-	-	2	1	21	-	-	-	1
DeRossett BIC Church	2	2	36	-	-	6	1	1	60	-	-	-	1
Fairview BIC	46	2	110	20	15	38	2	2	159	-	-	-	1
The Shepherds Table**	2	-	37	8	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	1
Gethsemane Fellowship BIC	5	6	35	18	5	5	1	1	31	2	-	-	1
Highland BIC Church	4	5	64	54	11	30	2	1	43	6	-	-	1
Hope Community BIC	21	12	59	53	-	11	1	1	42	-	9	-	1
Knifley Chapel BIC Church	-	-	14	-	4	-	3	1	8	-	-	-	1
Lakeview Community BIC	5	4	38	10	6	5	1	1	32	2	2	-	1
Millerfield BIC Church	-	3	52	-	8	4	1	1	35	-	-	-	1
Mooretown BIC	-	-	65	55	-	6	1	1	58	-	-	1	1
Morrison BIC	-	-	60	-	-	-	1	1	45	-	-	-	1
Mt Zion BIC	2	-	10	7	3	2	2	2	8	-	-	-	1
Nappanee BIC Church	-	-	50	50	9	-	1	1	100	-	-	-	1
New Vision BIC	1	2	50	49	1	4	1	1	46	2	2	2	1
Pleasant Hill BIC	2	-	51	24	5	6	1	1	61	-	-	2	1
Plowshares BIC	-	2	50	50	4	7	4	4	-	-	50	1	1
Rolling Acres BIC Church	-	2	43	24	3	5	50	3	28	-	-	-	1
The Bridge @ Beans	-	-	15	10	-	-	1	1	18	-	-	-	1
Union Grove BIC	-	-	30	10	5	3	1	1	45	-	-	-	1
Valley Chapel BIC	-	-	32	6	3	5	3	1	17	-	-	1	1
Western Hills BIC	5	2	32	24	10	10	10	1	75	5	5	1	1
Westside Christian Community	2	1	60	10	5	12	2	1	38	2	-	1	1
Non Reporting													
Blessed Hope													
Leonard Community BIC													
Grand Total	126	58	1,487	665	109	201	110	43	1,359	33	74	23	34

**The Shepherds Table is affiliated with Fairview BIC

2017 Financial Data

	INCOME				GIVING				
	Undesignated Donations (tithes and offerings)	Designated Donations (e.g. building campaign)	Other Income	Total Income	BIC U.S. Common Ministry	BIC U.S. Ministry Projects	BIC U.S. Partner Ministry	Non BIC U.S.*	Total Giving
Great Lakes									
Reporting	\$ 2,116,596.85	\$ 203,952.79	\$ 85,995.92	\$ 2,406,545.56	\$ 155,846.73	\$ 3,349.08	\$ 50,137.61	\$ 7,009.60	\$ 216,343.02
Amherst Community BIC	\$ 140,783.00	\$ 2,042.00	\$ 3,925.00	\$ 148,750.00	\$ 8,799.96	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 8,999.96
Ashland BIC	\$ 130,749.88	\$ 18,513.43	\$ -	\$ 169,263.31	\$ 16,871.04	\$ 432.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,303.04
Bethel (Merrill) BIC Church	\$ 43,003.20	\$ 4,631.17	\$ -	\$ 49,636.37	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 232.52	\$ 1,055.00	\$ -	\$ 5,487.52
Bethel Community BIC	\$ 19,884.00	\$ 2,611.00	\$ -	\$ 22,495.00	\$ 835.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 835.00
Beulah Chapel BIC Church	\$ 36,471.02	\$ -	\$ 3,310.93	\$ 41,781.95	\$ 3,200.00	\$ -	\$ 7,200.00	\$ -	\$ 10,400.00
Bloomington Chapel BIC Church	\$ 69,683.21	\$ 13,387.04	\$ 4,025.00	\$ 89,097.25	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Carland-Zion BIC	\$ 32,338.23	\$ 2,832.00	\$ -	\$ 35,170.23	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225.00
Center Hill BIC Church	\$ 14,343.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,343.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Christ Community Etc	\$ 8,804.00	\$ -	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 16,004.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Christian Union BIC Church	\$ 27,249.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,249.00	\$ 2,516.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,516.00
Dayton BIC	\$ 23,306.04	\$ -	\$ 8,027.69	\$ 33,333.73	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dayton Brethren in Christ Mission	\$ 11,031.68	\$ 9,465.00	\$ -	\$ 20,496.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
DeRossett BIC Church	\$ 23,719.87	\$ 888.47	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 27,108.34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fairview BIC	\$ 287,838.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 294,718.00	\$ 26,282.00	\$ 336.56	\$ 6,927.00	\$ 1,969.00	\$ 35,514.56
The Shepherds Table**	\$ 30,335.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ -	\$ 41,335.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Gethsemane Fellowship BIC	\$ 32,612.50	\$ 420.00	\$ -	\$ 33,032.50	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ 425.00
Highland BIC Church	\$ 78,089.86	\$ 3,238.00	\$ 9,046.95	\$ 90,374.81	\$ 7,660.50	\$ -	\$ 1,526.00	\$ -	\$ 9,186.50
Hope Community BIC	\$ 63,510.00	\$ 7,800.00	\$ -	\$ 71,310.00	\$ 6,421.00	\$ -	\$ 6,351.00	\$ -	\$ 12,772.00
Knifley Chapel BIC Church	\$ 41,746.58	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,746.58	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Lakeview Community BIC	\$ 70,514.60	\$ 17,796.74	\$ -	\$ 88,311.34	\$ 618.02	\$ -	\$ 618.00	\$ -	\$ 1,236.02
Millerfield BIC Church	\$ 75,930.12	\$ 10,144.00	\$ -	\$ 86,074.12	\$ 8,354.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,354.00
Mooretown BIC	\$ 70,418.00	\$ 12,560.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 88,978.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 7,200.00
Morrison BIC	\$ 89,942.00	\$ 3,624.00	\$ -	\$ 93,566.00	\$ 8,994.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,316.61	\$ 890.60	\$ 12,301.21
Mt Zion BIC	\$ 1,274.91	\$ 22,000.00	\$ -	\$ 23,274.91	\$ 1,920.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,920.00
Nappanee BIC Church	\$ 83,022.50	\$ 12,472.69	\$ -	\$ 95,495.19	\$ 6,224.00	\$ -	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -	\$ 7,524.00
New Vision BIC	\$ 131,632.00	\$ 18,321.86	\$ -	\$ 169,953.86	\$ 13,167.21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,167.21
Pleasant Hill BIC	\$ 132,306.00	\$ 5,457.00	\$ 1,185.21	\$ 138,948.21	\$ 14,200.00	\$ 716.00	\$ 14,744.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 32,660.00
Plowshares BIC	\$ 7,800.00	\$ -	\$ 27,708.33	\$ 35,508.33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rolling Acres BIC Church	\$ 86,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
The Bridge @ Beans	\$ 12,850.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,850.00	\$ 1,859.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,859.00
Union Grove BIC	\$ 37,631.00	\$ 5,686.00	\$ 7,342.00	\$ 50,659.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Valley Chapel BIC	\$ 27,931.63	\$ 816.39	\$ 1,364.81	\$ 30,112.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Western Hills BIC	\$ 39,715.00	\$ 3,571.00	\$ -	\$ 63,286.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,000.00
Westside Christian Community	\$ 70,107.00	\$ 6,155.00	\$ -	\$ 76,262.00	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 332.00	\$ 3,325.00	\$ -	\$ 7,957.00
Non Reporting					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Blessed Hope					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Leonard Community BIC					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grand Total	\$ 2,116,596.85	\$ 203,952.79	\$ 85,995.92	\$ 2,406,545.56	\$ 155,846.73	\$ 3,349.08	\$ 50,137.61	\$ 7,009.60	\$ 216,343.02

*Non BIC U.S. Ministry giving does not reflect giving outside of the following organizations: Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), Mennonite Health Services (MHS) Alliance, Eastern Mennonite Missions, Care International and World Vision.
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