

Lancaster Mennonite Conference (LMC): a fellowship of about 170 congregations (14,000+ members), six conference agencies, and 13 fraternal organizations. Congregations are located in nine states and emerging church plants are located around the country. Worship occurs in many different languages.

Lancaster Mennonite Conference Office: at 2160 Lincoln Highway East, #5, Lancaster, Pa. 17602. The office is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Everyone is welcome to stop by the office to browse and borrow resources for congregational or personal use.

Leadership Assembly-Resourcing: held twice a year usually on the third Friday of May and September. All licensed or ordained persons are encouraged to attend these gatherings.

Leadership Assistance Program: available to all credentialed leaders and their family members through the services of Philhaven/Wellspan to help them resolve personal problems that may affect performance and personal well being.

Leadership Development: resources for credentialed and lay leaders that are God-honoring, Spirit-directed, and congregation-centered are offered to call, cultivate, and support leaders to grow in competency and character as life-long learners. Leaders and congregations develop a lifestyle of learning, growth, and change.

Leadership Education Grants: scholarship funds to support credentialed and emerging leaders with tuition costs and/or educational materials for leadership education and training. The amount will be based on availability of funds, need, number of applicants, and references from church leaders.

Life Stages Resourcing: resourcing for all life stages from infant to elderly, single, married, or widowed, in school, at work, or retired. Help is available for ministry direction, curriculum selection, and in congregation resourcing.

LMC Legacy Foundation: when Philhaven affiliated with WellSpan Health, WellSpan agreed to fund a new charitable foundation to assist Lancaster Mennonite Conference to continue a vision to nurture mental health, resilience and innovation. The foundation accepts grant requests for funding that relate to mental health needs in local communities of LMC congregations.

Mission Statement: LMC is committed to the continuing work of Jesus Christ. We gather in congregations to worship in Christ's name, to minister the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to one another, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, to go forth as workers in God's kingdom. We partner with a network of organizations to equip people for ministry, exercise mutual care, and extend God's salvation, healing, and hope to the world.

Missional Identity: more than a tag-line or logo, a missional identity attempts to uncover the essence of an organization. Through a process of assessment, discovery, and adoption the identity claim that emerged for LMC was, "We are people of Christ's peace." LMC applies the identity to actions and ministries throughout the conference.

Offering Schedule: suggested designated giving guide for all congregations, especially those that use a designated offering schedule.

Quizzing: young people get together, study the Bible, and answer questions in fun, friendly competition. It is also a good opportunity to meet new friends and people from other churches.

Shalom News Magazine: published four times per year, the magazine covers LMC issues, events, and stories from congregations and leaders that reflect "We are people of Christ's peace."

Sowing Shalom: nine self-contained sessions, explores the core value of "peace." The DVD based curriculum and *Leader's* helps the group get the most out of the discussion.

STEP (Study and Training for Effective Pastoral Ministry): a three-year undergraduate training program for people who are credentialed or considering pastoral ministry, but who do not have college, Bible school, or seminary training. STEP is a training partnership between LMC and Eastern Mennonite University (EMU). STEP combines spiritual and personal formation with content-based learning in Bible, theology, leadership, and ministry skills in a very practical way.

Urban Education Grants: grants given for tuition assistance to urban students or students of color with a recommendation from their pastor and with the approval of the Conference's Urban Education Grant Committee. Money is made available for these grants through the generous support of Lancaster Conference churches.

2020 Vision: We see new life: guided by the prompting and direction of the Holy Spirit, our fellowship of congregations discern and discover how we are being sent into God's mission so that this shared vision results in congregational revitalization and in the launching of new communities of Christ-centered faith.

Web-Site: www.lancasterconference.org updated March 17, 2017! Access church directory, openings, conference and denominational announcements and information.



Lancaster
Mennonite Conference

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We are people of Christ's peace

LMC 101

Ministries and Resources of Lancaster Mennonite Conference

March 2017

To learn more about any of the LMC 101 listings, please contact the Conference Office.

Lancaster Mennonite Conference 101: Brief Descriptions of Ministries and Resources

Acronyms:

CEC	Conference Executive Council
CCL	Celebration of Church Life
EMM	Eastern Mennonite Missions
EMU	Eastern Mennonite University
LMC	Lancaster Mennonite Conference
LMHS	Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
LMS	Lancaster Mennonite School
MCC	Mennonite Central Committee
MMN	Mennonite Mission Network
MPN	Mennonite Publishing Network
MWC	Mennonite World Conference

Bi-Weekly Announcements: an every other week email of information, announcements, updates, and reminders from the conference office, conference agencies, fraternal organizations, and congregations sent to credentialed leaders and others across LMC. To receive this regular communication, contact the LMC office.

Board of Bishops: consists of all bishops/overseers/supervisors from the districts in LMC. The Board of Bishops meets every other month for resourcing, sharing, and giving overall leadership to LMC. All CEC members are invited to Bishop Board meetings.

Celebration of Church Life: an annual weekend gathering of our fellowship of congregations on the third weekend in March. All persons in LMC are encouraged to attend this event that includes worship, resource speakers, seminars, displays, ice cream social, and more.

Child Abuse and Criminal Background Checks: persons credentialed by LMC and all children's ministry workers, paid or volunteer, must complete a Child Abuse History, Criminal Background Check and possibly the FBI Check in order to perform ministry in LMC.

Church On the Other Side: a partnership with the Board of Bishops, LMC staff, congregations, and individuals to nurture a culture of church planting multiplication centered around the Great Commission. The initiative for leaders and congregations seeks to multiply churches through discernment, practical training, and implementation of new faith communities. It is an effort to foster growth and multiplication of churches across the Northeast USA and as we engage those God brings our way.

Church Revitalization: resourcing for congregations that have a readiness and openness to a process of renewal and revitalization. There are a number of resources available to assist congregational leadership teams or district leaders in the discernment of suitable resources for their journey of revitalization.

Conference Agency: a ministry organization that is recognized as closely identified with the mission and vision of LMC and is necessary for LMC to achieve its mission. These ministries help to develop and carry out strategies for the mission and vision of LMC. Agency CEOs meet with LMC staff four times a year. Conference agencies are: Eastern Mennonite Missions, Friendship Community, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Lancaster Mennonite School, Landis Communities, and LMC Legacy Foundation.

Conference Minister: an oversight ministry at the conference level: assists with bishop search processes, serves as a pastor to overseers, assists with linking pastors and congregations, and other significant roles.

Confession of Faith: a statement of beliefs that guide and anchor Christian belief and practice within Lancaster Mennonite Conference and provide guidelines for interpretation of Scripture. Congregations within LMC are asked to affirm and adopt either the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995) or Mennonite Confession of Faith (1963).

Core Values: shared values around which LMC congregations unite and that reflect a missional Anabaptist identity. With Jesus Christ as the center of our faith and life, the core values examine a way of seeing the world through God's reign, a way of reading Scripture through Jesus, and a way of living the Christian life as disciples. A multimedia curriculum package is available for study and reflection.

Credentialing Commission: a commission appointed by the Board of Bishops to interview all candidates for leadership roles in LMC congregations or other assignments. When approved, the commission provides a valid certificate and ministry card. The commission meets monthly and each person serves a term of three years.

Districts: all congregations in LMC are geographically divided into one of 27 districts, each led by a bishop. The district leaders of the congregations meet together on a regular basis. A number of bishops oversee more than one district.

Evana: a movement of pastors and churches with an evangelical Anabaptist theology. Our common vision is to see Jesus bring transformation to our local communities.

Finance Committee: appointed by the Board of Bishops to review the annual Financial Plan, prepare an offering schedule, suggest ways to increase congregational and individual giving, and make recommendations on fiscal matters. The fiscal-financial year for Lancaster Mennonite Conference is February 1 - January 31.

FirstFruits: LMC promotes the principle and practice of a firstfruits tithe (10%) of regular income as a biblical standard of giving through the local congregation. Congregants are encouraged to give additional offerings and gifts to support God's kingdom through many worthy Church organizations and agencies. LMC shares a firstfruits tithe with Mennonite World Conference and other organizations.

Flourish: a missional community movement that exists to birth, resource, and multiply clusters of Christ-followers where we live, work and play. Through "huddles," discipleship and coaching promote the development of new missional communities.

Fraternal Organizations: non-profit ministry organizations recognized by LMC as supporting the conference mission and vision. The fraternal organizations are: Black Rock Retreat, Camp Deerpark, Camp Hebron, Choice Books, Garden Spot Village, Harmonies Workshop, Jubilee Ministries, Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation, Mennonite Home Communities, New Person Ministries, No Longer Alone Ministries, River of Hope, and Transition to Community/The Potter's House.

Giving to LMC Ministries: conference support occurs primarily through congregational and individual giving. Church finance committees and families are encouraged to discern a level of support that they can manage.

Global Delegate: delegate to the international church bodies with which Lancaster Mennonite Conference maintains relationships in Asia, East Africa, and Central and South America.

Honorarium Guide: suggested guidelines for compensating speakers, preachers, teachers, etc. for sermons, seminars, workshops, leading worship, etc. when a cost was not pre-arranged.

Income Tax Guidelines for Pastors/ Churches: guidelines for treasurers and/or pastors on congregational financial issues including reporting wages for clergy and church employees, income taxes withheld, Medicare and Social Security taxes and other applicable withholdings, and housing allowance tax benefit.