**Illinois Mennonite Conference**

**Annual Assembly Minutes**

March 12, 2022 via Zoom

For the second year, IMC delegates attended the annual assembly on their computers. We think we counted 41 persons on their screens. Caleb Augspurger from Mennonite Church of Normal capably linked us together and helped us with the digital details throughout.

**Worship** - Anne Munley and Jolene Miller led our worship with visuals, readings, and prayer. David Miller and Heidy Urcino read scripture from Hebrews 1 and 1 Peter 4, “*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins.”*

**Updates** - David, Anne, and Richard Gehring shared reflections from the Feb. 21-24 “*Deep Faith”* pastors’ week at AMBS. Martin Navarro reported on Mutual Aid efforts in the past year. CLT gave highlights from 2021 meetings with pastors.

**Stories** - Freeport pastor Ken Hawes shared visuals and stories from Freeport’s Dec. 2021 MCC meat caning days. Olak Sunawar updated us about leadership supports and training through the Nepali Outreach Ministry. Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler used visuals to explain the focus and work at Hungry World Farm.

**Moderator’s Report** – Darrel reviewed leadership’s contacts with pastors and sampling of the Colossian Way format. IMC has approached the process around the credentialing question as **Dialogue** (speaking and listening), **Deliberation** (exploring options), and **Decision** ( how we decide). Leadership presented a spectrum of credentialing options as a resource to consider through this process. IMC leadership is planning open listening/dialogue gatherings sometime after this summer’s Special Delegate meeting.

In light of the end of David’s tenure as acting conference minister, leadership is asking IMC pastors to send MLT names of pastors they would like to see on a search team for another conference minister.

**David Miller** – After a stretch break, David Miller addressed the delegates and reflected on his tenure as IMC’s acting conference minister. David will conclude his service with IMC on June 15.

**Prepping Delegates** – With the Executive Board’s September announcement that the Repentance and Transformation resolution would be considered at the May Special Delegate Assembly, MCUSA prompted area conferences to resource their congregations for considering the R/T resolution. IMC leaders decided to pause our IMC discernment process to allow congregations that wanted to engage with this to do so. Leadership has posted and emailed a couple resources. Much is on the MCUSA Special Assembly website. Questions were asked about how delegates should be determined.

**Lunch Break**

After lunch we enjoyed an MMN video about the work of 4 families who are supported by various IMC congregations.

**Spending Plan** – IMC ended the year with a $30,000 surplus, even after $9,000 in church grants and $12,000 support for the Nepali Outreach Ministry. Expenses were down slightly and giving was up $15,000 (This number can swing greatly, depending in which year contributions fall at the beginning and end of the fiscal year.).

**Action Item** – A proposal was affirmed to continue support for the Nepali Outreach Ministry without an annual vote each year. The MLT will keep in conversation with the Nepali Outreach and make recommendations for any changes they consider appropriate.

**Action Item** – The proposed 2022 spending plan was approved.

**Action Item,** MLT team members – JP Masih was affirmed for another 3-year term. Darrel Miller was affirmed for a continuing 1-year term. (In the absence of a Gifts Discernment Committee, MLT asked a few pastors if they would renominate Darrel or find someone else for the next 3-year MLT term. Two pastors graciously agreed. They decided to nominate Darrel for a 1 year term.)

**Other Leadership Teams** – Patty Yordy explained the need for individuals to serve in positions on IMC leadership teams. Difficulty in finding persons for leadership positions is frequently mentioned across MCUSA area conferences. This continues to be a challenge in IMC.

**Open Floor** – Time was given to hear comments and questions from those in attendance.

**Closing song** – *Longing for light* 715 Voices Together

**Benediction** – David Miller sent us away with his benediction.