**Illinois Mennonite Conference**

**Camp Menno Haven**

**2024 Annual Assembly Minutes**

**March 9, 2024**

Our worship time was led by Anne Munley and Jolene Miller. Phil Kaufmann led spirited singing with guitar and Jolene Miller with piano.

Andrew Suderman guided us in exploring how God’s kingdom grows. As when a farmer plants a seed, and it sprouts and grows though we don’t know how, so the spread of God’s kingdom can be mysterious and surprising. Andrew Suderman is Director of Global Partnerships with MMN, and Associate Professor in Theology at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.

Olak Sunawar reported (by zoom) on his wide-ranging work with mentoring Nepali church leaders across the Midwest and beyond.

Dale Thomas relayed the Hopedale congregation’s growing experience with sponsoring, and walking and learning with an immigrant Honduran family.

Buses from southern states had been unloading unsettled migrants in the Chicago area without preparations there for their support. Sergio Nava detailed efforts by some of the Hispanic congregations to give some kind of support in these situations. He mentioned Sonido could use a vehicle that could transport several people at a time.

**Ministries** - After lunch, delegates heard reports from Eric Frey Martin – MMN, Randy Detweiler – AMBS, Rachel Ringenberg Miller, - MCUSA, Krista Dutt – MCC, and Duncan Miller who oversees the Corithian Plan.

**Finances** - Delegates approved a 2024 spending plan with an estimated $5,300 operating surplus, before accounting for $12,000 in support for the Nepali Outreach. A comment was made that IMC should have a financial advisor.

The conference minister search committee reported there were good prospects that a person would soon apply for IMC’s conference minister position. IMC has been without a conference minister since June 2022. It was noted that with a conference minister, IMC would likely operate with a deficit. IMC funds are substantial enough that the conference has a couple of years to decide how to respond to any deficits.

**IMC Teams** – Delegates approved the slate of individuals nominated for leadership teams. Randy Nelson (Champaign) – MLT, Suzanne Engel Ford (Christ Community Schamburg) – CLT

**Discussions** – The MLT and CLT each presented a proposal for IMC’s credentialing practice in relation to same sex marriage. It was explained that these proposals are intended to be presented to the congregations for their responses. The responses from congregations will be the basis for determining IMC’s credentialing practice. Delegates engaged in questions, comments, and conversation until our time was called to a close as we passed 3 pm.

Everyone joined in a closing hymn and the meeting was adjourned.