

IN-MI Mennonite Conference: Regional Meeting

Delegate Report

March 6, 2021

IN-MI Mennonite Conference held their first delegate meeting of the year last Saturday, March 6, over Zoom. Berkey's delegate, Jenny Hooley, attended and is providing you with the following report. If you would like to learn more about any of the items, feel free to contact Jenny or Mark Schloneger who also attended the meeting.

The meeting started with a time of worship. Ephesians 4:1-16, was read twice, each time followed by break-out rooms for discussion. Worship concluded with communion. It was a privilege to see others from the conference and share with them. During this time, the theme was also introduced, "Becoming One."

Following Worship, the focus shifted to business. Updates were provided about the Missional Leadership Team and Search Committee. Delegates were asked to nominate members of their church according to their gifts.

A financial report was given. Despite the pandemic, churches have continued to give generously to the conference. There are no major budget changes for the next church year. The expected income increase is 6.9% and the expected expense increase is 0.8%. A final vote to approve the budget will occur at the next meeting.

Church planting was also discussed at the meeting. Piedra Viva, a church started by Sunnyside Mennonite, is flourishing and is looking into joining our conference. The pastors of this church anticipate planting more churches in the Goshen area.

The final focus of the meeting involved discussion on a draft brought to the delegates by the Missional Leadership Team (MLT), seeking feedback regarding how to focus our energies in the next year or two with intercultural efforts. MLT has created in-depth focus areas to help congregations "grow in intercultural relationships and practices that embody racial justice for all people. We are committed to developing an antiracist culture. We strive to effectively and appropriately engage with others across differences."

Jenny plans to attend Annual Sessions in June where she will vote on Berkey's behalf for conference decisions that are made at that time.