
Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

2017 Report to Central District Conference

Thank you for partnering with us to support the work of Mennonite Central Committee. We can't do it alone. In every country where MCC works, we partner with local churches and organizations with similar values. And here locally so many of you give of your time, your talents, your prayers and your financial resources.

Our connections

- Jorge Vielman attended the 2016 CDC conference in Columbus, Ohio. He brought the MCC immigration exhibit which raises awareness about why people leave their homes and encourages further learning and advocacy.
- Berkey Avenue Mennonite (Goshen) and First Mennonite (Bluffton) hosted MCC Alumni & Friends Gatherings in January with Amela Puljek Shank, MCC Area Director for Europe and Middle East. Amela also spoke during the Sunday morning service at First Mennonite.
- Les Gustafson-Zook gave presentations at Faith Mennonite (Goshen) and Hively Avenue Mennonite (Elkhart).
- MCC staff member Krista Dutt met with Doug Luginbill as he began his role as conference minister.
- Paoli Mennonite participated in an MCC Borderlands learning tour to the U.S./Mexico border.
- Six Goshen area churches participated in a Bible School project last summer around refugees and Syria.
- MCC is grateful to Mennonite Church of Normal for hosting the Great Lakes Board meeting in February 2017. Krista Dutt gave a sermon that weekend. Last August the congregation also hosted the Loss of Turtle Island participatory learning experience, and Eric Kurtz preached.
- Rebecca Shetler Fast, MCC Representative for Haiti, gave a presentation at Eighth Street Mennonite (Goshen).
- CDC congregations and individuals support relief sales throughout the region and contribute significantly to the My Coins Count initiative.
- Individuals from CDC congregations play integral roles in helping with meat canning, volunteering in thrift shops and assembling material resources kits and blankets.
- MCC is grateful for the ongoing gifts of funds from Central District Conference churches, whether through the conference office, directly from individuals to MCC or by estate bequests.

MCC at work around the world

- MCC and its partners are addressing conflict-related needs in Syria and Iraq, and among refugees and host communities in Lebanon and Jordan. Projects provide food, water, rent assistance, cash assistance, education support, trauma care and more.

Representatives and contacts

- Central District Conference is represented on the MCC Great Lakes Board by Willis Sommer of First Mennonite (Bluffton). Also serving on the Great Lakes Board are Milton Borntrager of Paoli Mennonite and Joan Gerig of Community Mennonite (Markham). Sommer is the board treasurer, and Borntrager serves as the board chair.
- MCC Great Lakes staff are available to speak to your congregation and connect you with resources. Please contact our office, and subscribe to MCC's *In Touch* monthly e-newsletter to get the latest news and information.

Thank you for being part of MCC's ministry in the name of Christ,
Eric Kurtz, Executive Director for MCC Great Lakes

*Mennonite Central Committee, a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches,
shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ
by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.*