Leader of GALA, and served as Pastor for several year. Two members, Dave Caceres and Dave Premoe, conducted workshops around the Michigan Mission Center in preparation for the USA National Conference in 2013. The current Co-Pastor and Financial Officer are a married gay couple.

Earlier this year the congregation met Lisa Meyer and Erin Cavanaugh from the Otter Lake Congregation to begin the process of formally becoming a Network member, and participate in a video presentation and conversation. The congregation adopted a welcome statement on Aug. 27, 2017.

"We welcome EVERYONE and uphold the dignity and worth of each person. We seek to find strength and unity in diversity. This is a safe and welcoming community that extends the love of Jesus Christ to all."

The East Lansing congregation joins Big Rapids and Otter Lake as members of the Welcoming Community Network from Michigan. Find out more about how your congregation can become a member: http://welcomingcommunitynetwork.org/index.htm

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Ministry of the Disciple
Traverse City congregation will be sharing in the temple school class on Ministry of the Disciple. It will be held on Friday Sept 15 from 6-9 and Saturday Sept 16 from 9-4 pm. Eleanor West will be the facilitator. You will need to order your own books for this class.

Please contact Eleanor West if you are taking this course. Her email is ellielu57@gmail.com

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Michigan Mission Center

MISSION CENTER ACTIVITIES

To schedule a mission center activity, contact Dianna Vanderkarr at dianna@cofchristmi.org

MISSION CENTER INFORMATION

For more detailed information regarding Mission Center news and activities, please go to the website: *www.cofchristmi.org*.

Due to space restrictions, we cannot include all necessary information in this bulletin.

Michigan Mission Center Information

Website: *www.cofchristmi.org*
Address: 1514 W. Miller Rd. Lansing, MI 48911

Community of Christ

Michigan Mission Center

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS for the week of September 1, 2017

*Newly added items are listed in **bold italics.** This information is emailed weekly to all pastors, congregation communication liaisons and anyone who chooses to subscribe. If you have questions, call the Mission Center office at 888–853–2339.*

MICHIGAN MISSION CENTER NEWS

Exploring Ecotheology - Sept 8-10 at Sanford Campground

A weekend of theological exploration sponsored by the Michigan Mission Center. This event is shaped like the previous Studies in Advanced Leadership Training (SALT) weekends. A minimum of 10 people will need to be registered for this course by Wednesday, September 6 to avoid cancellation. Please review the syllabus and register online: cofchristmi.org

The event will begin with registration on Friday, Sept. 8 from 6:30 - 7:00pm and end with worship concluding at 11:00am on Sunday, Sept. 10.

Registration Options:
$80 - Guest apartment
$45 - Tent/RV campsite or bed in cabin
$20 - Meals Only (commuter or second occupant in guest apartment)

Open Table Information Session

Thursday, September 14, 2017 @ 6:30pm AT Grand Valley Congregation, 4790 Jacob St SW, Grandville, MI 49418

All are invited to learn more about Open Table, which is a movement of servants restoring people in poverty to our communities through relationship. Open Table trains congregations and their members to partner their work and life experiences with people in poverty to develop and implement plans that create sustainability and wholeness.

Dan Nowiski, MCP Team, will share information about how to launch Open Table in your congregation and access funding sources available to pay for the initial license costs.
Links to learn more about Open Table:
cofchristmi.org/our-mission/abolish-poverty-end-suffering/open-table/

www.cofchrist.org/open-table * theopentable.org

Mission Center Invitation Support Minister Change

Nan Anderson has resigned from the position of Michigan Center Invitation Support Minister. We thank Nan for her service in this role and look forward to her continued ministry as a High Priest.

Noelle Gaffka, Seventy, has been appointed to serve as the Mission Center Invitation Support Minister. Noelle is available to assist congregations and ministers with opportunities and questions related to invitation, witness, and hospitality. She can be contacted at noelle@cofchristmi.org or (989) 339-0064.

We welcome Noelle to the MCISM role and thank her for her volunteer ministry.

Reminders for Congregation Conferences (Bus. Meetings)

Pastors please be reminded to schedule business meetings for your congregation in cooperation with Dianna Vanderkarr, MCP Team (dianna@cofchristmi.org). The mission center officers ask that a meeting be held prior to September 15 to determine congregation financial commitments for 2018 to the mission center, campgrounds, Journey House, SPEC transportation, and other ministries.

Congregations will need to report delegates and alternates to the fall mission center conference by October 7, 2017. The list with the number of delegates allocated to congregations and a link for submitting delegate names can be found on the fall conference website: cofchristmi.org/fall-conference

When officers are elected and sustained for 2018, please submit those names for the mission center directory at the following page: cofchristmi.org/reporting-elected-sustained-congregation-leaders/

Campground Sales Update - August 2017
Manitou: The sale of Camp Manitou was finalized on May 31, 2017. The property was sold for $617,000. A meeting to announce the sale, share information about the transaction, and answer questions was held at the Kalamazoo congregation on June 7, 2017. A handout with additional details on the sale and a summary of the question and answer session on June 7th is available on the campground sales webpage: CofChristMI.org/campground-sales.

The Woodlands: Individuals and groups continue to express interest in the property. At this time no written offers have been received for potential purchase of the Woodlands.

Additional information about the campground sales process and previous updates can be found online at CofChristMI.org/campground-sales

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Kids Conference - Developing Disciples to Serve Starts Young!

Planning is underway for a Kids Conference on the Saturday of November's Mission Center Conference in Saginaw. During the morning and afternoon sessions, the youth will gather for their own activities including lessons, crafts, snack, recreation, music and their own CONFERENCE! We are working hard to create a day for them to learn about God, our church and what it's like to take care of business items. Please spread the word so our kids can start relationship building with friends they make now so they can be our future Disciples Ready to Serve.

Women's Retreats:

*Sanford Women's Retreat: Under Construction (Sept 15-16)

Registration form and schedule are now available via the link below.

Guest Ministry - Noelle Gaffka!

Please contact Dawn Bennett, Retreat Director, at dbennett54@hotmail.com or (989)295-1619 for more information.

PDF Download Here: cofchristmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Womens-Retreat-at-Sanford-Campground-Under-Construction-2017.pdf

*Women's Retreat at Park of the Pines. Sept. 22-24

Guest: Dianna Vanderkarr
Theme: The Strength of Prayer
Director: Sandy Dobias
Plan to join us for fellowship, worship & fun.
Cost: $50

Make Reservations by September 15 - email:
mary_palka@yahoo.com or call Mary Palka at 906-280-3129
Flyer: cofchristmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/POTPWomen2017.pdf

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E. Lansing Cong. Joins the Welcoming Community Network

Congratulations to the East Lansing Congregation on completing the steps to become a Welcoming Community Network congregation.

The congregation has a history of being open and welcoming for LGBT people since the beginning of the congregation. Allan Fiscus, one of the founding members, was the