



THE BELL

August 2021
Gather, Love, Serve, Impact

Church News

This past week we attended the IAYM Ministry Conference in Oskaloosa. The Body of Reps accepted the Board on Coordination's recommendation and approved Manny Garcia as the new General Superintendent of the Iowa Yearly Meeting. They have already sold their house in Wichita and bought a house in Oskaloosa. Their plan is to move in on the 16th of August.

Attendance at the Conference was about half of what it was six years ago when I attended my first one. Some of that is a result of Covid, but it has been declining for quite a while. I counted eight from Bangor Liberty who came down for at least part of the conference. There was a good deal of discussion about attendance and involvement not only at the YM level but at the monthly meetings also. This was a result of the fact that we have many of the committees at the YM that are only partially filled. The committees on Church Extension, Christian Ed, and Youth and Young Adult are missing at least 3 members each. If you are paying attention we have the same issue though not on the same scale here at Bangor Liberty. So I would encourage everyone to consider serving on a board or committee and be involved in the IAYM.

There were questions raised about various stands that the IAYM meeting has taken on

Calendar

8/1-Monthly Meeting following worship

8/15-Paul and Andrea Goodrich share about their mission in the Middle East during the Sunday school hour.

8/15-Monthly potluck following worship with Committee A hosting.

9/5-Monthly Meeting following worship.

9/8-DEEPER kickoff

9/12-School year Sunday school begins

different topics over the years. The social issues were at the head of this. Same sex marriage, the LGBTQ Community, our affiliation with various outside groups these were all raised in various ways. Most of the questions weren't about changing our stance but in how we present that to outsiders. How do we interact and have relationships with those who hold different views as a YM.

There have been questions raised about making changes to the Discipline over the years as well. If anything the changes being advocated deal more with making the language clearer and updating some of the reasoning for these stances. For example, the section on Quaker Peace testimony in the current Discipline is rooted in the 1970s with a focus on a person's reaction to a military draft being in place. Today the chance of a military draft is remote at best. I will also be serving as clerk for the IAYM M&C board for the next year.

**Death and life are in the power of
the tongue...**

Proverbs 18:21



Missions

The mission focus for July was Little Rock Ministries at Pine Crest mobile home park in Eldora, IA. A safe place for kids to go after school and to learn about Christ. Donations of new school supplies were collected for the kids who live in the trailer park, even if they did not participate in the program. Thank you to Margaret Good for her part in this ministry.

The missions focus for August is Friends United Meeting (FUM).

Paul and Andrea (Siebring) Goodrich and their four children have been living and serving in the Middle East for the last 9 years. They enjoy serving Syrian and Iraqi refugees through a variety of programs that seek to restore hope, build community, meet tangible needs, and offer opportunities to encounter the Gospel.



Library Ledge-RECOVERING

As we recover from the Covid-stay-at-home, we will be returning to the church. Come on into the library and browse our selections. There is something for everyone.

Please fill out our DEEPER survey found on our website. We want to know how to start back up with our classes this fall.
www.blfchurch.org

VBS UPDATE

We had a great week with the kids at VBS! There was a total of 31 kids who registered, and our highest night was 25! Thank you to all of our volunteers who gave their time and/or donations.

The mission focus was Little Rock Ministries in Eldora, IA. The kids brought many new school supplies.

A big thank-you goes out to Rachel Bachman for coordinating and help from Honey Creek New Providence church!

**If you are interested in teaching a Sunday school class for the youth, want to help with nursery, or children's message, please talk with someone from Christian Ed.
Robin B., Mary D., Alicia M., David W., Ryan W., and Melidy M.**