



# buzz

## Receiving New Members



Ministry Leadership Council is happy to recommend to the congregation James and Mary Christophel as new members at Waterford, to be received on October 17. They will be

transferring membership from Kern Road Mennonite Church in South Bend, where they worshipped for several decades before moving to Goshen. Kern Road benefitted in many ways from Jim and Mary's dedication, wisdom and artistic talents over the years. We look forward to more of you welcoming them on the 17<sup>th</sup>, as best we can with our current distanced arrangements in two worship gatherings.



Anne, Jamie and Charlie Lehman watch as Waterford's Coins are poured into a sorting and counting machine at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale last weekend.

## Call for Suggestions

The Mission and Service Ministry Team in our last two meetings on August 11 and September 22 spent time considering how to allocate the \$44,000 of surplus assigned to MSMT from the forgiven loan from the federal government. We decided we would like to ask for suggestions from the congregation. We also decided we would like to use some of it for immediate needs associated with the pandemic.

In our September 22 meeting MSMT decided to match contributions which members of WMC were making toward two projects. The Seekers Sunday School Class contributed \$7,600 initially for small houses made in Haiti, costing \$3,500 per house, to relieve some of the housing shortage caused by the recent earthquake and hurricane. Another individual in the congregation had contributed \$1,000 to Mennonite Central Committee for help in settling refugees from Afghanistan. Due to the urgency of these needs, MSMT will match each of these contributions up to \$7000 each from the \$44,000 available.

We have received requests for funds for the following projects:

- A group is interested in presenting Potawatomi history, dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, reparative justice, displays in church and trail signage.
- A couple suggested a start-up gift for La Posada, funds for Center for Healing and Hope, Interfaith Hospitality Network and the Mennonite Men's Tree Project. (There was some interest in the committee in coupling this with a tree project in Goshen.)

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(Cont. from front)

- Another couple indicated interest in the Racial Ethnic Leadership Fund for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (currently administered by the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA.) They also suggested giving to agencies we already support. MSMT had also thought about distributing whatever remained proportionally to the different groups in our budget.

MSMT continues to invite members of WMC to suggest projects. We are particularly interested in any projects by members or groups in the church that we might match. We will be making grants in future meetings. Contact Denise Diener or Arnold Roth if you wish to suggest a project.

—Arnold Roth, for Mission & Service Ministry Team

## Membership Exploration Classes

For those interested in possibly joining Waterford Mennonite Church as members, Pastor Neil will be having two Zoom membership classes this fall. The class is open to anyone who is sure (or just pondering) about becoming a member but would like a clearer understanding of the ministries, spiritual life, and culture of this congregation. This is also an interactive chance to get to know you and your interests and gifts a little better, as well as answer questions about Waterford. These sessions will be on *Wednesday nights, October 20 and November 3, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm*. Please RSVP to Pastor Neil by October 15 if you plan to participate, or simply if you have questions about it. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82085164690?pwd=UWdaT2VpdjBiWnljMXZseEtsNkpCZz09>

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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be sent to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

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## Baptisms, September 26

Lindsey Daniels (right) and Camila Pérez Diener (left) braved the cold autumn waters to commit themselves to the call of Christ in their lives.

