



MARCH 2022

“Joyful in Hope” by Matt Hamsher, Executive Director

After a two year hiatus, it was such a blessing to return to Florida for our Pastor/Spouse Retreat. With over 130 attendees, we were encouraged by the fact that 1/3 of those present were first-timers. This included those who were full Evana members, those exploring membership and ministry peers from other streams. We have a lot of information about who we are and what we believe as a network, but there really is no substitute for getting to know the heart of a person or an organization than to worship and share life together for a few days.

The unusually warm sunny weather over the weekend was relaxing and inviting. How wonderful to bask in the warmth of the Florida sun as well as bask in the presence of the Holy Spirit during our worship. We came hungry for worship and thirsting to experience healing and many of us found it during our worship together, inner healing prayer, and the ministry of our prayer team.

As we experienced forgiveness for sins and healing for our own woundedness, we were being prepared for ministry. Hurting leaders often hurt others and so it is crucial that we are honest about our own brokenness so that we can be conduits for God’s love and healing to flow through us to our churches and our communities. Following our worship sessions, we experienced a variety of sessions focused on spouses partnering with their pastor spouses, ministering with adolescents, growing leaders from within the church, and expanding our emotional and spiritual capacities to lead.

Another blessing is to see so many young leaders in their 20s and 30s who have answered the call to pastoral ministry. Seeing their love for God and for God’s people left me excited about the future of the church. They are bringing a wealth of gifts and energy to their congregations. We have also seen many leaders and congregation members from other traditions begin to affiliate because of our Anabaptist values.

This is an exciting time for our Network and the wider church as the world reels from a global pandemic, the threat of war and the tremors of economic turmoil. Now, more than ever, we seek to live out Paul’s words in Romans 12:12 - “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Ohio “ReGenal” Worship Event

June 11-12, 2022

Kidron Mennonite Church, Kidron, OH

Mark your calendars for a special Evana regional worship event!

Saturday evening and Sunday worship and teaching sessions will be led by members of Ohio Evana churches & feature special speakers Carolyn & Chad Yoder.

All Evana churches across the Network are invited. Stay tuned for more info!



Organizations at Flourish

We'd like to take a moment and thank ministries who joined us for our Flourish Pastor/Spouse Retreat. Feel free to explore these resources for pastors and congregations. If you have questions about any other resources for your ministry, feel free to reach out via email at info@evananetwork.org.

Deeper Walk International (deeperwalkinternational.org) - Specializing in inner healing work, leadership development, and spiritual warfare, DWI provides resources, seminars and coaching.

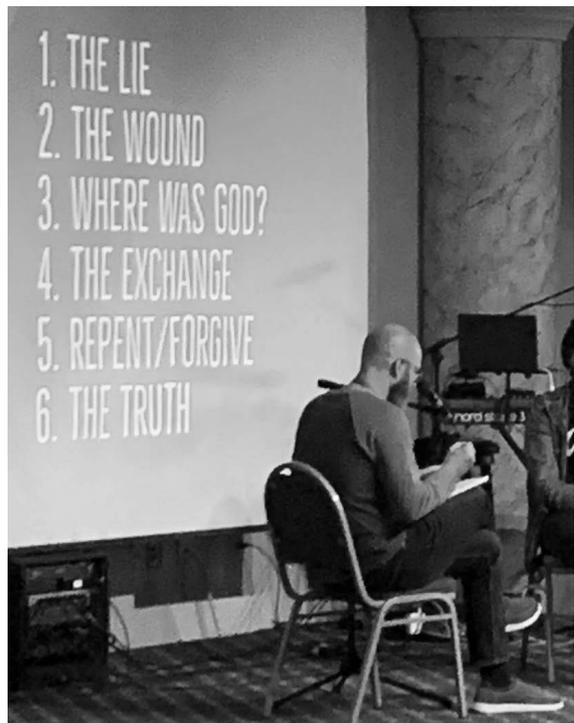
Everence (Everence.com) - An Anabaptist faith-based financial institution providing a wide range of stewardship services for churches, individuals and businesses.

Marcus & Marketo (adorationworship.com) - The South Bend, IN based duo seeks to provide an intimate worship experience for congregations, conferences and special concerts.

ReNew Publishing - Evangelical Anabaptist publishing ministry of First Mennonite (Berne, IN) providing a new adult Sunday School quarterly. Email Becky Lehman at renew@firstmennonite.org.

Sattler College (sattlercollege.org) - Founded in 2018, Sattler College most closely identifies with the persecuted, suffering church traditions and is located in Boston, MA.

Virginia Mennonite Missions (VMMission.org) - An Anabaptist mission agency that serves globally and stateside, and has been a ministry friend of Evana Network from our beginning.



"The fellowship was so good, the worship restored my soul, the time away with my wife was a gift. We felt an easy kindred spirit almost immediately."

- Pastor Tim Miller, Gateway Fellowship, Bridgeville, DE.

Pictured above, modeling an inner healing prayer session in morning worship

Staff Transitions



If you've ever called the offices or had administrative staff follow up on a particular item, you've likely interacted with Lori Ann Izeke, our Operations Manager. March 4 was her last day with us, and we just want to convey a big "Thank You" for her service.

"Lori Ann was an important part of my transition into the Executive Director role, for which I am grateful," says Matt Hamser. "And her heart for people, especially children without a safe home environment, is an ongoing inspiration for all of us."

From all of us at Evana Network, we wish Lori Ann the best in her next employment endeavor and her personal ministry work.

If someone you know is experiencing a pastoral ministry call, let us know & visit evananetwork.org/job-openings/ in 2022.

Evana Network is extremely grateful for the financial support we continue to receive from congregations and individual donors.

General operations support helps underwrite the staff costs in an organization that works hard to keep our costs predominantly in human capital. A gift toward church planting allows us to bless new endeavors launched by members and partners. And support of our events fund helps with our yearly Flourish Retreat for pastors and spouses. We offer this event at a loss because we believe strongly in providing quality support while keeping costs down for participants.

If you wish to join us in supporting pastors and resourcing congregations from a distinctly evangelical Anabaptist faith perspective, consider clicking "Donate" on EvanaNetwork.org or send a contribution via mail.

- Matt Hamsher, Executive Director