

# Embracing new horizons

## Everence 2019 report

Mountain States Mennonite Conference  
Annual Assembly  
August 2-4, 2019

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

– 2 Corinthians 5:17

### **Strong church partnerships remain vital to Everence**

Everence® works closely with churches and their members, as we have since our organization started as Mennonite Mutual Aid in 1945.

Our goal is to help our brothers and sisters in Christ “build up the common life” through decisions about their money and other resources.

We value these connections and look forward to many more years of focusing on the best interests of your church members – helping them create and implement plans tailored to their needs and goals to share with others.

As we have for nearly 75 years, we will continue to serve the faith community as partners in stewardship throughout 2019 and beyond.

### **Everence church loans make a difference**



5540 WEST 25TH STREET, CICERO, IL.



Sonido de Alabanza, a suburban Chicago church, financed a major construction project with help from an Everence church loan.

The church needed a new building for worship and related activities after using a former American Legion hall for many years.

Everence has years of experience in helping churches find solutions to fit their needs, with customized loan options.

Our annuity program funds our church loans. The annuity program aligns the priorities of like-minded believers from the Everence community who want to help churches and their ministries grow through their investments.

Learn more at [everence.com/church-loans](http://everence.com/church-loans).

### **Pastoral Financial Assistance Program expanding with new Lilly grant**

Lilly Endowment approved Everence in November 2018 for another \$1 million grant to help improve the financial lives of pastors.

Everence was one of the first grant recipients in 2015 as part of Lilly's National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders.

The new grant allows Everence to expand our Pastoral Financial Assistance Program. Assistance now is available for credentialed and active pastors from



other denominations and church networks that share our Anabaptist faith tradition and/or values – in addition to Mennonite Church USA and Conservative Mennonite Conference.

The program includes:

- Direct grants to help pastors with debt burdens.
- Financial education events for pastors and spouses.
- Subsidies toward the cost of a first-year Everence comprehensive financial plan.

See [everence.com/pastor-financial-planning](http://everence.com/pastor-financial-planning) for more details.

### **MyNeighbor card users are supporting nonprofits**

The MyNeighbor credit card from Everence generated more than \$300,000 for nearly 400 nonprofits in 2018.

The MyNeighbor MasterCard is available for personal or business use. Everence donates 1.5 percent of each transaction total to the charity the cardholder chooses from thousands of possibilities, including churches.

“The MyNeighbor card gives people a simple and effective way to support the charities dear to their hearts,” said Kent Hartzler, President and CEO of Everence Federal Credit Union.

### **Scholarship amounts increasing for 2019-2020 academic year**

Everence college scholarships will be worth more for the 2019-2020 school year.

Regional scholarships will be for \$1,000, compared with the previous level of \$750. The top three national recipients will receive scholarships totaling \$2,000 or \$3,000. More information is available at [everence.com/scholarships](http://everence.com/scholarships).

“Everence believes it’s important to support students as they work toward their college degrees,” said Kenda Mishler, Member Benefits Manager. “We want to reward young women and men committed to improving their communities and the world beyond their communities.”

### **Everence joins Philadelphia financial community**

A new office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – opening in spring 2019 – is the first in an

Everence initiative to serve individuals, nonprofits, churches and small businesses in larger cities.

The office is in an Esperanza Health Center building on Allegheny Avenue – a former bank building that’s been part of the Philadelphia landscape since 1925.

Everence services there include banking, financial coaching, insurance and other resources for individuals and families.



### **Safe Church Grant is available from Everence**

Everence supports churches in protecting children and others with the Safe Church Grant.

One-time grants of up to \$350 can reimburse churches for program expenses within the last 12 months to protect children, teens or others from sexual, physical, emotional/psychological or other forms of abuse.

Grants can be used to develop policies, train people or implement programs. Churches with an Everence stewardship advocate may apply for a Safe Church Grant. Visit [everence.com/safe-church-grant](http://everence.com/safe-church-grant) for more information.

