

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAX COMMEMORATES 50 YEARS

OVERLAND PARK, KS – Exactly 50 years to the date, MAX commemorated the first meeting held by Mennonite Indemnity, Inc. with a celebration at the Kansas City Airport Marriot Hotel on November 16. A meal, musical entertainment and special speakers honored 50 years of serving the Anabaptist community with insurance and mutual aid services.

Mennonite Indemnity, Inc. (MII) began as a stock reinsurance company serving a number of mutual aid insurance programs related to the Anabaptist faith community. In 2000, MII was domiciled and converted to a reciprocal exchange in Kansas as the MutualAid eXchange (MAX).

One of the “founding fathers” of MII and keynote speaker for the evening was Edgar Stoesz of Akron, PA. Mr. Stoesz noted the history of MII and how it has evolved over the last 50 years. He commented, “Mutual Aid will never be out dated as long as there are people on the face of the earth. It is predicated on the best of insurance (spreading the risk) and it is at the same time at the heart of the Gospel (Bearing one another's burdens.) It's forms will wear out and need to be renewed, but Mutual Aid is infinite!”

Harold Swartzendruber of Goshen, IN, also one of the originators of MII and longtime Chair of the MII board, spoke on the evolution of MII to MAX.

Scott Forland, current Executive Vice President of Insurance Operations of MAX and a speaker for the evening noted, “We've seen a tremendous amount of change in the MAX enterprise over the past five years, and change can be unsettling. But, it's good to remember that, through all of the changes that have come and all of the changes that are yet to come as we continue to build this organization in the future, we are doing so on the strong foundation that has been laid for us by the history of the ten member companies that joined together to form MAX, of Mennonite Indemnity, and of all of the good and generous people who have made MAX a vital enterprise.”

Today, MAX serves the Anabaptist community in 26 states and 5 provinces with the core insurance products of home, farm, church and small business. MAX blends this insurance protection with care and support from a Mutual Aid Ministries program to “fill in the gaps” when physical, emotional or spiritual support is needed. Mutual Aid Ministires extends its resources beyond the connection to an insurance policy and often collaborates with the local congregation, the larger church and church related agencies to positively affect people who are facing a crisis or burden. MAX's vision is “creating and sustaining Wholeness” in lives, property and communities.

David Wine, President of MAX, recently commented, “MII/MAX's fifty years of service to Anabaptists is one of the great stories of our faith community. It has been built around collaboration, a focus on service, mutual aid, and wholeness; and a willingness to see form change even as the content of caring and sharing for one another has remained constant.” He added, “The evening of November 16 was a historical milestone. The Anabaptist churches could certainly have survived without MII and MAX but history indicates the Church has been made stronger with mutual aid insurance services. That is a rich legacy that continues to grow and expand fifty years later.