



Reports & Statistics

2015-2016

2016 Conference Assembly
July 21-23 • Park View Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, VA



ADOPTED: *Peril and Promise* in the Household of God

Ephesians 2:19-20

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Acronyms

IBA	Anabaptist Biblical Institute
IDA	Iglesia Discipular Anabaptista
MC USA	Mennonite Church USA
MTTF	Ministerial Training Trust Fund
TCK	Tennessee/Carolina/Kentucky District
VMC	Virginia Mennonite Conference

Delegate Key

Ø	Does not track membership
*	Voting credentialed leader
()	Congregational membership
[]	Average attendance
~	Did not report
~~	Has not reported for two or more years

Reports current as of April 30, 2016

Conference Staff

Clyde G. Kratz, *Executive Conference Minister*
Anieta McCracken, *Administrative Services Manager*
Jon Trotter, *Communications Manager*
Rhoda Folmar, *Bookkeeper*
Harold Huber, *Conference Archivist*

Peril and promise in Virginia Mennonite Conference



Elroy Miller

Finding our way forward as “...members of God’s household” (Eph 2:19) continues to be the primary challenge facing VMC.

Article V: Membership at virginiacconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/140818-By-laws.pdf)

That said, it’s painful to watch the exodus of members from some of our congregations and conferences from the Mennonite church. Please keep this issue of faith and life in your prayers this coming year.

As most of you know, delegates of the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) in its summer KC2015 assembly approved to maintain current Membership Guidelines and the resolution *Forbearance in the Midst of Differences* (mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ForbearanceResolution.pdf)

As are other Mennonite conferences, VMC is discerning what it means to hold the implications of these two documents in creative tension.

Should the emphasis remain on the denomination’s current membership guidelines until there is broad discernment to do otherwise? Should a spirit of forbearance extend grace to those conferences, districts and congregations who believe they have found a more discerning way forward for both laity and leadership? Or perhaps as a conference, might we listen, learn and discern together to find our way forward?

This past year the Faith and Life Commission (FLC) and Conference Council reaffirmed their commitment to MC USA membership guidelines while at the same time acknowledging that VMC bylaws give individual congregations considerable leeway in setting congregational membership privileges and responsibilities (see

On an exciting note of promise, James Åkerson, pastor at Beldor Mennonite Church, led a task force in the revision of VMC’s vision and mission statements. These statements focus VMC’s commitment “...to follow the way of Jesus Christ to empower communities of faith and to equip leaders to bring the Good News to communities that support worship, mission, and service for Jesus Christ.”

This document identifies our core values: to listen and learn together, to engage in Biblical discernment, to welcome the diversity of cultures and people, to celebrate the transforming power of God, etc. It also included a section on organizational assumptions. The assumptions push out our understandings of how we work together to meet our mission and vision.

Delegates will review and vote on the revisions at our 2016 summer delegate assembly at Park View Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va. Conference council deeply appreciates Pastor James Åkerson’s leadership in this endeavor.

Our next step is for Clyde Kratz, Executive Conference Minister, to draft a strategic plan that reflects our revised vision and mission statements. The plan will also include a strategy to

As a conference, might we listen, learn and discern together to find our way forward?

make adjustments in the conference’s organizational structure to bring vitality and to equip leaders to provide effectively congregational leadership.

As you will note in Clyde’s Executive Conference Minister Report, he has worked diligently to build strong working relationships within the conference, and he and FLC have coordinated successfully to offer meaningful and professional pastoral consultations.

FLC and Conference Council recently completed Clyde’s triennial performance evaluation and reappointed him to a second three-year term. The FLC and Conference Council strongly affirm Clyde’s love for God and the church, his strategic efforts to lead the conference toward its vision and mission, his creative and visionary engagement with overseers, pastors, districts, churches and key stakeholders, his leadership through challenging times, and his tireless energy on behalf of the church.

Let’s continue to hold Clyde in our as prayers as the conference navigates peril and promise.

Elroy Miller
Conference Moderator

Life together as a diverse group of believers



Clyde G. Kratz

Vision: “The Spirit of God helps Virginia Mennonite Conference to follow the way of Jesus Christ to empower communities of faith.” This statement affirms the necessity

of a local assembly of believers guided by God’s Spirit living out their faith commitments centered in the person and work of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for James Åkerson and other leaders serving on the Vision Task Force. The Delegate body will be invited to embrace this statement for our life together. In the event, this statement is approved by the delegates, additional leadership will occur to rebrand the publicity materials and website to align with our vision statement.

Centered Set Approach: How do we envision our life together as a diverse group of believers committed to the centrality of Jesus, biblical authority, communal discernment on faith and life issues, compassionate care, service and peacemaking? How do we live together when we disagree on ways to express our faith and action and the specific focus that a local assembly of believers emphasizes or deemphasizes?

Imagine a water well centrally located in a village. People move towards the well for the refreshment that it brings to them. People move away from it when refreshment is no longer experienced. In the Gospel accounts, people move towards Jesus because his presence and message resonated with their longing to be in relationship with God. At points, we discover the disciples and other people moving away from Jesus due to their confusion, uncertainty, and disagreement.

Organizing a culture like Virginia Mennonite Conference on a centered set approach would mean that as a Conference we would share core values. Beliefs and commitments based on the way of Jesus Christ are at the core of who we are and the aspirational intent of being in

relationship with each other. Congregations align with the Conference to grow in their understanding and to a set of beliefs, commitments, and network of relationships. However, congregations relating to the Conference may be at different places in relationship to the core values, which does not lead to a separation of relationship nor punitive actions.

In this next year leadership conversations will occur during Conference Council, Faith and Life Commission, and the Delegate Assembly to discover ways to encourage Conference leadership to discern appropriate patterns and practices for this model. These conversations will also seek to understand concerns that are present in our group about what is lost in our life together when this model is embraced. It is my belief that a healthy organization enables a group to achieve their vision through clarity of purpose and function.

Strategic Aspirations: In the first three years of my role as Executive Conference Minister, I invested significant leadership time in building relationships with pastors, congregational leaders, and leaders of conference related ministries. Much of my ministry focused on articulating the necessity of making disciples, equipping ministers to lead congregational discernments on matters related to same gender relationships, and organizational health of the Conference. As I envision the next three years, the key priorities that I will be proposing to Conference Council include:

Purposeful Plan: *Prioritize educational opportunities, program development, and publicity of activities around the core initiatives associated within the Purposeful Plan.*

Relationship Building: *Seek to visit each congregation on a Sunday morning in a three year cycle; visit with each lead pastor in their context to learn about the challenges of pastoral ministry; annual connection with the leaders of Conference Related Ministries.*

Congregational Vitality: *Develop through the Congregational Life Commission resource events for lay leaders on worship, mutual care, faith formation, leadership development, stewardship, and outreach.*

Equipping leaders: *Develop a resource event for Faith and Life Commission members; and continue the annual Credentialed Leaders Consultations, Pastors’ Summit, Youth Workers Summit, and Missional Church Resource Event.*

Financial health: *Emphasize congregational giving to Conference, and expand individual giving to Conference.*

I am committed to Mennonite Church USA and its priorities. I will guide Virginia Mennonite Conference to discern how our beliefs, ministries, and life intersect with the denomination’s discernments and ministry opportunities. Biblical narratives and the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* will guide my decisions on matters facing our Conference. The *Shared Understanding of Church Leadership* is an important witness to the leadership practices that guide my understanding of leadership for Virginia Mennonite Conference.

I have experienced the last three years as invigorating, challenging, and rewarding even as I acknowledge periods of weariness, exhaustion, and discouragement. I continue to find strength in Bible reading and reflection, periodic one day retreats, and invigorating worship experiences in congregations within Virginia Mennonite Conference. I value your prayers, encouragement, and counsel as I anticipate engaging in ministry in this next three-year term of service.

Clyde G. Kratz
Executive Conference Minister

Calvary District Report

Calvary Community Church (C3 Hampton)

C3 Hampton's on-going mission of building community, restoring hope and transforming lives continues to be a driving force for all that we do.

Once again we held our nine-week Man Training Class which consisted of 19 young men from C3 and the community being trained in the virtues of manhood and how to conduct themselves responsibly throughout life.

C3 continued outreach efforts holding Sunday services at Coliseum Park Rehab Facility.

C3 continues to annually contribute food and monetary donations to feed those in need in the Hampton Roads area during the holidays.

C3 is working with a church planting initiative in College Park, Georgia. This work is being led by Pastor Natalie Francisco and consists of approximately eight families.

C3 South Africa (C3SA)

C3 South Africa continues to experience growth with its outreach program in the city of Pietermaritzburg.

The congregation successfully raised funds to purchase and install air conditioning units in their new facility without incurring any debt. Their ministry to young girls in the community continues to be an integral part of the mission of C3SA under the leadership of Pastor Karen Ranchod.

C3 South Africa continues to grow and is currently searching for additional locations to launch new church plants.

Fellowship of Christ Church (FOC)

Fellowship of Christ continues to operate under the leadership of Pastors Ronnie and Louvenia Pride.

The youth ministry continues to be a viable part of the ministry of Fellowship of Christ as they recognize the growing

need in their local community. FOC also continues to operate their Bethesda House Ministry which provides transition housing for males and females being released from drug rehab programs or prison.

The Calvary District continues to collectively build a house of God in each of its regions throughout the world as we enlarge our cost for Christ.



Leslie W. Francisco III
Bishop

Congregations:

Bishop: Leslie Francisco III
Chair: Lesley Francisco McClendon
Vice-Chair: Natalie Francisco
Treasurer: Nicole Francisco Bailey
Secretary: Xiomara Harris

Calvary Community Church (C3)

Hampton, VA (1100) [465]

*Nicole Francisco Bailey

*Leslie Francisco III

*Natalie Francisco

*Nan Williams

Nicholas Jefferson

Alicia Manning

Shawn Manning

Caleb McClendon

Lesley Francisco McClendon

Fellowship of Christ

Rocky Mount, NC

*Ronnie B. Pride, Sr.

(65) [65]

Other Outreach Ministry

Calvary South Africa ~~

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

*Flinn Ranchod

* Voting credentialed leader

~~ Has not reported in two or more years

Central District Report

As part of the adopted and in the power of God's Holy Spirit, Central District strives to expand his household of faith. We are a gathering of seven churches that represent a fair amount of diversity. Weavers and Mt. Clinton are larger congregations located just west of Harrisonburg and have multiple staff persons. El Camino Discipular is a Hispanic congregation that meets in the city; it is a Congregation in Formation. Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship is located not far from Virginia Tech with a subtle academic presence. Beldor, Gospel Hill, and Zion Hill find themselves in small, very rural communities; and each one has a characteristic family church feel. As individual congregations and together, we strive to live into the calling of becoming the "household of God."

Beldor congregation celebrated its 80th anniversary in September 2015 with a good representation of former staff and community members from earlier years. Twice monthly the men meet at a cabin nearby for Bible study followed by a bluegrass jam session. The women have a Bible study at the church twice monthly several seasons of the year.

Gospel Hill congregation, after some years of testing and stretching, enjoyed significant growth in numbers and in

fellowship this past year. They enjoy a strong VBS program each summer with a good number of community children attending.

Zion Hill enjoyed a number of video series as a congregation instead of having small groups this past year. These events are accompanied by times of food, friendship and fellowship. Zion Hill held a VBS program this summer.

Weavers said goodbye to Michael Harnish, Youth & Young Adult Associate Pastor, and said hello to Micah Hurst who began filling the position in May. Weavers continues its presence in the larger community by hosting its living nativity in December.

Christiansburg focused its spiritual growth and discipling program by nurturing Life Transformation and Huddle groups. The congregation said goodbye to David Flowers, Pastor, who was called to BIC appointment. It now enters a time of congregational planning and pastor seeking. Don Yoder begins as intentional interim in August.

Mt. Clinton tackled and completed the difficult topic of faithful human sexuality with mid-week presentations and dis-

cussions. They participate with Weavers to put on VBS. At time of Assembly, Dale Hertzler fills in for Lee Martin, Pastor, who is on 3-month sabbatical.

El Camino Discipular worships Saturday evening in Community's facility. Their worship is lively music and sharing. Marvin Lorenzanna, Pastor, resigned as of December 2015, when Brigido & Fernanda Carbajal were locally installed.

Riverside decided to withdraw from fellowship with MC USA, conference, and the district. It was with much sadness that we officially recognized their decision. They are now an independent group known as Riverside Appalachian Gospel Church. With their leaving, we have lost our connection to West Virginia, which has been a significant part of the missional history of Central District and VMC.



James Åkerson
District Minister



Robert G. Wenger
District Minister

Congregations:

District Minister: James Åkerson

District Minister: Robert Wenger

Chair: Floyd Blosser

Vice-Chair: Loren Horst

Treasurer: Evelyn Kratz

Secretary: Janie Heatwole

Beldor Mennonite Church

Elkton, VA (26) [28]

*James Åkerson

Emily Åkerson

Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship

Christiansburg, VA (Ø) [40]

*Don Yoder (interim effective 8/13/16)

Conrad Heatwole

Gospel Hill Mennonite Church

Fulks Run, VA (36) [65]

*Daniel Horning

Gwen Horning

Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (114) [105]

*Lee A. Martin

*Kara Elizabeth Yoder

Lodema Miller

Paul Yoder

Weavers Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (321) [164]

*Regina Brubaker

*Micah Hurst

*Phil Kanagy

Clayton O. Shenk

Dorothy Shenk

Zion Hill Mennonite Church

Singers Glen, VA (53) [47]

*Lowell Haarer

Lois Wenger

Congregation in Formation

El Camino Discipular (0) [16]~

Harrisonburg, VA

Brigida Carbajal

Fernanda Carbajal

* Voting credentialed leader

~ Did not report

Ø Does not track membership

Eastern District Report

Eastern District is very blessed to have Ryan Ahlgrim as our new Chair, and David Lehman as Vice Chair. Both of these individuals are very gifted and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our District.

- On the retirement of Harold Bergey, **Carl Mericle** was chosen to serve as the District Minister.
- **Warwick River** pastor John Dey is knee deep in an exciting capital campaign both at the church and Warwick Christian School.
- Pastor Ryan Ahlgrim, of **First Mennonite Church**, Richmond, reports that a *Membership and Covenant Proposal* has gone through a process of congregational review with very strong support. The proposal outlines more clearly the process by which a person becomes a member, as well as the basis for membership. They are also teaming up with a local elementary school to

present a hobby fair to their students. FMCers will set up displays at the school presenting a wide variety of hobbies. This will help connect with the parents and kids in their neighborhood.

- **Mount Pleasant** is processing Johnnie Gnanamanickam as an associate pastor with a focus on congregational care.
- **Huntington** will be in the pastoral search process (in July) as Pastor David Mishler has accepted a position with Allegheny Conference.
- **Williamsburg** pastor David Lehman is focusing on strengthening their congregational leadership by their leadership team attending seminars and the Small Church Seminar.
- **Powhatan** is enjoying the leadership of their first-year pastor William "Bill" Eberly.

- **Providence** pastor Carl Mericle, has a goal of attracting families with children from the community.
- **Mennowood Retirement Community** has made outstanding changes in remodeling and resident care.
- Bob Briscoe, Director of **Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center** reports a very good year, actually ending up the year with a small balance. It is encouraging that quite a few kids came to Christ this past year through the camp programs.



Carl Mericle
District Minister

Congregations:

District Minister: Carl Mericle
Chair: Ryan Ahlgrim
Vice Chair: David Lehman
Treasurer: Melanie Plato
Secretary: Steve Fannin

First Mennonite Church

Richmond, VA (64) [80]
*Ryan Ahlgrim
Donald Oswald

Huntington Mennonite Church

Newport News, VA (117) [88]
John T. Kreider
Russell DeYoung

Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church

Chesapeake, VA (183) [170]
*Nevin Mast
Johnnie Gnanamanickam
Ronald Keffer

Powhatan Mennonite Church

Powhatan, VA (75) [97]
*William "Bill" Eberly
Luke Landis

Providence Mennonite Church

Newport News, VA (25) [37]
*Carl Mericle (interim)
Evangeline Yoder

Warwick River Mennonite Church

Newport News, VA (178) [82]
*John Dey

Sue Yoder
Ted Yoder

Williamsburg Mennonite Church

Williamsburg, VA (74) [54]
*David J. Lehman
Heinz Plato

* Voting credentialed leader

Eastern Carolina District Report

The Eastern Carolina District lost a valued member last year with the passing of Richard Mast (Greensboro Mennonite Fellowship).

In honor of his engagement with our District's work and his initiative in service to God and neighbors, members of ECD congregations spent a day volunteering together in April to re-shingle the roof of the home shared by Richard and Shirley, his wife, in Graham for the past decade and a half.

The Eastern Carolina District also sponsored a ministry internship among our congregations for Kelsey McDougal, a Duke Divinity School student from Christ Community Church in Iowa. Kelsey served different congregations in different capacities over the course of the academic year.

Our District Council meetings included discussion of differences among and within our congregations regarding same-sex marriage. Following Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship's endorsement of Pastor Isaac Villegas' accepting a request to conduct a same-sex

wedding, District Council members discussed the nature of disagreements regarding same-sex marriage, and the impact of that on the shared life of the District together.

The Council reaffirmed in February 2016 its resolution from 2014, to "remain in fellowship and membership together" while acknowledging disagreements over variance from Article 19 of the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*, and stating that the resolution "is not a statement of unity in, nor support for, that variance, but a recognition that at this point, our disagreement over that variance does not stand in the way of common worship, mission and service together."



Spencer Bradford
District Chair

Congregations:

District Minister: Spencer Bradford
Chair: Mary Jo Lehman
Vice-Chair: Eliza Griffith
Treasurer: Lowell Miller
Secretary: Lowell Tieszen

Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship

Chapel Hill, NC (46) [70]
Isaac Villegas
Aspen Yordy

Durham Mennonite Church

Durham, NC (44) [28]
*Spencer Bradford
Eliza Griffith

Greensboro Mennonite Fellowship

Greensboro, NC (21) [37]
*James Mellinger
Scott Smith

Raleigh Mennonite Church

Raleigh, NC (52) [50]
Lowell Miller

Congregation in Formation

Outlet 10.27

Graham, NC [21]
Keith & Tami Nice

* Voting credentialed leader

Harrisonburg District Report

Our circle of thirteen churches exists for the health, resourcing and empowerment of missional leaders and churches in the Harrisonburg District of Virginia Mennonite Conference.

Here are a few highlights from this past year:

Some of our churches continue to participate in **Kids Club** (an outreach to local children, with mission workers coordinating the program who serve with Virginia Mennonite Missions).

Other churches minister through **Faith in Action** (a justice ministry).

We are also exploring establishing a jail chaplaincy and a welcoming outreach to immigrants through yard signs.

Other churches are growing in capacity for inner healing ministries.

We have reformatted our quarterly district delegate meetings to focus on interacting with the missional activity and vision of one host church per meeting. District reports are sent out in writing before the meeting to minimize organizational discussions.

About half of the district churches are either exploring or working with some form of building project.

The district pastors continue to meet for monthly lunch meetings and the district has worked at pastoral transitions at Early Church, Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, Park View Mennonite Church and Mount Vernon Mennonite Church.



Roy Hange
District Minister

Congregations:

District Minister: Roy Hange

Pastoral Consultant: Lonnie Yoder

Chair: Fred Miller

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Exec. Committee Member-at-Large:

Welby Lehman

Charlottesville Mennonite Church

Charlottesville, VA (50) [40]

*Maren Tyedmers Hange

*Roy D. Hange

Tim Nissley

Community Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (301) [~]

*Jason Gerlach

*Dayna Olsen-Getty

*Jennifer Davis Sensenig

Brendan Derstine

Richard Stoltzfus

Sue Swartz

Dorothy Jean Weaver

Rick Yoder

Early Church

Harrisonburg, VA (36) [70]

*Nick Meyer

Ken Wettig

Eastside Church

Harrisonburg, VA (58) [250]

*Peter Eberly

*Matthew Schwartz

Family of Hope

Harrisonburg, VA (12) [12]

*Harvey Yoder

Guy Vlasits

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (560) [424]

*Sherah-Leigh Gerber

*Mark Keller

*Jacob "Jake" Lee

*Craig Maven

Woodrow Driver

Mark Harmon

Sheryl Shenk

Sam Showalter

Matthew Stearn

Twila Yoder

Iglesia Discipular Anabaptista (IDA)

Harrisonburg, VA (Ø) [35]

*Luis Martinez

Immanuel Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (41)[35]

*Matthew Bucher

Greta Bucher

Manantial de Vida

Harrisonburg, VA (120) [250]

*Juan Carlos Malvaez

*Francisco Machado Levia

Mt. Vernon Mennonite Church

Grottoes, VA (62) [52]

*Alvin M. Huyard

*Rose Huyard

Park View Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (413) [254]

*Moriah Hurst

*Philip L. Kniss

*Barbara Moyer Lehman

Peyton Erb

Loren Mast

Linda Askegaard Matheny

Ken Seitz

Lee M. Yoder

Ridgeway Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (171) [130]

*Ben Risser

Joy Martin

Tom Martin

Stephen Wilcox

James Good

The Table

Harrisonburg, VA (12) [15]

Laura Lehman

* Voting credentialed leader ~ Did not report
Ø Does not track membership

Northern District Report

Northern District takes seriously the work of restoring God's people and integrating believers into the family of God through the church. Individual congregations are creatively practicing their faith by building God's home and welcoming people into the family circle.

Northern District churches are actively involved in the communal work of building up the church of Jesus Christ by finding ways to include people with disabilities into the life of the church, welcoming incarcerated people to worship God with us, and walking closely with people who are in need of God's redemptive gifts.

It has been a joy for our district to have people who speak languages other than English join us around the table and in

fellowship because we recognize that the One Spirit is at work reconciling our divided humanity.

Contributions to the Northern District have exceeded our expenses. We are grateful that Darrell Wenger has accepted the role of Treasurer for the District and Joan Kulp has accepted the role of Vice-chair.

Northern District has a Kingdom-Building Fund, that is available to Northern District Churches to promote church growth or assist in the community ministry of the congregation. Recently a District sharing fund was created for Pastors who have received a matching Lilly grant through Everence.

As District Minister's we cherish our relationships with District Pastors that are nurtured through personal contacts and monthly pastor breakfasts. It is an added joy to participate in congregational life whenever possible. We long to walk together as one reconciled humanity with access to God. We believe that, by the cross, our only means of reconciliation, we are brought near to each other and to God.



Aldine Musser
District Minister



Michael Shenk III
District Minister

Congregations:

*District Ministers: Aldine Musser,
Michael Shenk III
Chair: David King
Vice-chair: Joan Kulp
Treasurer: Darrell Wenger
Secretary: Deb Horst*

Big Spring Mennonite Church

Rileyville, VA (24) [26]
*Rene Hostetter
Pat Barrier

Crest Hill Community Church

Wardensville, WV (46) [26]
*Carolyn Lyndaker
*Milford Lyndaker

Crossroads Mennonite Church

Broadway, VA (30) [30]
*David J. Gullman
Marian Buckwalter

Grace Mennonite Fellowship

Lacey Spring, VA (210) [243]
*Richard K. Early
*Bradley Kolb
Chan Gingerich
Phyllis Martin
Kinley Simmers

Hebron Mennonite Church

Fulks Run, VA (64) [32]
*Mark Conley
Daryl Conley

Iglesia Enciende una Luz

Harrisonburg, VA (Ø) [100]
*Armando Sanchez
José Luis Hernandez

Lindale Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (504) [353]
*Deb Horst
*John Kiblinger
*Dawn Monger
*Duane Yoder
Don Clymer
Jim Engle
Peg Engle
Mark Horst

Mathias Mennonite Church

Mathias, WV (30) [42]
*Dean E. Williams

New Song Anabaptist Fellowship

Harrisonburg, VA (18) [20]
*Basil Marin
Jerilyn Schrock

Stephens City Mennonite Church

Stephens City, VA (26) [29]
*Aldine Musser (until 8/28/16)
*James Musser (until 8/28/16)

Joan Kulp

Trissels Mennonite Church

Broadway, VA (115) [73]
*Harold N. Miller
Dave Yutzy

Valley View Mennonite Church

Criders, VA (56) [46]
*H. Michael Shenk III
Keith May

Woodland Mennonite Church

Basye, VA (12) [18]~~
*Rodney Lebron

Zion Mennonite Church

Broadway, VA (154) [164]
*John Michael "Mike" Metzler
C. Edwin Miller
Elwood Yoder

Congregations in Formation

Korean Ministries (Ø) [12]
Stephens City, VA / Harrisonburg, VA
*James Rhee

the exchange

Winchester, VA (Ø) [20]
*Chris Scott

* Voting credentialed leader
Ø Does not track membership

Potomac District's six congregations continue to deal with the frenetic pace of the DC metro setting, and our District Council struggles to find times to meet two or three times yearly in which most congregations can be represented. Change seems to be a constant in our churches.

Christian Conquest Word of God has changed its name to "DC City Church." Vibrant youth meetings are enabling youngsters to use their gifts of dance and music, and "youth is in the air" as a new Sunday School class has launched for ages 9 through 13. A men's Bible study is growing, as the word spreads among men that are looking for fellowship and wisdom for daily living. DC City Church has seen a surge in congregational support for domestic and international missions. It is active in international missions in Pakistan and India. The congregation is also assisting nearby transitional homes, showing God's love through clothing drives and holiday dinners, and placing church members on boards for transitional homes.

This has been a year of major transition for Northern Virginia Mennonite Church. The congregation is in the midst of renovating its building, including moving the main sanctuary to the ground level, providing handicap accessibility through its front doors, making the building more inviting and usable. As part of the renovation, the congrega-

tion agreed unanimously to change its name to "Daniels Run Peace Church" with the subtitle "A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA." Daniels Run is the name of the historic local stream that runs through the two acre woods on the church property. The mission of Daniels Run includes providing worship space for Latino, Chinese, and Korean Churches, advocating for affordable housing, caring for creation through a church community garden and nature trail, and working with other local faith communities to provide services to homeless people.

In 2016, Washington Community Fellowship (WCF) launched LEAD (Leadership Exploration and Development) to help train and mentor emerging leaders. WCF has been giving more guidance for its small group ministry and offering four-hour Saturday Selah Retreats throughout the year. WCF continues to connect with its neighborhood through a monthly community effort that makes sandwiches for the homeless and hosting a weekly Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Members stubbornly believe they can continue to be "a church for all peoples" through personal transformation, authentic community, and vibrant worship.

Iglesia Alfa y Omega continues to grow in its rented worship space in Rockville, MD under the leadership of Pastor Justiniano Cruz, with over 100 believers

gathering on Sunday afternoons for Sunday school and worship.

Vietnamese Christian Fellowship continues to meet in a Lutheran facility in Falls Church, Va. Pastor Peter Nguyen says "we are grateful for the opportunity of weekly gathering to worship the Lord. Though most attendees are senior citizens, we are hopeful that God will awaken and breathe new life to the younger ones. We provide "love support" for Christian workers in Vietnam."

Fourth Street Fellowship, led by District chair Sang Jin Choi, continues to be a growing church of the homeless and formerly homeless. Between 50 and 70 persons gather on Sundays for worship and weekly fellowship meals provided by several different partner congregations.

Eugene Kraybill, Head Chaplain of Dulles Airport's Interfaith Chapel and chief pilot of Mesa Airlines, was ordained on November 8 in an afternoon service at Stephen City Mennonite Church.



Luke Schrock-Hurst
District Minister

Congregations:

District Minister: Luke Schrock-Hurst
Chair: Sang Jin Choi

DC City Church (f.k.a. Christian Conquest Word of God)
Washington, DC (61) [44]
Dale Wafer

Iglesia del Evangelico Completo Alfa y Omega
Hyattsville, MD (115) [110]
*Justiniano Cruz

*Jose F. Borjas

Daniels Run Peace Church (f.k.a. Northern Virginia Mennonite Church)
Fairfax, VA (19) [25]
*Earl Zimmerman

Vietnamese Christian Fellowship
Falls Church, VA (21) [13]
*Peter Simon Nguyen

Washington Community Fellowship
Washington, DC (26) [110]
*Del Glick

Congregation in Formation

Fourth St. Community Fellowship
Washington, D.C. (Ø) [60]
*Sang Jin Choi
Ung Soo Kim

* Voting credentialed leader
Ø Does not track membership

Southern District Report

The seven churches and one congregation in formation of the Southern District meet in locations across Augusta and Albemarle Counties.

Though we differ in many ways, we are united in our desire to follow Jesus, seeking to dedicate not only our hearts, but every aspect of our lives to the promise we have in Christ.

The pastors of our district meet monthly to provide mutual support and to serve as resources for one another through the sharing of ideas and ministry opportunities.

Some highlights from the past year include:

- **Greenmonte** has called Seth Hanke into the role of Lead Pastor, taking on additional responsibilities after the retirement of his father, Bruce.
- **Lynside** has experienced a sense of rejuvenation through VBS, Kids Can Club, and an increased visible presence in the community.

- **Mountain View** continues to be involved in many ministries in their neighborhood and around the world, including Weekday Religious Education, medical trips to Haiti, and MDS projects on the east coast.
- **Rehoboth** maintains their tradition of reaching the Skyler community through VBS.
- **Signs of Life** licensed MaryBeth Heatwole Moore in October as a part of their ministry team which seeks to serve the deaf community in Augusta County.
- **Springdale** called and licensed Denise Goertzen for ministry as the Associate Pastor, joining her husband, Kevin, on the ministerial staff.
- **Staunton** continues to develop their relationship with the Valley Mission, providing meals, after-school tutoring, and board membership.

- **Waynesboro** provides an example of what it means to be a missional church, holding weekly Celebrate Recovery meetings, sponsoring a community-wide Kid's Club, and partnering with VMM to support Joyce Crissman as a local missionary.



Kevin M. Gasser
Chair, Southern District Council

Congregations:

District Minister: Beryl Jantzi

Chair: Kevin Gasser

Vice-chair: Joshua Fairfield

Treasurer: David Nice

Secretary: Marlene Wenger

District Discernment Comm. Chair:

Richard Showalter

Greenmonte Fellowship Church

Greenville, VA (81) [175]

*Seth Hankee

Lynside Mennonite Church

Lyndhurst, VA (48) [58]

*Gordon Miller

Gerald A. Bradfield

Mountain View Mennonite Church

Sherando, VA (215) [168]

*Mark Hodge

*Stanlee D. Kauffman

*Earl B. Monroe

Peter McCarthy

Rehoboth Mennonite Church

Schuyler, VA ~~

Springdale Mennonite Church

Waynesboro, VA (146) [108]

*Kevin Goertzen

*Denise Goertzen

Steve Driver

Mim Wenger

Dave Powell

Staunton Mennonite Church

Staunton, VA (33) [50]

*Kevin Gasser

Garlan Yoder

Waynesboro Mennonite Church

Waynesboro, VA (142) [125]

*John Arbaugh II

*Philip Ray Lehman

*Howard I. Miller

Congregation in Formation

Signs of Life Fellowship

Staunton, VA (Ø) [22]

*MaryBeth Moore

* Voting credentialed leader

Ø Does not track membership

~~Has not reported for two or more years

TCK (Tennessee/Carolina/Kentucky) District Report

Asheville Mennonite Church continues to grow under the great leadership of Sanford Yoder. They are benefiting from the mission and passion of Robert and Jessica Russo, a former Transend couple, who are reaching out into the Asheville young adult community. They have begun active church planting in their part of the Asheville area, and are building friendships and community among new and growing believers.

Concord Mennonite Church is changing and aging as a congregation. They don't have pastoral leadership at this time. They are praying and talking about how they can continue to support each other and reach out to the changing community around them and when is the right time to make some major changes.

3:16 Christian Community Church, under the team leadership of John Myer and Vernon Moyer, continue to grow and reach out to the Hickory community. They just recently moved into their new worship facilities and are dreaming of how God might use them in their new

location. Pray for them as they renovate the former office building to meet their present and future needs. They also plan to provide space for Peace Mennonite when that group is ready for worship services again.

Knoxville Mennonite Church continues to anchor their witness around a strong Lay leadership team with Pat McFarren filling the preaching role three Sundays a month.

Mountain View Mennonite Church is in the process of calling a new pastor to serve the congregation and work at youth leadership by September. Pray for them as they adjust to each other. They are catching new vision and purpose during this transition time of Pastor Chuck Hostetter leaving.

Peace Mennonite Church is working with the commissioned leadership of Charpia Vang to see if they can regroup and become an active church again now that 3:16 Christian Community Church has a building.

West Liberty Mennonite Church: Josh and Anette Fyffe are pastoring this small congregation in the hills of Kentucky. The challenges are great but Josh is hopeful and is giving good leadership to this group.

Mara Christian Church, a Burmese Christian group in Charlotte, NC is a thriving congregation of young families. They have just partnered in calling a Burmese pastor who will travel between the four Mara Mennonite churches in the USA. They continue to look to purchase or rent their own place of worship in the Charlotte area. Dan Yoder, their oversight leader, has been giving great encouragement and help to them all along the way.

Chuck Hostetter
District Minister

Congregations: <i>District Minister: Chuck Hostetter</i> <i>District Minister for Mtn. View & Mara congregation: Daniel J. Yoder</i> <i>Chair: Leroy Kauffman</i> <i>Vice-Chair: Willis Hunsberger</i> <i>Treasurer: David Hartzler</i> <i>Secretary: Roy Hunsberger</i> 3:16 Christian Community Church Hickory, NC (47) [35]~ *John B. Myer *Vernon Moyer Chris Leuz Lois Leuz	Asheville Mennonite Church Asheville, NC (39) [49] *Sanford Yoder Chris Conley	Mountain View Mennonite Church Hickory, NC (87) [102] David Hartzler Kathleen Hartzler
	Concord Mennonite Church Knoxville, TN (13) [14] Jerry Hartness	West Liberty Mennonite Church West Liberty, KY (10) [16] *Joshua Fyffe
	Knoxville Mennonite Church Knoxville, TN (36) [25]~~ John Forsythe, lead elder	
	Mara Church of Charlotte Charlotte, NC (91) [120] ZaZah *Dan Yoder	
		* Voting credentialed leader ~ Did not report ~~ Has not reported for two or more years

Chaplains Cluster

We have the opportunity to be in contact with hundreds of people within each week. That gives a great opportunity, but also a great responsibility.

The age span of these people ranges from age of 106 to infants: in life's situation from dying to infancy—from total prisoners to total independence! We are conscious that it may be the last time we can connect with them, or from beginning to the ending of long relationships.

We may miss a great opportunity to go deeper spiritually with a person or to share a moving spiritual experience that will affect both us and the other person deeply—maybe life-long.

It is impossible for all of us to get together at one time. We meet every other month. We have viewed two DVDs mostly on prisoners in the past year. We have shared as each new member has joined us. It might take the whole hour--or more--to get around! That is only some of the ways that we support each other.

We have both Peril and Promise in the Household of God. We not only relate to the person we are visiting, but often that goes to family members, friends, pastors and congregations. At least some of us ask God each morning to guide us to people that day who can best benefit by our ministry. There is peril in thinking that we have arrived at our best ability to minister. There is promise that we can learn more. It takes a lot of prayer to relate to persons who have never accepted Christ as their Savior and also those who have become “fed up” with the church and either leaving their congregation or their conference/denomination.

But the promise is also in relating to those who are exuberant about their relationship with their Lord.

Carl Smeltzer, *Oversight Leader*

Oversight Leader
+ Carl Smeltzer

Chaplains

Mary Jo Bowman
Kenton Derstine
Pearl Hartman
Patricia Hendricks
Phoebe Hershey
Melvin Janzen
Steve Landis
Catherine Thiel Lee
John Lehman
Mark Lehman
Kathleen “Kate” Lichti
+ Ronald Pierantoni
Shirlee K. Yoder

Teaching Cluster

The importance of gathering together for mutual support and accountability remains the undergirding intent of the Teaching Cluster.

As persons whose primary call is to a vocation of pastor/teacher within a campus environment, primarily Eastern Mennonite University, the opportunity to meet each month during the academic year is a way to provide for reflective critique and personal sharing.

In this way, our gatherings assist and encourage intentional teaching practices that contribute to the Christian formation of present and future leaders,

while at the same time providing for the dynamics of formative collegial relationship with each other. Coming together on a regular basis for personal sharing and prayer across the academic year has continued to create a deeper awareness of God's work among us both personally and as a group, as well as affirming the variety of gifts we offer to students and colleagues and learning from each other.

Kevin Clark, *Oversight Leader*

Oversight Leader
+ Kevin Clark

Teaching

Brian Martin Burkholder
Joanne Gallardo
Les Horning
Catherine Thiel Lee
Lana Miller
Wendy Miller
Byron Peachey
Carmen Schrock-Hurst
Carl Stauffer
Linford Stutzman
Dorothy Jean Weaver
Linda K. Wenger
+ Lonnie Yoder
Nate Yoder

Leadership/Administration Cluster

Cluster members include the following who provide significant administrative leadership in larger church settings:

Mennonite Church USA staff: Ervin Stutzman, Russ Eanes. **Virginia Mennonite Missions staff:** Aaron Kauffman, Ken Horst, Skip Tobin, Janet Blosser. **Eastern Mennonite University staff:** Loren Swartzendruber, Phil Helmuth, Daryl Byler. **Virginia Mennonite Conference staff:** Clyde G. Kratz. **Refugee Resettlement Program staff:** Jim Hershberger. **At-Large Resource Persons:** Owen Burkholder, Angie Williams.

Twice each year, we gather as a cluster for general information sharing and mutual support. I also meet with each person several times a year on a one-to-one basis. Each participant completes a biennial review every other year. On November 8, 2015, I officiated in the ordination of Aaron Kauffman for his role as VMissions President. Loren Swartzendruber completed his role as EMU president, after 13 years, on June 30. Since each participant is accountable to their own board and/or supervisor, ours is not a work-related agenda. Collectively, the vision of the group is to see the ministries of the church prosper and to serve the church in the particular roles where each is installed. And we try to empower each other through mutual encouragement and prayer support.

Gordon Zook, *Oversight Leader*

Oversight Leader
+ Gordon Zook

Leadership/Administrative

Janet Blosser
J. Daryl Byler
Russ Eanes
+ Phil Helmuth
James Hershberger
Ken Horst
Loren Horst
Aaron Kauffman
Clyde Kratz
Ervin Stutzman
+ Loren Swartzendruber
Skip Tobin

+ indicates voting delegate status

Conference Council

Officers

Officers	Role	Term ends
Elroy Miller	Moderator	2017
Kevin Gasser	Asst. Moderator	2018
Scott Beachy	Treasurer	2016
Edith Shenk Kuhns	Secretary	2016

District Representatives

Leslie W. Francisco III	Calvary
Floyd Blosser	Central
David King	Northern
Carl Mericle	Eastern
Matt Schwartz	Harrisonburg
Sang Jin Choi	Potomac
Mary Jo Lehman	Eastern Carolina
Leroy Kauffman	TCK
Kevin Gasser	Southern

Commission Representatives

Beryl Jantzi	Faith & Life
Patsy Seitz	Faith & Life
Vacant	Congregational Life
Jim Hershberger	VMMissions
Phyllis Miller	VMMissions

Representatives to Constituency Leaders Council

Elroy Miller
Clyde G. Kratz
Vacant

This past year, Conference Council (CC) worked with the following issues and made the following decisions:

In the September meeting, CC processed how to respond to the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) delegate assembly's decision to maintain current membership guidelines for four years and to approve the resolution *Forbearance in the Midst of Differences*. CC asked Clyde Kratz, Executive Conference Minister, to write a white paper outlining the implications of these two decisions for VMC. CC reviewed Clyde's document called *A Way Forward For Virginia Conference* in November, and approved it for review at the February 2016 Winter Delegate Session. The paper was presented and delegates reaffirmed their commitment to MC USA membership guidelines.

In the September and November meetings, CC gave feedback to James Åkerson's efforts, pastor at Beldor Mennonite Church, to obtain input from each district on the revision of VMC's vision and mission statements. A draft revision was approved for the February 2016 Winter Delegate Session. The delegates asked the task force to shorten and simplify the document. That was done and CC approved the document for final delegate approval at the 2016 VMC Assembly.

Non-voting Members

Clyde G. Kratz, *Executive Conference Minister*, VMC
Aaron Kauffman, *President*, Virginia Mennonite Missions
Paul Leaman, *Head of School*, Eastern Mennonite School

Composition

- The Conference officers
- One representative from each district council executive committee
- The chair and one other officer from each commission
- The Conference representatives to Constituency Leaders Council

Duties

- Serve as the executive body of Conference
- Project vision, define direction and promote unity in coordinating the work of Conference
- Decide what issues shall be brought to Conference Assembly
- Provide for staffing of Conference
- Facilitate the work of Assembly between sessions
- Receive reports from and evaluate the work of Conference commissions and agencies annually
- Develop plans to meet the financial needs of Conference

At the September and March meetings, CC reviewed and supported Faith and Life Commission's (FLC) two-year plan for pastoral leadership consultations with emphasis on how to navigate current issues facing the conference and Mennonite church.

CC approved Eastern Carolina District's request to give Outlet 10.27 a three-year extension as a congregation-in-information status.

At the March meeting, CC authorized Clyde to develop the Study & Training for Effective Pastoral Ministry Program (STEP) advisory board. STEP's vision is to engage in pastoral education. Throughout the year, Clyde kept CC in the loop on faith and life issues facing VMC.

The Faith and Life Commission (FLC) and CC recently completed Clyde's triennial performance evaluation and reappointed him to a second three-year term. FLC and CC deeply appreciate his effective leadership on behalf of VMC. Please keep him in your prayers.

Elroy Miller
Moderator

Congregational Life Commission

Composition

- The commission shall be composed of the chairperson and up to eight members.
- Members are elected for three-year terms by the Conference Assembly through a gift discernment process, with consideration for the constituent groups served.

Duties

- Listen to and understand congregations and their needs, issues and solutions.
- Connect congregations to Conference and appropriate organizations to congregations.
- Resource congregations on issues related to worship, peace advocacy, phases of life and other topics as they are identified.

Member

Nicholas Jefferson
Edith Shenk Kuhns
Kristin List
Dawn Monger

Sylvia Yoder
Clyde G. Kratz

Skip Tobin

Role

At Large
Secretary
At Large
At Large

Mennonite Women
Executive Conference Minister
Peace Committee Chair
USA Ministries Director

Term

2017
2016
2017
2016

The Congregational Life Commission is a networking entity that seeks to provide resources to congregations.

Historically, this ministry has provided liaison between a number of ministries that have representatives serving on the Commission (such as Mennonite Men, Mennonite Women of Virginia, Virginia Mennonite Missions, Congregational Resource Center, Peace Committee, and previously the Conference Youth Minister) with Conference ministries. In some ways, it was a coordination of resources for congregations.

In this past year, the Congregational Life Commission has gone through a transition. The chair person, Peggy Brubaker, resigned as she accepted a full time position in an area that reflected her educational background.

The members of the Congregational Life Commission met to give counsel on the selection of workshop leaders for the Delegate Assembly. The Commission also heard reports from some of the ministries represented.

As the future of this Commission is envisioned with counsel from Conference Council and the Faith and Life Commission, it remains my hope to utilize this commission to provide resources to lay leaders on a range of topics that impact congregational life.

It can provide a system of delivery for various congregational needs across the spectrum of themes such as worship, Christian formation, stewardship, local mission, and other themes that reflect the educational agenda of the *Purposeful Plan*. It is this entity that can contribute to the revitalization of congregations throughout the Conference.

Writing for the Commission,
Clyde G. Kratz
Executive Conference Minister

Composition

- Active oversight leaders of districts and special ministry clusters
- Three members-at-large elected by Conference Assembly

Duties

- Provide leadership for Conference in spiritual, doctrinal, and faith and life issues
- Be a forum for interchanging concerns relating to congregational life and leadership
- Attend to leadership needs of congregations
- Promote unity of faith and practice
- Issue ministry credentials
- Provide professional development, fellowship and inspiration for pastors

Officers	Role	Term ends
Patsy Seitz	Chair	2018
Beryl Jantzi	Vice-Chair	2016
Michael Shenk III	Secretary	2017
Staff		
Clyde G. Kratz	Executive Conference Minister	
Members	District (Cluster)	
James Akerson	Central	
Spencer Bradford	Eastern Carolina	
Kevin Clark	Special Ministries (Teaching)	
Leslie Francisco III	Calvary	
Roy Hange	Harrisonburg	
Pearl Hartman	Member at large	
Church Hostetter	TCK	
Beryl Jantzi	Southern	
Carl Mericle	Eastern (VA)	
Aldine Musser	Northern	
Celah Pence	Member at large	
Luke Schrock-Hurst	Potomac	
Sheryl Shenk	Member at large	
H. Michael Shenk III	Northern	
Carl Smeltzer	Special Ministries (Chaplain)	
Robert Wenger	Central	
Gordon Zook	Special (Leadership/Administration)	

In the work of Faith and Life Commission (FLC) this past year, we truly have desired to recognize Christ Jesus as our cornerstone. This centering is essential as the work of FLC is to provide leadership for the spiritual, doctrinal, and faith and life issues. Additional FLC establishes guidelines for ministerial leadership with the Conference and exercises responsibility for the granting, maintaining, and discontinuing of ministerial credentials.

The pastoral consultation in November brought together 99 credentialed ministers as they explored issues surrounding same gender relationships and the implications for the church especially in light of the two resolutions passed in Kansas City. The recognition of the range of perspectives on this matter within our conference becomes evident during these discussions.

The second pastoral consultation that occurred in May 2016 focused on "Restorative Approaches to Broken Boundaries in Congregational Life." This consultation provided opportunity for credentialed leaders to think and reflect on pastoral responses to crisis and injury within congregational life. The three presenters shared a common understanding that a restorative approach includes pastoral responses to victims, offenders, and the community.

This year, several new members have joined FLC (including myself as chair), James Åkerson representing Central District and Carl Mericle representing Eastern District. Two highlights for the group were the visits from Terry Shue, Mennonite Church USA Director of Leadership Development, who participated in the November 2015 meeting. David Boshart, Moderator-Elect of Mennonite Church USA, shared with FLC in April 2016, a day prior to the "Small Church, Big Impact" workshop.

As we continue in our work of what it means to be a household of God, may we together keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.



Patsy Seitz
Chair

Historical Committee

Composition

- Members are elected for three-year terms by the Conference Council through a gift discernment process, with consideration for the constituent groups served. The archivist shall be an ex-officio member.

Member	Role	Term
Timothy Jost	Chair	2017
James Good	Member	2017
Simone Horst	Member	2018
Harold Huber	Archivist	Ex-officio
Paul J. Yoder	Member	2016

The Historical Committee of the Virginia Mennonite Conference consists of Harold Huber, James Good, Paul Yoder (Secretary) and Timothy Stoltzfus Jost (Chair). Gloria Diener who has been a member for a number of years ended her service this year. We are grateful to Gloria for her term of service, including in particular her authorship of *People of Peace: Connecting Threads of Faith and Experience: Virginia Mennonite Conference, 175 years, 1835 -2010*, which she wrote for the 175th anniversary of the conference. We are awaiting a replacement for Gloria to bring the committee to full strength.

Virginia Conference Mennonites have a wealth of historical resources. Among these are the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center, the Menno Simons Historical Library at EMU, the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians, The Anabaptist Center for Religion and Society, the EMU and Virginia Conference Archives, and the Virginia Conference Historical Committee. Given this plethora of organizations, it is sometimes difficult to define what exactly we as the Historical Committee can contribute.

We continue to focus on three projects. The first of these is the Virginia Mennonite History book jointly sponsored by the Conference and by the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians. Steven Nolt, a history professor at Goshen College, will be writing this book. He should begin work within the next year or two and complete work by 2020.

We are trying to raise money for the project. Currently the Historians hold a total of \$8,117 for the book and the Conference \$15,323, for a total of \$23,440. We are holding a fund-raising dinner for the book on November 14 and hope to raise more at that time. We gratefully acknowledge the support we have received from the Trissels, Early Church, Mount Clinton, Valley View, Big Spring, Huntington, Ridgeway, Immanuel, Lynside, Warwick River, Springdale, Zion, and Community Mennonite Churches. We continue to ask churches to include this project in their budget on a multiyear basis and in their prayers.

Duties

- Provide oversight and guidance in establishing policies for Conference archives.
- Provide personal counsel and assistance to the Conference archivist in the performance of those duties.
- Encourage and promote the gathering and preservation of documents and artifacts of historical significance and value.
- Promote programs and studies of historical interest within congregations and Conference in order to foster appreciation for their heritage.
- Encourage the publication of articles and books of historical significance or interest.

The Committee also continues to provide oversight for the Virginia Conference Archives. We are served faithfully by Harold Huber, our archivist, who spends ten hours a week in the Archives, and James Good, who provides assistance on a volunteer basis.

The Archives face an ongoing space issue. The room that the Conference rents for the Archives in the EMU Hartzler Library basement is nearly full. At this point Harold has some boxes in the hallway awaiting review, but this is not an acceptable long-term solution. Harold has inquired about space rental with other Mennonite institutions in Park View, but nothing has been found that is affordable and that offers the security and climate control that archives require.

Support for the Archives comes from the Conference, Virginia Mennonite Missions, and Eastern Mennonite School, which keep their documents in the Archives. We are also grateful for support this year from the Lindale, Valley View, and Park View Mennonite churches. Please keep this ongoing need in your prayers and consider including it in your church budget.

Finally, we continue to solicit articles for GAMEO, the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online. This year Paul Yoder, our GAMEO editor, added updates for Mount Pleasant and Beldor, as well as new articles for Stephens City and MennoMedia. He is currently processing new articles for Valley View, Immanuel, and Eastside.

GAMEO is an invaluable online resource for students and researchers seeking information about our churches and institutions and the men and women who have shaped and led our Conference. We continue to stand ready to help churches and institutions tell their story through GAMEO.

Tim Jost
Chair

First 'Windward' retreat event focuses on listening to God's call

In sailing terms, *windward* is a directional movement into the wind; moving toward the source of the wind. VMissions' first Windward retreat, held December 4-5, 2015, at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, was a place and time for listening to God's voice and call. The retreat challenged participants to listen carefully to the wind of the Spirit and to tack toward God's calling in our lives in a spirit of responsiveness and trust. As experienced sailors, resource persons Linford and Janet Stutzman noted that sailing windward is challenging, often difficult, but also rewarding as you are actively responding to the wind. The three sessions over two days focused on direction, preparation, and timing, with times of worship, small group sharing, and stories. "Windward was a space where we were challenged to follow Jesus in radical, tangible ways," one participant said. **Consider joining us this year to explore your missional calling at Windward, December 2-3, 2016.**



Linford Stutzman leads a session at the Windward event. Photo: Martin Rhodes



Prayer Partners

In addition to our monthly missions prayer calendar, Virginia Mennonite Missions has responded to requests for more regular and in-depth prayer needs, as well as updates with answers to prayer. We have launched a regular email update to Prayer Partner subscribers. Anyone interested can subscribe under "Prayer Partners" at vmmissions.org/who-we-are/publications/email-list-signup/

Auction & Family Missions Festival

This past May, Virginia Mennonite Missions held an auction to raise funds for worker accounts, in conjunction with Family Missions Festival, an event held first in 2014. The auction was the first event of its kind for VMissions and raised nearly \$11,000 for worker accounts, with another \$1,500 for the ministries of Mennonite Hispanic Initiative and a small surplus for VMissions' Mission Fund. VMissions thanks the generous sponsoring agencies and businesses who helped make the events possible. We plan to continue both the auction and the Family Missions Festival as yearly combined events.



Potluck & Resource Time for Parents of Mission Workers

Saturday, August 27 @ 6:30 p.m.
VMissions Conference Room

Join with other parents and staff for a time of fellowship and sharing.

Donor & Prayer Partner Banquet

Saturday, November 19 @ 6:30 p.m.
Eastern Mennonite School Dining Hall
Those who pray and give on behalf of VMissions are invited to a banquet as a small token of our gratitude.

SERVICE SNAPSHOT 2015-2016

106 People in mission
18 Countries
30 Long-term workers
8 tranSenders
36 Partners in Mission

Newly appointed and reappointed mission workers

Long-term Workers (years in parentheses):

- **Alfonso Alvarado** — serving in Rockingham Co., Va. (2)
- **Steve & Laura Campbell (Ruth, Esther)** — serving in Montenegro (2)
- **Shawn & Laura Green - (Lucas, Emmanuel, Matteo)** — serving in Italy (2)
- **Lorene & Earlene Horst** — serving in Trinidad (1)
- **Brent & Alisha Justice** — serving in Uganda (5)
- **Francisco & Juana Machado** — serving in Spain (3)
- **Francis & Juliana Marques (Samuel)** — serving in Albania (2)
- **Yugo & Grace Prasetyo (Jeremi, Simeon)** — serving in Indonesia (2)
- **Vince & LaVonne Ramella (Sid, Bradie, Justin)** — serving in Kosovo (2)
- **Dini & Klementina Shahini** — serving in Albania (1)

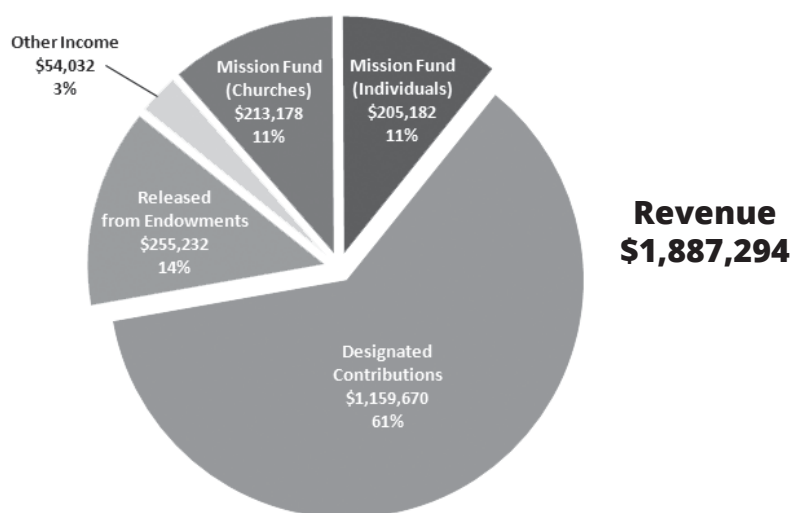
- **Dave & Rebekka Stutzman (Immanuel, Liana, Nathanael)** — serving in Germany (3)
- **Rafael & Solange Tartari (Paulo, Sofia)** — serving in Albania (4)
- **Norma Teles** — serving in Albania (1)
- **Caitlin Tice** — serving in Harrisonburg, Va. (2)
- **J. & M. W. family** — serving in Central Asia (2)

Short-term Workers (1 year term):

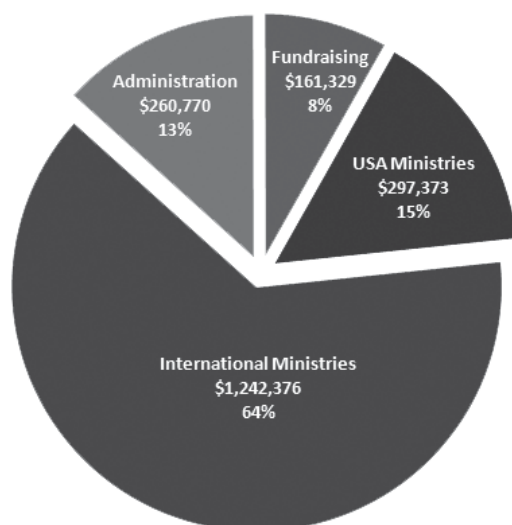
- **Alex Rubel** – tranSend, Albania
- **Crystal Lehman** – Partners in Mission, Argentina
- **Jessamyn Tobin** – tranSend, Thailand
- **Anna McMullen** – tranSend, Albania
- **Elsa Miller** – tranSend, Israel/Palestine

Financial Year in Review

(9/1/14-8/31/15)



Expenses \$1,961,848



STAFF

Janet Blosser
Ken Horst
Aaron Kauffman*
Steve Leaman*
Dianna Lehman*

Jan Liskey*
Marvin Lorenzana
Martin Rhodes

Melanie Sherer
Lynn Suter*

Carol Tobin
Skip Tobin*
Jon Trotter

*Member of Leadership Team

Mediterranean Regional Director
Development Associate
President
Director of Public Relations
Executive Assistant and Human Resources Manager
Director of Finance
Latino Ministries Coach
Short-term Missions Coach,
Mission Support Teams Coach
Administrative Assistant
Director of Operations and International Ministries
Asia Regional Director
USA Ministries Director
Communications Associate

BOARD

Daryl Brubaker
Ric Gullman
Jim Hershberger
Reuben Horst
Eldon Layman
Lavonne Lehman
Chris Leuz
Shin Ji Kang
Shawn Manning
Phyllis Miller
Rodney Nice
Mary Thiessen Nation
Sharyn Tieszen

Treasurer, Northern
Member at Large
Secretary, Member at Large
Member at Large
Central
Eastern
Tennessee/Carolina/Kentucky
Harrisonburg
Vice Chair, Calvary
Chair, Potomac
Southern
Member at Large
Eastern Carolina



Virginia Mennonite Missions is the mission agency of Virginia Mennonite Conference.



Virginia Mennonite Missions

Called. Sent. Transformed.

Congregational Resource Center

It is with some regret that I write my final report to VMC for the Resource Center. As of June 30, 2016 I am retiring from my positions at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. At the same time the contract between VMC and the Eastern Mennonite Seminary will end, with VMC no longer supporting the budget of the Center. By contract, all resources will remain with the Seminary.

The good news is that the Congregational Resource Center will continue to be available to you FREE for the foreseeable future! It will still be located in Eastern Mennonite Seminary building at 1181 Smith Avenue in Harrisonburg.

Jennifer Ulrich from EMU Hartzler Library will be on hand to check in and check out materials 8 hours per week. She will also have a budget from the seminary to purchase new materials and keep the collection updated. Her other task will be to purge old items. I'm very happy that her capable skills in these areas will allow the Center to remain open.

The Center will be open Monday through Friday from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. When Jennifer is not present there will be a sign-out sheet on the counter for you to record the items you take with you and give your (legible, please!) contact information. If you visit when no one is present to assist you, please look at the signs on top of each bookshelf to guide you to the area that you are seeking.

Just this morning (June 10) several women from a local church spent time browsing the adult group study materials for their Sunday School class. DVD kits and book studies in this area fill ten shelves. There are many shelves of children

and youth resources, including VBS materials. A large worship section includes prayers, music, lectionary commentaries, arts and worship centers, and much more. The theme of another large section is "Christian Life: Devotional and Spirituality." Here you will find many books for personal and group growth in the spiritual journey.



The John Coffman Mission collection includes items that any growing church may find useful. A Book Sale cart outside the door in the hallway holds donated books from many persons. Payment may be made at the Seminary front desk if you find a treasure there. Proceeds will support the Resource Center.

I would like to thank Virginia Mennonite Conference for your collaboration over many years in building up the Resource Center. My prayer is that it will continue to be useful for equipping the church in its ministries.

Linda Alley
Director

1200 Park Rd., Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 432-4219 • (800) 710-7871 • crc@emu.edu
emu.edu/seminary/crc



Eastern Mennonite School: Seeking Promise Among Peril

As we near our centennial in 2018, EMS finds itself at an interesting time of change in school history. Promising growth and growing waiting lists at the K-5 elementary division currently contrast with more a gradual and somewhat perilous enrollment decline at the secondary school 6-12 level. This secondary decline is particularly noticeable among students from Virginia Conference congregations.

In 2004-05, secondary enrollment among VMC students was 219 while last year only 145 self-identified with conference congregations. We long to strengthen the numbers of youth in our churches and those attending EMS. We pray our distinctive priorities and mission of joining with home and church in calling students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service in the world remains relevant to people in our congregations. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Children are our most precious, yet vulnerable, asset and our hope for a better future. Now more than ever they need a strong Jesus-centered educational start in life.

At EMS we are beginning a campaign of promise to bring our elementary campus to 801 Parkwood Drive. "Let the Children Come" is our appeal to everyone in the EMS community to rally together in creating a permanent K-12 campus. The stewardship of shared facilities, synergy of educational programming, and conveniences for parents with nearby inter-educational and inter-generational opportunities add countless intangible benefits for students and the community. In August we are conducting a feasibility study to inform us how far we can proceed toward our master plan vision. By late August, EMS plans to act on an option to purchase the MennoMedia property and lease it back until funding permits continued progress. The scope of these projects are shown below on the master plan and estimated costs by phase. Please join us in prayerful support of this promising project for our church future.

Let the Children Come!

Paul Leaman, Ph. D.
EMS Head of School

Estimated Cost by Project Phase

Site Work & Soft Costs	\$1,081,000
Renovations	\$2,557,000
Gathering Space	\$995,000
Auxiliary Gym	\$1,367,000
Total	\$6,000,000

EMS Campus Master Plan



Highlights of VMRC's fiscal year ending March 31, 2016

The Transitional Care program has been selected by Sentara RMH Medical Center as one of three "Centers of Excellence" in the Harrisonburg area. This designation results from extensive analysis of patient outcomes and VMRC practices, and reflects Sentara's response to the transition of Medicare reimbursement from a volume-based to a value-based approach.

VMRC determined to move forward with building five additional Green House homes and a community center in Woodland Park. This underlines VMRC's commitment to transforming the traditional nursing home philosophy, organizational structure and environment.

The Complete Living Care community continues to enjoy a five-star rating from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services "Nursing Home Compare" tool.

The Department of Social Services completed their annual inspection of Assisted Living services during this period, and our two-year license was renewed.

Arts and Education Programs offered a total of 340 trips, classes, lectures and concerts during the fiscal year with more than 11,000 participants. Highlights included a series of visits to Eastern Mennonite University.

The Wellness Center concluded the year with 836 members and an average of 4,044 monthly visits. Of our reporting year membership, 43% are VMRC residents, 7% are VMRC employees and 50% are local community members.

Service to Constituents

Pastoral Care Services welcomed Pastor Steve Landis as a full-time chaplain. He and Shirlee Yoder continue to provide for the spiritual needs of residents through:

- Weekly Sunday morning worship and evening vespers.
- We also offered special worship services for Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise and Faith Sharing.
- Five Bible Studies across campus each week.
- An "End of Life Planning Course" held in preparing for the emotional, spiritual, legal, financial and medical aspects of dying well. A bereavement counselor also presented a program on managing grief and life transitions.

Volunteer Services involved 612 volunteers who donated 44,780 hours of service for a record breaking in-kind value of \$1,033,075. Volunteers represent the equivalent of 21 full-time employees.

VMRC partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters to start a program called "Grand Bigs" to mentor elementary school students.

More than 50 VMRC residents volunteer to operate the Main Street Store that generated \$94,010 in sales with profits distributed for resident activities.

VMRC residents also operate The Bargain Center which raised \$12,084 with proceeds donated to the Employee Assistance Fund to help employees who are having financial needs. Funds are also used to provide employee appreciation events on campus.

Our Mission of Benevolence Continues

- VMRC provided \$377,529 through the Good Samaritan Fund and proceeds from the Compassion Endowment. Nine Assisted Living and 30 Complete Living Care residents received 26.5% of their compassion care support.
- Heritage Haven residents received \$757,146 in HUD subsidy to afford them the opportunity to live at VMRC.
- The VMRC Golf Benefit engaged 232 players, including 40 sponsored teams in receiving net proceeds of \$46,577 for the Memory Care Endowment.
- Complete Living Care continued its commitment of financially supporting all current residents who exhausted their funds during their stay.
- VMRC provided \$1.1 million in compassion care and services to persons with financial need. Sources include the Good Samaritan Fund, the Compassion Endowment and uncompensated care as part of the net operating margin.
- The VMRC Foundation through Woodland Park gifts received an additional \$57,686 in gifts to Woodland Park, and an additional \$2.1 million in new commitments and cash for Compassion Endowment launch Phase 2 of Legacy of Compassion Endowment Campaign to raise \$15 million by March 2025.
- VMRC Foundation managed endowments contributed a total of \$171,354 toward operations in the areas designated by the established endowments: Memory Care - \$36,596; Compassion - \$110,445; Staff Training - \$7,442; Medical Nutritional Therapy - \$14,812; Lyceum - \$2,059.
- 18 Mennonite churches provided \$31,239 toward compassion care.
- Of the persons receiving financial assistance, more than half were from Mennonite churches.

As a way to give back and support VMRC's mission, vision and values, employees and residents volunteer to deliver Meals on Wheels within the northwest Harrisonburg community. For the third year, VMRC employees and residents participated in the annual United Way Day of Caring.

Family Life Resource Center

Family Life Resource Center is an independent, Christian-based, 501(c)3 nonprofit counseling service. We offer individual, marital, and family counseling. We are an organization committed to supporting families and individuals in their time of need. We also offer workshops, support groups, therapy groups, and training classes.

In 2017, Family Life Resource Center will celebrate our 30th anniversary! It is such a blessing knowing that we have helped individuals and couples in this mission field.

“Friends of the Family” was recently included on our website, recognizing the recent donors to our agency who help make it possible for the agency to continue to see clients that are on a limited income.



We continue to be grateful for the Virginia Mennonite Conference and its member congregations for their support and encouragement. We are thankful for the many counselors, directors, office support and donors that work hard to make FLRC successful. Lastly, we could not have succeeded thus far without the dedication and service from our Board of Directors.

In 2015, our operating costs were \$395,000. Counseling income provides 88% of the total funding. Contributions and fundraising covered 9% of this cost. Community support is important to FLRC since we are a nonprofit that receives no government funding.

Family Life Resource Center continues to strive toward the commitment to our ministry that provides a basis for another successful year of offering Hope, Health, and Healing.

Gift & Thrift, Inc.

Harrisonburg Gift & Thrift, Inc. is a nonprofit organization. We are committed to Christian faith in action, offering a friendly, caring presence in the community while addressing the stewardship of our environment and supporting the primary goals of Mennonite Central Committee.

This past year has been one of major transition, the most visible being the beginning of our building project. As our donations continue to grow and our current spaces shrink temporarily, we are learning the value of grace and flexibility. Our projected completion is the spring of 2017.

A recent addition to our programming is (L)earn-a-Bike, an extension of our ongoing commitment to host court-involved youth who need community service hours. Our objective is to offer them practical hands-on learning facilitated by positive, enthusiastic role models. The course provides opportunities for: skill-building, collaborative problem solving, and practical and sustainable transportation: a bicycle. During the 16 hours



of classroom time, students tear down a donated bicycle, service its components, and reassemble it. At the end of the class, students are encouraged to take the bicycles home with them.

We hope this alternative diversion program serves our community by empowering local at-risk youth through hands-on learning and providing them with earth-friendly transportation, while hopefully subverting the “school to prison pipeline.”

We continue to welcome your prayers as we dream of ways we can be relevant to our nearby community while supporting MCC as it seeks to meet basic human needs through relief, development and peace-building efforts throughout the world.

Deb King
General Manager

Highland Retreat

We found ourselves waiting on God last summer due to a shortage of male counselors for Highland summer camps. God faithfully answered our prayers by providing three more stellar counselors just in time.

We had the pleasure of serving almost 400 total young people. The camp theme was “Let’s do this,” taken from James 1:22, with the challenge to be “doers of the Word.” Generous supporters allow Highland to offer scholarship aid freely to families and organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters, who wrote: *“Our agency would like to thank you for providing camp scholarships for ten children in the program. This was an experience of a lifetime for them. Quite a few of them had never even been away from home before.”*

Highland Retreat provided hospitality to women’s, men’s, youth, and church retreats, family reunions, crafting and friends groups, and more. 18 churches within Virginia Mennonite Conference were served, along with Virginia Mennonite Missions and Eastern Mennonite University. Guests blessed us with many comments of appreciation, including a couple staying in Creekside Cottage who wrote:

“We were refreshed and restored. We prayed over Creekside cabin and your facilities and wish to volunteer in the future as God leads. We bless your ministry and staff!”

There were many more opportunities and challenges this past year. It was a difficult year for Highland financially, but we are pleased with the recovery that is taking place.

The boys’ bathhouse addition and renovation is now complete and ready for use by campers and guests! The former Green Valley Clinic property purchase has been slowed by obstacles related to subdividing the property, but is still moving forward.

2016 summer camp attendance looks to be the highest in ten years, and a new camp is being offered to older campers.

Kent Kauffman
Executive Director



Mennonite Disaster Service of Virginia

Being part of God’s household or extended family offers the reality of fellowship beyond the local church. Mennonite Disaster work regularly involves working with various other church persons and denominations, when responding to community or individual disaster situations.

A fire that destroyed a farm barn near Stuarts Draft, Va in August 2015, brought many persons together to help rebuild a new structure in October 2015. An MDS board member, and his construction business, gave leadership to the project. Neighbors, surrounding churches and MDS volunteers from Harrisonburg all came together to erect a new facility. The work covered four days with wonderful food, much laughter and incredible amazement at what is accomplished when there is a recognized need. Superior leadership and coordination were given in utilizing many volunteers. One volunteer summed up the experience by voicing the personal blessings of broader church fellowship while being part of the work.

Fellowship from Christian service continues in West Virginia where Mennonite Disaster is rebuilding private home access bridges for homeowners whose bridges were wiped out in a flood in July 2015. The Shenandoah Valley MDS Unit continued it’s significant involvement along with persons from numerous other U.S states and Canada. The same theme occurred in Andrews, S.C., flooded by record rainfall in October, 2015.

Several Harrisonburg area church groups assisted the binational MDS response.

The Eastern Va. Unit gave rebuilding assistance to a family in Farmville, Va. that had suffered personal loss. They have also investigated the effects of the tornado that hit Tappahannock, Va. during February 2016 and are monitoring rebuilding plans along with several other church agencies.

Mennonite Disaster Service of Va. continues to strive to offer local churches the opportunity, where service ministry is offered to those in need from natural disasters and other significant unmet home needs. It especially appreciates those that volunteer, the individuals that financially give, and Va. Mennonite Conference churches that support this ministry through their budgets.

Rich Rhodes
Mennonite Disaster Service of Virginia President



Mennonite Women of Virginia

Mennonite Women of Virginia is excited about what the Lord is doing in our midst! There was a record attendance at our most recent event, our annual MWV Missions event, held at Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church. Approximately 100 women gathered together for a meal and fellowship, and after a devotional focused on how we respond to God's call in our life, the group raised just under \$6,000 for VMissions' mission workers in an exciting 15-20 minutes.

In the last two years, MWV has focused more on trying to help those sisters who have a greater challenge in coming to MWV events by offering scholarship money, which the Lord has graciously provided by generous donors. We have also focused on working closer with MWUSA. Marlene Bogard, President of MWUSA, will be our keynote speaker for the annual MWV Fall Women's Retreat to be held at Natural Bridge, Oct. 28-30, 2016.

In addition, we have increased our efforts in communicating with every women's group throughout VMC, in an effort to make sure every church and/or organization has information available to them about our events and activities. We view this communication process as a priority and have worked diligently to update our contact information to make this possible.



Mennonite Women of Virginia

*Empowered Women
Creatively Building Christ-centered
Relationships through Fellowship,
Leadership, Mission and Service*

We anticipate joining together at our annual Prayer Breakfast during VMC Conference in July, where LaVonne Ramella, missionary in Kosovo, will be sharing her stories with us. As I write this, there is much gratitude in my heart to the Lord for this organization and for what the Lord is doing among us. Yes, we are different in how we think and how we live out our faith, yet the basic message of Christ remains the same – and will never change. Jesus came into this world to save us, dying so we might have eternal life, and will gather us together in eternal glory. Praise his name!

Sylvia Yoder
Chair

Mennowood Retirement Community

Hearts, hands, and spirits are open wide at Mennowood Retirement Community, in Newport News. Our occupancy is higher than it has ever been; we are serving a greater depth of needs than we ever have, and we are more beautiful and accessible than we've ever been. All of this to live out our calling as the Hands and Feet; the salt and light.

Every day we meet strangers that become family in a matter of minutes. A true, ministerial bond is quickly formed every time someone walks into Mennowood crying because they can no longer care for their mother, father, sister, brother. It is our

one mission, above all, to love on these folks as our own. And we do.

Every hand that helps at Mennowood is serving our Lord, our Cornerstone, by welcoming these weary strangers to become family. To usher in the peace of Christ in



the midst of the great storm that is an aging family member is true honor and blessing.

As God blesses those we serve, He so blesses us. He blesses us with a growing and developing staff, he blesses us with discerning leadership, and he blesses us with sound business footings and strong financial outlooks. At the risk of sounding clichéd, blessing abound at Mennowood.

Mary Harden
Executive Director



NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center

NewBridges moved to a new location in August. We are surrounded by food and parking. We have increased our capacity to provide immigration legal counsel, and we will be fundraising for an additional position to support these additional responsibilities.

Immigrants and refugees continue to say that NewBridges is a safe place to ask hard questions. We listen and care for people and stories, knowing that God is holding all of us in the midst of struggle and as we celebrate large and small victories.

As our nation debates its identity, we are reminded of the nomadic people of God. We are reminded of the history of Anabaptists worldwide. We are reminded of the strong invitation to care for the newcomers in our midst.

We will be completing a Strategic Plan by the end of this calendar year. We welcome your counsel and encouragement as we pause to reflect on how to serve immigrants and refugees living in the Shenandoah Valley. We value the many ways that Mennonite churches are nurturing relationships in their



neighborhoods. We want to continue to support churches in the particular connections with immigrants and refugees.

We are grateful that NewBridges can continue to be a resource through a budget that supports two full time workers. We know that there are many ways that we could expand the ministry. And we invite you to continue giving generously to this unique work. May God's deep and healing peace be with you.

Alicia Horst
Executive Director

Pleasant View, Inc.

In December 1993, Dave and Debbie Gullman's daughter Hannah was born with Down syndrome. As she approached the end of her school years, questions were raised as to what happens next. While in school, children with disabilities receive services through the federally mandated Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Once a child transitions out of high school, those services dry up.

With Medicaid funding in place, Dave and Debbie approached Pleasant View, Inc., about possible day placement options for Hannah. Through the Community Connections program, Hannah found a place to use her gifts within the community. This has taken a huge burden off her parents, and they feel their daughter has been healthily incorporated into a new family.



This scenario was not the norm when Pleasant View started 45 years ago. Then, individuals with disabilities were imperiled by

*Joanie and Hannah
share funny faces.*

the common practice of abhorrent institutionalization. Asking many of the same questions about his nephew Chester, John R. Mumaw began advocating for a more hopeful response to these individuals. Virginia Mennonite Conference responded to Mumaw's call and the doors of Pleasant View Homes were opened to the first individuals with disabilities in March 1971.

Now, 45 years and a name change later, Pleasant View, Inc. offers hope as the "adoption" branch of the church that responds to the dilemma many families face when parents age or when younger parents seek day placement options for adults with disabilities. In 1971, because of the Virginia Mennonite Conference, individuals with intellectual disabilities were, "no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." We thank you for your prayers and support so that we can continue to provide a more hopeful future for the more than 175 individuals and their families we support.

facebook.com/pleasantviewinc
pleasantviewinc.org

Pam Miller
Development Director

Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale

Mark your calendars now for the 50th Annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale on Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds.

There will be various special events and activities commemorating the 50th anniversary including a commissioned quilt and history book. We hope to exceed the \$317,000 raised in 2015. All your favorite foods and activities will be back again, so you can already be looking forward to the delicious food, 5k Race for Relief, sporting clay shoot, auction, farmer's market, children's activities, silent auction, craft items, and of course catching up with friends and family.

This year, in addition to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), the sale will benefit New Bridges Immigrant Resources Center (resources for the spiritual, social, and economic needs of immigrants in the Shenandoah Valley), and Love Inc. (a collaboration of local churches and their communities to provide effective help for the disadvantaged in Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro). *My Coins Count* (formerly *Penny Power*) funds will support projects of MCC and Virginia Mennonite Missions.

Now is the time for you to get involved! Start collecting coins for *My Coins Count*, finish projects to donate to the live or silent auctions, form plans to



to benefit MCC

VIRGINIA Mennonite Relief Sale

make some baked goods with friends, volunteer with applesauce making or apple butter boiling, or help with set-up and tear down. There are numerous volunteer opportunities for all! If you have questions about how to get involved, contact your church Relief Sale rep or email info@vareliefsale.com.

Pictures of auction items will soon be on the website, so check for updates frequently. The website will be updated by the end of June to a mobile-friendly version with easier navigation to view auction items, schedules and more. For more information or to sign up to receive a monthly e-newsletter update, go to vareliefsale.com and follow us on Facebook!

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center

It has been a great year for Kaleidoscope Camp and lots of facility renewal. Now in our thirty-second year of ministry, the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center is thankful to be an endorsed ministry of the Virginia Mennonite Conference. Through hosting VMC retreats including the Pastor's Retreat, Youth Workers Retreat, and through our programs like Quilting Retreats, and Kaleidoscope Camp, we continue to provide a place where new believers and those who have walked with the Lord for a lifetime can enjoy a place of reflection, renewal and worship.

Looking back on 2015, we are thankful for a record breaking year for Kaleidoscope Camp. We finally broke the 300 camper mark with 322 campers compared to 282 in 2014. We were able to provide camp scholarships to a record 52 recipients, and seventeen young people gave their hearts to the Lord for the first time. In addition we ended the year \$40,000 ahead of budget. Praise God!

In April, we launched a new Family Fun Day where we invited the whole community to come out for a day of fun, music and food. We had over 300 attend and for most it was their first visit to WCRC.

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center



A Place to Begin A Relationship With Jesus Christ and Grow in Him

We finished our first full year of our Facility Renewal Program by tackling some key maintenance items in our Laurel Cottage and Holly Cottage as well as adding new carpet to the Magnolia Center Dining Room, new hot water heaters to Oakwood Lodge, and wood was purchased for a new deck on Magnolia Center as well.

Looking ahead, we have convened a Master Plan Review Committee to begin discerning where the Lord will take us next in the area of new facilities. We are hoping for a dining room expansion in the near future!

For more information on our programs and ministry visit www.wcrc.info

Report to Virginia Mennonite Conference

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" (1 John 3:18).

Through its ministries, Mennonite Church USA seeks to demonstrate the love of God to one another and our world. Below, we've invited people to share how they've experienced love in action through Executive Board initiatives.

The Gathering Place website

Through this website and virtual meeting space, youth leaders can connect, learn, support and inspire one another by participating in learning circles, webinars, peer groups and spiritual direction.

"The Gathering Place is a place to interact with others, increasing our own spiritual and life understandings, so that we can share love in a more comprehensive manner with the youth around us. This is a wonderful opportunity to establish relationships beyond our local community, helping us to become the persons we want to be in our communities!"

—**Merv Stoltzfus**, Smoketown, Pennsylvania
Conference minister/youth, Atlantic Coast Conference



Sexual abuse prevention

In 2015, the Discernment Group on sexual abuse and the church wrote a Churchwide Statement on Sexual Abuse, passed by the KC2015 Delegate Assembly. The group also created the Care and Prevention fund, which received nearly \$61,000 in contributions — approximately \$42,000 to go to victims of sexual abuse, and \$19,000 to be divided among Mennonite Women USA's Sister Care ministry; the Women in Leadership Project of Mennonite Church USA; and Dove's Nest, a church organization that works to keep children and youth safe from abuse.

"Love means that while we love each other like family, we acknowledge that we are capable of doing harm to one another. We don't live in denial that abuse happens in our midsts — and in church. The Churchwide Statement on Sexual Abuse calls churches to make sure that child protection policies are in place and that reporting guidelines are followed. To me, this practical recommendation for all is love in action."

—**Anna Groff**, Tucson, Arizona
Executive director, Dove's Nest



Ministry with veterans

Resources for congregations supporting veterans as they seek healing for their emotional and spiritual wounds include a monthly newsletter, a Sunday school curriculum and a congregational training on relating to veterans. These are provided by the Peace and Justice Support Network (a partnership of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Mission Network) and Mennonite Central Committee U.S.



"Our group that used the *Returning Veterans, Returning Hope* Sunday school materials included veterans, relatives of veterans and two people with no military connections. Everyone contributed freely and listened respectfully and with great interest. Sometimes there were tears as stories from the battlefields were shared.

Even though there was a biblical setting for each study period, most of our time together was spent in telling and listening to personal stories. I want to thank Mennonite Church USA for taking the initiative to create this study for the church. It was needed."

—**John Kreider**, Newport News, Virginia

Retired minister; member of Huntington Mennonite Church, Newport News

Doctrine of Discovery educational initiatives

Since the 15th century, the Doctrine of Discovery (DoD) and the laws based on it have legalized the theft of land, labor and resources from Indigenous Peoples across the world and systematically denied their human rights. The Christian church has historically supported the DoD. Through partnerships with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the DoD Working Group, Mennonite Church USA seeks to raise awareness, educate and involve the church in denouncing and dismantling the doctrine. See dofdmennonite.org.

"The Doctrine of Discovery is aggressively exploiting and dehumanizing people every day. Through education and activism, we show what it means to love actively 'in a world that is very rapidly losing its understanding of being human' (to quote John Trudell)."

—**Erica Littlewolf**, North Newton, Kansas

Program coordinator, MCC Indigenous Visioning Circle



Immigration justice work

Resources available to congregations and individuals include the free Bible study, *Radical Hospitality: Responding to the issue of immigration*, and the DREAMer Fund, which helps undocumented young adult immigrants with tuition fees and supports other immigration justice initiatives.

"In the upheaval around Pastor Max Villatoro's detention and subsequent deportation, the outpouring and organization of community support were unprecedented. We found excellent support from a high-profile immigration attorney who came alongside our conference. This was expensive, however, and we wondered if we had the capacity to meet the costs of this action. We reached out to Mennonite Church USA staff, and it was a major show of support when the denomination immediately offered a grant to get us started in the fundraising campaign to cover legal costs and ongoing support for Max's wife, Gloria, and their four children, who remain in the U.S."

—**Shana Peachey Boshart**,

Wellman, Iowa

Conference minister for
Christian formation, Central
Plains Mennonite Conference



2016
mennoniteusa.org

Be salt. Be light. **Be the Gospel.**



Thank you!

In recent decades
one thing has
become clear:

Mission is all about relationships
and partnership—with God,
with congregations, and with

global partners. God's mandate
inviting us to be partners in
mission remains valid, our global
partners' interest in working
together continues to grow, and
Mennonite Mission Network's
commitment to extend the

witness of local congregations is
unwavering. Thank you for your
partnership and sharing in God's
global mission. We appreciate
the prayers, the people, and the
generous financial resources
that Virginia Conference and its

congregations have shared. With
deep gratitude!

Stanley W. Green

Stanley W. Green
Executive Director
Mennonite Mission Network

Virginia Conference + Mennonite Mission Network

Worker support

Virginia Mennonite Missions
and Mennonite Mission
Network together support David
and Rebekka Stutzman and their
family in Germany. We also
share a staff person in Marvin
Lorenzana.

Two Virginia Conference
congregations each help support
a long-term international Mission
Network worker: Harrisonburg
Mennonite Church supports
a couple in the Middle East,
and Chapel Hill Mennonite
Fellowship supports Mary Raber.

New Song Anabaptist
Fellowship is in year three of the
Missional Discipleship Initiative.

Service participants

SOOP

Recent SOOP participants from
Virginia Conference include Lois
Wenger from Family of Hope
church in Harrisonburg; and
from Harrisonburg Mennonite
Church, Ron King, Lila King,
Mary Jane Newcomer, and Ben
Newcomer. All participants
served in Glendale, Arizona.
SOOP also offers international
opportunities!

Mennonite Voluntary Service



Andrew Hostetter, from
Community Mennonite Church,
Harrisonburg, Virginia, served in
Seattle, Washington.



Christopher Lehman, from
Waynesboro (Virginia)
Mennonite Church, served in
Alamosa, Colorado.

Service Adventure

Serving in Colorado Springs,
Colorado, were Daniel
Miller, Trissels Mennonite
Church, Broadway, Virginia;
Meg Smeltzer Miller, Park
View Mennonite Church,

Harrisonburg; and Anali
Martin, Raleigh (North
Carolina) Mennonite Church.
Austin Troyer, Mount
Clinton Mennonite Church,
Harrisonburg, served in
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Youth Venture

Zoe Pusey, Park View Mennonite
Church, Harrisonburg,
participated in Youth Venture in
Sapporo, Japan.

Christian Service host locations:

From 1997 until 2015, Raleigh
Mennonite Church served as
the host congregation for the
Raleigh Service Adventure unit.

Virginia Conference is
home to three SOOP sites:
Highland Retreat, Bergton,

Virginia; Unique World Gifts,
Hickory, North Carolina; and
Williamsburg Christian Retreat
Center, Toano, Virginia.

Prayer partners

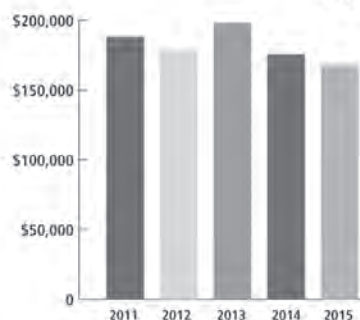
27 people have committed
to pray daily for Mennonite
Mission Network ministries and
workers.

Globe bank gifts

\$1,790 was raised from
the children of Williamsburg,
Mount Pleasant, and Warwick
River Mennonite churches.



Virginia Conference congregational giving to Mission Network



Thank you for your continued partnership in God's mission!

www.MennoniteMission.net Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872

Common ground

Everence 2016 report

Virginia Mennonite Conference
Summer Assembly 2016

*Let us then pursue the things
that make for peace and
build up the common life.*

– Romans 14:19 (NEB)

Everence values its strong congregational partnership

For more than 70 years, Everence® has worked with congregations and their members, helping people of faith “build up the common life” through their financial decisions. These connections are vital to us, and we look forward to many more years of focusing on the best interests of your members – helping them create and implement plans tailored for their needs and aspirations to share with others.

As we have since 1945, we will continue to serve the Anabaptist community as partners in stewardship throughout 2016 and beyond.

Sharing Fund is helping congregations extend their reach

The Everence Sharing Fund encourages churches to aid individuals and families in their congregations and communities by providing matching grants. Thousands of people benefit each year in all kinds of ways, including a homeowner in Pennsylvania whose roof (pictured) was replaced by a church’s volunteers.

Even though the congregation is quite small, members pitched in when they



learned that water was leaking into the house of a man who had to retire early because of an illness. One church member was even ready to pay for materials and do all of the work himself before the pastor suggested that it become a congregational project. It’s another example of doing better together, combining gifts of time, talents and financial resources.

Everence can help you offer financial coaching

Everence recently launched a program to train congregational financial coaches, who will encourage, guide and help members of your community put financial goals into action. This ministry is for congregations wanting to take the next step to help people deal with budget, debt and savings habits.

Becoming a congregation that provides financial coaching is about identifying people with a passion to walk with and help others with their finances. Our coaching resources include a training manual and balanced money workbook to help participants allocate their resources in a healthy and sustainable way. Contact your Everence church relations representative to learn more.

Spanish-language website offers Everence information

A new Spanish-language website offers foundational information about Everence at everence.com/espanol and everence.com/spanish. Designed to provide an overview of what Everence offers its members, the website also includes contact information for Spanish-speaking staff available to answer questions about Everence products and services.



Martin Navarro, Church Relations Representative, is developing relationships with people and communities

whose primary language is Spanish. Martin, who is bilingual, meets with pastors, Everence advocates, small groups, individuals and families to talk with them about their financial stewardship journeys.

Gospel of Luke curriculum focuses on 12 key passages

Luke highlighted stories from Jesus that address issues of wealth, poverty and generosity in his gospel. Everence now offers *The Gospel of Luke: the relationship between salvation, discipleship and wealth*, a new curriculum that focuses on 12 key passages. Many of Luke's stories were not included in the other gospels.

The lessons are designed to be versatile enough to be used by teachers in a classroom setting or pastors as sermon starters. Each of the 12 lessons includes teacher tips, introductory commentary on the key texts and discussion questions. You may download the lessons at everence.com, or contact Stewardship Education Director Beryl Jantzi at beryl.jantzi@everence.com for more details.

Using our credit card aids more charitable groups

Everence Federal Credit Union donated \$16,200 to The Mennonite and MennoMedia in 2015 from our unique Rebate for Missions program. Rebate for Missions is supported by the credit union's 10 percent tithe of income generated when people use their Everence Visa credit cards.

In addition to these awards to national agencies, our credit union branch offices share Rebate for Missions money with charities in their communities. Since the program started in 1995, the credit union has given nearly \$400,000 in grants to churches, missions and relief organizations. Learn more at everence.com/banking.

Virginia couple honored with National Journey Award

Marvin and Sarah Slabaugh are generous with their time and financial resources, supporting their congregation, Weavers Mennonite Church, and a variety of mission- and education-related organizations.



Everence recognized the Slabaughs, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, with its national Journey Award for 2015. As part of the award, Everence donated \$5,000 to charities Marvin and Sarah chose. In addition to the national award, seven regional Journey Award winners chose charities to receive \$500 Everence donations. The

Journey Awards highlight how people are living out their faithful stewardship of their God-given gifts.

Being generous is easier than you think

Everence Asset Management services help people increase their capacity for charitable giving through planned gifts, retirement security and investment services. You can grow your ability to make an impact on the people and causes you care about through professionally managed portfolios, access to faith-rooted investment choices and a personal relationship with a financial advisor.

We'll help you simplify your finances into a streamlined strategy, so you can spend time on what matters to you. Visit everence.com/asset-management for complete information.

Lilly Endowment awards \$1 million grant to Everence

Everence learned in November 2015 that it was approved for a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, aimed at improving the financial lives of pastors. The grant allows Everence to launch a new program through Mennonite Foundation.

The three-year program – aimed at pastors who are part of Mennonite Church USA and Conservative Mennonite Conference – will include grants to help pastors experiencing financial difficulties. It also includes an education program designed to improve personal financial skills.

Corinthian Plan (Mennonite Church USA)

The Corinthian Plan (TCP) is now in its seventh year serving Mennonite Church USA congregations, conferences and their employees. TCP enables congregations to provide health coverage, life insurance, long-term disability, accidental death and dismemberment coverage, and optional dental and vision coverage to their pastors and church employees.

TCP also is designed to provide mutual aid to those new or small congregations that might be unable to afford to provide these benefits to their pastor. Virginia Conference continues to be a strong supporter. VMC congregations participate in TCP in the following manner:

- 22 congregations carry full coverage for their pastor and/or staff; 5 congregations have partial coverage for their pastor and/or staff (the health coverage is waived.)
- 2 congregations participate but do not have any staff currently in the plan.
- The Virginia Conference staff is in the health plan.
- 3 congregations in Virginia Conference receive assistance through The Corinthian Plan subsidy program.

Participation in The Corinthian Plan remains stable. There has been some loss in overall participation, but new congregations are joining. We have not experienced significant impact of congregations moving to the “marketplace” for coverage, as we thought we might. Currently, 361 MC USA congregations are participating in TCP, 242 of those carry health coverage.

Ongoing reasons for The Corinthian Plan’s strong position:

- For the type of health coverage TCP remains competitive in most United States markets.
- TCP also offers Life Insurance, Long Term Disability, and Accidental Death and Dismemberment as part of the coverage.

- The mutual aid factor provides an attractive way that congregations can be supportive of our newer and smaller churches.
- Since its inception in 2010 The Corinthian Plan has shared almost \$2.5 million from the Fair Balance Fund, funded by TCP congregations contributing \$10 per average attendee.
- Congregations continue to value being part of a community of MC USA churches, supporting and encouraging each other in the challenging area of health and wellness.

The Corinthian Plan seeks to emphasize health and wellness. We encourage everyone to include the basics of healthy living: good diet, exercise, fostering relationships, and growing in your spiritual life.

For TCP participants find out more about the Wellness Incentive at the booth or website mennoniteusa.org/what-we-do/the-corinthian-plan/. This year we have added another way you can receive your wellness benefit, by writing your own wellness plan. Check this out.

Virginia Mennonite Conference is represented on the Benefits Board by Marcy Engle (Harrisonburg, VA). Others on the Board are Ken Hochstetler (Everence CEO), Steve Garboden (Goshen, IN), Marlin Groff (Lancaster, PA), Mark King (Goshen, IN), Byron Pellecer (Wichita, KS), Yvonne Sieber (Hesston, KS), and Dave Weaver, Chair (Elkhart, IN).

Contact James Miller, TCP Area Representative for Virginia Mennonite Conference, with questions at (941) 400-9937 or contact me at (316) 281-4255. Visit our website at mennoniteusa.org/what-we-do/the-corinthian-plan/

Duncan Smith
Director



Virginia Mennonite Conference Mennonite Education Agency Report 2016 Annual Gathering

Greetings!

MEA is pleased to share information with you for your annual conference. We are partnering with Mennonite educational institutions, preschool through continuing education to transform students to become Christ followers, service givers, peace seekers, rigorous learners, difference embracers and community builders.

This year **11,517 students** are enrolled at Mennonite institutions – 25 Mennonite School Council (MSC) schools, 5 colleges/universities, 2 seminaries and 2 Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education (HPLE) programs. Many future church and community leaders are being shaped with skills needed to succeed.

MEA is working with school leaders and teachers to ensure schools have the tools they need to transform lives through an Anabaptist lens. Over the past year we have worked in several areas to further Mennonite education.

- In MEA staff has been involved in two presidential searches at Eastern Mennonite University and Hesston College.
- In April, EMU announced the appointment of Dr. Susan Schultz Huxman as the 9th President, beginning January 1, 2017. As part of the transition time, Dr. Lee Snyder was jointly approved by the boards of MEA and EMU to serve as interim president beginning July 1.
- The Search Committee for the new president of Hesston College has met several times. Their work is on track as scheduled.
- Planning is underway for the joint MEA/ Mennonite Health Services board governance conference scheduled for March 9-11, 2017. This event will not only bring the boards from Mennonite educational and MHS institutions together, but it is also open to conference leadership and boards to participate in board development training.
- Over 475 registrants participated “In the Image of God: Faith Community, Reconciliation” Mennonite Educators Conference 2016 February 4-6, 2016. Registrants came from the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Benin.
- MEA is providing leadership for the planning for a Hispanic Anabaptist Academy Pastor and Spouse Spiritual and Training Retreat to take place this June. MEA is partnering with Goshen College and Everence in this event.
- The MEA board and committees have entered into conversations on the current landscape of the denomination and its implications on Mennonite schools.
- MEA is providing leadership for the planning for a Hispanic Anabaptist Academy Pastor and Spouse Spiritual and Training Retreat to take place this June. MEA is partnering with Goshen College and Everence in this event.

We are grateful to members of your conference who are serving on Mennonite educational boards and committees.

- **MEA Board:** Basil Marin, New Song Anabaptist Fellowship
- **Investment Committee:** Katie Villegas, Chapel Hill
- **Eastern Mennonite School:** James Akerson, Beldor; Ruth Stoltzfus Jost, Community; John Bomberger, Beryl Jantzi, Steve Pardini, Harrisonburg; Daryl Myers, Lindale; Gloria Diener, Joseph L. Lapp, Lori Leaman, and Kathleen Roth, Park View; Keith May, Valley View; Alan Shenk, Waynesboro
- **Eastern Mennonite University:** John Bomberger, and Judith Trumbo, Harrisonburg; Kevin Longenecker, Ridgeway; Myron Blosser, Weavers; Amy Rush, and Clyde Kratz, Zion

We regret any omissions or errors. Please send corrections to info@MennoniteEducation.org.

Thank you to Virginia Conference congregations who support Mennonite education*:

September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015: \$52,377.95

**Giving includes gifts for higher education, MEA, Racial/ Ethnic Leadership Education and Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Education.*

Thank you for your work in partnering with Mennonite schools of all kinds as well as Mennonite Education Agency. ***We are grateful for your support.***

Carlos Romero, Executive Director

Four alumni earn recognition

Grace Schrock-Hurst Prasetyo '10, who will receive the Young Alumnus Award, has spent the past five-plus years working jointly with Servants to Asia's Urban Poor and Virginia Mennonite Missions to serve the impoverished and marginalized populations of urban Indonesia. Now she and her Indonesian husband, Yugo, and their two young children live among the poor—many of them Muslim. They assist with basic health education and care, arrange midwives and other services for pregnant women, provide education and programs for children and listen to the people's stories.

Harvey Yoder '64, SEM '99, is guided by a steadfast vision of God's future in which the "wolf lies down with the lamb, people study war no more, and prisoners are released." A pastor, teacher, counselor and community activist in Harrisonburg, Va., Yoder has written a book, *Lasting Marriage: The Owners' Manual* (Herald Press, 2007), hosts a radio program called "Centerpiece," and blogs at harvyoder.blogspot.com. He is Alumnus of the Year.

Wayne '67 and Donna Beachy '69 Burkhardt will receive the Distinguished Service Award for their years of commitment to Gould Farm, a 650-acre therapeutic residential community for guests challenged by mental health disorders. The farm is in the Berkshire hills of Massachusetts.

EMU offers degree in engineering

For more than 20 years, EMU has offered a pre-engineering program, allowing students to begin coursework toward an engineering degree but requiring them to transfer to another school after several semesters. In the fall of 2016, however, a full engineering undergraduate major will be offered.

Prospective students have, for many years, expressed interest in a full engineering program. Deirdre Smeltzer, a professor in the mathematical sciences department before becoming undergraduate dean in 2013, said offering a full major had also long been discussed at the university but hadn't seemed feasible.

That began to change after professors Esther Tian and Daniel King – both with PhDs in mechanical engineering – joined the mathematical sciences department in 2013. Recent and upcoming renovations to the Suter Science Center also allow for enough laboratory and classroom space to host a full-fledged engineering program.

How can EMU be of service to your congregation and conference?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president, dean or a faculty guest speaker at 540-432-4589 or ChurchRelations@emu.edu.

Virginia Conference Connections to EMU

Trustees

Myron Blosser, Clyde Kratz, Kevin Longenecker, Amy Rush

Associate Trustee

Judith Trumbo

Constituent Conference Representatives

Brenda North Martin, Lee Martin

Undergraduate Students

53 students from Virginia Mennonite Conference were enrolled in the spring 2016 semester at EMU.

Giving

Virginia Mennonite Conference churches gave more than \$93,000 in matching grants to their students at EMU as well as nearly \$16,000 to the university fund during the year ending June 2015.

- **Lee F. Snyder**, *interim president*
- **Phil Helmuth**, *director of church relations*
- **Les Horning**, *associate director of seminary admissions, development and church relations*
- **Braydon Hoover**, *associate director of development*
- **Matthew Ruth**, *director of admissions*

ChurchRelations@emu.edu
540-432-4000 www.emu.edu

Our Vision

*EMU envisions a learning community marked by
academic excellence, creative expression, professional
competence, and passionate
Christian faith, offering healing and hope
in our diverse world.
To this end, we commit ourselves to do justice,
love mercy and walk humbly with God.*

SUMMER 2016

VIRGINIA MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Seminary Annual Report

Veterans needs addressed at EMS

Several recent seminary graduate focused their MDiv capstone on veterans' concerns. They include Matt Stearn, who looked at how Mennonite denominations can provide healing communities for combat veterans, and Methodist pastor and former combat veteran Darin Busé, who named spiritual trauma as another casualty of combat.

Though the topic is an unusual area of interest for a seminary in the historic peace church tradition, EMS dean Michael King says the timely and necessary discussion "plunges the seminary into one of the most critical issues of our day. There is a sense of really powerful mutual healing potential."

2017 School for Leadership Training

"Yearning To Get Along . . . and Being True To Ourselves."

January 16-18, 2017

Whether we can do both is a riddle of our times. Whatever our political, cultural, or theological place, we often see someone as "other" than us. During SLT 2017 we will identify ways we practice "othering" instead of "neighboring." We will explore healthy ways to navigate our interactions with the "other" while wearing our own world-view glasses.

Christena Cleveland, author of *Disunity in the Church*, and **Drew Hart**, author of *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* will be featured keynote speakers, with many other presenters contributing to panels and workshops. Watch emu.edu/slt for updates on speakers as details are finalized.

20 Graduated from EMS This Spring

EMS awarded 16 degrees and 4 certificates on April 30 to the graduating class of 2016. The ceremony was held at 2:30 p.m. in Lehman Auditorium on the campus of Eastern Mennonite

University in Harrisonburg, Va. Dr. John D. Roth, professor of history at Goshen College was the commencement speaker.

Fall Semester 2016 Distance Learning Classes

Formation in God's Story I (hybrid)

- Dr. Emily Peck-McClain

Psychology of Religious Experience (hybrid)

- Dr. Lonnie Yoder

New Testament: Text in Context

- Dr. Dorothy Jean Weaver

Race and Religion in America

- Dr. David Evans

For more information:

<http://emu.edu/seminary/distance-learning>

Statement of Purpose

Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepares men and women to serve and lead in a global context. In response to God's saving grace, we educate students to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God's Spirit as wise interpreters, mature practitioners, discerning communicators, and transformational leaders.

Lee F. Snyder, *Interim university president*

Michael King, *seminary dean*

Phil Helmuth, *director of church relations*

Laura Amstutz, *director of seminary admissions*

Les Horning, *associate director of seminary development, admissions and church relations*

For the most up-to-date information on EMS, give us a call, visit us on the web, "Like" us on Facebook!

www.emu.edu/seminary

540-432-4260

www.emu.edu/seminary

540-432-4260

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

2015 MCC East Coast report to the Virginia Mennonite Conference of Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC envisions communities worldwide in right relationship with God, one another and creation.

MCC relies on our partnership with Anabaptist churches in the U.S. and Canada and around the world. Much of MCC's work is made possible by your generosity. Thank you for your ongoing support!

MCC/Virginia Mennonite Conference connections

- In April 2015, MCC alumni, staff and friends gathered at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., to celebrate the Community Service Award presented by the Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence to Pax, an MCC program that provided an alternative service option for U.S. conscientious objectors during the Korean War and the Vietnam War.
- Throughout the year, Virginia Mennonite Conference members contributed generously to the work of MCC, including through the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale and the Gift & Thrift and Booksavers of Virginia shops in Harrisonburg.
- MCC is grateful for the service of the Virginia Mennonite Conference members who currently work throughout the organization, including in the U.S. and abroad.

This MCC-supported summer camp in Lebanon offers some normalcy for refugee children and helps young Syrians learn the English skills required for education in Lebanon. (MCC Photo/Silas Crews)



MCC at work

- Through partners in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, MCC is meeting needs arising from the war in Syria. The response includes food assistance, kits, clothing, blankets, heaters, peacebuilding and more.
- Improving access to education helps develop sustainable communities. In Philadelphia, MCC's Global Family education program is partnering with three faith-based organizations offering after-school and summer programming.
- Through an MCC-supported peace club project, student leaders in Nigeria are working to turn back the tide of violence in their communities. MCC partner Emergency Preparedness Response Teams is setting up more than 50 of these clubs in secondary schools, helping more than 2,000 students, their teachers and communities build a culture of peace.

Please visit mcc.org for additional information and stories.

Grace and peace to you,

Bruce Campbell-Janz, MCC East Coast executive director

Maren Hange, MCC East Coast board member

Other VMC Leaders (non-voting)

Retired

Central

Floyd Blosser
Glendon L. Blosser
Emma Frederick
J. Mark Frederick
E. Richard Good
Harley D. Good
Roy F. Good
Paul Kratz
Wilmer Lehman
John Petersheim
Clayton Shenk
Amos Witmer

Chaplains

David Bartow
Melvin Janzen
Lawrence M. Yoder

Eastern

Harold Bergey
Donald L. Brenneman
Kenneth J Brunk
J. Harold Buckwalter

Ernest Godshall
Anna Janzen
John T. Kreider
Robert W. Mast
James Meador
Merlin Miller
G. Preston Nowlin
Paul L. Swarr
Lloyd Weaver

Eastern Carolina

A. Don Augsburg
Duane Beck

Harrisonburg

Donald Bare
G. Edwin Bontrager
Ray Gingerich
Timothy Green
Noah Helmuth
David Huyard
Paul Kniss
C. Norman Kraus
Philip Kreider

Catherine S. Longenecker
Daniel M. Longenecker
Emmanuel Martin
John Martin
David F. Miller
Edmond F. Miller
Frederic "Fred" Miller
Sharon Wyse Miller
Millard E. Osborne
Hubert Pellman
Erwin Remple
Kenneth J Seitz
Dorothy J. Shank
Orval Shank
Raymond Shank
Eugene Souder
James K. Stauffer
Edward B. Stoltzfus
William Weaver
Paul T. Yoder

Northern

Otis Dove
Peg Engle

Kathleen W. Hochstedler
Glenn Horst
Lloyd Horst
Edmund Hoy
Thomas Kauffman
Marvin Kaufman
John Kiblinger
Kathleen W. Kurtz
Mark Landis
D. Paul Mishler
James Musser (8/28/16)
Laban Peachey
Clifford Poirot Sr.
Elwood Schrock
Rowland Shank
H. Michael Shenk II
Hazel Shirk
Omar V. Showalter
Marvin Stutzman
Irvin Weaver

Potomac

Jim Delp

Southern

John Miller
James L. Roth
Richard H. Showalter
Marion Weaver

TCK

Frank E. Farrow
Edwin M. Godshall
Daniel Hoopert
Floyd "Matt" Matteson
Wellington Moyer
Arthur Emanuel Smoker

Credentialed leaders not assigned to a VMC congregation or cluster

Calvary

Glen Guyton

Central

Richard Bowman
Marvin Lorenzana

Eastern

Randy Coblentz
Nathaniel Jefferson
Timothy Kennell
Barry Loop
I. Keith Miller
Kenneth Peterson
Sam Scaggs
Alexis Smith
Bruce Yoder

Eastern Carolina

Mauricio Chenlo
Melissa Florer-Bixler
Hugh Hollowell
Brenda North Martin
Larry Wilson

Harrisonburg

Myron Augsburg
Shirley Yoder Brubaker
Ronald Copeland
Seth Crissman
Ross Erb
April Gunderson
Steve Horst
Richard Keeler
Chris Riddle
Steven Schum
Bonita Stutzman

Bethany Tobin
Meg Wightman

Northern

George R. Brunk III
Penny Driediger
David Gullman
David King
Gary Koontz
Sam Weaver
Angie B. Williams

Potomac

Christina Kraybill
Eugene Kraybill
Steven Swartzendruber

Southern

Ronald Baker
Shawn Green
Bruce Hankee
Mark Hodge
Stanlee D. Kauffman
Edith Shenk Kuhns
Dennis Kuhns
Glenn Steiner
Don A. Yoder

TCK

Matthew Cubbage
Pablo Fernando
Willis Hunsberger
Patrick McFarren
Jonah Yang

Deceased credentialed leaders

James H. Bergey
Wayne North

Mary Troyer Bergey
Betty Brunk
Rachel Brydger
Dorothy Burkholder
Helen Burkholder
Betty Byler
Virginia Derstine
Betty K. Drescher
Clara Driver
Ruth Esh
Naomi Francisco
Bertha Fyffe

Belinda Gaskins
Eva Glanzer
Grace Hostetter
Lila May Janzen
Charlene Kiser
Evelyn Lahman
Wilhemina Littlejohn
Virginia Martin
Ruth Martin
Eleanor Minninger
Evelyn Nice
Doris Amstutz North

Mary Nissley
Issac Risser
Gladys Leidig Ropp
John Shenk
Evonne Showalter
W. Dean Smith
Marie Stevanus
Virginia E. Grove Weaver
Martha Weaver
Betty White
Osie Ziegler

Conference Related Ministries Giving to Virginia Mennonite Conference

Virginia Mennonite Conference is grateful for our Conference Related Ministries and their support of our ministries. Below is a list of CRMs that gave \$250 or more to VMC from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016. **Thank you!**

- **Eastern Mennonite School**
emhs.net
A Mennonite K-12 school that joins home and church in calling students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service in the world.
- **Virginia Mennonite Missions**
vmmissions.org
As a mission agency of Virginia Mennonite Conference, Virginia Mennonite Missions invites people to new and faithful life in Jesus Christ by forming and enabling congregations and individuals to continue God's reconciling work in the world.
- **Eastern Mennonite University**
emu.edu
Undergraduate, seminary and graduate programs educate students to live in a global context. An Anabaptist Christian community which challenges students to pursue their life calling.
- **Family Life Resource Center**
flrc.org
A nonprofit counseling agency meeting the behavioral health need of individuals, couples and families, working from a Christian faith perspective.
- **Gift & Thrift, Inc.**
giftandthrift.org
A nonprofit organization committed to Christian faith in action, stewardship of our environment and supporting the primary goals of MCC.
- **Highland Retreat**
highlandretreat.org
A year-round Christian camp and retreat center developed to provide a place where people meet Jesus Christ and explore his creation.
- **Mennonite Disaster Service of Va.**
mds.mennonite.net
A local chapter of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), which coordinates volunteers from Anabaptist churches for disaster response.
- **Mennonite Women of Virginia**
facebook.com/mwofva
Empowered women creatively building Christ-centered relationships through fellowship, leadership, mission and service.
- **Mennowood Retirement Community**
mennowood.com
An oasis of peace on 12.5 wooded acres in the midst of a cosmopolitan city, providing independent and assisted living to 100 residents.
- **NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center**
newbridgesirc.org
A resource center for the spiritual, social and economic needs of immigrants in the Shenandoah Valley.
- **Pleasant View, Inc.**
pleasantviewinc.org
Providing a variety of residential and day supports for individuals with intellectual disabilities in Harrisonburg and Rockingham Co.
- **Roberta Webb Child Care Center**
robertawebb.org
Providing quality, affordable, licensed child care in a safe and nurturing environment and provide children with a good start.
- **Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale**
vareliefsale.com
Held annually on the first Saturday in October at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds to raise money for Mennonite Central Committee.
- **Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community**
vmrc.org
Providing a broad continuum of quality senior services in a manner that demonstrates Christian love and compassion.
- **Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center**
wcrc.info
A year round, Christ-centered retreat ministry providing services and programs to encourage fellowship, growth and renewal.

Individual Giving to Virginia Mennonite Conference

Virginia Mennonite Conference is grateful for our contributors' generous financial support. Below is a list of voluntary financial contributors from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016. **Thank you!**

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An asterisk (*) indicates that the donor is a Philippian level donor who gave \$500 or more from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016. Philippian level donors receive a quarterly newsletter that highlights reflections and events of the Executive Conference Minister and an overview of the Conference's financial mission.



Making a donation
to Virginia Mennonite
Conference is easy!

Donate online at
[virginiaconference.org/
donate/](http://virginiaconference.org/donate/) or donate by
mailing checks to:

VMC
601 Parkwood Dr.
Harrisonburg, VA
22802

Congregational Giving to Virginia Mennonite Conference

More than \$25 per member, in addition to congregation membership fee, between May 1, 2015 and April 30, 2016

Beldor Mennonite Church
Big Spring Mennonite Church
First Mennonite of Richmond
Greenmonte Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
Huntington Mennonite Church

Knoxville Mennonite Church
Lynside Mennonite Church
Mt Clinton Mennonite Church
Mt Pleasant Mennonite Church
Northern Virginia Mennonite Church
Powhatan Mennonite Church

Raleigh Mennonite Church
Staunton Mennonite Church
Valley View Mennonite Church
Zion Hill Mennonite Church
Zion Mennonite Church

Up to \$25 per member, in addition to congregation membership fee, between May 1, 2015 and April 30, 2016

Asheville Mennonite Church
Calvary Community Church
Community Mennonite Church
Concord Mennonite Church
Crest Hill Community Church
Crossroads Mennonite Church
Durham Mennonite Church
Early Church
Enciende Una Luz
Gospel Hill Mennonite Church

Grace Mennonite Fellowship
Immanuel Mennonite Church
Lindale Mennonite Church
Mt Vernon Mennonite Church
Mtn View Mennonite Church (NC)
Mtn View Mennonite Church (VA)
New Song Anabaptist Fellowship
Park View Mennonite Church
Providence Mennonite Church
Rehoboth Mennonite Church

Ridgeway Mennonite Church
Springdale Mennonite Church
Stephens City Mennonite Church
Trissels Mennonite Church
Warwick River Mennonite Church
Washington Community Fellowship
Waynesboro Mennonite Church
Weavers Mennonite Church
Williamsburg Mennonite Church

* In addition to the annual membership fee, VMC asks congregations to contribute \$25-35 per member annually to VMC. For churches who do not track membership, attendance numbers were used.

Estate Benefactors to Virginia Mennonite Conference

Beckler, Michael
Blosser, Glendon
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Heatwole, John & Mary Ann
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Jones, Rosie
Kratz, Paul & Evelyn

Lantz, Richard & Pearl
Lehman, Wilmer & Mary Louise
Longacher, Joe & Constance
Showalter, Richard & Bertha
Souder, Eugene & Alice
Weaver, Ken & June Marie

Is VMC in your estate plans?
*Inform Clyde G. Kratz, Executive
Conference Minister, at 540-434-9727.*

Conference Financial Summary

**Virginia Mennonite Conference
Statement of Income and Expense
Year Ended August 31, 2015**

		Restricted Funds			
		Unrestricted			
		Operations	Special Projects	Endowments	Total
Income					
1	Contributions - individuals	\$ 47,390	\$ 5,575	\$ -	\$ 52,965
2	Contributions - congregations	124,486	5,770	2,575	132,831
3	Contributions - associated ministries	10,576	800	-	11,376
4	Congregation membership fees	19,775	-	-	19,775
5	Investment income (loss)	(1,293)	-	(71,970)	(73,263)
6	Registrations	-	35,496	-	35,496
7	Fees for services	14,431	-	-	14,431
8	Grants	-	5,900	-	5,900
9	Other	7,043	-	-	7,043
10	Transfers	21,194	(4,537)	(16,657)	-
11	Total income	243,602	49,004	(86,052)	206,554
Expense					
14	Administrative support	55,306	-	-	55,306
15	Archival services	10,208	-	-	10,208
16	Church planting and development	18,888	-	-	18,888
17	Communication	34,361	-	-	34,361
18	Endowment distributions	-	-	43,305	43,305
19	Facility costs	15,320	-	-	15,320
20	Leadership development	97,297	174	-	97,471
21	MCUSA-related expenses	6,740	4,974	-	11,714
22	Office expense	3,936	297	-	4,233
23	Other	9,279	-	-	9,279
24	Special projects	200	40,729	-	40,929
25	Total expense	251,535	46,174	43,305	341,014
27	Increase (decrease) in net assets	(7,933)	2,830	(129,357)	(134,460)
29	Beginning net assets	51,267	18,726	1,562,019	1,632,012
31	Ending net assets	\$ 43,334	\$ 21,556	\$ 1,432,662	\$ 1,497,552

Expense Category Definitions:

Administrative support - wages and benefits for VMC support staff.

Archival services - expenses related to maintaining VMC and congregational archives.

Church planting and development - VMC share of VMM USA Ministries Director position.

Communication - expenses related to VMC publications and communications.

Facility costs - rent.

Leadership development - wages, benefits, and related costs for conference minister.

MCUSA-related expenses - travel and related costs for MCUSA meetings and events.

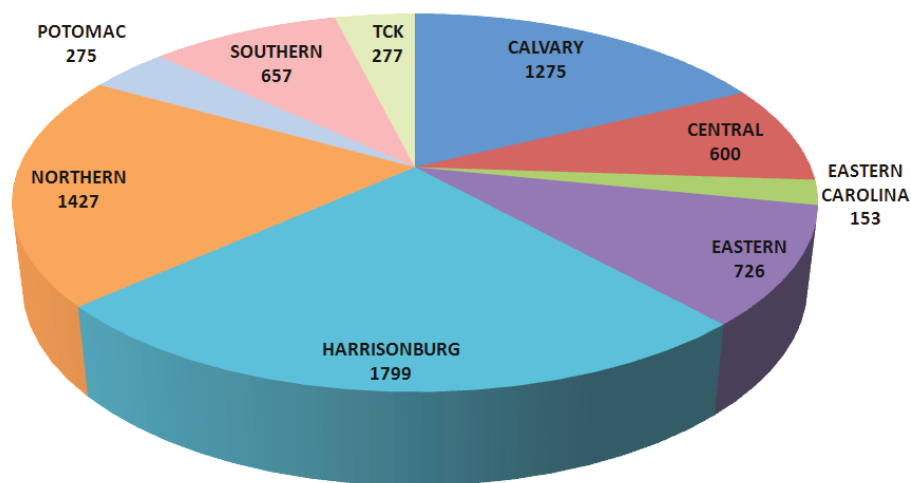
Restricted Funds:

Special Projects - includes Conference Assembly, various retreats, and other projects as necessary to carry out the work of VMC.

Endowments - includes restricted funds for leadership development, retired church worker aid, congregational resource center, and MCUSA.

Conference Membership Statistics

Membership by District



Attendance by District

