



Program & Report Book

2017-2018



VIRGINIA MENNONITE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY 2018

GOD'S KINGDOM

THE **3D** EXPERIENCE

JULY 19-21, 2018
C3 HAMPTON, HAMPTON, VA



Mission

Virginia Mennonite Conference equips pastors, lay leaders, and congregants for worship and service, and to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to neighbors near and far.

Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

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Acronyms

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

Delegate Key

- ∅ 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 June 1, 2017

* *Not a Conference Endorsed Ministry but placed with other educational institutions.*

Conference Staff

Clyde G. Kratz, *Executive Conference Minister*
 Anieta McCracken, *Administrative Services Manager*
 Jon Trotter, *Communications Manager*
 Pramila Robinson, *Bookkeeper*

Assembly Schedule

Thursday, July 19

4:00p	Display set up	<i>Youth Worship Hall</i>
5:45	Registration	<i>Information Center</i>
6:45	Gathering	<i>Worship Center</i>
7:00	Worship	<i>Worship Center</i>
	Worship Team: C3 Worship Team	
	Missional Story by Kendra Yoder, VMissions church planter at Garden City Church, Richmond, Va.	
	Scripture reading: Acts 2 “Transformed to Serve” Message by Natalie Francisco, Pastor, C3 Hampton	
	Announcements and sending song	
9:00	Registration	<i>Information Center</i>

Friday, July 20

8:00a	Registration table open	<i>Information Center</i>
8:30	Delegate Session	<i>Youth Worship Hall</i>
	Welcome: Elroy Miller, Moderator	
8:40	Group team-building session	
9:10	Introduction of theme and housekeeping matters, Minutes of Winter Delegate Session: Kevin Gasser, Assistant Moderator	
9:25	VMC Missional Story	
9:30	Report from Executive Conference Minister— “Navigating Misconduct” (discussion on process): Clyde G. Kratz	
10:00	Break	
10:30	Faith & Life Commission: Roy Hange, Vice Chair Congregational Life Comm.: James Musser, Chair Historical Committee: Paul Yoder, representative Treasurer’s report	
11:30	Break for lunch at area restaurants	
1:00p	Delegate Session	
	Introduction of fraternal guests: Clyde G. Kratz	
1:15p	Missional story by Lynne Eggert, E3 Collective program of VMissions	
1:20	Report from MC USA Sexual Abuse Panel: Ross Erb	
2:10	Q&A with Ross Erb	
2:40	VMC Missional Story	
2:45	Report from Restructuring for Mission: Elroy Miller <i>Note: time will be given to discuss this on Saturday</i>	
3:15	Introduction of workshop leaders	
3:25	Break	

4:00	Workshops (see list on pages 6-7)	
5:00	Dismiss for supper at area restaurants	
5:00	Annual Pastors and Spouses Appreciation Dinner provided by Everence	
5:45	Registration table open	
6:45	Gathering	<i>Worship Center</i>
7:00	Worship	<i>Worship Center</i>
	Worship Team: First Mennonite Church (Richmond)	
	VMC Missional Story: C3 Hampton	
	Scripture reading: John 20:24-29 “We Have Seen the Lord” Message by Glen Guyton, Executive Director, Mennonite Church USA	
	Commissioning service: See page 56 Announcements and sending song	
8:30	Meeting of the Listening Committee	

Saturday, July 21

8:30	Bible study: Dillion & Esther Sinclair	
9:30	Delegate Session	<i>Youth Worship Hall</i>
	Report from VMissions: Aaron Kauffman, President	
10:00	Break	
10:15	Missional Story: Norma Teles, VMissions worker serving the Roma in Albania	
10:30	Discussion on Restructuring for Mission Committee report presented on Friday	
11:00	Mennonite Church USA report: Glen Guyton	
11:30	Q&A with Glen Guyton	
11:45	Recognition of outgoing Assistant Moderator Kevin Gasser and commissioning of new Assistant Moderator Deb Horst	
Noon	Closing prayer and adjournment	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Delegate sessions: Delegates and observers are invited to attend delegate sessions on Friday and Saturday. Packets and sign-in sheets for registered and paid delegates will be on numbered tables. All others may register and pick up packets from the registration desk in the Information Center.

Visitor information and displays: All meals are offsite. Restaurant, lodging and visitor information is on the Hampton Tourism and Visitors Center display table in the lobby. Agency representatives are also present at display tables in the youth worship hall to share information about their ministries.

Listening Committee members: The Listening Committee welcomes overall impressions and comment about Assembly; this information helps future planning committees.

Medical assistance: Please notify the staff at the registration desk or a teller if you need medical assistance. Nearby urgent care centers:

- **MedExpress Urgent Care**, 1330 Army Drive 757.562.3204
- **Peninsula Emergency Physicians**, 757.599.4922, and
- **Sentara CarePlex Hospital**, 757.736.1000, both at 3000 Coliseum Drive



ABSOLUTELY NO STRAWBERRIES

allowed in building or grounds during Conference Assembly

Offering: We appreciate generous donations. Gifts received from offerings during worship services will help cover Assembly expenses; gifts received beyond Assembly needs will be divided equally between Virginia Mennonite Conference and VM Missions and used for operational costs.

Upcoming events:

- November 13-14, 2018 “Discerning the Dawn”, missional event with N.T. Wright
- February 2, 2019 - Winter Delegate Session
- February 22-24, 2019 - Ministers’ Retreat at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center
- July 18-20, 2019 - Conference Assembly
- July 2-6, 2019 - Mennonite Church USA Convention



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VIRGINIA MENNONITE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY 2018 
GOD'S KINGDOM
THE **3D** EXPERIENCE

“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”
Mark 1:15 (NIV)

Jesus lived out what it means to be truly human through a life of “upward” communion with the Father, “inward” fellowship with his chosen followers, and “outward” compassion and healing toward the hurting world around him.

This is good news to us today just as it was to the first disciples, as we respond to Jesus’ invitation to follow the example he modeled in all three dimensions of life in God’s kingdom—UP, IN & OUT:

- Prioritizing ‘upward’ intimacy with the Father (John 15: 5, 9),
- Cultivating deep ‘inward’ relationships with other believers (John 15:12), and
- Joining God’s redemptive ‘outward’ work in the world (John 15:16)

May we continue to live out the kingdom advancing in and through us, our communities, and the “corners” of our world, as we anticipate the return of our king!

Johnnie Gnanamanickam
Assembly Vision Team

Welcome to Hampton! Our host congregation, C3 Hampton, welcomes us into their context this weekend. We will be learning how this urban congregation does church. As we go through the activities of this Assembly weekend, we encourage you to embrace this vibrant church and its mission, go with the flow, and be prepared to experience Assembly in a different way!

Speaker Biographies

Thursday evening message: Natalie Francisco



DR. NATALIE A. FRANCISCO serves as co-pastor with her husband, Bishop L.W. Francisco III at Calvary Community Church (C3) in Hampton, Va., and campus pastor of C3 Atlanta in Atlanta, Ga. As a result of her years of experience and educational training, she co-founded Calvary Christian Academy in 1991 and Calvary Covenant Ministries, Inc.

As founder of the Women of Worth Conference in 2002 and the Women of Worth and Worship Institute (WOWWI) in 2007, Dr. Francisco seeks to provide godly and practical instruction to teens and women of all ages who desire to learn and implement biblical truths and principles from her life's lessons. As the personal mentor of countless women, she strives to equip them with knowledge and wisdom so that they can possess their inheritance as women of value, virtue and victory who will expand the kingdom of God. This is accomplished through annual women's conferences and Lady Pastors' retreats, quarterly Principles of Leadership seminars, weekly women's Bible studies, as well as several eight-week sessions that are held throughout the year on-site and on-line for registered participants.

Dr. Francisco has also authored four books utilizing more than 30 years of experience in marriage, ministry, motherhood, mentorship and educational empowerment.

Friday evening message: Glen Guyton



GLEN GUYTON's expertise in understanding culture has taken him from being a nerdy kid growing up in the suburbs of Houston, Texas, to becoming an Air Force Officer, teaching middle school, and serving as Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA.

Glen has made it his mission to help organizations and individuals understand how to navigate the complex nature of culture. Glen works with organizations that want to improve productivity and profits through innovative leadership techniques and building intercultural competence. He also works with individuals trying to make sense of the culture in which they live so that they can live their *ideal* lives.

Glen has extensive experience promoting and fostering an ongoing improvement environment and staying up to date with modern business management practices. One of his strengths is assisting leaders in design and implementation of optimized organizational structures. Glen believes that cultural competence also means understanding how different generations engage the world. He is also passionate about giving back to the community and helping young people develop the skills they need to survive and thrive in a dynamic world.

Workshops



Perils of the legacy church

Presenter: Ryan Ahlgrim

Congregations that carry on the legacy of our faith and traditions have many strengths. Their deep roots are invaluable for stability and perseverance. But sometimes those deep roots actually get in the way of being an effective missional church. This workshop will explore some of the perils of legacy churches, and how we might enhance our missional character.

Ryan Ahlgrim is pastor of First Mennonite Church of Richmond, Va. He has served as a youth minister, church planter, and lead pastor for congregations in Illinois and Indiana, and is the author of *Sick Religion or Healthy Faith? Beliefs and Practices for a Healing Christian Community*.



Prayer: Hearing God's Answers

Presenter: Johnnie Gnanamanickam

If the primary purpose of our lives is to love God and if love is relationship, then communication with God—which we call prayer—takes priority over all other activities, right? When we pray, what if the response we expect from God, isn't to just make our prayers come true? What if it's not a simple 'yes', 'no', or 'wait' as some of us expect? What if God wants to communicate with us more than we want to communicate with Him? Could it be that the Lord has more to say than we take the time and trouble to listen to? And just how would we go about 'hearing' Him?

Johnnie Gnanamanickam is Associate Pastor at Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church, Chesapeake, Va.



Altering the 3D Experience: Impact of Digital Screen Technology on our Faith

Presenter: Chris Riddle

Digital Screen Technology has invaded every aspect of our lives; changing how we “talk”, exchange information, socialize and learn. It is also impacting our church communities; from how we read scripture to how we “do” church. And whether we acknowledge it or not, the heavy technology consumers, especially Millennials and “iGen-ers” are leaving the church and religion in waves. How is the church being called to be a counter-culture movement against the ever-growing presence of digital screen technology?

Chris Riddle and his wife, Melody, and three sons were church planters in Italy for eight years with Virginia Mennonite Missions. They have been studying the affects of digital screen technology on individuals, families and communities for the past two years. They have recently started work with the Children’s Screen-time Action Network (screentimenetwork.org) collaborating with other faith based communities across the country to help families become more aware of their consumption of digital technology and how to balance its use in real life.



Evangelism Aversion Recovery

Presenters: Skip and Carol Tobin

Help for those of us suffering from this malady. Join our afternoon recovery group as we learn practical steps to bring us more freedom and joy in sharing the good news with others.

In their roles at VMissions as well as in their Early Church context and neighborhood, Skip and Carol have many opportunities to lean in to the goodness of the good news, engage meaningful faith conversations, and in so doing, help others likewise engage. Skip is VMissions’ Director of USA Ministries and Carol is Asia Regional Director and Mission Advocate. They served long-term with their children in Det Udom, Thailand, with VMissions and Eastern Mennonite Missions.



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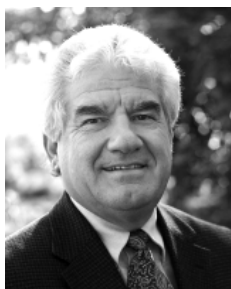
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Moving Into the Future as a Missional Church



Elroy Miller

This past year, Virginia Mennonite Conference (VMC) set the stage to enhance our efforts to be a missional church.

At Winter Delegate Session, VMC delegates approved a revised mission statement, which reads: “*Virginia Mennonite Conference equips pastors, lay leaders, and congregants for worship and service, and to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to neighbors near and far.*”

This statement reaffirms VMC’s commitment to be an active partner in the Church of Jesus Christ and to give witness to the way of Jesus “...which leads to life” (Matthew 7:14). These are meaningful words, but they are empty unless we as followers of Jesus live into their meaning. May God help us to do so.

As noted last year, VMC committed itself to write clear policy and procedure on ministerial misconduct. That happened. The *Ministerial Misconduct Policy and Procedure Manual* for Virginia Mennonite Conference was updated but not yet approved. It draws on the *Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure Manual* published by the Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada in November 2016.

VMC’s revised draft has been distributed to the delegates, and in the fall district leaders and members will study the document and provide feedback. This document includes protocols for timely reviews of allegations of

misconduct by pastors and lay church leaders including abuse of power and conflicts of interest. It’s our prayer that clear expectations and accountability of leadership will foster transparency and healthy relationships between leaders and laity.

VMC continues to grapple with what it means to forbear with each other across our differences¹. Last year Conference Council initiated The Polity Task Force (PTF) study². It surveyed congregants and conducted focus groups within VMC. The PTF submitted its report to Council in fall 2017 and the delegates at Winter Delegate Session in February 2018.

In response to the feedback, Council commissioned a VMC Restructuring for Mission (RFM) committee³. Its primary task is to:

1. Implement the Polity Task Force recommendations
2. Adapt Conference structures for the purpose of promoting and strengthening Anabaptist Christian faith and life
3. Embed a strategic missional impulse in the revision of the VMC *Constitution and Bylaws*.

The RFM committee met this spring. We focused primarily on the role and function of districts. From the PTF’s research results, it’s clear that what districts do and how they work is deeply appreciated.

However, it’s also clear that “one size does not fit all” districts. We have considerable diversity in how districts work due to distance, membership and perceived needs within the district.

In response to district diversity and structure, the RFM is bringing to the delegates this summer two options for

conversation and discernment. Both models require fewer lay volunteers to do the work of Conference administration, and include language that reflects VMC’s intent to have more lay volunteers free to become involved in district and congregational missional activities.

In conclusion, this past year has been challenging and, frankly, painful at times as we engaged in self-examination and confronted our differences. Challenging conversations and discernment will continue. However, VMC is committed to becoming more purposefully missional, transparent and transformational. Please keep the conference in your prayers.

Elroy Miller
Conference Moderator

(1,2,3—See *Forbearance in the Midst of Differences, Polity Task Force, and Restructuring for Mission* links on virginiacommunity.org/documents/)

Hope in a Time of Change and Challenge



Clyde G. Kratz

Virginia Mennonite Conference is a network of congregations and organizations seeking to live out God's mission in the world. Our con-

gregations are located in rural and urban settings. Our membership holds diverse views on a range of theological issues and concerns about society. While we are historically a peace church by tradition, we have not always known how to achieve unity in relationship with each other over the issues that tend to divide us. At times our focus is on what divides us rather than what unites us. This is the Church of whom we are a participant, sometimes actively and sometimes passively.

As the fiscal year began, I enjoyed a three month sabbatical in the months of October-December 2017. I am grateful for the opportunity afforded to me by Conference Council to have a time of rest, relaxation, and reading. I engaged in a personal retreat, vacationed with my wife Eunice, participated in two separate week-long Mennonite Disaster Service assignments in West Virginia, and read thirteen books on a range of themes. The time away from the leadership challenges was necessary and essential for my wellbeing, as I look forward to fulfilling the leadership role I have been called to serve in.

I am grateful for the leadership role that Gordon Zook fulfilled in my absence. Gordon served as the Interim Executive Minister with distinction. He responded to the daily leadership

work, guided the ministerial misconduct processes, helped to clarify the Ministerial Misconduct Policies, and provided assurances that the work of the Executive Minister were being tended to during my absence. While Gordon accepted the assignment with excitement for the opportunity, he was equally excited about relinquishing the role in my return.

John Roth wrote an essay "The Church Without Spot or Wrinkle" from his book of the same name in *Anabaptist Experience*.¹ His essay was presented at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in February 2000 in the midst of the discussions on the integration of the Mennonite Church and the General Conference Mennonite Church.

He highlighted two central theses:

1. The principle and practice of church discipline has been foundational to a distinctive Anabaptist-Mennonite understanding of the church.
2. 2) For virtually all of our 475 year history, the teaching and practices regarding church discipline have been a source of profound disagreements, intense conflicts, and numerous schisms within the Anabaptist-Mennonite Church.

His resolution was that we needed to embrace both discipline and conflict.

Virginia Mennonite Conference has been navigating a period of time where discipline has been exercised by Conference leadership. Leaders have not rushed into disciplinary processes, but engaged the disciplinary processes with hope to achieve clarity about conviction and behaviors of credentialed leaders.

As the Faith and Life Commission engaged disciplinary processes, new patterns of conducting investigations of credentialed leaders and lay leaders began to emerge from Mennonite Church USA. There has been uneasiness within our Conference concerning best practices for conducting an investigation into ministerial misconduct.

During this Conference Assembly, a presentation on "Navigating Ministerial Complaints" is provided for transparency concerning protocols and policies associated with disciplinary issues and credentialed leaders.

While policies and protocols are necessary for our life together, preventive education is also essential for credentialed leaders. Virginia Mennonite Conference partnered with FaithTrust Institute to equip Lonnie and Teresa Yoder to be trainers within our Conference on *Healthy Boundaries*, which is a form of ethical training for credentialed leaders.

The Faith and Life Commission is requiring this training for all active credentialed leaders with a time frame for completion. In addition, all newly credentialed leaders will be given a year to conclude the training. In the future, Faith and Life Commission will be looking at additional ethical training frameworks for active credentialed ministers.

Conflict is not new to our life together. As we navigate conflictual circumstances, it remains my hope to challenge us and to be challenged about leadership processes that may help us find a resting place with the issues that are contributing to the conflict.

Continued on page 11

I have intentionally utilized the language of “resting place” because some of the conflicts that I am aware of will not be solved as a win-lose scenario or the final solution. At best, the leadership direction is to find a space that we can talk with each other without forcing each other to embrace our view, but be able to live and learn from each other in the future.

I have appreciated reading *Re-imagining The Church: Implications of Being a People In the World* by Robert J. Suderman, edited by Andrew Suderman. A takeaway from my reading is that merely redirecting our focus upon mission will not solve our problems.

A missional vision is deeply concerned with expanding the breadth of influence of the people of God in the world, but it is also interested in the scope of challenge that exists within the framework of the people of God. Being a disciple with a missional vision responds to the subject matter that our worshippers and the community in which we reside are grappling over. Their concerns and issues demand our attention from a faith perspective.

A major leadership initiative that is underway is Restructuring for Mission. This task force is looking at how the people of God conduct their communal life as a network of congregations.

I am excited by the way in which the group is seeking to simplify our structure and limit administrative work for Districts and Conference. Our goal is to generate an effective leadership model that can serve congregations and credentialled leaders in a way that supports and strengthens their mission.

This is not an easy task, as old patterns of organization are reconfigured. Our leadership culture, both credentialled leaders and lay leaders, valued the way in which much of our structure has provided stability and predictability. As new patterns emerge, there will need to be acknowledgement that these changes will not be without angst, emotional frustration, and resistance.

The changes that are coming are seen as helping us sustain our Conference into the next decade.

As we look forward, it remains my hope to continue providing leadership to Virginia Mennonite Conference that makes disciples, discerns difficult issues, and revitalizes our life together by reshaping the structures that hold us together. It is a missional vision of being the body of Christ.

Clyde G. Kratz
Executive Conference Minister

1 The essay by John Roth is the first chapter in the book *Without Spot or Wrinkle: Reflecting Theologically on the Nature of the Church*, published by WIPF and Stock, Oregon, 2015.

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Central District Report

Central District is comprised of six congregations, three that are located in very rural settings, two on the edge of Harrisonburg, and one in Christiansburg. While each finds itself in a very unique setting, each one shares a common goal to lift up our Savior in its setting.

Beldor reaches out missionally to its community with worship, Bible studies, and bluegrass gospel music. They hold monthly concerts at the church and twice-monthly men's Bible studies with bluegrass jams at the pastor's cabin nearby. The women meet for twice-monthly Bible studies at the church in fall, winter, and spring of the year, and occasionally meet for missions support projects. Pastor James Åkerson is lead pastor.

Christiansburg marks the first anniversary with Pastor Andrew and Molly Fairfield. The congregation is working to cooperate in prison outreach. They are active in missional efforts supporting a preschool program, a county food assistance program, and an organization countering spousal abuse. They are excited to greet Andrew & Molly's second child in July; Pastor Andrew plans a period of paternity leave in September.

Gospel Hill, after years of struggle and now under the leadership of Pastor Dan

and Gwen Horning, continues to show growth. Gospel Hill reaches out to its community through ministry to families who are experiencing unique needs, a strong summer Bible school program and assisting church and community children financially to attend summer youth camps.

Mt. Clinton cooperates with Weavers to conduct Kid's Club outreach. It is creating substantive plans for ministry with families, prisoners, prayer outreach, and faithful discipleship alternatives. They are thankful for the excellent intentional interim pastoral leadership of Lonnie Yoder, who concluded one year of service June 30. The lay leadership has done an excellent job facilitating ministries during the transition.

Weavers' lead pastor Phil Kanagy is on a sabbatical, May through August 10, 2018. A portion of it included helping lead a service-learning trip to the Holy Land. Collaborating with Mt. Clinton, Assistant Pastor Regina Brubaker facilitates Kids Club outreach that focuses on the surrounding area. It's been a good opportunity to develop lay leadership. Micah Hurst completed two years as Assistance Pastor for Youth & Young Adults—creating missional interest in youth. Congregationally, Weavers con-

tinues its presence in the larger community by helping with the "Backpack Food Program," and hosting the living nativity in December. Many individuals participate in short-term missional service efforts in the Relief Sale, SWAP, Jamaica, and Washington, DC.

Zion Hill, with the leadership of Pastor Lowell and Mim Haarer, continues to hold a strong family feel. While the community around Zion Hill is slow to respond, the congregation carries a strong missional feel by giving very generously to the needs of local persons, congregational families and broader worldwide mission programs, most recently pouring a lot of help and guidance in helping a refugee family find local national support.

El Camino Discipular disbanded as of September 2017. Until that time they were officially a congregation in formation. We all regret that their missional offering did not catch on within the Harrisonburg Hispanic community.

We rest in the promise that God is faithful and that He will guide us in the work that He has entrusted to us.

James Åkerson
District Minister

Robert G. Wenger
District Minister

Congregations:

District Minister: James Åkerson
District Minister: Robert G. Wenger
Chair: Dale Hartzler
Vice-Chair: Phil Kanagy
Treasurer: Clayton Shenk
Secretary: Janie Heatwole

Beldor Mennonite Church

Elkton, VA (42) [26]
*James Åkerson
Emily Åkerson

Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship

Christiansburg, VA (42) [40]
*Andrew R.W.B. Fairfield
Samantha Winn

Gospel Hill Mennonite Church

Fulks Run, VA (27) [70]~
*Daniel Horning
Gwen Horning

Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (93) [70]
Les Horning

Weavers Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (280) [146]
*Regina Brubaker
*Micah Hurst
*Phil Kanagy
Edith Shenk Kuhns
Dennis Kuhns

Zion Hill Mennonite Church

Singers Glen, VA (53) [42]
*Lowell Haarer
Lois Wenger

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

Calvary District

No report provided.

Congregations:

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

C3 Hampton (Calvary Community)
Hampton, VA (1080) [500]
*Nicole Francisco Bailey
*Leslie Francisco III
*Natalie Francisco

*Caleb McClendon
*Lesley Francisco McClendon
*Nan Williams
Chris Cox
Alicia Manning
Shawn Manning

Fellowship of Christ
Rocky Mount, NC (45) [25]
Katrina Lenard (interim)

Other Outreach Ministries

C3 South Africa ~~
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
*Flinn Ranchod

C3 Atlanta (church plant) ~
Atlanta, GA
*Natalie Francisco
Nicholas Jefferson
* Voting credentialed leader
~~ Has not reported in two or more years
~ Did not report

Eastern District

Eastern District is in the process of searching for its next District Minister. It is also hoping to secure a pastor for Huntington Mennonite Church.

Warwick River Mennonite Church is deep in the process of remodeling its facilities.

First Mennonite Church is adding new members to its congregation, and Powhatan, Mt. Pleasant and Providence are all doing well.

Carl Mericle
District Minister

Congregations:

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

First Mennonite Church
Richmond, VA (79) [85]
*Ryan Ahlgrim
Jean Oswald

Huntington Mennonite Church
Newport News, VA (112) [66]
*Anna Janzen, interim
Betty Kurtz
Russell DeYoung

Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church
Chesapeake, VA (179) [90]
*Nevin Mast
Harold Bergey
Ken Kurtz

Powhatan Mennonite Church

Powhatan, VA (68) [102]
*William "Bill" Eberly
Sidney "Syd" Moyer

Providence Mennonite Church

Newport News, VA (25) [20]
*Carl Mericle
Evangeline Yoder
Charles Brenneman

Warwick River Mennonite Church

Newport News, VA (178) [70]~
*John Dey
Sue Yoder
Ted Yoder

Williamsburg Mennonite Church

Williamsburg, VA (85) [56]
*David J. Lehman
Heinz Plato
* Voting credentialed leader
~Did not report

Eastern Carolina District

No report provided.

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 (transfer out in process)
Isaac Villegas

Durham Mennonite Church
Durham, NC (56) [28]~
*Spencer Bradford
Eliza Griffith

Greensboro Mennonite Fellowship
Greensboro, NC (18) [35]
John Bender
Keith Nice

Raleigh Mennonite Church
Raleigh, NC (transfer out in process)
*Melissa Florer-Bixler

Congregation in Formation

Outlet 10.27
Graham, NC [19]
Tami Nice

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

Harrisonburg District Report

As we, the 13 churches of the Harrisonburg District have continued on our missional journey of hope together, we celebrate the work of the new creating Spirit among and beyond us through these paths of righteousness:

- The Kids Club movement, led by Seth and Theresa Crissman, born in our circle—and now held by Virginia Mennonite Missions—has grown to involve the lives of 700 children in the Shenandoah Valley. Other churches in our circle have independent children’s ministries.
- Two new prison chaplains have been called from among us, both from Early Church: Jason Wagner at the Harrisonburg/Rockingham Regional Jail and Nick Meyer at Coffeewood Correctional Center, where he baptized four persons last month.
- The “Welcome Your Neighbors” signs, born in a vision from Immanuel Mennonite Church, has become a national and international movement to welcome the wayfarer, stranger and refugee.
- Churches in our district are engaged in, or have finished, six building projects—expanding vessels for the Body of Christ to be held in living hope.
- We continue to work at formation for pastors and strengthening congregational life through the growth of various inner healing ministries.
- The Spirit is stirring two church plants from our midst: one in Charlottesville, by Manantial de Vida, and one in Richmond, by Eastside Church.
- The work for the healing of the nations continues, as members of our churches have been peacemakers through the tensions in Charlottesville, justice-makers through Faith in Action in Harrisonburg, and peace-builders in various national and international contexts where hope and peace is needed.

Please pray that the Spirit would lead and guide us together into gracious service through this next year.

Roy Hange
District Minister

Congregations:

District Minister: Roy Hange
Pastoral Consultant: Lonnie Yoder
Co-chairs: Greta Bucher, Matt Schwartz
Treasurer: Fred Miller
Secretary: Sherah-Leigh Gerber
Exec. Committee Member-at-Large:
Martin Rhodes

Charlottesville Mennonite Church
Charlottesville, VA (46) [40]
*Maren Tyedmers Hange
*Roy D. Hange
Tim Nissley

Community Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg, VA (319) [242]
*Jason Gerlach
*Dayna Olson-Getty
*Jennifer Davis Sensenig
Matt Carlson
Mike Brislen
Elena Histan-Stuckey

Early Church
Harrisonburg, VA (37) [46]
Ken Wettig

Eastside Church
Harrisonburg, VA (59) [225]
*Peter Eberly
*Matthew Schwartz
Tyler Yoder

Family of Hope
Harrisonburg, VA (12) [10]~
*Harvey Yoder

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg, VA (561) [380]
*Sherah-Leigh Gerber
*Mark Keller
*Jacob “Jake” Lee
*Craig Maven
Benjamin Bergey
Mark Harmon
Don Hendrick
Sheryl Shenk
Twila Yoder

Iglesia Discipular Anabaptista (IDA)
Harrisonburg, VA [35]~
Pablo Hernandez

Immanuel Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg, VA (40)[35]
*Matthew Bucher
Greta Bucher

Manantial de Vida
Harrisonburg, VA (147) [220]
*Juan Carlos Malvaez
*Wendy Malvaez

Mt. Vernon Mennonite Church
Grottoes, VA (68) [61]
*Gregory “Greg” Stenson

Park View Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg, VA (402) [241]
*Moriah Hurst
*Philip L. Kniss
*Barbara Moyer Lehman
Ed Bontrager
Trisha Blosser
Steve Shenk

Ridgeway Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg, VA (171) [120]
*Ben Risser
James Good

The Table
Harrisonburg, VA (12) [12]
Laura B. Lehman

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

Northern District Report

As district ministers, it is our joy to empower pastors to lead healthy congregations. We are glad to report that each faith community is actively engaged in being and making disciples of Jesus in their context.

Monthly pastor fellowships are a time to worship together and explore topics related to ministry. One of the sessions focused on our inward spiritual and emotional life. Each pastor was given an assessment tool to measure emotional health. We then wrestled with case studies designed increase emotional intelligence in our ministry and in the world.

Another meeting, led by those that attended the 2018 EMS School for Leadership, centered on dealing with brokenness in ministry. Mike Metzler at Zion Mennonite guided a stimulating discus-

sion based on his faith and technology sermon series.

District congregations take turns hosting quarterly meetings to engage and resource pastors and delegates. In preparation for the VMC Winter Delegate Session, a special February session was held to process the Polity Task Force report and learn more about the subsequent Restructuring for Mission initiative.

A missional presentation by Art McPhee, postponed twice due to inclement weather, finally happened in April. It was inspiring to hear Art reflect on the upward & outward elements of engaging the world God loves. He encouraged traditional churches to become missional churches, not by getting rid of the old but by building on what they have.

Leadership

Linda Wenger was ordained in Winchester at The Village at Orchard Ridge, an ELCA retirement community, where she works with lead chaplain, Rev. William Boldin.

Owen Burkholder began serving as interim for Lindale Mennonite Church earlier this year when Jason Kuniholm, former interim, needed to become the primary care-giver for his wife, Joanne.

Enciende una Luz pastors Armando and Veronica Sanchez completed their IBA studies. Armando is working with his congregation, VM Missions, and Southern District to plant a new church in Waynesboro.

Aldine Musser Michael Shenk III
District Minister *District Minister*

Congregations:

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

Big Spring Mennonite Church

Rileyville, VA (Ø) [25]
 *Rene Hostetter
 Jacalyn Lee

Crest Hill Community Church

Wardensville, WV (47) [28]
 *Carolyn Lyndaker
 *Milford Lyndaker

Crossroads Mennonite Church

Broadway, VA (27) [26]
 *David J. Gullman
 Marian Buckwalter

CrossWay Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (Ø) [12]~
 *James Rhee

Grace Mennonite Fellowship

Lacey Spring, VA (177) [229]
 *Richard K. Early
 *Bradley Kolb
 *Kinley Simmers
 Chan Gingerich
 Phyllis Martin

Hebron Mennonite Church

Fulks Run, VA (66) [33]
 *Mark Conley
 Daryl Conley

Iglesia Enciende una Luz

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

Lindale Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, VA (327) [294]
 *Deb Horst
 *Owen Burkholder (interim)
 Arthur (Art) McPhee
 Ruby Hostetler
 Peg Engle
 Jim Engle

Mathias Mennonite Church

Mathias, WV (24) [40]
 *Dean E. Williams

New Song Anabaptist Fellowship

Harrisonburg, VA (15) [20]~
 *Basil Marin
 Jerilyn Schrock

Stephens City Mennonite Church

Stephens City, VA (21) [20]
 *Merle Christner
 Linda Wenger

Trissels Mennonite Church

Broadway, VA (122) [80]
 *Harold N. Miller
 Dave Yutzy
 Jewel Yutzy

Valley View Mennonite Church

Criders, VA (56) [42]~
 *H. Michael Shenk III
 Linford Gehman

Woodland Mennonite Church

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

Zion Mennonite Church

Broadway, VA (160) [137]
 *John Michael "Mike" Metzler
 *Sarah Piper
 C. Edwin Miller
 Elwood Yoder

Congregation in Formation

the exchange

Winchester, VA (Ø) [20]
 *Chris Scott

* Voting credentialed leader
 ~ Did not report
 ~~ Did not report for two or more years
 Ø Does not track membership

Potomac District Report

Potomac District is blessed to be made up of seven active ministries.

The newest one is the Washington Dulles International Airport chaplaincy ministry of Sr. Chaplain Eugene Kraybill and Assistant Chaplain Christina Kraybill. They continue to lead Sunday morning 30 minute Christian worship services in the Dulles Interfaith Chapel with praise, prayer and preaching for employees and travelers at Dulles, averaging 12 persons in attendance. Outwardly they led three memorial services related to airport employees and continued to engage the homeless in the main terminal, and also enjoyed participating in a Ramadan meal with the Pakistanis Muslim community and outreach at the annual "Plane Pull."

The Vietnamese Christian Fellowship continues to be led by pastor Peter Simon Nguyen, with upward gathering for Bible Study and prayer on Saturday evenings and weekly services on Sundays "to offer God thanks and encourage those in attendance to be faithful to God." The congregation outwardly shared in the suffering of people in Vietnam who were hit by a typhoon.

Washington Community Fellowship bid farewell to Pastor Del Glick in January who served the fellowship with distinction for more than a decade, and the congregation now awaits the arrival of Rev. Andrew Cheung and his family in August who will lead the faith community in its next chapter.

Interim pastor Jonathan Larson reports on the inward journey "though Washington Community Fellowship sits near the heart of a busy national power center, it distinguishes itself with lively small group life marked by prayer and transparency of a kind rarely found in our large cities." A healing prayer team is active each week at worship in addition to lay visits for friendship and for meeting material needs. Outwardly, WCF serves as host to a variety of faith-based urban efforts: Christian Legal Aid, a Youth for Christ outreach, an early childhood learning program, and preparing sandwiches for a street ministry. A family from WCF is currently working in Vietnam with MCC to deal with the aftermath of Agent Orange.

Daniel's Run Peace Church continues to grow into its newly remodeled worship space. Pastor Earl Zimmerman reports: "On Easter Sunday morning we had a joint worship service with Table Covenant Church and Hill City Church, two churches that share our facility and are drawn to Anabaptist thought and practice. We packed our sanctuary with about 100 people in attendance." Outward initiatives include joining in the City of Fairfax in an Interfaith Friendship Walk, working with our neighboring Daniels Run Elementary School to provide fresh produce to needy children and their families during the summer months, and planning a fundraiser with the Congolese community in DC for

MCC's response to urgent needs in the Congo.

Iglesia Alfa y Omega Del Evangelio Completo continues under the leadership of Pastor Justiniano Cruz, who has served as lead pastor for nearly 35 years. In May Justiniano suffered two strokes and was hospitalized briefly, but reports that he is recuperating and "trusts in the Lord who is his help, strength, and protection." Inwardly and outwardly Alfa y Omega continues to grow through growth groups that meet in homes throughout the metro DC area.

DC City Church continues to thrive and grow under the nearly seven years of leadership of senior pastor Dale Wafer. The last four years, DC City Church has been partnering with Pastor Tariq Fazal and others in Pakistan, a predominantly Muslim country, to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Dale says, "We are pleased to announce that through that partnership, over 6,500 Muslims have come to Jesus Christ because of our monthly outreaches that are done throughout Pakistan."

At DC City Church we believe that to be a great church is to have a focus on the foundations of what Jesus left us as disciples to do, "go ye into all the world".

Luke Schrock-Hurst, *District Minister*

Congregations:

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

DC City Church
Washington, DC (66) [45]
Dale Wafer

Iglesia del Evangelio Completo Alfa y Omega
Hyattsville, MD (115) [105]~
*Justiniano Cruz
*José F. Borjas

Daniels Run Peace Church
Fairfax, VA (25) [30]
*Earl Zimmerman
Karen Zehr

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

Washington Community Fellowship
Washington, DC (26) [105]
Jonathan Lawson (interim)
Karin Hope

Congregation in Formation

Fourth St. Community Fellowship
Washington, D.C. (Ø) [69]
*Sang Jin Choi
Ung Soo Kim

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

Southern District Report

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through the world.

The cluster of seven congregations that make up Southern District are located in Augusta and Nelson counties of Virginia. They are closely aligned in their commitment to make a difference in the neighborhoods where God has placed them.

The question is sometimes asked, "If your church disappeared tomorrow, would you be missed by those who live nearby?" I think it is safe to say that, yes, our congregations would be missed by our neighbors.

Several congregations participate regularly in the ministry of the local Love INC (Love In The Name of Christ) chapter. One congregation in particular has become the congregation of choice to send local residents who ask to be connected with a church community. Pas-

tors and members of our congregations willingly lead seminars and provide time to contribute to the successful ministry of this ecumenical organization.

MDS work is strongly supported by members of Southern District. There are several trades people in our churches who travel and volunteer their time for those who have been visited by natural disasters.

The Valley Mission in Staunton has been the recipient of many volunteer hours, as well as the local WARM (Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry) chapter in Augusta County.

Our congregations have opened their doors to homeless neighbors; members of other district churches come to help provide vital services.

We have a unique ministry with the deaf community, thanks to our most recently established congregation, Signs of Life. Families come from Rockingham and Augusta to participate in this church and

the services of their bilingual (American Sign and English) pastoral team.

Members of our churches volunteer on local rescue squads, host Celebrate Recovery meetings, support Rehoboth Jail and Prison Ministries, and engage in ministry to Haiti and Weekday Religious Education. Bible school is still alive and well and a means by which we reach out to local children as are Kids Clubs hosted by churches in our district.

As we go about being good neighbors, we are eager to invite friends to make one of our churches their own and together grow in our understanding of being follows of Jesus.

Beryl Jantzi
District Minister

Congregations:

District Minister: Beryl Jantzi

Chair: Kevin Gasser

Assistant Chair: Joshua Fairfield

Treasurer: David Nice

Secretary: Marlene Wenger

Greenmonte Fellowship Church

Greenville, VA (109) [150]

*Seth Hankee

David Brenneman

Lynside Mennonite Church

Lyndhurst, VA (51) [79]

*Gordon Miller

Sue Miller

Rehoboth Mennonite Church

Schuyler, VA (10) [10]~

Lewis & Terri Jordan, contacts

Springdale Mennonite Church

Waynesboro, VA (132) [91]

*Kevin Goertzen

*Denise Goertzen

Debbie Frank

Dave Minniger

Steve Mumbauer

Mim Wenger

Staunton Mennonite Church

Staunton, VA (40) [55]

*Kevin Gasser

Garlan Yoder

Waynesboro Mennonite Church

Waynesboro, VA (87) [61]

*Joe Arbaugh II

*Philip Ray Lehman

*Howard I. Miller

Congregation in Formation

Signs of Life Fellowship

Staunton, VA (Ø) [23]

*MaryBeth Moore

Barbara Knopp

Thomas Knopp

* Voting credentialed leader

~ Did not report

Ø Does not track membership

TCK (Tennessee/Carolina/Kentucky) District Report

There have been few changes in the TCK District in the past year. God has been good and faithful through it all. Pastor Randy Smith is pastoring Mountain View Mennonite Church and is doing a great job of helping the congregation plan with a vision for the future. They are excited to send a work group to Kentucky this summer to help repair homes and build relations in the mountain communities.

3:16 Christian Community Church has purchased an office building and moved in, adapting it to meet their needs. Mark Kimmet is doing a great job of assisting Pastor Vernon Moyer in leading the congregation. They plan monthly picnics over the summer, at the church, to reach out to the neighbors and community around them.

Asheville Mennonite Church continues to reach out to their neighbors and has worked hard at training the congregation for outreach. Their discipleship training priority is helping the members to lead and disciple others to a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus. Pastor Sanford Yoder and his leadership team are doing a great job.

The Mara Christian Church in Charlotte continues to grow, although at a slower pace since the rate of immigration of

the Mara people seems to have declined in the last year. This is likely due to the stricter immigration policy of the current administration. Having outgrown the church facility they were renting from a Hispanic group, they began renting from a United Methodist Church the first of April. This is the fifth building they have rented since 2013. This is an ongoing concern for them. With regular attendance of 110-125, they urgently need a facility of their own. This spring, Everence Federal Credit Union responded to their application for a loan preapproval with a report that they tentatively qualify for a "soft underwriting" of a \$270,000 loan. With the monies they have in their building fund, they now could raise around \$500,000 for a building. In the Charlotte real estate market, this wouldn't go very far, but they are very thankful for this much. Both groups of their men and groups of their women have had several prayer and fasting retreats for this and other concerns. So far, nothing suitable has become available for a building site or a pre-existing building.

Knoxville Mennonite Church has called Pat and Jan McFarren to give pastoral leadership to the congregation. Pat has been the Preaching Elder there for many years and the congregation is doing great under their love and care.

Concord Mennonite Church continues to gather together as a small aging congregation. Several deaths have effected this group greatly in the last year. They are without a pastor, so three of the men take turns leading and preaching each Sunday followed by a fellowship meal for all who come. Pray for them as they seek to know God's will for them as they move forward.

At West Liberty Mennonite Church, Josh Fyffe continue to pastor this small congregation of mostly family members. The congregation is working to reach out to the families of the community. Once a month they have a family movie night at the church and invite their neighbors and friends for a fun-filled evening of wholesome fellowship with food. Pray for them at they continue to seek to build bridges into the community.

TCK District is a very great group of churches that care and support each other in our places of ministry. We enjoy a Saturday of fellowship and connection about three times a year. It has been great to have Clyde Kratz and others from VMC and VM Missions make the trip to our part of the world and be with us for many of these meetings.

Chuck Hostetter
District Minister

Congregations:

District Minister: Chuck Hostetter
District Minister for Mtn. View & Mara congregations: Daniel J. Yoder
Chair: Leroy Kauffman
Vice-Chair: Patrick McFarren
Treasurer: David Hartzler
Secretary: Roy Hunsberger

3:16 Christian Community Church
Hickory, NC (20) [35]
*Mark Kimmet
*Vernon Moyer
Charpia Vang

Asheville Mennonite Church
Asheville, NC (41) [54]

*Sanford Yoder
Chris Conley

Concord Mennonite Church
Knoxville, TN (8) [6]
Jerry Hartness

Knoxville Mennonite Church
Knoxville, TN [25]~
John Forsythe
*Patrick McFarren

Mara Christian Church
Charlotte, NC (195) [100]
Tei Do
Bei Lua

Mountain View Mennonite Church
Hickory, NC (99) [95]
*Randy Smith
Cheri Hudson
Mark Hudson

West Liberty Mennonite Church
West Liberty, KY (12) [16]
*Joshua Fyffe
Steve Stoltzfus

* Voting credentialed leader
~ Did not report

Teaching Cluster

Kevin Clark resigned from his role as cluster leader of the teaching cluster. FLC and the Executive Conference Minister are working toward a successor to fill that vacancy.

Oversight Leader

Vacant

Teaching

Brian Martin Burkholder
Kevin Clark
Les Horning
Lana Miller
Wendy Miller
Byron Peachey
Carmen Schrock-Hurst
Carl Stauffer
Linford Stutzman
+ Lonnie Yoder
Nate Yoder

Chaplains Cluster

Carl Smeltzer completed his term as oversight leader of the Chaplains Cluster. FLC and the Executive Conference Minister are working toward a successor to fill that vacancy.

Oversight Leader

Vacant

Chaplains

Mary Jo Bowman
Kenton Derstine
Penny Driediger
David “Dave” Gullman
Pearl Hartman
Phoebe Gerber Hershey
Steve Landis
John Lehman
Mark Lehman
Nick Meyer
Ron Pierantoni
Steve Swartzendruber
Jason Wagner
Linda K. Wenger

Leadership/Administration Cluster

The Administration/Leadership Cluster is going through transition, along with the rest of Virginia Conference. First, Gordon Zook completed his assignment at cluster leader. His leadership is greatly appreciated, and the members of the cluster thank him for his service. Craig Maven assumed leadership responsibilities in April. Second, several members have retired from their positions, and/or transitioned to another position.

The cluster met once in 2018 in this conference year. This conference year will have continued transition. The new cluster leader plans to communicate individually with the members to discern how our cluster can be a valuable connection for them with VMC.

We look forward to continued support and encouragement of each other as we consider what God has for us as credentialed people in VMC.

Craig Maven
Oversight Leader

Oversight Leader

+ G. Craig Maven

Leadership/Administrative

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

+ indicates voting delegate status

Conference Council

Officers	Role	Term ends
Elroy Miller	Moderator	2020
Kevin Gasser	Assistant Moderator	2018
Scott Beachy	Treasurer	2019
Edith Shenk Kuhns	Secretary	2019

District Representatives

Leslie W. Francisco III	Calvary
Dale Hartzler	Central
David King	Northern
Ryan Ahlgrim	Eastern
Greta Bucher	Harrisonburg (co-chair)
Matt Schwartz	Harrisonburg (co-chair)
Sang Jin Choi	Potomac
Tami Nice	Eastern Carolina
Leroy Kauffman	TCK
Kevin Gasser	Southern

Commission Representatives

Michael Shenk	Faith & Life
Roy Hange	Faith & Life
James Musser	Congregational Life
Edith Shenk Kuhns	Congregational Life
Shawn Manning	VMMissions
Art McPhee	VMMissions

Representatives to Constituency Leaders Council

Elroy Miller
Clyde G. Kratz
Marian Buckwalter

Non-voting Members

Tim Jost, *Chair*, Historical Committee
Clyde G. Kratz, *Executive Conference Minister*, VMC
Aaron Kauffman, *President*, Virginia Mennonite Missions
Paul Leaman, *Head of School*, Eastern Mennonite School
Joe Longacher, *Chair*, Constitution & Bylaws Committee
Steve Carpenter, *Chair*, Gifts Discernment Committee

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

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

See Conference Council report on next page.

Conference Council

Conference Council engaged in the following activities and made the following decisions in this past fiscal year:

In September 2017, Council approved the final draft of the three-month sabbatical plan for Executive Conference Minister Clyde Kratz's self-care, spiritual formation and professional development. His sabbatical was October 1 to December 31, 2017. Council also approved VMC officers' recommendation that Gordon Zook serve as interim conference minister during Clyde's sabbatical. In January 2018, Clyde reported that on his sabbatical he rested, took a vacation with his family, took a personal retreat, worked at a Mennonite Disaster Service project in West Virginia, read books on church leadership and culture, and completed wood-working projects. In Clyde's stead, Gordon Zook managed day-to-day operations for Conference Council and the Faith and Life Commission. Council is grateful for Clyde's restful and meaningful sabbatical and for Gordon's competent leadership as interim.

In the fall, Council took action, with regret, on Eastern Carolina District's recommendation that VMC release Chapel Hill Mennonite Church and Raleigh Mennonite Church from membership in VMC. In the February 2018 Delegate Session, the delegates approved this action. Both churches will transfer their membership to Central District Conference.

In January 2018, based on delegate feedback from the 2017 Conference Assembly, Council approved a final draft of VMC's mission statement, and in February, delegates approved this recommendation. It reads: "*Virginia Mennonite Conference equips pastors, lay leaders, and congregants for worship and service, and to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to neighbors near and far.*" CC thanks everyone for your input to reflect VMC's commitment to share and walk our faith journey with others in our various communities.

Over the past year, Conference Council and Faith and Life Commission (FLC) continued to collaborate with FaithTrust Institute to clarify and to respond appropriately to ministerial misconduct. "Healthy Boundaries" trainings for VMC leaders began and continue. Many pastors have attended the training, and our expectation is that all VMC credentialed leaders will attend the training in the future.

Council also supported the FLC's efforts to update the *Ministerial Misconduct Policy and Procedure Manual* for Virginia Mennonite Conference. This document is based on the *Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure Manual* published by the Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada in November 2016. The VMC revised draft will be distributed to the districts (delegates) this summer (2018) for study and feedback. This document will also include policy and procedure for managing conflicts of interest and include a process by which those harmed in a given situation will have a VMC-designed person available to confidentially listen and respond appropriately.

VMC has continued to grapple with what it means to forbear with each other across our differences. Last year, Conference Council initiated The Polity Task Force (PTF) study. The PTF submitted its report to Council last fall and to delegates at Winter Delegate Session in February 2018. In response to the feedback, Council also commissioned a VMC Restructuring for Mission (RFM) committee. Its primary task is to: (1) implement the PTF recommendations, (2) adapt conference structures for the purpose of promoting and strengthening Anabaptist Christian faith/life, and (3) embed a strategic missional impulse in the revision of the VMC Constitution and Bylaws. (See *Forbearance in the Midst of Differences, Polity Task Force, and Restructuring for Mission* links on virginiacommunity.org/documents/).

The Restructuring for Mission committee met six times this spring. They are primarily focused on the role and function of districts. From the PTF's research with leaders and lay persons in the conference, it's clear that what districts do and how they work is deeply appreciated. But it is also clear that "one size does not fit all" for districts. We have considerable diversity in how districts work, due to distance, membership and perceived needs within the district.

In response to this diversity, and to our commitment to maintain a Conference structure of congregations within districts, the RFM will bring to the delegates this summer two options for conversation and discernment.

One model details a Ministerial Council approach, a profession-oriented leadership by the oversight leaders and pastors. The second model details a District Council/Ministerial Fellowship Model, much of which we are already doing. Both models: (1) identify delegates as the policy makers of Conference, (2) require fewer lay volunteers to do the work of Conference administration, and (3) include language that reflects VMC's intent to have more lay volunteers free to become involved in district and congregational missional activities.

The second discernment process Council initiated this year is a Biblical & Theological Task Force on Same Gender Issues. This group has been meeting and is now engaging a conversation with a cross-section of pastors in the Conference. Its intent is to discern how to frame the conversation on same gender issues to bring greater unity to the church than what we are currently experiencing. We will be hearing more from this group this coming year.

Thank you for your prayers behalf of Conference Council this past year, and please continue to pray for Council, Clyde Kratz, and FLC this coming year.

Elroy Miller
Conference Moderator

Faith & Life Commission

Composition

- Active bishops and overseers 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 leaders as they process concerns relating to congregational life and leadership
- Promote unity of faith and practice
- Issue ministry credentials
- Provide professional development, fellowship and inspiration for pastors

Positive relational and missional work: FLC is one of the main containers in VMC for doing the good and hard relational work of holding our conference together during these challenging times. Our meetings continue to be times when the Spirit both challenges us and holds us for the sake of all of the churches in the conference.

VMC, alongside VM Missions, continues to be a life giving garden where God's vine of grace and truth is growing to bring healing and hope in discipleship and mission. FLC, a network of districts, nurtures this missional vision and this cooperative work. At this point in VMC's journey there are five active church plants in four different districts and a number of other church plants in the visioning stage.

Working together at boundary issues and the life together in the midst of our differences:

Ethics training: FLC members were offered both *Healthy Boundaries*, which falls under "ethics training," plus *Responding to Misconduct* training. FLC has also mandated that all credentialed leaders complete *Healthy Boundaries* (ethics) training within two years.

Navigating Ministerial Misconduct, including communication protocols: FLC has worked hard at communication protocols for use when a complaint of misconduct occurs. Executive Conference Minister Clyde Kratz has compiled procedures and protocols related to misconduct into one document, "Navigating Ministerial Misconduct," which is in the process of editing and final stages of approval before its implementation.

Officers	Role	Term ends
Vacant	Chair	
Roy Hange	Vice-Chair	2020
H. Michael Shenk III	Secretary	2020
Staff		
Clyde G. Kratz	Executive Conference Minister	
Members		District (Cluster)
James Åkerson		Central
Spencer Bradford		Eastern Carolina
Gloria Diener		Member at large
Leslie Francisco III		Calvary
Pearl Hartman		Member at large
Chuck Hostetter		TCK
Beryl Jantzi		Southern
Carl Mericle		Eastern (VA)
Aldine Musser		Northern
Luke Schrock-Hurst		Potomac
Robert Wenger		Central
Vacant		Special Ministries (Chaplain)
Craig Maven		Special (Leadership/Administration)
Vacant		Special Ministries (Teaching)
Open		Member at large (2)

Leadership transitions: Since Patsy Seitz finished her term as chair in January, FLC is in search mode for a another chair.

Credentialed leaders recertification: Discussion has begun on potential recertification of credentialed leaders to alleviate the situation VMC is in now wherein over 100 credentialed leaders are unknown, and there is no clear procedure for clarifying their credentials. This could become a liability issue for VMC.

Polity challenges: The Biblical and Theological Task Force on Same Gender Matters is ready to present a paper presenting various perspectives to a focus group of pastors; that meeting is scheduled for August.

Mennonite Church USA is reviewing its functioning, and considering a "federation" model whereby each conference can apply core documents as appropriate for their setting. Moving to a federation model moves MC USA into greater alignment with core documents, and moves more authority for discernment and decision-making to the conference level.

The statement "We will Live in Grace and Truth" began in VMC, and is online, but VMC as a Conference has not responded to the statement. Signers of the document illustrate that those advocating on behalf of same-gender relationships are primarily urban and white; if we push this matter too far we will we lose much of our diversity as a Conference.

Roy Hange, *Vice Chair*

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.

2018 Mennonite Junior High Retreat
October 12-13

Ross Erb
(photo top right) will be the retreat speaker. He grew up in Ontario, then attended Hesston College. After moving to Harrisonburg, he was involved in pastoral ministry at Park View Mennonite for 13 years. Now he helps children and families as a social worker.

Seth Crissman
(photo top center) of The Walking Roots Band will lead worship.

Highland Retreat is located 30 miles NW of Harrisonburg, VA
 ♦
 Arrive Friday evening
 Depart Saturday afternoon
 ♦
 Meals, snacks and great programming provided
 ♦
 All junior high participants must register through a youth group

To learn about Highland's Mennonite Jr High Retreat visit
highlandretreat.org/jr-high-retreat
 call 540-705-0554, or e-mail info@highlandretreat.org

Member	Role	Term
James Musser	Chair	2019
Edith Shenk Kuhns	Secretary	2019
Sarah Kehrberg	At Large	2020
Clyde G. Kratz	Exec. Conference Minister	N/A
Gloria Lehman	Mennonite Women of VA	N/A
Skip Tobin	USA Ministries Director	N/A

The Congregational Life Commission serves as a liaison between several ministries that are represented on the commission. Currently there is representation from Mennonite Women of Virginia and Virginia Mennonite Missions. Other ministries who are represented when there is an appointee are Peace Advocate, Mennonite Men, and youth. The commission provides resources to congregations.

During the past year the commission has focused its time on organizing two ministries, a conference youth ministry and Mennonite Men.

Conference Youth Ministry

The commission conducted a survey of the current youth ministry programs in our conference churches. That was followed up with a “Youth Worker Coffee Hour” on January 6, 2018.

There is a call for some type of organized conference-wide youth ministry. The commission is in the process of finalizing plans and forming a “youth council” consisting of both youth and youth leaders and pastors. We hope to have this in place by September.

Mennonite Men of Virginia

The commission conducted a survey of all VMC churches in regards to men’s ministry in our congregations. The commission will review the results at their next meeting and make a determination about how we might move forward with a ministry to the men in our conference.

Conference Assembly Workshops

The workshops for the Conference Assembly this summer have been planned by the Congregational Life Commission.

Mennonite Women of Virginia

This ministry has been active as usual. The fall retreat was held in November and 157 women attended. Elaine Maust from Mississippi was the speaker. A spring Missions Day was held at Springdale Mennonite Church on the evening of May 2 and was well attended. A bus traveled from the Harrisonburg area.

James Musser
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 Stoltzfus Jost	Chair	2020
Simone Horst	Archivist	Ex-officio
Harold Huber	Member	
Paul J. Yoder	Member	2019
Ken Seitz	Member	2020

The Virginia Conference Historical Committee is in charge of overseeing the Virginia conference archives and of preserving knowledge of how Virginia Conference Mennonites have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit; been a community of grace, joy, and peace; and served as a channel for God's healing and hope in our past.

Major changes have occurred in the Virginia Mennonite Conference archives during the past year. Harold Huber retired as Conference Archivist in 2017, after six years of faithful service. As of July 1, 2017, Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) Special Collections staff have been responsible for administering the archives.

The VMC archives remain in the basement of EMU's Hartzler Library but are now closed to non-library staff. Virginia Mennonite Conference continues to pay rent for the space. Materials will be retrieved by staff and can be reviewed in the Menno Simons Historical Library on the third floor during open hours which are Monday, Wednesday, Friday — 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — or by appointment. Requests to view materials can be sent to archives@emu.edu.

Churches and institutions are encouraged to continue to send archival materials to the archives. Digital records are preferred, but paper copies are also acceptable. Digital records can be sent in Word or PDF format to simone.horst@emu.edu or archives@emu.edu. Paper copies can be dropped off if arrangements are made ahead of time with Simone Horst, EMU special collections librarian, or can be sent to the Virginia Conference offices, attention Simone Horst.

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.

Work is underway on the Virginia Mennonite history book. The book is a joint project of Virginia Mennonite Conference and the Shenandoah Valley Mennonite Historians. It is overseen by a joint committee headed by Elwood Yoder. The book is being written by Steven Nolt, Senior Scholar and Professor of History and Anabaptist Studies at the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College. Professor Nolt is collecting material, has visited Virginia for interviews, and spoke at the 2017 Conference Assembly. It is hoped the book will be finished by 2021.

The Kauffman Museum of Newton, Kansas, has assembled a traveling exhibit entitled *Voices of Conscience: Examining the Role of Peacemakers During World War I*. World War I, which ended a century ago this year, was a time when war fever swept the United States. The peace churches were woefully unprepared to take a stand as peacemakers, and suffered because of it. Are we prepared if it should happen again?

EMU and VMC are jointly bringing the *Voices of Conscience* exhibit to EMU in the fall of 2018. We encourage you to visit it, and to encourage others to do so. We also welcome contributions to help cover the cost of bringing the exhibit to EMU. Contributions can be made to EMU, specifying the *Voices of Conscience* exhibit.

Tim Stoltzfus Jost
Chair

TRANSFORMATIVE MINISTRY HAPPENS OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH.



The Master of Arts in Christian Leadership:

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- ▶ Meets all requirements for those seeking United Methodist deacon ordination.
- ▶ Encourages interdisciplinary coursework and degree offerings in areas such as conflict transformation, restorative justice, counseling, education, and business.



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Harrisonburg, Virginia



Eastern Mennonite School: 100 Years Strong!

We celebrated our centennial this past year with:

- A joint homecoming weekend with Eastern Mennonite University;
- Hosting about 500 students and chaperones for the Mennonite Schools Choral Festival;
- A visit and assessment by Virginia Association of Independent Schools and Mennonite Schools Council resulting in reaccreditation.

As we move with clarity and purpose into our second century we:

- Seek gifts for our *Let the Children Come Campaign* to fund expansion and renovation of additional property at our Parkwood Drive campus;
- Have moved our burgeoning K-5 program from its Route site 11 to main campus;
- Have clarified and confirmed – together with brand consultant Gravity Group – our unique position in the marketplace offering excellent academics from a foundation of faith and values in a welcoming community with global perspective.

Our strategic goal for the coming year is to strengthen our fiscal health so we can make it possible for anyone who desires an EMS experience to join our community.

As individuals and church members you can support EMS in many ways!

- **Recommend us** to people you know who may benefit from our school. Encourage them to schedule a visit by calling 236-6021.
- **Pray** for our faculty, staff, students and board of directors.
- **Attend** our theater, music and athletic events (www.emhs.net for schedules);
- EMS students from any VMC congregation get a ~ \$2,000 tuition discount as “supporting churches.” **Add EMS to your church budget** if you don’t already support us in this way.
- Or, **become a Partner Church** and develop a congregational aid plan that pays for 50% or more of EMS tuition for students from your church. We are grateful to five VMC congregations who currently offer this level of investment!
- **Make gifts** of any size to our *Second Century Fund* and *Let the Children Come Campaign*. See www.emhs.net/support.

Paul G. Leaman, PhD
Head of School

A recording of our Touring Choir singing “Oh Shenandoah” in Westminster Abbey during the June Europe tour has been viewed more than 27,000 times! Listen yourself at <https://youtu.be/86itS4lJDws>



Engaging God's 3D kingdom

Virginia Mennonite Missions seeks to live out the dimensions of God's kingdom by living into our core commitments as an agency: faithfulness, partnership, and transformation.

Core Commitments

1 Faithfulness 2 Partnership 3 Transformation

In response to God's great love, we give God our lives in obedience and praise.

We join the church in sending God's people to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

By the Holy Spirit's power, we live out God's kingdom among neighbors near and far.

Over the past year, VMMissions has launched initiatives to deepen the faith of board, staff, and workers. We have also held events and developed programs to strengthen our partnerships for kingdom transformation.

UP: Faithfulness

VMMissions staff have been praying together weekly on Wednesday mornings for several years. Staff and workers, visiting in person or through their newsletters, share prayer requests and answers to prayer. This time of connecting with God through prayer also allows staff to be aware of what is going on in different departments and regions of our ministry.

Staff read *The Emotionally Healthy Leader* by Peter Scanzero, which is about how transforming our inner lives will deeply transform our team and the world. At monthly staff meetings, time was set aside to discuss the chapter of the book we had read and how it had impacted us. Staff and workers have been encouraged to fill out a Rule of Life, an intentional pattern of spiritual disciplines that provides structure and direction for growth in holiness.

A new initiative has been an optional, staff-led prayer time over lunch on Wednesdays, called Praying for Renewal. Sometimes accompanied by local pastors, the group has spent time listening to God in silent prayer and through the Scriptures, then responding through intercession for our Conference churches and leaders, as well as our community. We are asking God's Spirit to expand the kingdom in powerful ways through open doors and receptive hearts.

IN: Partnership

Motorcycle for Missions riders raise over \$12,600



Ed and Dianna Lehman (staff member) on the journey.

On June 15-16, the **2018 Motorcycle for Missions** riders enjoyed one of the few sunny weekends this spring for their two-day ride of 450 miles. Sponsors and supporters of the twelve motorcyclists and three additional riders raised over \$12,600 for the ministries of VMMissions.

After a light breakfast, missional stories, and a safety session, the bikers varoomed from the VMMissions parking lot on their way through Brandywine, Judy's Gap, Greenbank, and Cass to a lunch stop at Ellie Mays Restaurant in Elk Springs. The afternoon leg included travel through Marlinton, White Sulphur Springs, Crows, Paint Bank, and Hanging Rock as the entourage ended the day in Roanoke. Participants received a welcome bag as they checked into the hotel. After a hearty meal, the group heard about the work of VMMissions from a staff member. The second day was comprised of a scenic ride on the Blue Ridge Parkway to Harrisonburg, with a lunch stop in Buena Vista. The event culminated with dinner at Taste of Thai for fellowship, evaluation, and goodbyes.

A special thanks to the MFM Committee of Robert Wenger, Jim Maust, and Phil Helmuth for working with staff to plan the event, and to the Powell family for sponsoring the SAG vehicle that Andy and Amanda Powell drove while also serving as photographers for the event. **Motorcyclists, be sure to make plans to participate in this early to mid-June event in 2019;** of our fundraising activities, this event raises the most Mission Fund dollars.

2018 Auction for Mission raises \$20,000

On Friday, May 11, VMissions held its third annual Auction for Mission to support workers and the Mission Fund. It included a live and silent auction, which together raised \$13,591, including \$1,341.50 for the Mission Fund.

Mennonite Hispanic Initiative hosted a fundraising meal and made \$1,439. The live auction featured a “paddle raise,” which raised \$5,000 for Latino church planting ministries in Virginia and North Carolina.

BOARD (2017-2018 term)

Shawn Manning, *Calvary, Chair (2018)*
Eldon Layman, *Central*
Lavonne Lehman, *Eastern, Vice-Chair (2018)*
Sharyn Tieszen, *Eastern Carolina*
Shin Ji Kang, *Harrisonburg*
Daryl Brubaker, *Northern, Treasurer (2019)*
Elizabeth (Liz) Driver, *Potomac*
Rodney Nice, *Southern*
Christopher Conley, *Tennessee/Carolina/Kentucky*
Reuben Horst, *Member at Large, Secretary (2019)*
Margaret Keeler, *Member at Large*
Arthur (Art) McPhee, *Member at Large*
Terry Witmer, *Member at Large*
Sarah Yoder, *Member at Large*

STAFF (*Member of Leadership Team)

Janet Blosser, *Mediterranean Regional Director*
Lizzette Hernandez, *Latino Church Leadership Trainer*
Aaron Kauffman*, *President*
Steve Leaman*, *Director of Advancement*
Dianna Lehman*, *Executive Assistant and Human Resources Manager*
Jan Liskey*, *Director of Finance*
Martin Rhodes, *Discipleship Ministries Coach*
Mindy Schwartz, *Event Coordinator and Ministry Support Team Coach*
Melanie Sherer, *Administrative Assistant*
Lynn Suter*, *Director of Operations and International Ministries*
Carol Tobin, *Asia Regional Director and Mission Advocate*
Skip Tobin*, *USA Ministries Director*
Jon Trotter, *Communications Associate*

Financial Year in Review

(1 September 2016—31 August 2017)



Mission Fund: undesignated giving by households and churches. **Special Projects:** giving to specific workers or ministries

OUT: Transformation

Newly appointed mission workers

Matthew and Rachel Cordella-Bontrager have been appointed to serve long-term in Kosovo as cultural and language learners, hoping to build relationships and a community of faith.

Dan and Mary Hess have been appointed for long-term service in Albania, working with the Guri I Themelit church in discipleship and community church planting movements, in Lezhë and beyond.

Luis Martinez has been appointed to serve as a Spanish-language chaplain in Virginia-based contexts, and as church planter and pastor within Iglesia Discipular Anabaptista.

Armando and Veronica Sanchez are appointed to plant a new Spanish-speaking church in the city of Waynesboro, Va. Armando will continue to pastor at Enciende una Luz while they start this new church.

Rachel Yoder is appointed to serve with tranSend as a leader of Eastside College, a student discipleship ministry of Eastside Church in Harrisonburg, Va. She will host Bible studies, meals, and other outreach efforts among students.

Melody Zimmerman will serve with tranSend in Harrisonburg, Va., partnering with churches to share the good news of Jesus through Kids Club in the Shenandoah Valley in a half-time position.

VMissions launches E³Collective

This year, VMissions formed a new team-based short-term program called E³ COLLECTIVE, which offers opportunities for persons ages 18 and above to participate in healthy and holistic short-term mission experiences, from two weeks to one month in length. Collectives explore what it means to embark on a journey of faith, encourage the global church, and engage contemporary issues—following Jesus across the boundaries of geography and culture. This year, trips are focused on the global refugee crisis, encountering the refugee realities in Jordan, Greece and beyond.

SERVICE SNAPSHOT 2017-2018

- 103 Mission workers
- 34 Children of international workers
- 43 Long-term tranSend workers
- 7 tranSend interns
- 21 Partners in Mission participants
- 32 E³ Collective team members
- 22 Countries of service



Virginia Mennonite
Retirement Community

1501 Virginia Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 564-3400
toll free (888) 564-8672

Virginia Mennonite Conference – Assembly Report from VMRC

VMRC offers hope, meaning, growth for aging well

During its fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, leaders at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community (Harrisonburg) strategized and updated the retirement community's Mission and Values.

The result: Our **Mission** is that we are a community of hope, meaning and growth for people to age well and live fully. As we fulfill that mission, we reflect these Values:

Heritage: We are Christ-centered, rooted in Anabaptist heritage of stewardship, service, justice and compassion.

Innovation: We are inspired to think and lead creatively.

Authenticity: We are sustained by honest, caring diverse relationships.

Woodland Park Expansion

VMRC will open in October five additional homes in its Woodland Park community modeled after the national Green House® movement. Woodland Park is a residential community which provides long term care in home environments that focus on meaningful life, empowered staff and real home. When Woodland Park is completed, 85 residents will live in the eight houses which make up the non-traditional nursing care community.

Research supports that resident satisfaction and engagement, family satisfaction and employee engagement are all improved in Green House homes.

Farm-to-table still strong in retirement living

For the past three years, VMRC has operated The Farm at Willow Run on its property. The farm produces enough vegetables, greens and herbs to use in VMRC's Dining Services, to sell to local restaurants and to sell to residents and employees at a market café. About three acres of the property is cultivated for farm production. Last year the farm grew more than 36,000 pounds. We are projecting 54,000 pounds this year.

Interest in the farm-to-table phenomenon is high among people interested in retirement living. The proximity of the farm to VMRC reduces the carbon footprint as shipping and delivery are minimal as is the pollution from delivery vehicles. In addition to two paid farm employees, volunteers contributed nearly 700 hours of time at the Farm at Willow Run. Many of the volunteers are students associated with neighboring Eastern Mennonite University.

Cultural hub created at VMRC

Recognizing the value of the arts, VMRC has designated its Park Gables Gallery a community destination for three popular art shows: The VMRC-sponsored national Annual Juried Art Exhibition, the Shenandoah Valley Watercolor Society Annual Member Show and the 6 x 6 x 30 Exhibit in partnership with Spitzer Art Gallery. Additional exhibitions in 2016-17 included the Strokes of Distinction in partnership with Sentara RMH, the Spotswood Garden Club Flower Show and the Seven Pillars of Mennonite Theology. Resident and Staff Art Shows continue to be held on a quarterly basis.

VMRC Foundation News

The VMRC Foundation awarded Gladys and Brownie Driver (posthumously) its Philanthropist of the Year award. The award is presented annually to an individual(s) who demonstrates exceptional direct gift support to VMRC, encourages and motivates others in philanthropy, demonstrates leadership in the organization, successfully achieves fundraising goals, and demonstrates involvement and participation in philanthropy in our community.

Brownie and Gladys have demonstrated the stated qualities for over a lifetime of involvement and engagement with VMRC and throughout the community. They have been an advocate of VMRC's mission and vision as residents, friends and family of VMRC. They also have supported Sentara-RMH, Eastern Mennonite School, Eastern Mennonite University, Mennonite Central Committee and Virginia Mennonite Missions and Conference.

VMRC is also grateful for the \$38,010 from 16 different Mennonite Churches over the past year to support our compassion care ministry.

Volunteers

Mark and Margaret Lehman received the Claude Hess Distinguished Service Award. They have been volunteering on Sunday mornings in Oak Lea for the past 24 years serving as ushers and wheelchair escorts. Other volunteer highlights include:

- 46,079 hours of service by 662 volunteers
- \$1,112,347.00 of free service, \$79,000 increase from last year
- Bargain Center raised its highest amount ever of \$15,265
- Sales for Main St. Store were \$91,674
- Nursing students served 12,577 hours

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary: Sara Wenger Shenk, president

Area conference connections

AMBS students from VMC congregations

- **MDiv Connect:** Joyce Peachey Lind (Community)
- **MA: Peace Studies:** Rebekah York (Eastside)

Resources for faith formation and leadership development

Academic programs

AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world.

- **Are you feeling drawn to deepen your understanding of Scripture, Anabaptist theology and faith?** Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice, equipping students to read the Bible with an Anabaptist lens, apply critical thinking skills, lead compassionately and live faithfully — wherever God may call them to serve.
 - **Master of Divinity** (80 hrs)
 - **Master of Arts in Christian Formation** (60 hrs)
 - **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies** (60 hrs)
 - **Graduate Certificate** (27 credit hours)
ambs.edu/academics
- **Distance education options** include the **MDiv Connect** program — which includes online and hybrid courses — and the fully online **Graduate Certificate** program.
ambs.edu/mdivconnect
ambs.edu/academics/certificates
- **Financial aid.** AMBS offers generous need-based financial aid, grants and scholarships to help make your education affordable. For example, MDiv Connect students taking at least 12 credit hours per academic year are eligible to receive the full amount of need-based tuition aid from AMBS. ambs.edu/financialaid
- **Want to explore seminary study before applying?** Take an on-campus or online class, even if you're not admitted to a degree or certificate program, and your first class is 50 percent off! Check out next semester's offerings: ambs.edu/onecourse

Lifelong learning

AMBS's Church Leadership Center offers various nondegree options for you to continue your education and strengthen your leadership skills:

- **Short courses:** *Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology* (online); *Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture* (online)
- **Seminars and workshops** (online and on-campus)
- **Pastors and Leaders** (Feb. 25–28, 2019)
- **Leadership Clinics** (Feb. 25, 2019)

Become a member of the Church Leadership Center! Members can receive additional benefits, including substantial discounts on events.

ambs.edu/lifelong-learning

- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program** is a 2-1/2-year nondegree leadership development program for people exploring a call to ministry. The distance-friendly program features a five-unit online curriculum, biweekly mentor-mentee meetings and one visit to the AMBS region per year. Participants receive a certificate upon meeting program requirements. ambs.edu/journey
- **Host a "Reading the Bible with Jesus" workshop** with itinerant Bible teacher **Bryan Moyer Suderman** for 1–2 days of digging deep into one of the Gospels to gain tools for reading and interpreting Scripture like Jesus did, in light of today's world. (Available in English and Spanish.) ambs.edu/workshops
- **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Students (grades 10–12) can explore ministry, develop their leadership gifts and listen for God's call through a 100-hour Congregational Experience and a 16-day Group Experience. Encourage someone you know to apply for 2019! ambs.edu/explore
- **Experience AMBS:** Visit our campus to learn more about all that AMBS has to offer. ambs.edu/visit

We thank God for your support and ask for your prayers as we prepare leaders for the church through programs that are biblically, spiritually, ethically and theologically grounded.

Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ

AMBS • 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517 • 574.295.3726 • ambs.edu • July 2018

Five new majors, five new minors and Lancaster aviation program now offered

Beginning this fall, EMU offers new majors in global development, marketing, musical theater, organizational leadership and peacebuilding. A new leadership and organizational management degree with an aviation concentration is also offered at EMU Lancaster. Graduates will have a bachelor's degree and several flight certifications. New minors include interfaith studies, leadership, marketing, nonprofit management, and philosophy and theology.

"As the professional marketplace evolves, so do educational priorities," said Deirdre L. Smeltzer, vice president and academic dean at EMU. "As a small university, we are uniquely positioned and strive to be nimble in how we equip students to pursue their career interests and passions."

EMU confers first honorary doctorate

On the occasion of its 100th Commencement, the university conferred 386 undergraduate degrees and 154 graduate degrees, including its first honorary doctorate to alumna and 2011 Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee MA '07.

"Step out," she urged in her Commencement address. "Whatever your calling may be, defend peace and justice with your actions, your interactions and your attitude. Most especially, when issues are no longer trending and the hashtags are no longer hashing, and the lights and the cameras are off, defend peace, defend justice. You can never go wrong."

LovEMU Day breaks records

April 10 was an historic day that marked an outpouring of love for EMU from across the country and around the world. The second annual one-day fundraising campaign resulted in record contributions of \$119,232 from 681 gifts. More than 220 alumni gathered in locations around the country to celebrate and network. The donations help support student scholarships.

How can EMU serve you?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker: 540-432-4597 or ChurchRelations@emu.edu.

Virginia Conference Connections to EMU

Trustees

Clyde Kratz, Kevin Longenecker, Cedric Moore, Manny Nuñez, Amy Rush, Judith Trumbo

Constituent Conference Representatives

Brenda North Martin

Undergraduate Students

24 graduate students, 20 seminary students, and 86 undergraduate students from Virginia Mennonite Conference were enrolled in the spring 2018 semester at EMU/EMS.

Giving

Virginia Mennonite Conference churches gave more than \$64,000 in matching grants to their students at EMU as well as over \$28,000 to the university fund during the year ending June 2018.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, *president*
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, *vice president for advancement*
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, *associate director of development*
- ▶ **Matthew Ruth**, *director of admissions*

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.

New degree offered: Master of Arts in Christian Leadership

The Master of Arts in Christian Leadership is a remake of the Master of Arts in Church Leadership degree. In the remake, the credit requirement went from 60 to 49, and greater flexibility was added for a required “ministry specialization project.” Students can incorporate other electives and disciplines — such as the graduate certificate in restorative justice offered by the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding — into their own individualized curriculum. This new degree reflects a growing trend of individuals seeking theological training toward ends beyond traditional church/religious structures. The new MACL is also tailored specifically to meet the educational requirements for United Methodist students who are seeking ordination as deacons.

2018 School for Leadership Training: January 15-17

EMS welcomed over 150 alumni, pastors and other ministry leaders to a challenging time of pondering what it means to be “*Broken Vessels, Thriving Pastors*.” Input was provided by leadership of MC-USA (Iris de Leon-Hartshorn) as well the United Methodist VA Conference (Meredith McNabb). A panel of alumni shared openly about finding their way through brokenness (in self, church, community) to thriving.

A diverse lineup of workshops by faculty and other experts across the church provided participants with practical tools, skills, and information for navigating their own way through brokenness and thriving.

As always, the worship times surrounded all the input with times for reflection on God’s work through, and among, us in our various ministry settings.

Visit <http://emu.edu/seminary/slt/archive/> for access to worship resources and podcasts from this event.

EMS honors 22 graduates

For the first time, graduates from Eastern Mennonite Seminary joined those of Eastern Mennonite University for the 100th Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 6. The seminary conferred 18 degrees and four graduate certificates. Four students received the new MA in Christian Leadership degree, ten received the Master of Divinity, and four completed the MDiv/MA in Counseling dual degree. Erin Dufault-Hunter of Fuller Theological Seminary spoke at the baccalaureate/commissioning service. Class president, Sarah Bailey (MDiv) was one of the student speakers at the commencement exercises where she reminded the graduates that “...as we go out from here...we leave as better Christ-followers than when we began this seminary journey.”

Visit <https://emu.edu/news/2018/05/eastern-mennonite-seminary-graduates-22-better-christ-followers-to-many-callings/>

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.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, *president*
- ▶ **Sue Cockley**, *seminary dean*
- ▶ **Nancy Heisey**, *associate dean*
- ▶ **Les Horning**, *director of seminary admissions*

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

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Family Life Resource Center

Family Life Resource Center is an independent, Christian based, 501c3 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.

With over 30 years of serving the community, it is such a blessing knowing that we have helped individuals and couples in this mission field.

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 2017, our operating costs were \$454,000. Counseling income provides 93% of the total funding. Contributions and fundraising covered 7% of this cost. Community support is

important to FLRC since we are a non-profit that receives no government funding. The agency gave away \$15,000 in services to individuals that would not otherwise be able to afford counseling.

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.

Marie Bradley
Administrative Director



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.

As Gift & Thrift continues to grow, we are always looking for more ways to serve our neighbors in the local community. When I think about community service, I am led to our volunteers. We are fortunate to have a group of passionate volunteers who take pride in their work and in our mission. This dedicated group of people have a wonderful way of caring for our community. Whether it's through the care they show each and every donation they sort, their welcoming smiles for customers, or the friendships they build and share among themselves, our volunteers continue to show our community how much they care.

Over the past years, we have found different ways to engage the community. We take pride in providing an outlet for the donation of gently used items. In turn, we are able to provide quality, low-cost essentials to the community. We believe this helps to connect different segments of our local community, from donors to volunteers to customers.

We continue to provide a service through our (L)earn-a-Bike program. We hope this alternative diversion program serves our community well by giving local at-risk youth a hands-on learning experience with positive role models. In addition to working with youth, we are proud to also offer assistance to the Bikes for Refugees program that is an initiative of the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition.

Gift & Thrift is also concerned with taking care of our environment. We are able to help reduce the amount of items sent to the landfill through the sale of items in our store and recycling programs for books, clothing, and metal. Our roof solar panel system offsets 50% of Harrisonburg Gift & Thrift's energy use and saves us more than \$14,000 annually. This, in turn, helps us increase funding to Mennonite Central Committee.

We are thankful for the community's support of our mission at Gift & Thrift. We look forward to building relationships with our neighbors to show God's love here in Harrisonburg and around the world.

Shannon Secrist
General Manager

Highland Retreat

Highland Retreat is turning 60 this summer! We've actually been celebrating for several months already, starting last fall with stories shared at our annual banquet. Among stories about summer camp and building projects, Sam Weaver shared about the years when Virginia Conference held their annual gatherings at Highland. He has fond memories of large groups of people from many different churches gathering to camp, play, and worship together in the great outdoors.

As much as we're enjoying reminiscing about the 60 years of Highland's ministry, we're even more excited about some of the great things that are happening right now! We continue to delight in our partnerships with conference churches who are providing financial assistance to help children come to camp. Whether they are looking within their church families for campers with financial need or extending the opportunity to experience summer camp to community children, we at Highland feel privileged to partner with these congregations.

Another way we've been blessed by a partnership with conference churches is in the youth retreats we were able to host this past year. Youth pastors from several conference churches

teamed up with Highland staff to plan a Jr. High Retreat last fall and a Sr. High Retreat this past March. The cooperative planning model meant that the burden of preparation didn't fall too heavily on anyone, making the retreats an enjoyable time for everyone involved.

We look toward the future of Highland Retreat with hope. Already this year we've seen stronger guest attendance, higher than average summer camp registrations, and the continued blessings of generous volunteers and donors – all of which has helped put us in a position to continue to minister to families, churches, and individuals. We thank God and look forward to the next 60 years!

Kent Kauffman, *Executive Director*



Mennonite Disaster Service of Virginia

The verse, "As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people" (Gal. 6:10a) has continued a central focus for the Shenandoah Valley and Eastern Va. Units of Mennonite Disaster Service. Living out this biblical directive has led to recent recovery work in Florida, North Carolina, West Virginia and Puerto Rico.

The effects from major hurricanes will cause 2017 to be remembered as one of the most devastating seasons in the United States and its territories. Over six weeks, three intense hurricanes hit Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria caused at least 400 deaths and around \$400 billion in property damage. Mennonite Disaster Service (Bi-National) responded to all three of these events. The efforts in Texas have been to some of the poorer communities that Hurricane Harvey initially struck, north of Corpus Christi. Rebuilding began this past winter at five locations and will continue this summer at the Victoria County location.

In Florida, Hurricane Maria caused the need for initial chain-saw work, which transitioned to home repair in the Fort Myers/Naples area. Reconstruction and repair work began at the beginning of this year.

Puerto Rico was directly in the path of Hurricane Maria, and it devastated many communities. Because of lack of water, electricity and needed infrastructure, work in P.R. has taken some time to develop satisfactorily. There is currently a need for bilingual persons that have construction knowledge and can

work together with local persons in assessing situations and organizing the relief work. A home design specific for Puerto Rico has been engineered for the new homes that MDS personnel are building. This project will continue all this summer.

Bridge Building continued for the second winter season in counties near Charleston, W.Va. Flooding during both 2015 and 2016, where private access structures to homes, were destroyed or unusable. The completion of the 50th bridge occurred in March (2018).

In March, the Greenbriar W.Va. response concluded, after 1 ½ years of work by many Shenandoah Valley MDS volunteers and persons from other States plus Canada.

April 2018 saw the closing of the Princeville, N.C. project that Eastern Va. MDS has given great leadership towards. Over 15 persons' homes were renovated from the effects of Hurricane Matthew during the last 1.5 years.

Thanks to VMC and other local churches and individuals that continue to support the service ministry of MDS of Va. We received significant contributions during calendar year 2017. This allows our organization to continue to meet needs and to "do good to people" affected by natural disasters.

Rich Rhodes, *Mennonite Disaster Service of Virginia President*

Mennonite Women of Virginia

MENNONITE WOMEN OF VIRGINIA



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

Mennonite Women of Virginia celebrates a year full of exhilarating events that bless both ourselves and others. As the VMC assembly theme states, “God’s Kingdom: 3D Experience,” the MWV organization has worked in all of these areas in 2017-18.

The “in” part of the 3D experience, worship, is part of each of the events that MWV holds. In July 2017, the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday morning of the VMC Assembly featured Theresa Crissman who gave a heart-warming talk about her call to serve the children in various communities. We prayed together, all hearts tuned to imploring God to aid our sisters as they serve in ways that honor Him.

On November 4, Marlene Bogard, president of MW USA, led a Sister Care seminar for EMU women at Park View Mennonite Church. MWV gave a \$500 financial contribution for the event and provided lunch for the 28 participants. This was truly an “in-out-up” occasion where the women looked at themselves and others and tapped into God’s resources for wholeness.

The “up” part is very evident in the MWV annual retreat, held at the Natural Bridge Historic Hotel, November 10-12, 2017. Elaine Maust, pastor from Meridian, Mississippi, led four sessions on “Gratitude Beyond Thank You; through failure and lament, towards resilience and joy.” Women from across VMC attended, sharing together in worship with vibrant singing, worship led by retreat committee members, communion around tables and sister-fellowship in casual settings. Elaine Maust encouraged us to strive for authenticity, pour out our laments, be grateful for the little things, and to be joyful, saying “Wow, God! Thank

you!” We look forward to the 2018 annual retreat held in Richmond, October 26-28 with Sue Miller as resource person.

The “out” part for our organization is the 2018 Annual Missions Day

event hosted by Springdale Mennonite Women with the theme “Caring Beyond Ourselves” provided us with the outward gaze toward women who may be marginalized in various ways. Alicia Horst talked with us about the welcome that Jesus gave to the Samaritan woman at the well, and showed a video of an immigrant woman who is making the transition to life in the US and the various challenges that she faces. All the VMM workers and all the connected churches around the world receive love gifts to show our care and commitment to the work that they are doing. The recipients appreciate these gifts and the blessings flow both ways.

In the coming year, several positions on the MWV Executive Committee are coming open as persons reach the end of their terms. If you are interested in serving with a group of women who enjoy being creative and out-reaching, contact me at glorialehman67@gmail.com

Gloria L. Lehman, *President*



Committee Members (L to R): Marian Buckwalter, Deb Pardini, Tammy Driver, Gloria Lehman, Elaine Maust (speaker), Mary Ann Shisler, Evie Christner, Janine Kanagy, Dianna Lehman, Lois Maust.

Mennowood Retirement Community

Hearts, hands, and spirits are open wide at Mennowood Retirement Community in Newport News, Va. 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 sound cliché, blessing abound at Mennowood.

Jon Aldridge, *Administrator*

NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center

NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center was founded by the Harrisonburg District in 2000 to serve newcomer populations in the Shenandoah Valley. We are located in downtown Harrisonburg, near the courthouses, government offices,

and several other nonprofit agencies. Our mission is to engage immigrants, connect cultures, and build community.

We continue to relate to an increasing number of individuals who are interested in information and support for challenging topics. Our Immigration Law Program has

increased capacity and representation and we are now working with around 80 people. Another common request is for as-

sistance to apply for medical bill financial assistance. We have worked with about 200 people on these requests. Our overall work has increased from 400 to almost 600 people this year.

As procedures and systems related to immigration keep changing, the amount of confusion, anxiety, and challenge have increased among our most affected community members. Those with Temporary Protected Status from Honduras and El Salvador are facing the revocation of work permits and protection in the fall of 2019, after almost two decades living the U.S.. Young adults with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are facing the uncertainty of their status as well.

And we celebrate with those persons who are becoming Lawful Permanent Residents or United States Citizens after years of navigating challenging processes. Our team of four is working hard under truly difficult circumstances and learning from immigrant neighbors who continually teach us what it means to live in hope. May God grant us the wisdom to discern what it means to be disciples whose primary allegiance is God's realm on Earth.

Alicia Horst, *Executive Director*

Pleasant View, Inc.

Each month, supervisors gather together to discuss issues that affect the individuals and programs of Pleasant View. The meeting begins with a devotional and the telling of a "Pleasant View Story." We listen to an individual's history, challenges, and accomplishments. With each story told, we celebrate the substantial impact Pleasant View is making in the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Board of Directors meetings and weekly Leadership Team meetings also begin with a prayer and devotion. We ask God for guidance in making program decisions that affect the lives of the one hundred sixty-seven individuals we support and our two hundred employees. Having fourteen residences and four day support programs across a twenty five mile radius, we are deliberate in how we stay connected and focused on our mission.

The individuals we support participate in their communities in ordinary ways such as visiting grocery stores and doctor's offices, attending churches, and going out to eat. When we are assisting each person in accessing the community, we notice they are creating a more inclusive and accepting community simply through their personal connections with fellow community members. We feel the grace of the community members who take the time to stop and say hello. Community members also express hope for their young loved ones with disabilities; that they too can live fulfilling lives.



Being leaders in the Harrisonburg Kiwanis Aktion Club, Worship Team, and Faith and Light fellowship group helps our Pleasant View community grow and spread God's love and grace, while also inviting the wider community to take part, get connected, and hope for a world where we can all live together, focus on abilities, and love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ who want to make the world a better, more accepting place.

Pam Miller
Development Director

Roberta Webb Child Care

The beginning of a new school year can be a bit scary for any child. Imagine the additional fears when you go to a new school in a totally different culture and you don't know a word of the language spoken...as a three year old.

Roberta Webb Child Care Center is open year-round. As our children go to kindergarten in the fall, we have a number of new children joining us. Last August, one of these new children was Lia (name changed). Her family had recently arrived in Harrisonburg as refugees. Her dad works and her mom's medical issues make it difficult for her to take care of Lia all day at home. For weeks at Roberta Webb, she cried often and wore her backpack most of the day as her connection to home. She needed lots of extra holding, hugs, and assurance. Gradually,

she began to feel comfortable enough to eat, speak in English, smile, and even showed a bit of a mischievous side. She started to try new foods and learned how to use a water fountain.

Watching Lia blossom, to me, is such a wonderful example of why Roberta Webb Child Care exists. Knowing we are able to support her and her family in the big transition from another country is so rewarding. Each child who walks through the door has unique gifts and needs. Not only do we provide nurturing care while they are here for eight to ten hours a day, we also desire to support the parents and family as they work, go to school, and simply fulfill the awesome role of being a parent.

Kathryn Morris, *Executive Director*

Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale

The 51st Annual Virginia Mennonite Relief sale in 2017 raised \$393,810 for MCC and relief efforts around the world! The annual auction of handmade quilts, artwork, and wood items raised \$131,894 of the total. Food sales totaled \$117,525. My Coins Count raised \$28,957 that helped support Virginia Mennonite Mission projects of The Joshua Center, Maranatha School for the Deaf, Rumah Harapan, and the BundiNutrition program, and also helped respond to the refugee crisis in Syria and Iraq through MCC's work.

In 2017, Relief Sale supporters were given a new opportunity to add to the total giving through a "S.O.S. (Sharing Our Surplus)" campaign. The challenge was to give above regular tithes and offerings, not decreased giving elsewhere, with funds being donated to MCC's work with Syrian refugees. \$35,575 was raised for the initiative.

"An especially big 'thank you' goes to the approximately 1,000 volunteers who gave of their time and energy to make this remarkable event possible," said Dave Rush, chair of the Relief Sale. "Also, many thanks to the donors and buyers. It brings me much joy to see us all work together to raise money to help others around the world whom Jesus calls us to serve. May we continue to do this not just on this relief sale weekend, but each and every day."

Mark your calendars now for the 52nd Annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale on Oct. 5-6 at the Rockingham County Fair Grounds. Pictures of auction items, schedule, and more will be posted on the website, so check for updates frequently. For more information or to sign up to receive a e-newsletter update, go to www.vareliefsale.com and follow us on Facebook!

Lisa Lehman, *Publicity Committee Chair*

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center

Now in our 34th year of ministry, The Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center is thankful to be an endorsed ministry of the Virginia Mennonite Conference. Through hosting the VMC Conference Ministers Retreat, Eastern District Conference church retreats, and through programs like Kaleidoscope Camp, we continue to provide a place for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of kids and adults through camping and retreats.

The word that best characterizes 2017 is Renewal. We encouraged our staff, our campers, and our guests to be renewed **inwardly**: to reconnect with the Lord. We encouraged them to renew their strength as they put their hope in Him, and to allow God's word to renew their minds so they could get a fresh perspective.

We also experienced renewal in many **outward** areas. Our facility renewal team made significant progress on making things "like new" again. We created a new committee to guide our Oakwood Lodge Renovation project, and we crafted a new position that will focus on building renewed relationships with our donors.

All these things have helped us look **upward** praising God for the one thing that is most important to us: providing a place for young and old alike to give their hearts to the Lord, to begin a NEW relationship with Jesus. Luke 15:7 says, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents..." And, Romans 6:4 says, "...Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."

Bob Briscoe, *Executive Director*



Report to Virginia Mennonite Conference of Mennonite Church USA

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." —Hebrews 10:24-25
Through its ministries, Mennonite Church USA seeks to show the love of God to one another and the world. Here are some ways we have worked together as the church in 2017.



The MC USA biennial convention was held July 4-8 in Orlando, Florida with the theme "Love is a Verb." Over 3,200 people attended.

The MC USA Delegate Assembly in Orlando passed a resolution on "**Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine.**" The resolution encourages

support for Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers. It also laments Mennonite historical complicity with anti-Semitism and calls for further learning.



A significant part of last year's convention was the **Future Church Summit**, the first step in a churchwide discernment process inviting delegates and key stakeholders to envision an Anabaptist future for MC USA. Delegates voted to affirm the outcomes of the summit as "a guide for living into God's calling for our church."



Growing out of the priorities from the Future Church Summit, MC USA continues discernment through **Journey Forward**, a churchwide process to develop an identity document centered around MC USA's shared beliefs and goals. The initial draft emphasizes three pillars of MC USA faith as being "Grounded in the whole story of Jesus";

"Transformed by the Holy Spirit in community"; and "Empowered to join in God's reconciling work." In December 2017, a writing group began creating a study guide that seeks to engage congregations and gather feedback for updating the document in 2018.

The **MC USA Archives** moved from Goshen College to MC USA's Elkhart (Ind.) offices. Researchers can now access those materials in a more accessible and better preserved space. Bethel College continues to house the General Conference archives collection.

MC USA began offering **Healthy Boundary Trainings** and held a "Train the Trainer" event in March 2017 as a commitment to addressing sexual abuse in the church. It is the intent that every new MC USA pastor will receive this training and that all current pastors receive it in the next three years. The Leadership Development staff also updated "**Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures,**" MC USA's procedure for addressing ministerial sexual misconduct.



In December 2017, the **Panel on Sexual Abuse Prevention** completed its term, submitting a proposed policy outlining appropriate response when non-credentialed leaders are accused of sexual abuse.

Ervin Stutzman announced his plans to retire from executive director of MC USA in spring 2018. The search committee for his replacement gathered denomination-wide priorities for the position and revised the job description to emphasize goals of the Future Church Summit and Executive Board.

The final payment was made on the **Elkhart offices** that house MC USA and Mennonite agencies. The Constituency Leaders Council met to ceremonially burn the mortgage and celebrate in the space. Generous donors made it possible to pay off the mortgage years ahead of schedule.



In January 2018, the **Women in Leadership Project** released a second collection of essays based on presentations at the 2016 Women Doing Theology (WDT) conference, *I've got the power! Naming and reclaiming power as a force for good.* The next WDT conference is scheduled for Nov. 8-10, 2018.



www.MennoniteUSA.org
www.Facebook.com/MennoniteChurchUSA
Toll-free: 866-866-2872

Neighbor to neighbor

Everence 2018 report

Virginia Mennonite Conference
July 19-21, 2018

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Everence values our strong congregational partnerships

For nearly 75 years, Everence® has worked with congregations and their members to help 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 faith community as partners in stewardship throughout 2018 and beyond.

MyNeighbor users generating charitable contributions

The MyNeighbor credit card generated more than \$180,000 in donations for charitable organizations from the start of a concerted marketing/awareness campaign in spring 2017 through the end of January 2018.

The MyNeighbor card from Everence is available for business or personal use. Everence donates 1.5 percent of each transaction total to the charity the

cardholder chooses from a list of thousands of possibilities, including churches.

The MyNeighbor card gives people a chance to name the nonprofit (the Neighbor) where they want contributions to go.

Cardholders can even use MyNeighbor to donate to a charity, then designate the same charity as the recipient of the 1.5 percent contribution.

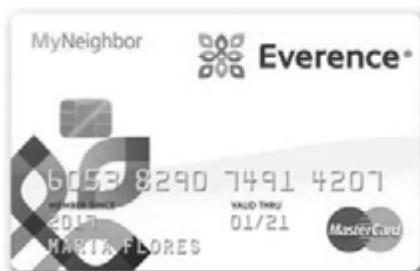
Complete information is available at everence.com/myneighbor.

Subsidies available for comprehensive financial planning

From debt reduction to retirement readiness, pastors face some unique financial issues and situations.

Through a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., credentialed and active Mennonite Church USA and Conservative Mennonite Conference pastors may receive a \$1,000 subsidy toward the cost of a first-year Everence comprehensive financial plan. Pastors are asked to contribute a \$200 co-pay, which congregations and conferences may help to pay.

And credentialed and active pastors from any of our affiliated churches may receive a Pastoral Financial Plan Grant of \$400 toward the cost of a first-year Everence comprehensive financial plan. Pastors are



responsible for \$400, and the pastors' congregation is responsible for \$800 – half of which will be reimbursed through the Pastoral Financial Plan Grant.

By working with a knowledgeable Everence financial advisor, you can develop a financial plan to find relief from financial burdens and a path to meet your short- and long-term financial goals – all while integrating your money decisions with your faith and values.

Sharing Fund helps churches provide financial relief

Thousands of people every year get financial help through the Everence Sharing Fund, which supplements congregational outreach efforts.

Sharing Fund grants help our partner churches assist more people with basic, everyday needs such as medical care, rent, food, clothing and utilities.

Here's an example: The fund recently reimbursed a church that helped a woman who needed surgery to get back on her feet. She wasn't able to work during her recovery – she's her family's financial provider – and fell behind on her mortgage payments.

Her bank threatened to foreclose on the family home, but a bank employee told the woman she'd be in compliance if she made a payment by the end of that month. Her congregation made the payment and received a matching Sharing Fund grant.

Gain a deeper understanding with the Stewardship Ministry Wheel

Everence stewardship consultants are helping our congregational advocates, pastors and other church leaders strengthen their stewardship efforts

through the Everence Stewardship Ministry Wheel.



The wheel was created to help people gain a deeper understanding of what stewardship is all about.

The wheel features five areas of stewardship – planning for the future, telling our story, teaching stewardship principles, asking for involvement, and thanking givers and volunteers.

The tool can help congregational leaders assess which activities may need more attention and which are already working well.

Talk to an Everence advocate or stewardship consultant to find out more.

Everence Charitable Services is ready to help you maximize your generosity

Generosity's outlook is bright. Americans broke all records for charitable giving in 2016, according to a Giving USA 2017 report.

Everence Charitable Services is prepared to help you and other members of your congregation realize your vision for generosity.

You often can be more generous than you imagined and realize tax benefits as well. Our financial

advisors can help you map out a plan for your giving.

You'll find a variety of individualized options, including a donor advised fund that offers simplicity and flexibility. You can donate cash or other assets, such as stocks, land and farm commodities. The assets are sold and the money is available for distribution to charities you recommend, whenever you wish.

Contact your Everence office, visit everence.com/charitable-giving or call (800) 348-7468.

Confidential counseling can help with debt, overall money management issues

Everence has partnered with Lutheran Social Service Financial Counseling since 2008 so our members and others we serve can access free, trustworthy, expert help with credit card and student loan debt, foreclosure prevention, and overall money management.

To date, more than 1,100 people have sought this help, and as of Jan. 1, 2017, LSS helped them pay off \$1,832,429 in debts.

Every person is eligible for up to six sessions per year of financial counseling through LSS. The service is confidential; LSS only reports total utilization numbers to Everence – never any names or personal details.

The counseling is designed to help people assess their situation, create a spending plan and do a better job of budgeting to help them pay off debts and plan ahead with more confidence.

Call (877) 809-0039 to set up a telephone appointment with a certified LSS financial counselor.

Thank you Virginia Mennonite Conference for participating in The Corinthian Plan (TCP)!

The Corinthian Plan is now in its ninth year serving Mennonite Church USA congregations, conferences and their employees.

As time goes on and the landscape of health coverage changes, it appears TCP has niche. Our TCP:

- does not exclude for health conditions,
- has a robust subsidy program,
- encourages wellbeing through an Incentive program, and
- uses “community pricing”, where claims experiences are shared across the pool, not absorbed by one individual/congregation.

The Fair Balance Fund provides subsidies for congregations that could not otherwise pay the full premium. Funding for this ‘mutual aid’, comes through participating congregations contributing annually, \$10 per average attendee. There are two congregations in Virginia Conference that receive a subsidy.

Our **Wellness Incentive Program** will begin using ‘Well-being’ language. Each participant in the program including spouses can still earn up to \$300 annually. New this year is that Wellness participants will be required to have a regular exam/check up with their medical provider.

Cultivating Healthy Environments: This completely new initiative is designed to encourage congregations in cultivating healthy environments for pastors, staff, and congregants. Although still in the development phase, we anticipate that it will entail a congregational checklist of activities. TCP is partnering with other parts of MC USA in this venture. Look for more information to come.

Virginia Conference participates in TCP: There are a total of 28 congregations, (plus the conference office) that participate with the plan: 16 congregations (plus the conference office) participate and provide health coverage; 9 congregations participate but ‘waive’ coverage for their staff, and 3 congregations participate but have no current eligible employees. Thank you for your strong participation. Across the country, there are 325 congregations and conference offices that participate in The Corinthian Plan with 814 individuals carrying health coverage.

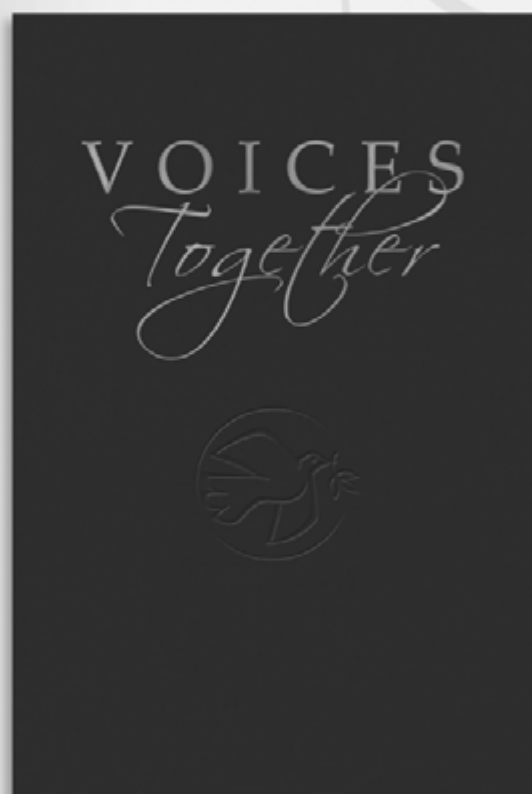
For more information go to our webpage: <http://mennoniteusa.org/what-we-do/the-corinthian-plan/> or contact:

- Duncan Smith, Director. (duncans@mennoniteusa.org)
- James Miller, East Coast Area Representative. (jmm_smc@yahoo.com)
- Ingrid Friesen Moser, Wellness Coordinator. (Ingrid.wellness@gmail.com)

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

SOMETHING HAPPENS WHEN WE SING

Voices Together, Giving Together



*Mennonites love to sing. We sing in celebration.
We sing in lament. We sing in worship.*

Before any copies of *Voices Together* are sold, MennoMedia will spend nearly \$700,000 in development costs. As a small organization we need your generous donation today to complete this project.

GIVE NOW AND DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!

In the U.S., Everence® and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. have joined together to match all donations to *Voices Together*, up to \$100,000 through the end of 2018.

In Canada, an anonymous family foundation in Ontario generously will match all donations to *Voices Together*, up to \$15,000 through the end of 2018.

This **Voices Together, Giving Together** campaign strives to make the *Voices Together* hymnal affordable for all congregations. Make a gift today and have it doubled!

Every voice matters. Every dollar counts. Help MennoMedia complete this new collection and make it affordable for all.

**DOUBLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT TODAY AT
VoicesTogetherHymnal.org**



The \$700,000 in development costs include staffing and expenses over three years. Gifts of \$500 or more entitle you to a line in a special acknowledgment section. Many are choosing to use this line to honor a loved one.

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

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., Canada and around the world. Much of MCC's work is possible because of your generosity. Thank you for your ongoing support of MCC's ministries!

MCC/Virginia Mennonite Conference connections

- MCC appreciates Virginia Mennonite Conference members Ann Graber Hershberger, chairperson of the MCC U.S. board, and Les Horning, who we welcome to the position of MCC East Coast donor relations associate beginning in June 2018. Conference member Maren Hange, MCC East Coast board member, has been valuable in interpreting a local view of Charlottesville, Va. dynamics since the events of August 2017.
- Gift & Thrift in Harrisonburg, Va., part of the MCC Thrift Shop Network, completed a major renovation and expansion in late 2017. The shop, which supports the ministries of MCC, now has more room for the sale of books, furniture and clothing.
- This year (2017-18) MCC placed two International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) participants from Laos and Honduras in Harrisonburg, Va. at Gift & Thrift and Eastern Mennonite University (EMU), respectively. In the 2018-19 IVEP term, we hope to place four international participants in the Harrisonburg area.
- MCC deeply appreciates supporters of the 51st Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale last year, which included a new initiative called, "Sharing Our Surplus." This new project encouraged donors to give cash donations toward refugee aid, resulting in \$40,000 in generous gifts.
- The Eastern Mennonite University women's volleyball team generously donated MCC relief kits after Hurricanes Irma and Maria, while Park View Mennonite Church assembled over 1,000 school kits for MCC during their annual Kitz Blitz. Women from several VMC congregations collaborated to produce dozens of comforters during their comforter blitz at Weavers Mennonite Shady Oaks Fellowship Hall.
- MCC thanks those from the Harrisonburg community who participated in the June 3, 2017 and May 5, 2018 solar panel installations on the roof of Gift & Thrift in Harrisonburg, Va. and the MCC Material Resources Center in Ephrata, Pa., respectively. Partial funding for the solar project came from the Department of Energy Solar in Your Community Challenge of the SunShot Initiative, where a \$50,000 grant was awarded to partners including MCC, Gift & Thrift, RER Energy, Secure Futures and SolarWorld Americas.

MCC at work here and around the world

Relief: When Russia annexed Crimea in southern Ukraine in early 2014, unrest spread, forcing waves of people to flee from the fighting. Many fled to the city of Zaporizhzhia, about 125 miles from the conflict zone. Once there, many rely on MCC partners for assistance. MCC relief kits offer hygiene supplies, while MCC canned meat provides valuable protein and nutrition. MCC comforters offer warmth and hope to those who have been displaced due to this conflict.

Development: In the Kabay community in Haiti, there were only two latrines for 1,200 people. Without latrines, people are forced to use the surrounding fields, where fecal matter contaminates both crops and shared water sources. With already fragile health, this contamination brings sickness, disability or death. MCC planned, designed and implemented the latrine project in partnership with the local community, constructing 181 latrines. Now, they have seen zero cases of cholera since the latrines were dug.

Peace: Every year, MCC provides young adults from the U.S. and Canada with yearlong intercultural service experiences through the Serving And Learning Together (SALT) program. Edith Rodriguez from Aibonito, Puerto Rico is serving with SALT for the 2017-18 term as a nurse at Faith Alive Foundation (FAF) in Jos, Nigeria. Edith says, "I know that, through serving with SALT, I will never be the same."

Thank you for all of the ways in which you join MCC to share God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ.

Grace and peace to you,
Bruce Campbell-Janz, MCC East Coast executive director
Maren Hange, MCC East Coast board member



Around the world, MCC comforters provide warmth and hope. In Zhytomyr, Ukraine, MCC items, including comforters, canned meat and hygiene kits, are helping people in need such as Valentina Inskirveliy and those who came to this area after fleeing conflict in eastern Ukraine. (MCC Photo/Colin Vandenberg)



Mennonite Men

Engaging men to grow, give and serve.

Annual Report to Conference

Mennonite Men is the men's organization of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. Our mission is *Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus*. Our two programs, *JoinHands* and *JoinMen*, served this mission in several ways in 2017.

JoinHands: Raising Funds for New Churches

Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we have granted nearly 2 million dollars to help new congregations acquire their first church building.



In December, Mara Christian Church received a \$40,000 grant. The Mara Church is a member of Virginia Mennonite Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. This church is largely made up of Myanmar religious refugees, many of whom have fled their homeland to escape violent persecution under the past military dictatorship of Burma. We are grateful for the opportunity to assist this congregation in purchasing a meeting place. We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands so more grants like these can be made to congregations in need.

JoinMen: Providing Retreats and Resources for Men

JoinMen promotes the growth of men in community. In partnership with Mennonite camps and retreat centers, we offer retreats on various themes and provide resources for men on our website.



Retreats last year in Ontario, Oregon, Michigan and New York focused on our spiritual journey, making peace with conflict and healthy masculinity. Men of various ages and ethnicity gathered for these events. Plans for 2018 include retreats to engage men and publishing *Peaceful at Heart: Embracing Healthy Masculinity*, an in-depth exploration of masculinity from an Anabaptist perspective.

To learn more, support our work, download resources, or schedule a retreat, visit MennoniteMen.org.

Be local. Be global. **Be the Gospel.**



Sharing the good news of Jesus is the essence of the church's calling and the primary reason for its existence.

It is, indeed, a great privilege to be directly engaged in the task of building our capacity for the church's mission in the world. It's been a great honor to do so alongside

you, and with your support. Your investment in the task of sharing the good news of Jesus around the world is an inspiration and a source of deep gratitude. Thank you for

your partnership in God's mission this past year!



Stanley W. Green
Executive Director

Virginia Conference + Mennonite Mission Network

Worker support around the world

Sister agency

Virginia Mennonite Missions—As a sister agency, Mennonite Mission Network partners with Virginia Mennonite Missions to expand ministry opportunities and support for international workers beyond Virginia Mennonite Conference congregations.

Mary Raber—Teaches at theological schools in Ukraine.

» Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship

Asher and Lindsey Fast—

Developing collaboration with existing partners and programs in relation to Mother Theresa Resource Centre, and with local African Initiated Churches.

Jointly appointed with Virginia Mennonite Missions.

» Community Mennonite Church

Couple working in a sensitive location—

Training leaders and working in a nursing facility.

» Harrisonburg Mennonite Church

Missional Discipleship Initiative

» Iglesia Discipular Anabaptista

» Iglesia Enciende una Luz

» New Song Anabaptist Fellowship

Prayer partners

30 people have committed to pray daily for Mission Network ministries.

Congregational giving to Mission Network

During Mission Network's last fiscal year, Aug. 1, 2016, through July 31, 2017, 30 of 70 Virginia Conference congregations (43 percent) gave **\$169,937**, or an average of **\$5,665**. **Thank you!**

Service participants

Christian Service sites

SOOP sites

» Highland Retreat

» Unique World Gifts, Hickory, North Carolina

» Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center

Service Adventure

Jessica Buckwalter, serving in Anchorage, Alaska.

Amanda Geltmacher, serving in Jackson, Mississippi.

Maarten McDonald, serving in Anchorage, Alaska.

Mennonite Voluntary Service

Carly Kraybill, serving in Washington, D.C.

Curtis Martin, serving in Alamosa, Colorado.

SOOP

Ronald and Lila Kin, Glendale, Arizona

James and Ruth Mellinger, Baltimore, Maryland

Sam and Susan Powell, Toano, Virginia

Roy and Mary Yoder, Glendale, Arizona



I always enjoy being present for Virginia Conference session. May the hope we have in Jesus Christ our Lord encourage and move us to respond to the Holy Spirit's nudges in building God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.



Sandy Miller
Director of Church Relations
and representative for Virginia Conference

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

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

Other VMC Leaders (non-voting)

Credentialed leaders not assigned to a VMC congregation or cluster

Calvary

Ronnie B. Pride, Sr.

Central

Richard L. Bowman
Lee A. Martin
Don A. Yoder

Eastern

J. Harold Bergey
Randy Coblentz
Barry William Loop
I. Keith Miller

Eastern Carolina

Mauricio W. Chenlo
James W. Mellinger
Brenda North Martin
Larry J. Wilson

Harrisonburg

Seth T. Crissman
Shawn T. Green
Stephen M. Horst
Luis G. Martinez
Nicholas "Nick" S. Meyer
Bethany J. Tobin
Reuben W. Horst
Ross J. Erb
Frederic A. Miller
Christopher Riddle
Stephen F. Dintaman
Francisco Machado
Bonita L. Stutzman

Northern

David A. King
Dawn K. Monger

Potomac

Del J. Glick
Christina J. Kraybill
Eugene D. Kraybill

TCK

Matthew Cubbage
John B. Myer
Charpia Vang

Spouses of deceased credentialed leaders

Mary Troyer Bergey
Marilyn Brenneman
Betty Brunk
Helen Burkholder
Betty Byler
Virginia Derstine
Naomi Francisco
Bertha Fyffe
Belinda Gaskins
Wilma Gingerich
Eva Glanzer
Lila May Janzen
Ruth Kaufman
Charlene Kiser
Wilhemina Littlejohn
Lois Mumaw Martin
Ruth Martin

Virginia Martin
Anna Miller
Eleanor Minninger
Evelyn Nice
Mary Nissley
Doris Amstutz North
Mildred Pellman
John Shenk
Evonne Showalter
W. Dean Smith
Marie Stevanus
Martha Weaver
Virginia E. Grove
Weaver
Betty White

Retired credentialed leaders

Central

Floyd G. Blosser
Glendon L. Blosser
Emma L. Frederick
J. Mark Frederick
E. Richard Good
Roy F. Good
Paul L. Kratz
Dennis R. Kuhns
Wilmer R. Lehman
G. Preston Nowlin
John Petersheim
Clayton O. Shenk
Edith N. Shenk Kuhns
Amos P. Witmer

Chaplains Cluster

J. Melvin Janzen
John Paul Lehman
Carl Smeltzer
Shirlee E. Kohler Yoder

Eastern

Kenneth S. Brunk
J. Harold Buckwalter
Ernest T. Godshall
John T. Kreider
Robert W. Mast
James B. Meador
Merlin L. Miller

Kenneth J. Peterson
M. Lloyd Weaver

Eastern Carolina

David W. Bartow
Duane E. Beck

Harrisonburg

A. Don Augsburg
Myron S. Augsburg
G. Edwin Bontrager
Timothy Green
Noah B. Helmuth
Kathryn J. Hochstedler
Alvin M. Huyard
David S. Huyard
Rose L. Huyard
Richard F. Keeler
Paul G. Kniss
Philip R. Kreider
Catherine S. Longenecker
Daniel M. Longenecker
John R. Martin
Edmond F. Miller
Sharon Wyse Miller
Millard E. Osborne
John R. Petersheim
Erwin H. Rempel
Kenneth L. Seitz, Jr.

Dorothy J. Shank
Orval M. Shank
Raymond W. Shenk
Eugene K. Souder
James K. Stauffer
Edward B. Stoltzfus
Paul L. Swarr
Lawrence M. Yoder
Paul T. Yoder
Shirley Yoder Brubaker

Leadership/Admin.

Gordon Zook

Northern

Donald Bare
George R. Brunk III
Otis Dove
Margaret "Peg" Engle
Harley D. Good
Daniel A. Hoopert
Lloyd R. Horst
Thomas E. Kauffman
John D. Kiblinger
Kathleen Weaver Kurtz
Mark Landis
Donald P. Mishler
James W. Musser
Laban Peachey
Clifford S. Poirot, Sr.

Elwood G. Schrock
Rowland Shank
H. Michael Shenk II
Hazel Shirk
Omar V. Showalter
Marvin Stutzman
Irvin D. Weaver
Samuel O. Weaver

Southern

James S. Delp
Bruce W. Hankee
Richard H. Showalter
Glenn M. Steiner
Marion C. Weaver

Teaching Cluster

Dorothy Jean Weaver

TCK

Edward M. Godshall
Willis G. Hunsberger
Floyd Rogers Matteson
James L. Roth
Arthur E. Smoker

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 September 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018. **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 needs 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.
- **Mennonwood Retirement Community**
mennonwood.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 providing 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 September 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018. **Thank you!**

*Emily and James R. Akerson
Ruth K. Alger
*Devon C. and Teresa B. Anders
*Esther and Myron Augsburg
*R. Scott Beachy
Rachel E. and Richard Beckler
Harold Bergey
Dana and James W. Blauch
*Barbara and Jonas L. Borntreger
*Hazel and John D. Bowman
Lawrence and Sylvia Bowman
Lois B. Bowman
Alfred and Delma Breneman
George W. and Suzanne S. Brooks
Margaret N. and Robert Bruckhart
Marian B. and Steven C. Buckwalter
Ruth L. Burkholder
Rhoda Trost and Kenton Derstine
Katherine and Nelson Driver
*Allen K. Early
Kay and Richard Early
Frederick and Karen Eberly
Leslie and William "Bill" Eberly
*Dr. J. Robert and Rosalie Eshleman
*John and Kathryn S. Fairfield
Frank E. and Susan B. Farrow
Linford K. and Rebecca L. Gehman
E. Richard and Wanda Good
*Dorcas M. and James M. Good
*Mark and Jamela Gray
Lowell W. and Miriam L. Haarer
Bruce W. and Janet Hanke
Nancy E. Hardin
Christina Harman
Pearl H. Hartman
Barb and Dale Hartzler
Kenneth M. and Ruth K. Heatwole
Linda C. Heatwole
Ann J. and Irvin M. Heishman
Gerald and Jeanette Hershey
Marie and Robert A. Hertzler
Dorothy and Willard Hertzler
Kathryn J. and Wayne Hochstedler
Daniel and Gwendolyn Horning
Kenneth R. and Sue Horst
Earlene and Loren E. Horst
M. Rene Hostetter
Alice and Stanley Hostetter
Harold E. Huber
Greg and Joyce Hutchinson
Beryl M. and Margo Jantzi
Anna and Milton Janzen
J. Melvin Janzen
Glen E. and Sandra Kauffman
Rosemary G. King
Miriam and Walter King
Betty M. Kniss
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Jonathan and Tamara Kratz
Betty O. and John T. Kreider
*Norman H. and Dorothy L. Kreider
Edith Shenk Kuhns and Dennis Kuhns
Pearl L. and Richard K. Lantz
N. Can Le
Doris and Steve Leaman
Barbara and John Lehman
David H. and Lavonne Lehman
Dorothy Lehman
*Erma Y. and J. Paul Lehman
*Margaret and Mark Lehman
Marcia and Philip Lehman
*Constance E. and Joseph W. Longacher
Carolyn and Milford Lyndaker
Clinton E. and Esther Martin
John R. and Marian S. Martin
Pauline and R. Larry Martin
Lois E. and Wendell L. Maust
Edmond and Wendy Miller
*Elroy and Linda Miller
*Sara Grace Miller
Nelly and Harold Moreno-Shenk
Gerald E. Nauman
Keith and Tamara "Tami" Nice
Carolyn M. and G. Preston Nowlin
Donald and Jean Oswald
Carol L. and Edward Parks
Carol and Kenneth Peterson
*Heinz D. and Melanie Plato
Carolyn and John Reed
Joel and Carolyn Reinford
Naomi and Raymond Ressler
Amy L. Rush
Carmen and Luke Schrock-Hurst
Helen T. and Stuart Shank
*Alan L. and Sharon B. Shenk
H. Michael and Ramona Shenk
*Jewell Shenk
*Jonathan D. and Sheryl L. Shenk
Bertha and Richard H. Showalter
Donald E. and Marlene Showalter
Evonne S. Showalter
Mary Kratz and Millard Showalter
Amy and Kinley Simmers
*Carl L. and Margaret M. Smeltzer
Deidre L. and Sherwyn J. Smeltzer
Levon Smoker
Gloria H. Snider
James K. and Ruth Y. Stauffer
Grant and Susan Stoltzfus
Bonita and Ervin R. Stutzman
Evelyn and Larry Suter
Louise H. Swartz
Loren and Pat Swartzendruber
Katie and Steven Swartzendruber
*The Mennonite Foundation
Lowell and Sharon Tieszen
Carol and Skip Tobin
Jon and Meredith Trotter
*Doris S. Trumbo
Carol Van Donk
Charpia Vang
M. Lloyd and Sarah Y. Weaver
Dorothy Jean Weaver
Kenneth Weaver
Marion C. Weaver
Michael D. and Rachel J. Weaver
David W. and Miriam S. Wenger
Lois B. and Robert G. Wenger
Craig and Marla Wilson
Alma Jean and Harvey Yoder
Lawrence M. and Shirlee K. Yoder
*J. T. Cutler and Evangeline Yoder
Lonnie and Teresa Yoder
Katrina and Paul J. Yoder
Philip J. Yoder
Barbara and Sanford Yoder
*Gordon and Bonnetta Zook

An asterisk (*) indicates that the donor is a Philippian level donor who gave \$500 or more from September 1, 2016, to July 1, 2017. 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.

Estate Benefactors

Michael Beckler
Glendon Blosser
Steven & M. Christine Carpenter
John & Mary Ann Heatwole
Raymond & Betty Hertzler
Elizabeth Hostetter
Lila Mae Janzen
Rosie Jones
Paul & Evelyn Kratz
Richard & Pearl Lantz
Wilmer & Mary Louise Lehman
Joe & Constance Longacher
Bertha Showalter
Eugene & Alice Souder
Ken & June Marie Weaver

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

Making a donation
to Virginia Mennonite
Conference is easy!



Donate online at virginiaconference.org/donate/
or by mailing checks to:

Virginia Mennonite Conference
601 Parkwood Dr., Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Congregational Giving to Virginia Mennonite Conference

More than \$25 per member, in addition to congregation membership fee, between Sept. 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018

3:16 Christian Community Church
Beldor Mennonite Church
Big Spring Mennonite Church
Charlottesville Mennonite Church
Concord Mennonite Church
Crest Hill Mennonite Church
Crossroads Mennonite Church
Family of Hope
First Mennonite Church

Greenmonte Fellowship Church
Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
Huntington Mennonite Church
Immanuel Mennonite Church
Knoxville Mennonite Church
Lindale Mennonite Church
Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church
Park View Mennonite Church
Powhatan Mennonite Church

Springdale Mennonite Church
Staunton Mennonite Church
Stephens City Mennonite Church
Trissels Mennonite Church
Valley View Mennonite Church
Washington Community Fellowship
Williamsburg Mennonite Church
Zion Mennonite Church

Up to \$25 per member, in addition to congregation membership fee, between Sept. 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018

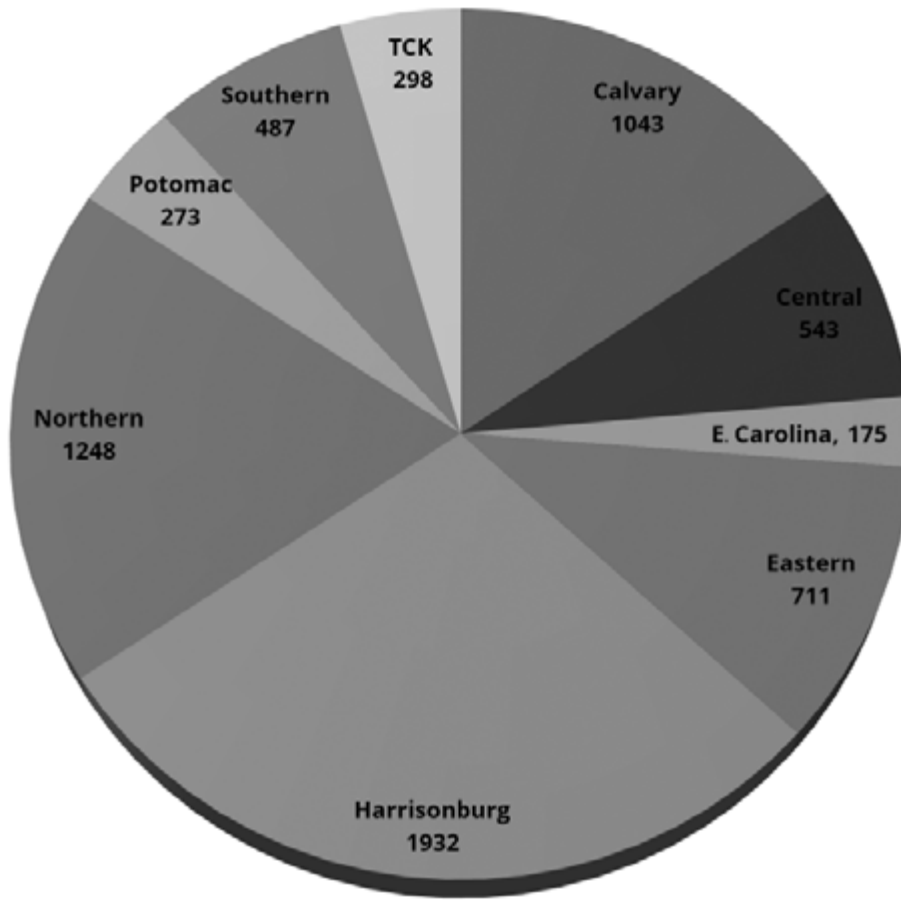
Asheville Mennonite Church
C3 Hampton (Calvary Community)
Christiansburg Mennonite Church
Community Mennonite Church
CrossWay Mennonite Church
DC City Church
Daniels Run Peace Church
Durham Mennonite Church
Early Church
Iglesia Enciende una Luz
Fellowship of Christ

Gospel Hill Mennonite Church
Grace Mennonite Fellowship
Greensboro Mennonite Church
Hebron Mennonite Church
Iglesia Alfa y Omega
Lynside Mennonite Church
Mathias Mennonite Church
Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church
Mt. Vernon Mennonite Church
Mountain View Mennonite Church
New Song Anabaptist Fellowship

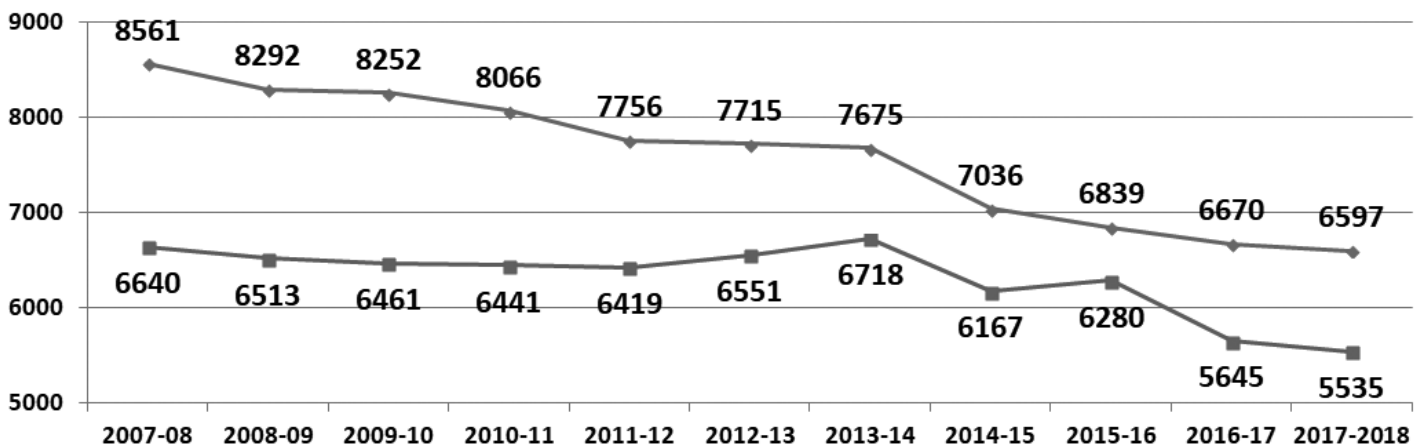
Providence Mennonite Church
Ridgeway Mennonite Church
Signs of Life Fellowship
The Table
Vietnamese Christian Fellowship
Warwick River Mennonite Church
Waynesboro Mennonite Fellowship
Weavers Mennonite Church
Woodland Mennonite Church
Zion Hill Mennonite Church

* 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.

Membership by District 2017-2018
As of May 31, 2018



Membership and Attendance Ten Year Trend



Conference Financial Summary

	Unrestricted Operations	Restricted Funds		Total
		Special Projects	Endowments	
Income				
Contributions - individuals	\$ 55,092	\$ 6,588	\$ 300	\$ 61,980
Contributions - congregations	118,596	1,030	-	119,626
Contributions - associated ministries	10,700	-	-	10,700
Congregation membership fees	20,217	-	-	20,217
Investment income (loss)	2,065	-	118,470	120,535
Registrations	-	25,849	-	25,849
Fees for services	12,574	-	-	12,574
Grants	-	5,000	-	5,000
Other	4,429	2,274	-	6,703
Bequests	165,586	-	2,217	167,803
Transfers	15,413	(53)	(15,360)	-
Total income	404,672	40,688	105,627	550,987
Expense				
Administrative support	57,739	-	-	57,739
Archival services	9,681	-	-	9,681
Communication	26,551	-	-	26,551
Facility costs	14,400	7,152	-	21,552
Leadership development	103,752	-	-	103,752
MCUSA-related expenses	7,816	-	-	7,816
Office expense	5,098	810	-	5,908
Other	50,177	39,760	3,036	92,973
Scholarships and grants	-	2,500	25,943	28,443
Total expense	275,214	50,222	28,979	354,415
Net income (loss)	\$ 129,458	\$ (9,534)	\$ 76,648	\$ 196,572
Beginning net assets	38,478	38,210	1,462,814	1,539,502
Ending net assets	\$ 167,936	\$ 28,676	\$ 1,539,462	\$ 1,736,074

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.

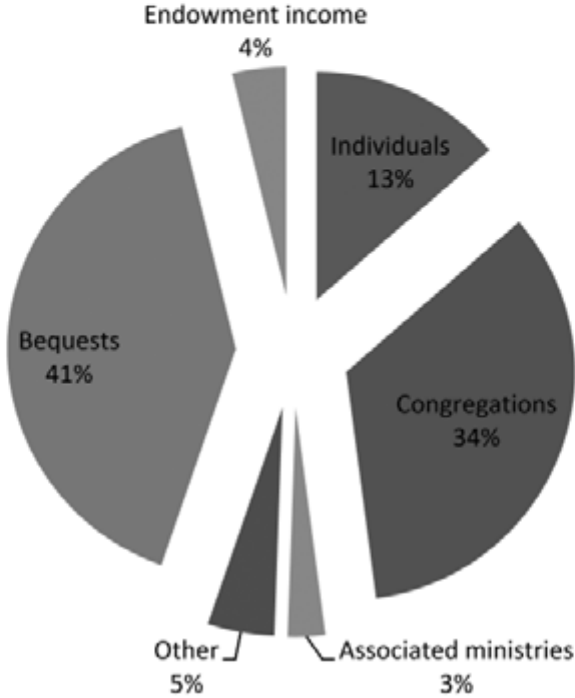
Restricted Funds:

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

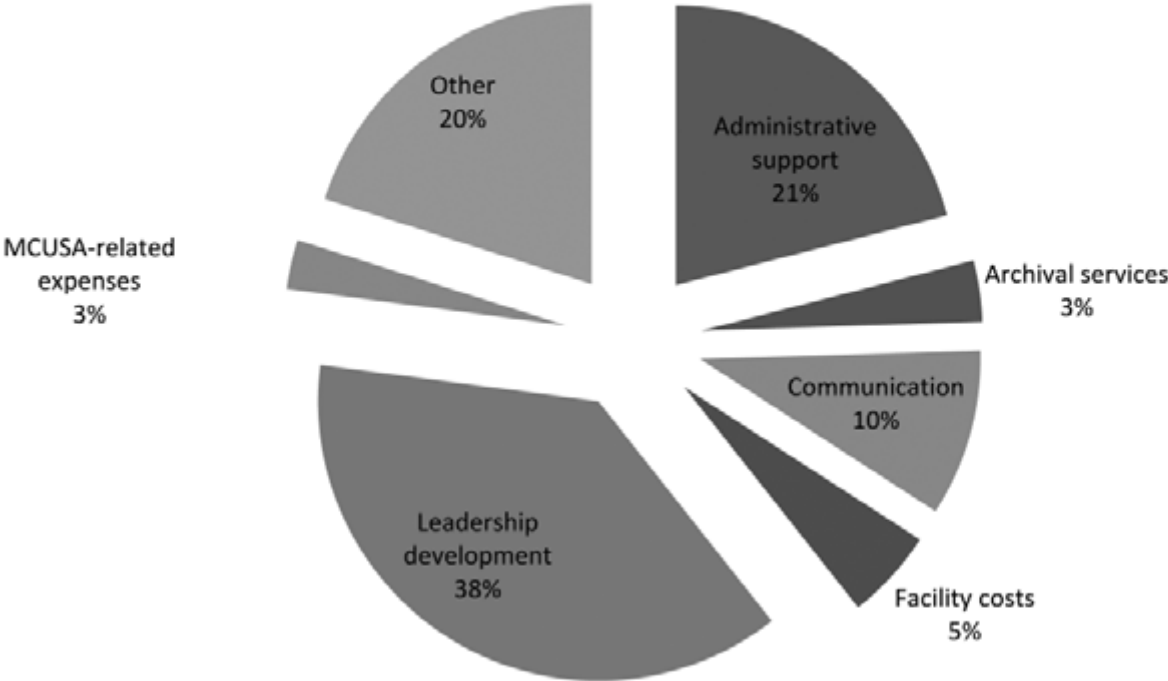
Endowments - includes restricted funds for leadership development, retired church worker aid, congregational resource center, and MCUSA.

**Virginia Mennonite Conference
Financial Summary - Operations
Year Ended August 31, 2017**

Income - \$404,672



Expenses - \$275,214



Ministers Being Commissioned

(Credentials completed between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018.)

Name	Congregation/Organization	District/Cluster	Title/Role
Andrew R.W.B. Fairfield	Christiansburg	Central	lead pastor
Anna Stutzman Janzen	Huntington	Eastern	lead pastor
Mark Kimmert	3:16 Christian Community	TCK	associate pastor
Francisco Machado	VMMissions/Mission Network	Harrisonburg	mission service
Marvin Lorenzana	Mennonite Mission Network	Leadership/Admin	MHI director
Lee Martin	MCC-SWAP	Central	mission service
Lesley Francisco McClendon	C3 Hampton	Calvary	assistant pastor
Patrick J. McFarren	Knoxville	TCK	lead pastor
Steve Swartzendruber	Legacy Hospice	Chaplains Cluster	chaplain
Sandra Eberly Wenger	Eastern Mennonite University	Teaching	spiritual director

Litany for Commissioning

Leader: We believe that the church is the assembly of those who have accepted God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The church is the new community of disciples sent into the world to proclaim the reign of God and to provide a foretaste of the church's glorious hope. The church is the new society established and sustained by the Holy Spirit. The church, the body of Christ, is called to become ever more like Jesus Christ, its head, in its worship, ministry, witness, mutual love and care, and the ordering of its common life.

People: We believe that ministry continues the work of Christ, who gives gifts through the Holy Spirit to all believers and empowers them for service in the church and in the world. We also believe that God calls particular persons in the church to specific leadership ministries and offices. All who minister are accountable to God and to the community of faith as they serve the church.

Ministers Being Commissioned: It is our hearts desire to serve God according to our calling and commission. We affirm our devotion to Christ's church and mission. We will seek to grow in faithfulness, guided by the Holy Spirit and Scripture in the company of the congregation and Conference. We are open to being transparent with our life and ministry, as well as to giving and receive counsel with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We accept our ministry as a stewardship of God's grace.

People: May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Leader: Now may the God of peace who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, make you complete in everything good, so that you may do God's will, working among us that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Assembly Prayer Team

Hazel Bowman, First (Richmond)
Anna Janzen, Huntington
Christine Mast, Mt. Pleasant
Sheila Schaefer, Powhatan
Carl Mericle, Providence
Ted and Sue Yoder, Warwick River
Mary Ann Lee, Williamsburg

Assembly Vision Team

Chris Cox
Leslie Francisco III
Johnnie Gnanamanickam
Aaron Kauffman
Clyde G. Kratz
Alicia Manning
Anieta McCracken

Assembly Listening Team

Johnnie Gnanamanickam
Anna Janzen
Andy Powell



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