

REPORT BOOK

Park View Mennonite Church
1600 College Ave
Harrisonburg, Va

Jesus



be the center



Virginia
Mennonite
Conference

A conference of
Mennonite Church USA

2023

SUMMER DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

JULY 13-15

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ABBREVIATIONS

DAWG: Denominational Affiliation Working Group
iCLT: interim Conference Leadership Team
MC USA: Mennonite Church USA
FLC: Faith & Life Commission
VMC: Virginia Mennonite Conference
VMM: Virginia Mennonite Missions

EXHIBITORS

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary
Brethren Mennonite Heritage Center
Eastern Mennonite Seminary
Eastern Mennonite School
Everence
Mennonite Central Committee
Mennonite Mission Network
Shenandoah Mennonite Disaster Services
VMMissions

ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 13

- 9:00a Workshop
Intercultural Development Inventory with Caleb Schrock-Hurst
Harriet Tubman house tour with Aldine Musser
- 10:30a Workshop
Youth Faith Formation with Moriah Hurst
- 2:00p Workshop
Does One Size Truly Fit All? Exploring Leadership Styles with Diverse Communities of Faith with Bishop Leslie Francisco
Harriet Tubman house tour with Aldine Musser
- 3:30p Workshop
Walking Life's Journey: End of life planning with Teresa Boshart Yoder
- 6:00p Appreciation Dinner for pastors and credentialed leaders

Friday, July 14

- 8:00a Registration
- 8:30 Session I
Worship
Reflection
VMMissions
Trinidad and Tobago Mennonite Church
- 10:00 Break
- 10:20 Session I continued
Jamacia Mennonite Church
Denominational Minister
Moderator's Report
Approval of Minutes
Finance Report
MC USA Delegates Report Back
Denominational Affinity Working Group
Youth Visioning

- Conference Council Self-Reflection
- 12:00p Lunch
- 1:15 Session II
Dissolution of New Song Anabaptist Fellowship and Fellowship of Christ
VMM Story
Presentation of Resolutions
Discussion
Report Back
- 3:15 Break
- 3:35 Session II continues
- 5:00 Dismissal

Dinner on your own.

7:00p Community Worship Service

Saturday, July 15

- 8:30a Session III
Worship
Reflection
Racial Justice Report
Gifts Discernment Nomination
Ballots for Resolutions and Nomination
- 10:15 Break
- 10:45 Session III continues
Ballot Results
Worship
- 12:30p Dismissal

Special Thank You
Everence, Sponsor of Appreciation Dinner



COMMISSIONING

VMC Credentialed Leaders

Joshua Cox	Grace Mennonite	Northern	Pastor
Joseph Bellone	Mountain View Mennonite	TCK	Pastor
Joe Hackman	VMRC	Admin /Leadership	Development
Carmen Miller	VMRC	Chaplain	Chaplain
Ken Wettig	SLAQ, Coracle	Harrisonburg	Director

VMMission Workers

Nathan Carr
transForm, recovery ministry USA
Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church

Michael & Ruth Hershey
transForm, Immerse international student ministry
USA
Lindale Mennonite Church

Rissa Martin
tranSend, volunteer coordinator at Agape Home,
Thailand
Greenmonte Fellowship

*Yosiah & Anita Rahma
transForm, urban ministry with Servants, Indonesia
Early Church

Mark and Sarah Schoenhals
transForm, church planting catalysts and leadership
training, Thailand
Weavers Mennonite Church

*Adam and Elsie Sauder,
transForm, discipleship ministry with Youth With a
Mission
Harrisonburg Mennonite Church

Devin Stipe
tranSend, SLAQ and Early Church internship, USA
Early Church

Ken Wettig,
transForm, director of SLAQ youth discipleship pro-
gram with Coracle, USA
Early Church

* pseudonyms

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.

INTERIM CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM LETTER

Craig Maven

Minister of Administration and Church Relations



It's hard to believe a year has gone by already since the interim Conference Leadership Team (iCLT) was introduced at last year's Summer Delegate Assembly. It has been my privilege to serve with the gifted

members who make up our team. I have also gotten to know Virginia Conference in a different way. Being part of this team has pushed me beyond my usual Harrisonburg bubble, for which I am thankful.

One of my responsibilities is to convene and chair the team meetings. I am the link between iCLT and Mennonite Church (MC) USA Executive Board staff, the Executive Conference Ministers of other MC USA conferences, and I serve on the Constituency Leaders Council of MC USA. Through these I have been able to build relationships with leaders of conferences and renew relationships with people I served with in other capacities who are now in denominational and conference leadership. I am the iCLT link to Conference Council and meet with the Executive Committee of Conference Council, as well as Conference Council meetings. I am one of Sara Wenger Shenk's sounding boards in her role as moderator. I feel blessed to be a small part of the good leadership Virginia Mennonite Conference (VMC) is putting into place. I consult with Joe Longacher, interim chair on needs of Faith and Life Commission (FLC).

Along with Beth Good I co-chair the Denominational Affiliation Work Group (DAWG). We are charged with developing the framework for a review of VMC's relationship with MCUSA. You will be hearing more from DAWG as we seek input from districts, congregations, and delegates.

Caleb Schrock-Hurst and I share the church relations role. We have divided the districts and clusters between us. Our role is more toward administration. Duane Beck and Maren Hange interact with the district ministers directly regarding their life and ministry. I recognize VMC is facing several significant challenges. My hope is that we can discern together what the Spirit is saying to VMC. And I believe that God has good plans for each of the congregations that make up VMC!

Caleb Schrock-Hurst

Church Relations and Racial Justice Leader



I have enjoyed a busy first year of work on the iCLT and a second year with VMC. Balancing my continued Racial Justice work with a variety of iCLT responsibilities has at times been a challenge and hours

are scarce, but over the last year I've visited 30 VMC congregations and have had countless conversations and coffees -- and meetings and emails! I get a lot of joy out of supporting pastors and learning about the varied and wonderful ministries of our congregations -- God continues to move our hands and feet in marvelous ways. This year also saw my graduation from seminary and my wedding, so there have been plenty of positive personal changes amidst the professional things. I'd appreciate prayer for clarity and calm in the midst of our ongoing conference discernment.

Duane Beck

Pastor and Church Consultation and Resourcing



A top priority has been to support and partner with the District Ministers. The Conference Liason Team working with the Gilliam Consulting Group recommended that we plan more times of worship. On May 6, fifty

people worshiped, praised God, confessed, lamented, anointed, and communed together at the table with our Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit's movement among us was conspicuous.

Reflecting on this past year, I was surprised at the amount of time I spent with the issues of division, organizational dysfunction and mistrust, and how that has limited my time with pastor and church consultation.

I've been learning about spiritual and missional vitality in our churches, which has the power to spread like a contagion. My priority this year is to promote awareness of this energy and encourage pastors, leaders, and churches to share their own gifts of mission and spiritual vitality so that we can all learn from and support each other.

Leslie Francisco III
Minister of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



This past year has been one of insight, intrigue, and introspection for me as a Conference leader. It has also been a year of growth and prioritization. Understanding the plurality of ministry and its potential to create divisions, I recognize that the challenge of the church is not to gather like-minded individuals, but to embrace the diverse expressions of God's creation in humanity.

I find it intriguing that God created such a diverse population of people and then calls us to be unified in Him. We have all heard the expression that God has a sense of humor. It seems that much confusion and conflict could have been avoided if God had created us all alike.

Moreover, this year has been marked by deep reflection and introspection as I have been learning more about equity and how decisions are made, or not made, from different cultural perspectives. I have gained a deeper understanding, appreciation, and at times frustration with the processes dominated by a single culture within the church.

The insights I have gained this year have helped me to better understand my role, which largely involves being present and contributing at the table where issues are discerned and debated, offering the perspective of the BIPOC community. I do not claim to speak for all people of color, but my intention is to provide a balanced view from other cultural experiences and expressions.

As the Minister of DEI, my goal is to assist us in VMC in practicing and living out Romans 12:4-5: "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." I humbly request your prayers for wisdom as I continue on this journey to expand the love of God among us and through us.

Maren Tyedmers Hange
Minister of Formation and Soul Care.



It is hard to believe the leadership team has been working together for almost a year. What joy it is to work on a team with trust, companionship, and a variety of gifts as we together listen for what the Spirit is doing.

What does it mean to tend the soul of the conference? How does one balance the urgent and the equipping? And when the box is "fragmented, anxious and focused on differences" how do I think outside the box in imaginative ways? What does it mean to continually lean in?

Simply staying organized and on top of communication takes time and thought. I continue to learn about the structures and functions of the conference. I participated in the VMC care supporter process review, took a brief whirlwind week on the resolutions committee, took a first step in reviving youth ministry, imagined with Duane Beck what faith formation could look like, had one-on-one conversations, and planned worship for the Assemblies. I served as a VMC delegate to MennoCon 2023.

I participated in a three excellent workshops hoping that these skills will open up new paths for our work: "Peaceful Practices", "Becoming Resilient Leaders with Trauma Aware Practices" "Navigating Tough Conversations with Adaptive Leadership Skills".

June Miller
Director of Administration and Communication



The term "administration" is a broad. As someone once described, "June does a lot of things." I work with Leroy and our accounting firm to manage all things financial i.e. accounts receivable & payable, grants & endowments, receipts & thank yous. In addition to HR and general office management, I sit on several committees - conference council, cc officers, credentials, leadership enrichment, and congregational life. Other responsibilities include credentials liaison to MC USA and database management, event planning, and archive

Communications includes all things tech from zoom, live stream, website, social media, print & digital documents. This time of year communications is a full-time job.

LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR



Members of the interim Conference Leadership Team (iCLT) stepped up to organize and commend a conference-wide worship service on May 6, 2023. We gathered at Waynesboro Mennonite Church to pray, worship and lament the pain and division in our conference family. Hearing others express what they lament, I got in touch with my own deep grief and even anger. I spoke briefly about how the Holy Spirit has gifted Virginia Conference with many diverse, skilled, compassionate and faith-filled persons who are eager to serve the church. Yet because of the tensions among us, we're in danger of squandering those gifts.

There is much to lament. Individuals and affinity groups in our conference family have different assessments about what the problems are and different suggestions for how to solve it. We listen to competing voices that make it challenging to move forward gladly together. We have diverging visions that arise out of differing perspectives on who the church is called to be.

At an Eastern Mennonite Seminary consultation about the future of theological education May 19, 2023, Dr. Ted Smith, Candler professor of practical and political theology, and director of a project called Theological Education between the Times, described how voluntary associations of all sorts are unraveling nationwide. There were eras where people readily rallied to gather around shared mission—whether a civic club, a scouts' organization or a regional judicatory of congregations, like VMC. Now, he said, we are entering an era of “authentic individuals.” There's not a decline in religiosity. What's declining is participation in voluntary associations where membership used to be a “proxy for religiosity.” These processes of individualization disproportionately impact the poor and minorities, he said. We hear about the rise of loneliness everywhere. We won't be able to scold people back into churches or other voluntary associations, he said. We will have to rebuild social connections from the pieces. What will new ways of being together look like? What can we do together that is life-giving rather than depleting—as church meetings often are? What new possibilities can we cultivate for activating solidarity? How might we offer coaching rather than authoritarian control? How might leadership provide spaces for belonging that don't insist on membership because we're all in this together. We can't be authentic by trying to be authentic—which borders on narcissism, he said. We will find our authentic selves only in devotion to God—and in service to God's creation.

“We will find
our authentic
selves only
in devotion
to God—and
in service to
God's creation”.

Dr. Ted Smith

CONFERENCE COUNCIL

There is much we will have to let go of in these changing times. There are and will be costs. But new opportunities open up when we're ready to let go of old patterns that no longer give life. Leaning into a new future is what Conference Council has sought to do on behalf of the VMC family as we seek “to coordinate the work of Conference commissions and committees, and to facilitate the activities of Conference between Assembly sessions.” It is from that generative, forward looking space that I am happy to report on the work of CC these past several months.

For planning our Conference Council work after the winter delegate assembly, February 4, we paid particular attention to “A Beginning Roadmap”—from the VMC Liaison Team's recommendations growing out of Gilliam & Associates “Listening & Learning Feedback” report. Here is a list of vari-



ous initiatives—which have been reported in our monthly moderator Conference Council reports: 1) determining to significantly increase efforts to enhance transparent, strategic communication to congregations, leaders and delegates; 2) sharing additional information regarding the misconduct investigation in an effort to enhance understanding and trust; 3) undertaking a conference council self-examination to determine where there were breakdowns in accountability and integrity of process; 4) determining to live into more healthy patterns of functioning as the executive body of conference, with reflection on what hasn’t worked well and training (forthcoming); 5) providing counsel and facilitation for the Congregational Life Commission’s proposal to initiate district-based “shepherding healthy human sexuality” conversations; 6) selecting and provisionally authorizing a denominational affinity work group to research and propose options for delegates to consider in the coming year; 7) beginning to reflect on ways VMC and VMM leadership bodies can meaningfully interact which included a meeting with the VMM board; 7) reviewing Eastern Mennonite School’s readiness to move from a Conference Ministry to a Conference Endorsed Ministry status; 8) reviewing FLC’s proposed action plans to vitalize VMC’s strategic plan goals in our districts; 9) offering accountability and encouragement to the iCLT ministry and vision.

We welcome counsel from delegates. We seek to serve the collective vision and mission of VMC and can only do that well with your strong participation.

Sara Wenger Shenk
VMC moderator

Offices of Conference Council

Moderator, Sara Wenger Shenk (2023)
Moderator Elect, Andrew Buckwalter Fairfield (2023)
Secretary, Jim Hershberger (2025)
Treasurer, Leroy Kauffman (2023)

Non-voting Members

Historical Committee, Chair, Elwood Yoder
Constitution & Bylaws Committee, Chair, Ryan Ahlgrim
Gifts Discernment Committee, Chair, Glen Kauffman
Conference Executive, Craig Maven, June Miller
Racial Justice Leader, Caleb Schrock-Hurst
VMMissions, Aaron Kauffman
Eastern Mennonite School, Paul Leaman

MC USA Constituency Leaders Council

Moderator, Sara Wenger Shenk
Member-at-Large, Phil Kniss
Conference Executive, Craig Maven

District Representatives

Calvary, Vivian Stevens Lyons
Central, Dale Hartzler
Eastern, Craig Wilson
Harrisonburg (co-chair), Paula Stoltzfus
Harrisonburg (co-chair), Steve Pardini
Northern, David King
Potomac, vacant
Southern, Phil Lehman
TCK, Vernon Moyer

Commission Representatives

Faith and Life, Chair, Joe Longacher
Faith and Life, Secretary, Michael Shenk, III
Congregational Life, Steve Pardini
VMMission Board, vacant



CALVARY DISTRICT

Over this past year we have been able to see first-hand the MIRACLE of transformed lives. God through His Holy Spirit is moving within our District, and communities we serve. It's been a blessing to serve with so many people over this year and to experience the "servant heart" of the Calvary family. The healthy heart of the Calvary District family is evident and for this I am so proud and thankful.

C3 South Africa, has seen growth and an infusion of new believers. Pastor Flinn reports that the congregation remains supportive, and the members are excited about the future. They welcomed a visit from MMN and did an interview with Wil Laviest about the history and mission of the church. We look forward to visiting our South African family early next year.

C3 Atlanta continues to be an extension of the district via online services. We are continuing our discovery of virtual church and the ability to touch lives beyond our physical location in Hampton.

Fellowship of Christ Rocky Mount NC made the decision to close and the members who are there are also a part of the virtual church family via stream services from the Hampton church. Pastor Louvenia Pride has relocated to northern Virginia and is residing with her daughter and son-in-law.

At **C3 Hampton**, Pastor Lesley and Caleb continue to provide excellent leadership. Sunday services are in person and streamed weekly online. Every fourth Sunday has been designated a Selah Sunday and services are only streamed online. This format seems to be well accepted and appreciated by the congregation. They have also instituted several small groups that meet on a weekly basis. The church continues to be very involved in reaching out and serving the community through various initiatives ie., providing lunch for police and fire department, honoring local teachers with gift bags, and supporting a partnership with the school board just to name a few.

Abundant Love Christian Center in Houston, Texas, an extension of C3 district, is back to having full services and experiencing growth as they also reach out and impact the community. We are grateful for this ministry that is changing lives in the Clear Lake community of Houston, Texas.

Deep Creek Chesapeake is currently occupied by a ministry utilizing the facilities for their worship services. We are grateful the gospel has a presence and impact in the community.

This past year, we have seen the benefit of our District showing love and generosity as a part of our DNA. We have seen multiple needs being met, whether it be financially, spiritually, relationally, or even emotionally. People have stepped up to be the hands and feet of Christ.

We have been impressed by God's Spirit to place a high value on life and holistic growth of people. God has allowed us to see the growth of his church with brothers and sisters from different ethnic backgrounds, cultures and walks of life.

As we embark further into the year of 2023, we are confident that God by the power of His Spirit is leading and guiding and wants each one of us to partner with Him to change the world in which we live. We need to be stewards of God's amazing grace as we reflect His love and light to the people around us.

District Minister, Leslie W. Francisco, III
Vice Chair, Lesley Francisco McClendon
Treasurer, Nicole Francisco Bailey

Calvalry Community Church (C3)

Hampton, Va

A:250 O:500 M: 750

*Nicole Bailey

*Lesley Francisco, III

*Natalie Francisco

Alicia Manning

Shawn Manning

*Caleb McClendon

*Lesley McClendon

*Flinn Ranchod

Vivian Stevens Lyons

Nan Williams

*Credentialed/Commissioned

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Central District of Virginia Mennonite Conference strives to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything [Christ has] commanded...” We cling to his promise: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20). The ongoing challenge for all believers is to make Christ’s commission foremost while dealing with issues that divide.

Beldor congregation reaches its community through care and visitation. Worship is made lively with hearty praise of God and mountain bluegrass gospel tunes and traditional hymns. Sermons, confession, and public announcements are posted on Youtube & Facebook each week to reach the broader east Rockingham County community. It has drawn new attenders to worship. Beldor sends out weekly sermon devotionals, and conducts adult Sunday school, men’s Bible studies, and monthly bluegrass concerts.

Christiansburg congregation continues to supporting a pre-school program in their building, a county food assistance program, and work with youth. There is joy in worshipping together. They have monthly fellowship lunches at the church, fellowship picnics at members’ homes, and summer picnics. They revitalized fellowship groups. Pastor Andrew announced that his family will move to the Rockingham County area, thus they are entering a time of transition.

Mt. Clinton congregation reaches out to their community through prison ministry, pastoral care outreach, conducting Kid’s Club (with Weavers MC), and discipling. They are revitalizing and expanding their fellowship groups. They conduct excellent seasonal fellowship ministry activities. Pastor Jim remains active in immigrant resettlement services.

Weavers’ ministry includes worship, Kids Club (with Mt. Clinton), hosting its living nativity weekend in December, and conducting MDS service projects. Worship attendance is strong. They are helping an immigrant family find their place in the community. They enjoy a coffeehouse for discussion and fellowship, using their old youth building. It provides a means to reach out to the surrounding community. They are nearing completion of new classroom construction and ADA updates on their worship building.

James Åkerson, VMC-Central District Minister

District Minister, James Åkerson
Auxiliary Minister, Beryl Jantzi
Chair, Dale Hartzler
Vice-chair, Daniel Martin
Treasurer, Clayton Shenk
Secretary Jamie Heatwole

Congregations

Beldor Mennonite Church

Elkton, Va

A:17 O:0 M:16

*James Åkerson

Emily Åkerson

Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship

Christiansburg, Va

A:30 O:2 M:38

*Andrew Buckwalter Fairfield

Joseph Bontrager

Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, Va

A:64 O:20 M:68

*Jim Hershberger

Andrew Shantz

Weavers Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, Va

A:96 O:12 M:128

*Curt Stutzman

Daniel Martin

*Credentialed/Commissioned

EASTERN DISTRICT

Eastern District includes six congregations and a house fellowship that has been in formation for the past few years. As a district, we have been experiencing several recent changes and transitions:

- David Lehman retired from Williamsburg Mennonite Church and stepped down as District Minister.
- Ryan Ahlgrim has become the new District Minister.
- Zach Dey has moved from associate pastor to pastor of Williamsburg Mennonite Church.
- Warwick River Mennonite Church is in a search process for an interim and/or ongoing pastor.
- Carl Mericle, due to failing health, has retired from Providence Mennonite Church.
- Providence Mennonite Church has secured an interim pastor and will begin a search process for ongoing leadership.
- Howard Miller, pastor of Huntington Mennonite Church, is on a three-month sabbatical.
- Anna Janzen, associate pastor of Huntington Mennonite Church, is undergoing chemotherapy.
- First Mennonite Church has hired a part-time associate pastor, Emily Nyce, from within the congregation for a non-credentialed role.
- Tyler and Kendra Yoder, co-leaders of Garden City, are in the process of adopting two foster girls, and in the past year Kendra gave birth to a son.

Our congregations have largely resumed their pre-Covid ministries while also retaining new online ministries. We are looking forward to getting our congregations together again for worship and mission events, and further enhancing the ministries of pastors and churches.

-submitted by Ryan Ahlgrim

District Minister, Ryan Ahlgrim
Auxillary Minister, vacant
Chair, Craig Wilson
Vice-chair, Tyler Yoder
Secretary, Valerie Wermuth
Treasurer, Melanie Plato

First Mennonite Church

Richmond, Va
A:60 O:20 M:69
*Ryan Ahlgrim
Sandra Joireman

Huntington Mennonite Church

Newport News, Va
A:40 O: 0 M:102
Russell DeYoung
*Anna Janzen
Betty Kurtz
*Howard Miller

Powhatan Mennonite Church

Powhatan, Va
A:80 O:0 M:89
*John Engle
Glen Landis

Providence Mennonite Church

Newport News, Va
A:19 O:0 M:26
Evangeline Yoder

Warwick River Mennonite Church

Newport News, Va
A:45 O:10 M:45
Sue Yoder

Williamsburg Mennonite Church

Williamsburg, Va
A:63 O:9 M:96
*Zachary Dey
Angie Williams

*Credentialed/Commissioned



HARRISONBURG DISTRICT

Harrisonburg District consists of a diverse group of churches and individuals. The District faces ongoing challenges that distract from the reasons we invest and participate in this expression of church. We have worked to see our diversity as an asset, hoping to remain together in our differences. To achieve this, the Harrisonburg District Council has been utilizing the Appreciative Inquiry Process to identify and develop the District's strengths. The goal is to rediscover what brings us together and invite the Holy Spirit to fill us and inform our relationships and work together.

In January, our District Council gathered for a meal prepared and hosted by Immanuel Mennonite Church. We spent time in a meaningful conversation surrounding the Winter Assembly agenda. We participated in facilitated table group conversations. Each participant was invited to use Post-it notes to write down key ideas, feelings, or thoughts and then post them on the wall for everyone to read reflectively. This exercise helped everyone listen to one another and visually see the diverse opinions and views.

In June, we met at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church for refreshments. Paula Stoltzfus led us in World Cafe style conversations surrounding the Summer Assembly resolutions. We aimed to facilitate conversations where we could listen to each other, reflect on what we heard, and mix table groups to listen to the diversity of voices represented in the District.

The District Ministers meet monthly for lunch with the District Pastors. The District Ministers do formation and mentoring work with the pastors and are involved in congregational processes, pastor reviews and searches, leadership discernment meetings, and accountability conversations. Work is underway to initiate a search for an Auxiliary Oversight Minister for the District Ministers who are co-pastors of a VMC congregation.

The Mission Advisory Committee has provided funds in support of several programs:

- Kelly Street Project for Immanuel Mennonite Church
- Soil and Seed Project
- Backpack Coalition supplemental food program for local school children
- Join Trees – Harrisonburg Mennonite Church tree planting project
- VMM tranSenders
- VMM Missions
- SLAQ and Youth Worker programs
- Hygiene kits for local prisons

Submitted by Co-Chairs, Paula Stoltzfus and Steven Pardini

Co-District Ministers, Maren Tyedmers
Hange, Roy Hange
Co-Chairs, Steve Pardini, Paula Stoltzfus
Treasurer, Jim Beachy
Acting Secretary, Steve Pardini
Member at large, Tim Friesen

Charlottesville Mennonite Church
Charlottesville, Va
A:25 O:9 M:45
*Maren Tyedmers Hange
*Roy Hange
Tim Nissley

Early Church
Harrisonburg, Va
A: O: M:24
*Harrigan Bowman
Carol Tobin
*Mark Thiesen Nations

Eastside Church
Harrisonburg, Va
A: O: M:100
*Peter Eberly
*Matthew Schwartz
Lawrence Yoder

Family of Hope
Harrisonburg, Va
A:11 O:11 M:12
*Harvey Yoder

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg, Va
A:250 O:125 M:478
Pearl Lantz
*Jacob Lee
*Craig Maven
*Carmen Schrock-Hurst
*Mark Harmon
Pete Burkholder
Max Driver

Iglesia Esperanza de Vida
Harrisonburg, Va
^EA: O: M: 18
Magdiel Gonzales Diaz

Immanuel Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg, Va
A:65 O:20 M:75
*Matthew Bucher
Tim Friesen

Manantial de Vida
Harrisonburg, Va
A:85 O: M:67
*Carlos Malvaez
*Wendy Malvaez

Mosaic of Grace
Harrisonburg, Va
A:34 O:0 M:17
*Michael Metzler
*Risha Metzler
Suzy Kanode

Mt Vernon Mennonite Church
Grottoes, Va
A:35 O: M:55
*Gregory Stenson
Leroy Blosser

Park View Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg, Va
A:120 O:192 M:340
*Moriah Hurst
Rosemary King
*Phil Kniss
Joe Longacher
Lloyd Mast
Shirley Hochstetler
*Paula Stoltzfus

Ridgeway Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg, Va
A:82 O:5 M:92
Glen Kauffman
*Chad Miller

*Credentialed/Commissioned
^EEstimate membership



NORTHERN DISTRICT

The Northern District pastors meet every second Friday of the month as a way to encourage one another in the ministry. The vision statement we live by is "Equipping and encouraging pastors to lead healthy congregations". Through the years this group has been respectful of each other, even though we have diversity in our beliefs and values. More recently our focus has been on listening to each other and praying with each other. We have witnessed a capacity to bear with one another, to submit to one another, and to be kind and compassionate to one another through these challenging seasons. It has become a time to deepen our dependence on God.

The Northern District Council meets quarterly. This meeting includes all the delegates as well as the credentialed leaders. We usually invite a resource person to this meeting along with taking care of business. At the last meeting we talked about how to respond to unjust and unfair criticism led by Ken Yoder.

Northern District has a number of smaller congregations with aging members. Most of these congregations continue to be very much alive and in touch with the needs in their community. There may come a time in the next 5 years when we need to make decisions about whether these congregations can sustain their buildings and the current ministries.

The most recent pastoral additions are:

Two Children's Directors at Lindale, Amanda Swartley and Megan Sandberg, have stepped into the role with little disruption in the ministry for the children. They have a lot of support, especially from the parents of young children. Lindale also invited Elena and Freddy Satalaya, youth pastor couple to work with the youth group. Freddy and Elena have a young son named Matias. A transition/support team will walk with them as they begin their assignment. They are moving to the USA in June from Bolivia.

Marian Buckwalter is a good match for Crest Hill Community Church. The last Sunday in April they had a baby dedication which brought many non-church attenders to the worship service.

Other information concerning leadership:

Paul Beiler, the Administrative Elder, at Valley View Mennonite Church is preparing others within the congregation to do the work he so carefully did for years. He plans to leave in June.

Sarah Piper, lead pastor of Zion Mennonite, will begin her Sabbatical on May 29 – September 28.

Ervin Stutzman, Sabbatical Pastor will help out with the preaching and consulting when necessary. He has stayed connected and is much appreciated. Lori Friesen, Associate Pastor, is a very capable leader and will also pick up many of the responsibilities along with Seth Thomas Crissman, Part-time Preaching Pastor.


Jerilyn Schrock, Associate Pastor at New Song Anabaptist Fellowship, will not be a pastor in Northern District any longer, since they brought closure to their congregation.

Black History Learning tour:

On June 9th the Northern District Pastor fellowship met at 425 Hill St. in Harrisonburg to hear stories from Robert Harper and Monica Robinson. They lived in the northeast section of Harrisonburg all their lives and were able to share how things were as children and also how they lived through the changes.

Guide us to bring your love, Jesus, to everyone we meet. Amen

Submitted by Aldine Musser



District Ministers, Aldine Musser,
Michael Shenk, III
Chair, David King
Vice-chair, Joan Kulp
Secretary, Debbie Katz
Treasurer, Darrel Miller

Big Spring Mennonite Church

Luray, Va
A:22 O:0 M:30
*Pearl Hartman
Jacalyn Lee

CrestHill Community Church

Wardensville, WV
A:23 O:0 M:26
*Marian Buckwalter

CrossWay Mennonite Church

Harrisonburg, Va
^EA:6 O: C:6
*James Rhee

Grace Mennonite Fellowship

Lacey Spring, Va
A:117 O:0 M:120
*Joshua Cox
Angelique Liskey
Scott Liskey
*LaShonda Russell

Hebron Mennonite Church

Fulks Run, Va
A:30 O:0 M:56
*Mark Conley

Iglesia Enciende un Luz

Harrisonburg, Va
A:90 O:0 M:80
*Armando Sanchez
*Veronica Sanchez
Jose Luis Hernadez

Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah

Lacey Spring, Va
A:24 O: M:26
*Alfonso Alvarado Ayala

Lindale Mennonite Church

Linville, Va
A:272 O:144 M:303
Erin Kennedy Hess
Evelyn King
Gloria Lehman
*Amanda Swartley
*Robert Yutzy
*Megan Sandberg

Mathias Mennonite Church

Mathias, WV
A:35 O:0 M:19
*Dean E. Williams

Stephens City Mennonite Church

Stephens City, Va
A:12 O:11 M:17
Linda Wenger

Trissels Mennonite Church

Broadway, Va
A:69 O:3 M:69
*Harold Miller
Dave Yutzy

Valley View Mennonite Church

*Mike Shenk, III
Lois Moyers

Zion Mennonite Church

Broadway, Va
A: 88 O: 10 M: 144
Joe Friesen
*Lori Friesen
*Sarah Piper
Elwood Yoder

*Credentialed/Commissioned
^EEstimate membership

POTOMAC DISTRICT

A story from DC City Church (Pastor William Montier and Bishop Bruce Clark):



We go out each third Saturday to share the faith with people on the streets of Washington, DC. I lead this team with one of our faithful evangelists, Minister Regina Smith. We usually have a group of 4 to six people. We have been handing out a bag with a gospel track, candy, and a pen to everyone we talk to. We usually ask people we meet, "how can we pray for you?" We pray with almost everyone we run into and we go up and down the street. We have had several people pray through to receive Christ. We have been very blessed. We have done it in the cold and now it is warming up. We ask that you pray with us that the Lord will send more laborers to the harvest. Pastor Montier

A story from Fourth Street Community Fellowship (Pastor Sangjin Choi and Deok-soo Shin):



Two years ago, one of the two associate pastors, Rev. Ungsoo Kim, passed away during COVID-19. Rev. Deok-soo Shin helps me well. From July 18th to 29th, 11 students from Dosan Dream International School in Korea and 26 young leaders from the Korean Oryun Presbyterian Church will be invited to a leader-

ship camp. During the camp, they will visit the MCC Material Resource Center, in Akron, and the MCC UN Office in New York. They will also help with our homeless feeding program in Washington, DC. The 11 students will also visit Eastern Mennonite High School and EMU in Harrisonburg.

A story from Daniel's Run (Pastor Tig Intagliata):



Members and friends of Daniels Run Peace Church (Fairfax, VA) gathered at Highland Retreat over Memorial Day weekend for the church's annual retreat. Highlights of the weekend included a hymn sing, a nature hike, and Sunday worship around the fireplace of the Tabernacle.

Pastor Tig Intagliata preached on the theme of Pentecost, where the Spirit descended upon the disciples through "tongues of fire" which enabled them to speak in the various languages of the crowd. The focus of the message was on the prophecy from Joel, which promises that God's Spirit would be poured out on all people through visions, dreams, and prophetic words --sons and daughters, young and old, men and women, rich and poor. As a response to the message, people were invited to write a vision, dream, or word of encouragement to the congregation or global Church on a flame-shaped paper, read it aloud, and then toss it into the fire as an offering to the Holy Spirit and to the Church.

District Minister, Luke Schrock-Hurst

Daniels Run Peace Church

Fairfax, Va

A:32 O:4 M:36

*Stephen "Tig" Intagliata

Karen Zehr

DC City Church

Washington, DC

ⒺA:32 O: M:45

*Bruce Clark

Fourth St Community Fellowship

Washington, DC

A: O: M:61

*Sang Jin Choi

Iglesia del Evangelio Completo Alfa y Omega

Hyattsville, MD

ⒺA: O: M:115

*Jose F. Borjas

Vietnamese Christian Fellowship

Falls Church, Va

A:14 O: M:21

*Peter Simon Nguyen

Washington Community Fellowship

A:61 O:34 M:68

*Andrew Cheung

Phyllis Miller

*Credentialed/Commissioned

ⒺEstimate membership

A story from Chaplaincy Ministry at Dulles Airport (Chaplains Eugene and Christina Kraybill):



Last fall, we learned that Angela's parents were both declining. Christina listened & prayed as Angela shared the heartache of caring for her parents while her siblings seemed uninterested in assisting.

Potomac continued...

A few weeks later, Eugene sensed an urgency that he needed to visit Angela's Dad, Frank. Eugene shared with Frank how much his involvement with the airport Chaplaincy ministry had meant. As soon as Eugene left the room, Frank took his last breath. Angela felt that Eugene's visit had given him permission to die.

At Frank's funeral, Eugene moderated a Christ-honoring service that honored the life of Frank to a standing room only packed church. Eugene stood with the daughters after they rushed to the casket when it was time to close the casket. They tucked in their dad as they held each other & cried (picture). The following day, Eugene & Christina led a Christ-honoring Memorial service for the United Airlines mechanics & Frank's family in the United Airlines hangar. Frank had served the company for over 50+ years. Two months later, Angela's mom, Evelyn, died & we attended her funeral as friends of the family. Angela just returned to our Chaplaincy team at the Washington Dulles Airport after three months of stepping back to mourn the loss of her parents.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

The Southern District of Virginia Mennonite Conference continues to provide a consistent witness to Jesus Christ in Augusta and Nelson Counties, and beyond. It is common to hear people who have moved away say how much they appreciate being able to "join" their former congregations online and stay connected with this specific part of the Body of Christ.

By the time this report is published, three of our churches will have once again collaborated in a joint Vacation Bible School, sharing the work and the expenses of this ministry. Lynside, Greenmonte, and Springdale have found that this sharing of resources provides the opportunity to participate in a ministry that might have been a challenge for any one of these churches to do on their own.

As a district we also support the Iglesia Shalom congregation, led by Armando and Veronica Sanchez, which meets in the sanctuary of Waynesboro Mennonite on Saturday evenings. Iglesia Shalom recently celebrated four years of ministry in Augusta County by inviting members of our district churches for a shared meal and worship experience. These relationships continue to be mutually beneficial and life giving.

Additionally, two of our congregations, Springdale and Waynesboro, are participating in the "Anabaptism at 500" project, which calls members of the church together to focus on biblical texts and share their experiences.

Greenmonte Fellowship continues to see numerical and spiritual growth. The congregation recently paved their parking lot and is asking good questions about how they might best be able to accommodate their increasing number of Sunday morning attendees.

Lynside Mennonite has seen ongoing interest in children's ministry in the community. Wednesday evening Kids' Club activities are well attended and the congregation continues to invest many hours in this outreach.

Rehoboth Mennonite continues to meet in Schuyler, VA, though they have been without a pastor for some time.

Signs of Life Fellowship has been meeting in the basement of Greenmonte Fellowship now for over a year. Leaders Thomas and Barbara Knopp offer introduction to American Sign Language classes most Sundays and enjoy participating in various aspects of community with the Greenmonte congregation.

Springdale Mennonite is preparing for Pastor Kevin Goertzen's sabbatical leave this summer, which will result in an increase in lay leadership. This is a time for rejuvenation, not only for

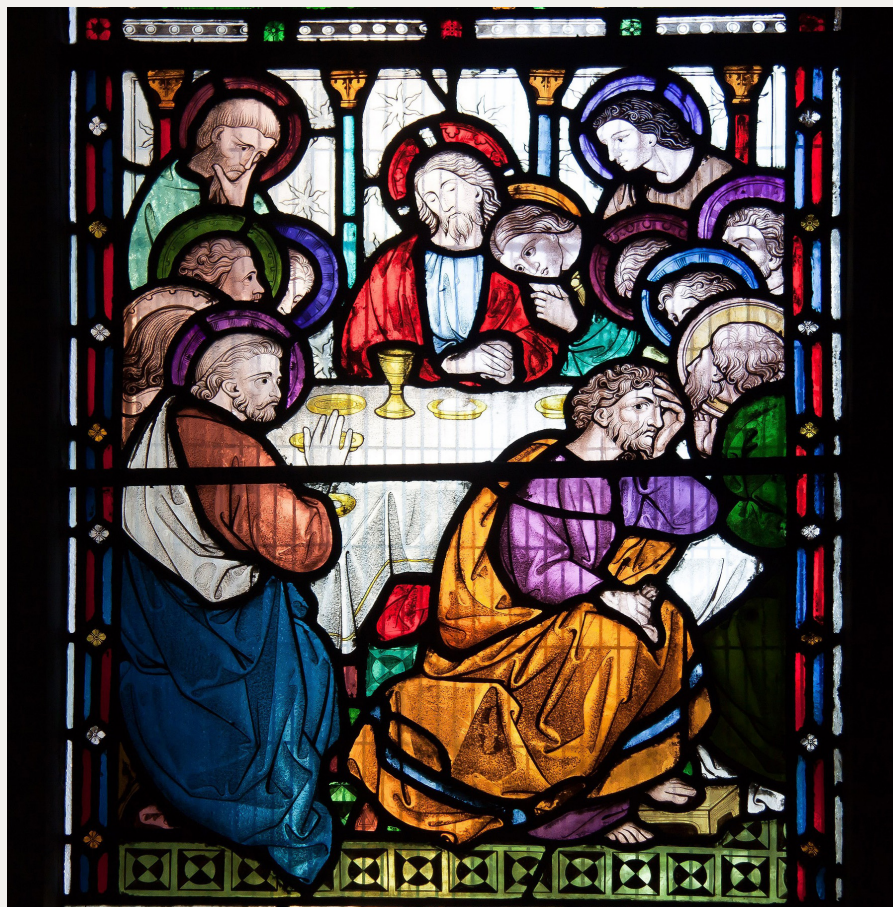
the pastor, but also for the congregation as they take on additional responsibilities in the church and broader community.

Staunton Mennonite continues to support their Bible Quizzing Team, which has consistently done well in regional and even a national quiz. Staunton has also found energy around supporting a couple of families who have immigrated from Afghanistan. The church's rental property has been used by new friends who have needed short-term housing as they await work permits and additional funding.

Waynesboro Mennonite, in addition to their ongoing community involvement, has been holding a series of "Family Gatherings" after worship and a fellowship meal to engage in challenging dialogue. These conversations include questions about human sexuality, church structures, and accountability.

The leaders of the Southern District recognize the importance of working together as a series of congregations in the same geographical area and we are excited to see how God will lead us in the coming years.

Submitted by Kevin Gasser, District Minister



District Minister, Kevin Gasser
Auxiliary District Minister, Beryl Jantzi
Chair, Phil Lehman
Treasurer, Gerald Shenk
Secretary, Ranita Shenk

Greenmonte Fellowship Church

Stuarts Draft, Va
A:145 O:12 M:93
David Brenneman
*Seth Hankee

Lynside Mennonite Church

Lyndhurst, Va
A: O: M:50
*Gordon Miller
Keith Showalter

Rehoboth Mennonite Church

^EA: O: M:10
Terri Jordan

Signs of Life Fellowship

Staunton, Va
^EA: O: M:10
Thomas Knopp

Springdale Mennonite Church

Waynesboro, Va
A:50 O:8 M:81
*Kevin Goertzen
Gerald Shenk

Staunton Mennonite Church

Staunton, Va
A:45 O:15 M:33
*Kevin Gasser
Glen Zendt

Waynesboro Mennonite Church

Waynesboro, Va
A:46 O:21 M:79
*Joe Arbaugh II
*Clair Good
*Phil Lehman

*Credentialed/Commissioned
^EEstimate membership

TENNESSEE/KENTUCKY/CAROLINA (TCK)

There are 10 churches in the TCK District. The following is a snapshot view:

Asheville Mennonite Church: AMC has been without a pastor for the past 3-4 years. The group has dwindled to the point where they decided to not meet on Sunday Mornings but to meet at other times as a small group and for special events. This allows members to be involved in other services on Sunday mornings.

Concord Mennonite Church: This is the oldest congregation in the district. Many of the members have since aged out of their earth suits and are now living in their Heavenly homes. There are only a handful of persons left. This was once a rural church but over the years has been completely surrounded by the expanding city of Knoxville TN. Many times they find homeless persons sleeping in their doorways. They always plan a Sunday meal and invite these persons to join.

Durham Mennonite Church: Durham is a small but vibrant multi-cultural church located in the city of Durham. They share their building with other groups during the week for multiple events. They are seeking a 1/4 time pastor and have been disappointed multiple times as they thought they had a viable candidate but negotiations fell apart in the end.

Greensboro Mennonite Fellow-

ship: Greensboro is a group of many talented persons. They have been renting space in a Presbyterian Church building for many years. That building has since been put up for sale. They are waiting to see what the outcome may be before they seek new meeting space. They too, do not have a pastor and are comfortable sharing the pastoral responsibilities among their many talented/experienced members.

Knoxville Mennonite Church: Knoxville meets in a facility which originally was a residential structure but has an added sanctuary meeting space. They are hosting some homeless young persons who live in the upper floor as an outreach to address their needs. This congregation plans some interesting children's events.

Iglesia Christiana Renuevo: This is a Spanish speaking congregation in formation lead by VMissions worker Juan Jose and Ceci Lagos. They share meeting space with an African American congregation in the former Oak Hill Mennonite Church building in Winston Salem NC. There are more than 50,000 Spanish speaking persons in the Winston Salem area. Juan Jose would like to meet every one of them. He is a gifted evangelist. The members of this congregation in formation have conflicting schedules, so they meet at different times to provide worship and discipleship training to accom-

modate various schedules. I have been working with Juan Jose to organize these groups into a recognizable congregation that can be received into VMC as a full member congregation.

Mara Christian Church of America: This is a vibrant group of mostly young families that meet in Monroe NC, just south east of Charlotte. They are immigrants to the US from Myanmar (formerly Burma). They are in communication with a Baptist pastor in Myanmar who they would like to immigrate to the US and serve as their pastor but the paperwork is held up by the political unrest in the home country. These people are warm and friendly. Almost all communication has to be done with an interpreter. This makes it difficult for them to participate in the TCK meetings. On occasions when we visit with them we are received with much Asian pomp and respect.

Mountain View Mennonite Church (Hickory NC): Mountain View is the largest congregation in the district. Attendance is typically around 80. This was the original congregation in NC started in 1952. This is now a multi-generational church with Children, grandchildren and great-grand children of the original members.

Outlet 10:27: This is a home-church congregation in formation that meets in the home of

Keith and Tammi Nice in Graham NC. The group originally formed as a follow-up to some Summer Bible School events they held in an apartment complex. While this group is small, most of their members are also members of some other congregation.

West Liberty Mennonite Church:
This is mostly a family congregation that meets in the hills of SE Kentucky. The pastor is Josh Fyffe a grandson of Dyrel Fyffe the founder of the congregation. Most of the members are members of the Fyffe family. Due to the fact that they are almost 260 miles removed from the center of the district, it is a rare occasion when they can join meetings in person but do join in zoom meetings.

The logistical dynamics of this district make attending, conference as district, meetings a major commitment.

Vernon R Moyer
TCK Chair

District Minister, Chuck Hostetter, Jr.
Chair, Vernon Moyer
Vice Chair, John Bender
Treasurer, Leroy Kauffman
Secretary, Roy Hunsberger

Asheville Mennonite Church

Asheville, NC
A:14 O: M:14
Chris Conley

Concord Mennonite Church

Knoxville, TN
A: O: M:7
Jerry Hartness

Durham Mennonite Church

Durham, NC
A:24 O:12 M:12
Cheryl Van Horn

Greensboro Mennonite Fellowship

Greensboro, NC
A:20 O: M:22
John Bender

Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo

Winston-Salem, NC
A: O: M:32
Juan Jose Lagos

Knoxville Mennonite Church

Knoxville, TN
A:30 O: M:44
*Patrik McFarren
Melissa Mink

Mara Christian Church of America

Charlotte, NC
A:180 O: M:220
Bei Lua

Mountain View Mennonite Church

Hickory, NC
^EA: O: M:85
*Joseph Bellone
Gail Hickok

West Liberty Mennonite Church

West Liberty, KY
A:11 O:10 M:10
*Joshua Fyffe
Steven Stoltzfus

Congregation in Formation Outlet 10.27

Graham, NC
A:15 O: M:15
Tami Nice

*Credentialed/Commissioned
^EEstimate membership



ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP CLUSTER

In I Corinthians 12 we read descriptions of the various gifts within the body of Christ with some as apostles and prophets and others with gifts of helping and guidance. The Administration & Leadership Cluster of VMC is made up of credentialed leaders who work in areas other than pastoral ministry. Many of us hold administrative positions in various organizations. Since cluster members are not leaders in specific VMC “districts”, it is helpful to have an accountability group within the conference to assure there is a good flow of information as well fellowship for engagement and encouragement.

This cluster meets monthly via Zoom to accommodate the distance between our members. Our discussions range from topics of edification to discussions of current VMC issues. These monthly meetings give us the opportunity to hear updates about conference discussions and hear about the work we are engaged in. At each meeting, we reserve a time to pray for one another and our conference.

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Good
Cluster Leader

Cluster leader
Beth Good

Cluster members
Spencer Bradford
Beth Good
Joe Hackman
Leslie Horning
Beryl Jantzi
Aaron Kauffman
Mary Beth Moore
Jason Showalter
Skip Tobin

CHAPLAIN CLUSTER

The Chaplain's Cluster meets monthly for sharing about our ministries, collegial support and general edification. Chaplains work with a variety of people including seniors, developmentally-challenged adults and in hospice. We often discuss guiding questions such as “What are the dreams and hopes you have for the people you minister to? Where have you experienced grace in your life lately?” or “How has your family (either of origin or the family you have helped create) influenced your call to ministry?” We anticipate Carmen Miller's ordination. Ron Pierantoni graciously hosted us at his place for some of our meetings. Each Chaplain has cared deeply for the people God has called them to, despite the storms that have buffeted the organizations where they minister. The Chaplains are a blessing to the most vulnerable among us.

Pearl Hartman, Chaplain Cluster Minister

Cluster Leader
Pearl Hartman

Cluster members
Dave Gullman
Steve Landis
Carmen Miller
Ron Pierentoni
Steve Swartzendruber



TEACHING CLUSTER

The Teaching Cluster consists of leaders credentialed in Virginia Mennonite Conference (VMC) and Allegheny Mennonite Conference (AMC) for the ministry of teaching. The group maintains supportive and collegial relationships while members' credentials are held within two different conferences. There is a sense of group identity arising from common vocations, working at Eastern Mennonite University, investment in Mennonite Church USA and Anabaptist Mennonite theological commitments. Currently, the group consists of the following persons ordained for teaching ministry:

Monthly during the academic year, with a break over the summer. Monthly meetings are hosted by members on decks and porches or at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. There is a relaxed atmosphere for sharing personal updates and praying for one another. Several members are navigating retirement from a teaching career and are rediscovering their vocational identity in a new phase of life. Others are processing leadership challenges and opportunities in their current ministry roles. Dorothy Jean Weaver and Linford Stutzman spent time in the Middle East during the fall, leading learning tours and teaching from their areas of expertise. Kevin Clark is retiring on July 31, 2023 after 24 years of teaching spiritual formation at Eastern Mennonite Seminary and serving as seminary campus pastor.

In December, the teaching cluster met in a Zoom session with conference representatives Caleb Schrock-Hurst from VMC's interim conference leadership team and Allegheny Conference Minister Dave Mishler. In February, the cluster met with a seminary student who is discerning ordination, and it was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on what ordination means to each member. The group marveled at the beautiful diversity of callings represented over multiple generations, sharing a common vocation in the ministry of teaching.

Report submitted by Rev. Dr. Sarah Ann Bixler, Ministry Leader of the Teaching Cluster
May 30, 2023

Cluster Leader
Sarah Bixler

Members
Brian Martin Burkholder⁺
Byron Peachey⁺
Carl Stauffer
Dorothy Jean Weaver
Kevin Clark
Linford Stutzman
Lonnie Yoder⁺
Penny Driediger
Sandy Wenger
Veva Mumaw⁺

⁺ non VMC participants

FAITH AND LIFE COMMISSION

The 15 members of the FLC met 9 times during the 2022-2023 Conference year, including a meeting on 6/8/23 at which a request to add a Cluster comprised of Hispanic leaders was to be discussed. Regular features of those meetings included reports from all seven FLC Districts and three Clusters. Regular reports were also received from the Credentials Committee & Leadership Enrichment Committee, whose scheduled activities included a workshop on Trauma-informed Care-giving and the annual Minister's Retreat, focused on worship.

The Commission received staff support from the Interim Leadership Team, participated in the listening sessions provided by Gilliam and Associates, and experienced the stresses present in both Virginia Conference and Mennonite Church USA. All or part of three regular Meetings were dedicated to sharing and discussion of those stresses.

Among the actions taken by the FLC during this Conference year was completion of 82 Action Plans for the Objectives of the five Goals of the Strategic Plan adopted in 2021. Those Plans will be shared over the next 2 ½ years with specific individuals and groups as suggestions for them to consider adding to their current ministry or Conference activities.

A revised Care Supporter program will be presented for approval at the 6/8/23 meeting, and updates and revisions of the Leadership Handbook by an ad hoc committee will be approved by the FLC in future meetings, including guidelines for arranging oversight for all District Ministers who are also

Officers of Faith and Life Commission (FLC)

Chair, Joe Longacher (interim)

Vice-Chair, Pearl Hartman

Secretary, Michael Shenk, III

Staff

Conference Executive, Craig Maven

Members

Calvary, Bishop Leslie Francisco, III

Central, James Akerson

Chaplains, Pearl Hartman

Eastern, Ryan Ahlgrim

Harrisonburg, Maren Tyedmers Hange

Harrisonburg, Roy Hange

Leadership/Administration, Beth Good

Member-at-Large, Anna Janzen

Member-at-Large, MaryBeth Moore

Member-at-Large, Jean Oswald

Northern, Aldine Musser

Northern, Michael Shenk, III

Potomac, Luke Schrock-Hurst

Southern, Kevin Gasser

Teaching, Sarah Bixler

TCK, Chuck Hostetter

Credentials Committee

James Akerson, Chair

Beth Good

June Miller

Sarah Piper

Michael Shenk, III

Luke Schrock-Hurst

Leadership Enrichment

Aldine Musser, Chair

June Miller

MaryBeth Moore

Jean Oswald

Luke Schrock-Hurst

pastors. Among those needing such oversight are Maren and Roy Hange (co-District ministers of the Harrisonburg District, appointed in 2021) and Ryan Ahlgrim (Eastern District, appointed in March of this year).

The ongoing support and guidance provided by District Ministers to the pastors & congregations under their care remains a strength and benefit of the FLC. We also benefit from all of those who are part of our Commission, including Members at Large such as Anna Janzen, who has needed to resign for health reasons. We appreciate all of her contributions over the past 3 years. A successor will be proposed by the Gifts Committee and appointed by the delegates.

Joe Longacher, Interim Chair
5/31/23

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

This Historical Committee encourages conference staff, congregational leaders, and ministry administrators to file materials with the Conference Archives. Established in 1955, the Virginia Mennonite Conference Archives are housed in six hundred square feet on the first floor of the EMU Hartzler Library, Harrisonburg. Ninety-five congregations have collections in the archives, including thirty-eight congregations no longer in Virginia Conference. Conference staff should submit important papers,



Simone Horst is the VMC Archivist. Contact Simone at archives@emu.edu, or call her at 540-432-4178. Stop by the EMU library on M, W, or F, 9 AM – 4 PM, to talk with her.

correspondence, annual reports, Conference Minutes, Commission Minutes, Bylaws and Constitutions, staff reports, and newsletters.

Congregational leaders should submit Annual Reports, minutes of leadership groups, documents on organizational structure, manuals, handbooks, Bylaws and Constitutions, newsletters, directories, church bulletins, financial records, programs, documents about changes in leadership, important photographs with dates, names, events, and activities, copies of real estate and building changes, and important correspondence.

Ministries leaders should submit Annual Reports, minutes of leadership groups, newsletters, and significant correspondence. Ministries include VMM, EMS, FLRC, Highland Retreat, MDS of the Shenando-

ah Valley, Mennonite Women of VMC, Mennowood, NewBridges, Pleasant View, Robert Webb Child Care Center, VMRC, and Williamsburg Retreat Center.

Digital records are preferred, but paper copies are welcomed. To submit digital records, attach the document(s) in Word or PDF format and send it to archives@emu.edu. To submit paper copies, either contact Simone Horst to arrange a drop-off time or send them via U.S. mail to Simone Horst, VMC Archivist, 1200 Park Road, Harrisonburg, 22802. When in doubt about submitting files, send them, and we can assess whether it needs to be included.

VMC History Book: Steve Nolt and Elwood Yoder are co-authors of a forthcoming history book about Mennonites in Virginia, nearby states, and global mission. They have written six of twelve chapters. The VMC Historical Committee manages the book project. The Shenandoah Mennonite Historians, an independent group in the Shenandoah Valley, have helped carry the book's thirteen-year vision. A Book Committee provides an editorial perspective on the outline and chapters. We hope to finish the book by 2025, the 250th anniversary of Mennonites migrating to the Linville Creek region of Virginia and 500 years since the founding of Anabaptism in Europe. Many thanks to the fifteen VMC congregations and numerous individuals who have contributed financially to this book project.

VMC Historical Committee

Elwood Yoder, Chair
Simone Horst, VMC Archivist
James Rush
Ken Seitz
Mary Sprunger

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMISSION

In response to Gilliam's report and at the request of the Conference Council, the Congregational Life Commission is working to develop a conversation guide on shepherding healthy human sexuality. The conversation guide is intended to facilitate honest and open conversations in each district about human sexuality ministry work and identify areas where additional resources are needed. The conversation guide has been written and reviewed by iCLT and FLC. We seek input and support from District Ministers to ensure its success in each district.

Submitted by Steve Pardini

Chair, Congregational Life Commission
May 29, 2023

Congregational Life Commission members:
Steve Pardini, Chair
Sharon Arbaugh
June Miller
Mark Harmond
Teresa Shifflett
Skip Tobin
Gwen Lantz

RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Vision Statement: Uniting VMC in eradicating systemic racism and personal prejudice while celebrating and embracing diversity within the conference and beyond.

Duties: To fulfill the mandate provided to the Task Force by the Race Relations letter from 6/29/2020. To work toward making VMC an anti-racist organization.

"Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." Romans 12:2 (The Message)

The Task Force meets monthly. We are currently reading the Color of Law. Historian Richard Rothstein shares how government action deliberated, systematically and forcefully segregated every single American city on racial lines. This segregation is de jure rather than de facto. He traces this in the 20th century and gives advice on what American citizens and the government must do in this century to remedy the issue.

We opened up our May meeting for others to join us, as Caleb shared about his Master's thesis during our meeting. His thesis title is "Mennonites, Race, and Reconstruction: A Survey of Racial Attitudes in The Herald of Truth, 1864-1897."

Caleb and his father Luke Schrock-Hurst joined C3 Hampton for worship and fellowship in February. Caleb has visited more than 30 VMC congregations in the past year, often preaching or sharing on the topic of racial justice.

The Task Force is planning a trip to Fort Monroe, open to anyone in the conference, as a learning tool this fall. We are also planning on a full day RJTF retreat in September as is our yearly pattern. Multiple Task Force members connected with Virginia Mennonite Missions for dinner and fellowship in April.

We are looking for ways forward for the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and how we can encourage civic engagement among VMC that will lead to transformation. We are working on scheduling a meeting with the initial letter signatories to process progress and status updates on where we have been successful and where we haven't accomplished initial goals.

Racial Justice Task Force members:

Maren Tyedmers Hange, co-chair
Vivian Stevens-Lyons, co-chair
Andrew Cheung
Chris Cox
Andrew R.W.B. Fairfield
Aldine Musser
Tami Nice
Armando Sanchez

The background is a stylized stained glass window. It features two central figures, likely saints or angels, standing side-by-side. The figure on the left wears a yellow robe and has a yellow halo. The figure on the right wears a purple robe and has a purple halo. Both figures have their hands raised in a gesture of prayer or blessing. The window is composed of various colored panes in shades of blue, yellow, and purple, separated by dark lead lines. In the lower right corner, there is a cluster of several silver chalices or vessels. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional religious art.

Conference Ministries



Mission: VMMissions equips the church to share new life in Jesus Christ with neighbors near and far.

Vision: VMMissions envisions a Spirit-filled church of many cultures living out God's kingdom in every sphere of life.

ENHANCING AND EXPANDING TWO YEARS INTO THE VMMISSIONS SEND PLAN

The VMMissions board approved a 3-5 year plan in 2021 to enhance, expand, and strengthen the ministries of VMMissions in four areas. VMMissions has made significant progress in meeting the goals of these priorities.

Here are a few recent highlights.

DESIGN SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS.

We want to see ministry continue from one generation to the next. Part of our capital campaign was raising money to renovate "the barn" on our property into a **Mission Training Center**. In April, Harman Construction began to turn this storage facility into a fully accessible gathering place for prayer, worship, training and meetings of many kinds.



SEEK SPIRIT-LED RENEWAL.

Mission starts not with us but with our missionary God who is reconciling all things through his Son, Jesus Christ. Our first step in joining God's work is worship. That's why we support **The Soil and The Seed Project**, which produces a quarterly album of songs based on the church calendar, as well as "Little Liturgies" that can be used by churches or households as part of their regular spiritual rhythms. It is reaching a wide audience of folks hungry to draw near to God.

VMMissions SEND Plan

NURTURE DIVERSE PARTNERSHIPS.

A new team of workers in **Central Asia** exemplifies our desire to build diverse, gospel-centered partnerships. Jay and Em (names changed), along with Paulo and Ana from Brazil, form the leadership of a "launch team" for new workers exploring long-term service in the region. They help newcomers get visas, find local host families, sign up for language classes (like the one pictured), and begin adjusting to a new culture. Already, they've added two long-term workers and five young interns to the team. This diverse group of believers from four different countries represent Jesus in a place where only 1 in 5000 people are Christians.



EMPOWER MISSIONAL DISCIPLES.

As people get in touch with the missionary heart of God, we want to help them step out in obedience. This spring, we were delighted to see 75 people from 24 churches complete the course, **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement**. Among them were Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed), who have a clear call to reach people who've never heard of Jesus and have been appointed by VMMissions as associated workers for an assignment with YWAM (Youth With A Mission), based in Myrtle Beach, S.C.



For more detail on the specific action steps related to the SEND priorities, visit vmmissions.org/beliefs-and-values/

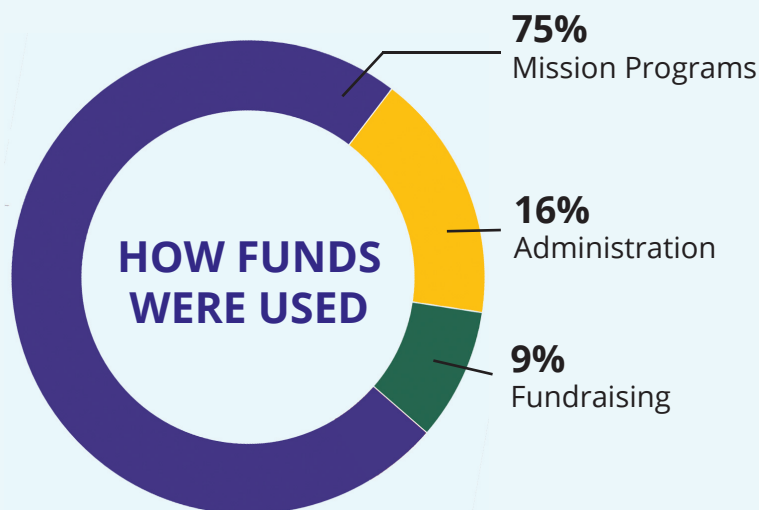
VMMISSIONS BY THE NUMBERS

FY 2021-2022 (September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022)



60 workers serving in **14 countries**
15 staff and **11 board members**
101 persons serving on **16 MSTs**
1,078 donors
Hundreds of **prayer partners**

Figures as of August 31, 2022



SHARING NEW LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST: MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Yacoub Rasul (name changed) **organized a Valentine's Day event for members of an ethnoreligious minority group from the Middle East** who reside in the Harrisonburg, Va., area. Yacoub is a VMissions church planter serving Harrisonburg's Arabic-speaking community. For these refugees, it is uncommon for husbands and wives to have much time to talk alone and share their feelings, so negative experiences are often internalized without resolution leading to resentment and tension.



At the event, couples were invited to sit across from each other at small tables in a darkened room with a candle shining between them. Yacoub talked about love between spouses, and Blake Wood, pastor of Faith Community Church, shared with them about the love of Jesus. Then the couples talked to each other, with each partner given time to share honestly without interruption. The result was a remarkable time of healing and hope. One of the couples said they had not sat down and talked like this together for 12 years. A number said it directly led to issues being resolved and more care and understanding between them. Yacoub continues to connect and share the gospel with them.

Diómedes Franco and his wife Victoria have been serving in La Vega, Dominican Republic, where they provide food to children living in severe poverty, host children's clubs that help them grow in the word of God, and strengthen believers in discipleship and multiplication through area community groups across the city. Diómedes and Victoria are preparing to transition to the US, and have been praying for God to raise up able leaders to serve this ministry. The Lord called **Willy** (pictured with his wife Marisol) to meet with Diómedes, who worked to train and equip him to teach the groups in his absence. "Willy is an evangelist. I started working with him and his wife, and eight months later he is the one who teaches the groups when I'm not around," Diómedes writes. "Please pray for Willy as he has been called to serve God."



BOARD (2022-2023 term)

Paul Yoder, Central, Chair (2024)
Chris Conley, Tennessee/Carolina/Kentucky, Vice Chair (2024)
Reuben Horst, Member at Large, Secretary (2023)

Shelley Abline, Member at Large, Treasurer (2024)
Casey DeYoung, Eastern
Clair Good, Southern
Johnny Hsu, Potomac
Chris Johnson, Member at Large

Juan Carlos Malvaez, Member at Large
Becky Roberts, Harrisonburg
Angie B. Williams, Member at Large
David Yutzy, Northern

STAFF

David Gingerich, Director of Partner Development
Hannah Guisewite, Events and Publicity Coordinator
Lizzette Hernandez, Latino Ministries Coach
Aaron Kauffman, President
Kierston Kreider, Mission Mobilizer

Jan Liskey, Director of Finance
Lydia Martin, Human Resources Coordinator
Martin Rhodes, Discipleship Ministries Coach
Melanie Sherer, Executive Assistant
Jason Showalter, Global Ministries Director
Skip Tobin, Ministry Coach - USA

Jon Trotter, Communications Manager
Karen Yoder, Ministry Support Coach and Global Assistant
Tom Yoder, Ministry Coach - Balkans

We focused on "**community**" in elementary Gathering and Chapel for grades 6-12 this year. Students recognize and appreciate that they thrive in a school where **they are known and nurtured** to explore their gifts and interests.

In 2022-23, we fostered growth in 377 students, including **144 students from Virginia Mennonite Conference** and 34 students from Shalom and Community Mennonite congregations.

Community was evident this year as we:

- Reviewed our vision, mission, and curriculum to prepare for a 10-year reaccreditation visit from the Virginia Association of Independent Schools.
- Joined 400 others at the Mennonite Educators Conference and celebrated how we are "better together."
- Launched a campaign to build the Gathering Space, an addition on our elementary building, with donors stepping forward generously (more on back). easternmennonite.org/we-gather
- Worked through differences using restorative practices, noting where harm has been done, listening well, and striving to restore those who have caused harm to the community.



Thank you for your prayers, advocacy, student referrals, and financial gifts as we join home and church in calling students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service in the world. **We are grateful that you are part of our community.**

Paul

Paul Leaman
Head of School



P.S. Discovery 2023 took place June 6-25.
See images and student writing at
easternmennonite.org/discovery



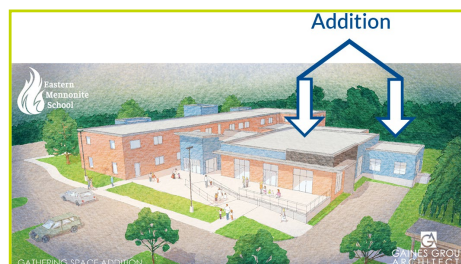


Service to Others

Students learn new skills, experience joy, develop awareness about complex issues, and join God's work while serving others. Students served off site this year with Gift and Thrift, Booksavers of Virginia, VMRC, Pleasant View Homes, Jubilee Climate Farm, Mennonite Disaster Service, and beyond. Rebecca Yutzy, 7th grade class sponsor, reflects that service "changes you and makes it possible for us to see each others' big hearts."

Heeding God's Call

During elementary Gathering, Karl Stoltzfus, Jr. '83 showed a quilt his grandmother had made for his college graduation. The gift reminds him that everybody has a gift or talent to share. Karl also recalled the dream of starting an elementary school at EMHS in the early 2000s and the way he and others listened to God's nudges. Soon pieces fell into place, the school opened in 2005, and this year, 105 students were part of EMES.



The Gathering Space

This dedicated indoor/outdoor addition to our elementary building will provide space to eat together, host K-5 gatherings, welcome parents and guests, and foster cross-grade collaboration.

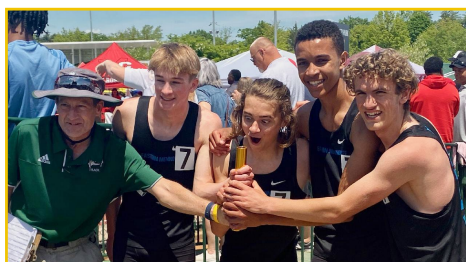
The ambitious \$2.5 million campaign scope includes the building's construction and a deferred maintenance fund. Generous donors have pledged \$818,500 toward a \$1 million match! We hope to break ground in spring 2024.



Supportive Network

Volunteers and donors make EMS possible through:

- Annual fall auction and spring golf tournament
- Great Community Give
- Virginia Education Scholarships Tax Credit Program
- Christmas Fund Drive
- Giving through wills and gifts to endowments such as the Multicultural Scholarship Fund



Record Running

On May 6, Jakob Gerlach '23, Adam Rhodes '25, Luga Samson '25 and Jedrek Sneary '25 ran the 4x800 relay in 8:11.12 to top the 1975 record by 13 seconds! Darrell Zook '76, pictured with the group, was part of the 1975 team which included Kenny Layman '76, Byron Brenneman '76 and Don Martin '75.

easternmennonite.org/athletics



Growing a Leader

In his "eagerness to share... ideas" as a younger student, Luke Rogers '23, recalls that he often interrupted in class which led to "... conversations in the principal's office." Luke, pictured with Justin King, high school principal, reflected on his leadership development and role as student council president for an Honors English project. Read it at easternmennonite.org/luke-rogers

See more images and details on all of these highlights at easternmennonite.org/news

A circular stained glass illustration depicting the Baptism of Christ. God the Father, with a beard and halo, is shown from the chest up, wearing a red robe and holding a golden scepter. He is pouring water from a golden vessel into the hands of John the Baptist, who is kneeling and pouring water over Jesus' head. Jesus is standing in the Jordan River, wearing a white robe with a patterned sash. A white dove, representing the Holy Spirit, is shown above Jesus' head. A scroll with the text "BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD" is visible. The background is filled with intricate patterns and colors, including blue, red, and gold. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border.

Conference Endorsed Ministries



*Prepared to serve and
lead in a global context*

SUMMER 2023

VIRGINIA MENNONITE CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Matters

Greetings from President Huxman

In this beautiful season in the Shenandoah Valley, I bring greetings from Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) to the families, churches and conferences that make up MCUSA. A special greeting to the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Join me as I feature a few highlights from the previous year.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS. I enjoyed accompanying the super talented **EMU Chamber Singers** under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Bergey on its Ohio and Indiana Spring break tour. We are raising money for the choir to embark on a European tour this summer. The group visited 11 churches and schools. It was a lovely time to engage with so many alumni, friends and prospective students of EMU.

In addition to 50 undergraduate programs, EMU is home to 11 graduate programs and a seminary. One such graduate program is in the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP). A new student in CJP is **Anna Dovbyck from Ukraine**. She joins students from USA, South Korea, Japan, North Sudan, South Sudan, Rwanda, Kongo, Liberia, Mozambique, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and India. Her family has been upended by the war and a best friend is on the front lines in Donbas. She says: "Amidst the turmoil, I began to ask myself: what can I do? Getting a professional education in conflict transformation and work with trauma became my way of responding to the challenges of the war. And so now I find myself studying in the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University. It is probably the first time in recent adult years that I feel so much in my place, and so motivated."

UPGRADING FACILITIES. We've just completed a major renovation in University Commons, creating a new student union and new admissions space. Now we are turning our attention to a new Track and Field Complex, looking for "pace setting" gifts to completely build a new complex. We've already raised over half of the total. We are also replacing our aging Turf Field for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. The third imminent capital project this year is the architectural design and specs for a new facility to house a fabrication lab for our growing Engineering program. We were so pleased to receive ABET accreditation for our engineering program this summer. Precious few private liberal arts colleges in the country receive this coveted validation.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer, encouraging prospective students, and offering generous financial support. Mennonite students still comprise well over one-quarter of our traditional undergraduate student body.

In gratitude,
Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D., President, EMU

Harrisonburg, Virginia

www.emu.edu

churchrelations@emu.edu

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 Mennonite Conference Connections to EMU

Undergraduate Students

Forty-one undergraduate students, thirteen graduate students and seven seminary students from Virginia Mennonite Conference were enrolled in the spring 2023 semester.

Giving

Virginia Mennonite Conference churches gave \$62,175 in matching church grants during 2022-2023.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, president
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, vice president for advancement
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, director of development & annual giving
- ▶ **Luke Litwiller**, director of undergrad admissions

Our Vision

We will open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice, and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.

EMS Welcomes New Dean

EMS welcomed its new dean on July 1, 2022, Rev. Dr. Daniel Ott. Dan was formerly associate dean for academic initiatives and professor of religious studies at Monmouth College, IL. An ordained Presbyterian minister and peace theologian, Ott says his new role at EMS “brings together my deepest passions and my life’s work.” He is a strong advocate of Anabaptist theological education.

Graduate Certificate in Faith-Based Peacebuilding Launches

“What peacebuilding is, to me, has to be and is undergirded by my faith,” affirmed Keren Kandel, one of the first three graduates of EMS’s new certificate program. She described how she both learned about principles *and* put them into practice in community. Students in the 18-credit program take courses on campus or online in theology, biblical studies, racial justice, conflict analysis and peacebuilding.

EMS Receives \$1 Million for Conflict Transformation Training

In July 2022, Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded EMS \$998,606 to develop interdisciplinary leadership workshops and trainings that integrate personal spiritual formation, biblical and theological frameworks, and conflict transformation skills. Director Dr. Jacob Cook works with leaders at EMS and EMU’s Center for Justice and Peacebuilding to equip pastors and lay leaders in conflict transformation and trauma resilience through digital content, online courses, regional on-site trainings and on-campus workshops.



L to R: Daniel Ott, EMS Dean; Sarah Bixler, EMS Associate Dean; Jacob Cook, Pathways Program Director; Jacqueline Font-Guzmán, Center for Justice and Peacebuilding Strategic Visioning Director

EMS Celebrates VMC Graduates

On May 7, EMS celebrated its largest graduating class since before the pandemic in 2019. Nineteen graduates earned master’s degrees and certificates, including VMC ministry leaders Juan Carlos Malvaez (Master of Divinity), Caleb Schrock-Hurst (Master of Arts in Religion) and Derek Yoder (Master of Divinity). 2022-23 seminary enrollment was strong, with a 14% increase over the previous year.

Study at EMS from Wherever You Live!

EMS is more accessible than ever! All courses are now available on campus and from a distance. Students can join the EMS learning community from their own location through Zoom technology and our online learning management system. Plus, thanks to forward-thinking donors, Mennonite students receive up to 100% tuition scholarships for EMS degree programs. Apply now or recommend our programs to someone you know! Visit <https://emu.edu/seminary/courses/> for information about upcoming classes.

Statement of Purpose

Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepares servants of Christ to minister together locally and globally. In response to God’s gracious call, we invite students to embody and 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
- ▶ **Daniel Ott**, seminary dean
- ▶ **Sarah Ann Bixler**, associate dean

emu.edu/seminary
540-432-4260

Conflict Transformation and Trauma Resilience Workshops

Equipping pastors and lay leaders on campus and online beginning spring 2023

emu.edu/seminary/workshops



FAMILY LIFE RESOURCE CENTER

Annual Report to VMC Assembly, 2023
Counseling for Hope, Health, and Healing

Family Life Resource Center is an independent, Faith based, 501c3 nonprofit counseling service. We offer individual, marital, and family counseling. It is FLRC's desire that all who walk through the front door at 273 Newman Avenue will encounter a sense of family, a sense of valued belonging with the first footstep across the threshold.

With going into our 36th year of serving the community, it is such a blessing knowing that we have helped individuals and couples find health and healing. Our counselors worked tirelessly to meet the mental health needs of our community. Our goal is to help people realize the importance of mental health. Mental health challenges, mental illnesses and basic life challenges emerge no matter one's age, faith, family background or educational level. So many people focus on their physical health and don't realize that mental & physical health go hand in hand.

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 2022, our operating costs were \$608,000. Contributions and fundraising covered 7% of this cost. Counseling income provides 85% of the total funding. Community support is important to FLRC since we are a nonprofit that receives no government funding. The agency gave away over \$14,000 in services to individuals that would not otherwise be able to afford counseling.

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

Submitted by Marie Bradley
May 3, 2023

HIGHLAND RETREAT

Here at Highland Retreat, we are in the middle of much activity and busyness, with all the delights and challenges that come along with that. Here are some snapshots of what's been going on here.

Guest Services- After two full years of the pandemic's influence, Highland guests and campers have returned in droves. And so has the joy! As staff, we often have a window into the joy that people experience in gathering anew: cousins sharing giant hugs, spectators cheering during a softball game, laughter while playing table games around the fire. Altogether we served just under 8,000 guests last year, on par with any other year before COVID. So far in 2023 we are on track to serve well over 9,000!

"We are thankful to be back again in a place where God has blessed the people of our ministry for decades." – JMU Agape Christian Fellowship



Highland Celebration- A new tradition is being born. For the second year in a row, friends and neighbors gathered at Highland on the Saturday before Memorial Day weekend to kick off the summer season. There were activities throughout the day: birding, swimming, a Walking Roots Band concert, and plenty of activities for kids!

We served lunch to nearly 250 friends and so many commented on how delicious the food was: perfectly grilled Angus burgers, toppings and sides, homemade pies, and more! Everything

came together so smoothly that staff commented that we could have easily served 400 people... and we hope to at next year's Celebration. Plan to join us!



Summer Camp- More than 360 campers have already registered for 2023 Highland Summer Camps. This year's devotional theme is from Matthew 5:16, "Let your Light Shine."

Interest in Christ-centered summer camps continues to be strong, and we are blessed with an experienced and mature team of gifted staff who will provide a solid foundation for this summer. This year, part of our pre-camp training will focus on helping staff navigate issues related to camper mental, emotional, and social health (MESH). And we are excited to have a part-time 'staff pastor' who will have a particular focus on staff emotional and spiritual health. We sincerely believe that if the staff are well-prepared, and God is at the center, authentic ministry will follow!

Volunteers to the Rescue- Highland staff were overwhelmed by the amount of work on our plates this spring. In addition to planned projects and regular springtime preparations, we also had a series of projects that were entirely unplanned, including water line breaks, plumbing leaks, and electric failures. These unplanned issues took weeks of labor and cost more than \$15,000! Highland staff were giving as much time

and resources as we could, but it wasn't enough. Then, in late April and May, help came in the form of volunteers, many of whom were professionals:

- Our dedicated mowing team once again began to mow the whole grounds each week.
- A friend group from Grace Mennonite Church (Lacey Springs) helped us landscape, build a laundry pedestal, and fill in where we excavated after a water leak.
- Professionals and laborers from First Russian Baptist Church (Mt Crawford) wired the new family bathroom at the pool and set electric pedestals in the Upper Campground.
- During their church campout weekend, members of Bethesda Mennonite Church (Broadway) jumped in to help erect the giant Celebration tent.
- Two contractors replaced 18 rotted foundation piers on Willowbrook bathhouse.
- A local farmer brought his sky lift to help us trim back dead limbs and low branches from high-traffic areas.



We are so blessed: by the care we receive from our supportive community, by the decisive return of our guests, and by such a solid group of returning summer staff enabling us to serve our campers and guests in the name of Jesus.

Sincerely,
Kent Kauffman
Executive Director



WILLIAMSBURG CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTER

Reflecting back on 2022, it was a year of waiting and a year of watching God provide. As the COVID iceberg started to thaw, and the whole world seemed to be “short –staffed”, we were waiting and watching and praying. Here are some highlights:

Lifeguards – when the country was facing a national lifeguard shortage, God gave us extras! They even helped out in housekeeping.

Barbara Wardach – God provided a wonderful, new Hospitality Coordinator to work in reservations and supervise our faithful housekeepers.

Summer Staff – God provided an excellent group of young people to shepherd our campers.

Beth Daniels – God brought us an amazing CPA with a heart for ministry.

Debt Reduction – God provided the funds to pay off \$275,000 of debt.

Guest Group surge – Our bookings for the fall were off the charts – weekend, and mid-week. Praise God!

Rich Carter – after a year without a Maintenance Director, God brought us “A godly guy who knows his stuff.”

Ginger McMeniman – God provided a fantastic new Program Director with great skills and experience.

Josh Brown – God provided Josh Brown with an amazing wife, and he is now our new Guest Services Director.

The Gift of Focus – Our giving partners surpassed our \$50,000 year-end goal by \$18,000 for a total year-end amount of \$63,000. Praise God!

Employee Retention Credit – God provided additional government funding to help us finish the year even stronger financially.

There’s not enough room in the Annual Report to tell about all the amazing staff and volunteers that helped us get through COVID. I’m so blessed to be a part of this group that goes the extra mile to serve our guests and campers by providing a place for the Holy Spirit to work.

God has indeed provided “...exceeding and abundantly above all we could ask or imagine.” (Philippians 3:20). Join us in praising God, “from whom all blessings flow.”

Bob Briscoe
Executive Director

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICES

For the past year, Virginia Mennonite Disaster Service extended most of its efforts into supporting Region One. Projects have included Hurley, VA, Chrisfield MD, and Central Florida.

In Hurley, located in Virginia's southwest corner/Appalachia, we've built houses and private bridges damaged or destroyed in the floods of 2021. To date, we've completed and dedicated three homes and one addition. Volunteers also finished three private bridges. This summer we'll begin two more homes.

In Chrisfield, (eastern Maryland), we undertook rebuilding houses that received recurrent water damage from flooding. MDS's goal was to elevate the homes to protect from the tides of the Chesapeake Bay. Volunteers first assisted homeowners in relocating. Then the homes were demolished and rebuilt. MDS dedicated six new height protected homes. Chrisfield is currently considered a binational MDS project.

Region One MDS set up a site in central Florida to help recovery after Hurricane Ian. Most of the projects involved replacing damaged drywall and roofing. The coming year will likely see new home builds.

Again this year, MDS formed a partnership with Eastern Mennonite High School. During E-term, MDS reserved a week in Hurley for students to volunteer. Students finished projects on a first house and framed a second house. EMHS also offered an MDS building class in their curriculum for the spring semester. At the school, students completed a set of walls which will be erected on a new house in Hurley in July 2023. It is noteworthy, of the two groups there was little overlap; few students participating in the on-campus class also went to Hurley. Consequently, many young people took the opportunity to be involved. Although this is a pilot program, MDS and EMHS are hopeful and see it continuing into the future.



Virginia is divided into two units: Eastern Unit and Shenandoah Valley Unit. Each year an informational meeting is held for Church Contact Persons. Current efforts are to update and assign a person for every congregation.

The Shenandoah Valley unit purchased a new van to transport volunteers to work sites. It's helped workers arrive in Florida, Louisiana, and other sites. If you/your group signs up to work, contact Woody for use of this vehicle.

If you have questions or interest in getting involved in any way, please contact Woody Driver, MDS of Virginia (540-820-9676 call or text).

House in Hurley framed by EMHS Eterm. Photo by Dave Nice

Submitted by Woodrow Driver
May 31, 2023





PLEASANT VIEW, INC

Life is messy... God's love endures.

Three years ago, Pleasant View (and the whole world!) felt like it was going into lockdown. Two years ago, we were still isolated. But then things began re-opening, and this past year has been good. The pace at Pleasant View has gained momentum. Everyday activities are feeling normal again, and life has a rich texture as we engage the things we love: church, Special Olympics, vacations and trips, and every other connection that we make in our communities. And speaking of connections, it has been Pleasant View's joy to welcome more volunteers—people from all walks of life who are happy to have fun and build relationships with individuals with disabilities.

Still, there is the weight of having survived the pandemic, since not everyone from Pleasant View did. We are still affected by the isolation, losses, and pain. We fight the instinct to make choices based on fear, instead of wisdom and hope. More than ever before, we know a sense of community and having strong relationships is important to our well-being.

With this context, we'd like to tell you about our recent Faith & Light retreat...

'Pilgrimage' has always been an important part of the Faith & Light story. The international Faith & Light community was birthed from a pilgrimage in 1971. Twelve thousand persons with disabilities and their families and friends came to Lourdes, France, during Holy Week. Since that time, pilgrimages have continued, both internationally and locally. They are times of great joy and profound individual and community formation.

Within our Faith & Light community in the Shenandoah Valley, we have engaged with pilgrimage in various ways during our history. In recent years, one of these ways has been in the form of our annual retreats, supported by Pleasant View's Hopkins Endowment. In both 2018 and 2019, we stepped away from our usual routines and travelled to Camp Overlook for an intentional weekend together. But then, of course, the pandemic kept us from this opportunity for three years.

This year however, we gathered again. Over the final weekend of April, thirty members of our local Faith & Light community (including sixteen core members from Pleasant View) gathered at Camp Overlook in Keezletown. We stayed in Blessings Lodge and enjoyed food prepared by Camp Overlook's staff. We talked, laughed, and strengthened friendships. We sang, prayed, and worshipped. Our theme for the retreat was "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". Psalm 136 (with its refrain that "God's steadfast love endures forever") was our scriptural reference throughout the weekend.

We celebrated that God has been faithful during the last three years, and yet it has been a difficult time. How do we understand this? What does God's faithfulness mean, when the world feels overwhelming?

In our retreats, we try to give opportunities for our community to explore the theme in various ways. This year, we were joined by three resource people to help us engage with drama, music, and art. They helped us to recognize that God's love is experienced in different ways, appropriate to the needs of each person. (Seth Crissman, who is well known to VMC, was the resource person who led us in music and song. Thanks, Seth!)

What is Faith & Light?

Faith & Light is an international organization that offers safe and welcoming places of worship to persons with intellectual disabilities and their families and friends. Although it is not a part of Pleasant View, the local Faith & Light community has close connections because of its history. If you are interested in visiting, please contact Derek Yoder (derek@pleasantviewinc.org).



Suffering frequently presents a challenge to our faith in God, and the pandemic reminded us of this. John Swinton has suggested, however, that from a pastoral perspective, suffering doesn't become evil until it separates us from God. During the retreat, our Saturday evening worship gave us a time to bring our suffering to God. During a quiet and gentle time of candle lighting, each person was able to express the pain and suffering they've experienced since the last retreat. Through tears and hugs, we were all able to minister to each other, and to receive God's healing love where evil had threatened us. I was especially

gratified to see both core members offering care, and Pleasant View staff receiving it. Truly, we understand at Pleasant View that each person is able to be a minister of God's healing love.

Pleasant View's recognition that spirituality is an important part of the lives of people with disabilities sets us apart from many of the other service providers in our area, and emerges directly from our origins in Virginia Mennonite Conference. Government funding does not address this spiritual work, and so we always welcome your support of our community. Your hospitality provides a church home for many of our residents; your volunteer hours result in relationships that make up the body of Christ; and your financial contributions allow Pleasant View to provide an on-staff pastor who offers care, counsel, and spiritual development to our community.

We always appreciate your prayers and are eager to share with you the gifts that God has given to us. If you wish to connect further, contact Derek Yoder (derek@pleasantviewinc.org) or Pam Miller (pmiller@pleasantviewinc.org).



MENNONITE WOMEN OF VIRGINIA

Mennonite Women of Virginia has had a wonderful year. Our three events have provided opportunities to fellowship together, reconnect with old friends and make new ones. We have prayed together, worshiped together, studied God's Word together, given financially together. We have been encouraged to draw closer to God and to care more deeply for others.

We traditionally have a prayer breakfast each year during conference assembly. Last summer we met at Trissels Mennonite Church early Saturday morning, July 16, 2022. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by some of the Trissels' women, then watched a virtual presentation by Elena Buckwalter de Satalaya, in Peru, as she shared about the ministries she has been involved in there. Afterwards, we spent time praying in small groups for her and God's work in Peru.

We had a wonderful fall retreat November 11-13, 2022, in Richmond. It was attended by 114 women from 27 different churches. Our speaker was Sarah Wenger Shenk who spoke on the topic "Speaking the Truth in Love" with our theme verses from Ephesians 4:14-16.

Some of the highlights of the retreat were:

- Worshipping and singing together
- Times of fellowship and playing games/putting puzzles together
- Our traditional silent auction of donated items, many handmade, that raised \$1574 for our scholarship fund that helps women be able to attend the retreat
- An offering of \$1915 received for the International Women's Fund, a project of Mennonite Women USA, to help women from many different countries around the world receive training for church leadership
- Saturday afternoon activities. Comforter knotting and a "Digging Deeper" session were planned activities open to anyone interested. Women also enjoy this "free time" to explore the area or relax at the hotel.
- Our next fall retreat is scheduled for November 10-12, 2023 at the same Marriott Hotel in Short Pump, Richmond.

This spring we had our Annual Missions Day at Grace Mennonite Fellowship on Saturday, April 22. This meeting's focus was to raise awareness of and bless local ministries, and to raise funds (\$6,280) for 'love gifts' for missionaries and ministries of Virginia Mennonite Missions. Our featured speakers were Joyel Allen, Vicki Barnes and Olivia Kasidiaris who are serving in college ministry in partnership with Every Nation Campus at Mary Baldwin University, Eastern Mennonite University and Bridgewater College respectively. We also learned about some local ministries:

- The Lacey Spring Community Food Pantry and The Lemonade Stand (which supplies non-grocery needs) at Grace Mennonite Fellowship, and
- New Creation, Harrisonburg, which works to counteract human trafficking by providing work for those vulnerable to or rescued from human trafficking, and by prevention education at local middle and high schools.

We are grateful for Tomasa Castenada who interpreted for all of the speakers for our Hispanic sisters.

Sharon Arbaugh, MWV President; Sylvia Yoder, Vice President; Beth Good, Treasurer; Joy Kiser, Publicity Secretary; Lydia Martin, Mission Needs Secretary; Hannah Shultz, Hispanic Liaison

A circular stained glass illustration depicting the biblical scene of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus, on the left, is seated and wearing a red robe over a white garment, with a halo around his head. He is gesturing with his right hand. The Samaritan woman, on the right, is standing and wearing a yellow and white robe, holding a yellow jar. They are positioned around a stone well. The background features a wooden structure and a landscape with a house and trees. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border with red, yellow, and blue lines and small white flowers.

Denominational Agencies



Here are some of the ways MC USA Executive Board and staff served conferences, congregations and communities in 2022:



MC USA launched [“Diversity: God’s Design,”](#) a new, multimedia study that calls young adults to celebrate their unique gifts and the intentional diversity of God’s creation.

The [Justice Fund](#) provided resources to MC USA congregations working to combat poverty, dismantle racism, address immigration reform or reimagine policing. MC USA awarded 16 Justice Fund grants to 14 congregations in 2022.

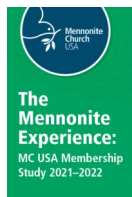
MC USA responded to the actions and work of the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly by engaging constituents in two “Learn, Pray, Join” educational initiatives. [“Welcoming EveryBODY”](#) celebrated the gifts of people with disabilities, and [“Mass Incarceration”](#) examined the injustices in our criminal legal system.

MC USA Executive Board and staff nurtured global connections by participating in Mennonite World Conference and attending the most recent assembly in Indonesia. MC USA Moderator Linda Dibble [was affirmed](#) as a North American representative on MWC’s Executive Committee and Denominational Minister of Racial/Ethnic Engagement Sue Park-Har was appointed to the Deacon’s Commission.



The MC USA Resolutions Committee [responded to delegate feedback](#) and drafted new “Guidelines for Developing Organizational Resolutions and Church Statements in Mennonite Church USA.” The guidelines are designed to put less emphasis on the outcome of a specific resolution and more emphasis on how we are living out our values together.

MC USA partnered with Mennonite Central Committee to launch the [Peaceful Option for Careers and Training \(POTC\)](#), formerly AMEN, an initiative to connect young people with volunteer advisors who can help them find non-military career, service and training opportunities.



A new [denominational survey](#), commissioned by the Executive Board, revealed that MC USA members have deep commitments to their faith, a passion for peacebuilding, a heart for service and close congregational ties.

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

Our Mission

The mission of the MC USA Executive Board is to equip and empower leaders to share with others the gift of God’s peace and transformative love.

Our 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.

Our Renewed Commitments

- Follow Jesus
- Witness to God’s peace
- Experience transformation



[Subscribe to PeaceMail,](#)

MC USA’s weekly digital news magazine, for all of the denomination’s news, blogs, events and resources.



Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Annual Report 2022

ADN in the Community:

MC USA Accessibility Resolution approved – May 2022

"We, the members, congregations and organizations of MC USA, resolve to deepen our understanding of barriers for people with disabilities, to take action to make our community life and facilities accessible and welcoming to all, and to discern and affirm the gifts of each person for our common good."

Accessibility Services at Denominational Conferences

Mobility aids, hearing assistance devices, slide transcriptions for screen readers, sensory rooms, and more.

Workshops and Trainings: Staff and Field Associates are available to consult, preach, and teach.

- **Mutual Care for People with Disabilities** at Church of the Brethren Annual Conference
- **A Place for Everybody** to youth and adults at Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference

New Resources for Congregations:

- **Believing and Belonging**, an Anabaptist membership curriculum for adults written at a third-grade reading level
- MC USA Accessibility Resolution Study Guide
- **Online Congregational Assessment Survey** congregations audit their accessibility and receive support from ADN in addressing concerns that arise.
- **Learn, Pray, Join: Welcoming Every BODY** address issues of accessibility in the church and care for one another. (Created in partnership with MC USA)
- **Mental Health Guide** for Congregations
- **Connections Newsletter**
 - Dementia and Congregations, Summer 2022
 - Autism and Faith, Fall 2022
 - Mental Health and Youth, Winter 2023
- **Opening Doors blog** on disability inclusion
- **Webinars**
 - Dementia and Congregational Care (with Discipleship Ministries, Church of the Brethren)
 - Accessible Print and Digital Communication (with Anabaptist Communicators)
 - Resiliency & Hope after Childhood Trauma (with Discipleship Ministries, Church of the Brethren)
- **Barrier Free Grants:** up to \$500 for any project that increases the accessibility of your congregation.



"Anabaptists Now," by Dona Park, from **Believing and Belonging**



Noise-reducing headphones, fidgets, and other sensory items at CoB National Youth Conference

Be Involved:

Become a Partner Congregation. Designate a **congregational disability advocate** who will work with church leaders to make your church a place where everyone belongs, and everyone serves. Support ADN with a **congregational donation**, giving \$500 or \$1000 annually.

Become a Building the Future Partner: As an individual, donate \$1000 per year for 3 years. Or give what you can; small donations make a significant difference.

Report to Virginia Mennonite Conference

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.

Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — in person or at a distance, full time or part time — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

Degrees and programs (* = distance-friendly program)

- Master of Divinity*
- Master of Arts in Christian Formation
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism*
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction*
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies* (fully customizable)
- Doctor of Ministry in Leadership*
- Journey Missional Leadership Development Program* (undergraduate-level, nondegree)

ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs

We offer generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and matching grants for both full- and part-time graduate students. You *can* afford seminary!

ambs.edu/affordability

Leadership and enrichment

Grow your ministry skills and gain Anabaptist approaches to today's leadership challenges through our nondegree offerings. (* = distance-friendly program)

Short-term options

- *New!* Practical Leadership Training modules
- Online Short Courses*: six weeks, discussion-based, noncredit
- Invite AMBS*: request a speaker (in person or virtual) on a topic of your choice
- Pastors & Leaders conference*: Feb. 19–22, 2024

Yearlong offerings

- Spiritual Direction Seminars*
- Transition to Leadership: program for new pastors
- Integrity Circles*: reflect theologically on leadership within a group

ambs.edu/leadership-and-enrichment



Conference connections

- **Master of Divinity student:** Stephen Lowe (Harrisonburg)

AMBS statistics

- In April 2023, 12 men and eight women from five countries — Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and the United States — graduated from AMBS (*see above*). Ten graduates completed part or all of their seminary studies at a distance.
- In 2022–23, 141 graduate students were enrolled at AMBS: 61 from the U.S., six from Canada and 74 international students. The Journey program had 21 participants from the U.S., Canada, Malawi and Uganda, as of May 2023.
- More than 90% of admitted graduate students receive financial aid from AMBS.

Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course (no grades, no papers!):
 - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
 - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
 - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?
 - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication

ambs.edu/online-short-courses

- Take a graduate-level course — online or on campus. Nonadmitted students get 50% off tuition for their first three credit hours! ambs.edu/upcoming-courses
- Schedule a virtual or in-person visit. Talk with students, faculty and staff and learn what AMBS has to offer! ambs.edu/visit
- Stay connected: facebook.com/followAMBS • twitter.com/ambs_seminary • ambs.edu/subscribe

*"... by speaking the truth
with love, let's grow in every
way into Christ."*

– Ephesians 4:15b (CEB)

Churches call upon Everence as helpful stewardship partner

Churches can count on Everence Financial® as a reliable stewardship partner.

Working closely with congregations and their members has been at the core of what we do since our founding as a mutual aid organization in 1945.

We help our members find effective ways to be more generous, as part of our focus on stewardship as a spiritual discipline – stemming from the historical biblical belief of Anabaptist Christians that all we are and all we have is from God (Psalm 24).

Pastors and church leaders also rely on Everence for helpful stewardship education resources. Learn more at everence.com/churches.

Sharing Fund helps churches reach more people in need



The Everence Sharing Fund helps thousands of families and individuals every year with basic, everyday needs.

Everence has awarded about \$4.7 million in Sharing Fund grants in the last five years, and our partner congregations distributed about \$7 million more.

Seek Growth

Everence 2023 report

Virginia Mennonite Conference
Annual Assembly
July 13-15, 2023

The Sharing Fund is, in most cases, a matching grant program. Churches with an Everence stewardship advocate can request matching Sharing Fund dollars to help meet the needs of people in their church and community.

From financial struggles to emergency crises, Sharing Fund grants help people keep a roof over their heads, buy food for their families and pay medical expenses.

To see how your church can access Sharing Fund grants – or to donate to the program, visit everence.com/sharing-fund.

MyNeighbor card is working to boost charitable causes



The MyNeighbor credit card from Everence Federal Credit Union is doing what credit union leaders intended – supporting the communities in which their members live and work.

Since its launch in 2017, the MyNeighbor card has generated more than \$1.7 million for charitable organizations, including individual churches.

Members use the card the same way they'd use an ordinary credit card, but instead of generating

points or airline miles, 1.5% of each transaction total is donated by Everence to the cardholder's chosen charity.

The "neighbor" you choose just needs to be a 501(c)(3) public charitable organization. You can change which organization receives your donations via an online dashboard.

Want to know more? Visit everence.com/myneighbor.

A variety of resources to help churches thrive

Churches have unique financial and stewardship needs – something Everence understands better than many financial services providers, thanks to our 78-year history of working with churches, their staff and their members.

From telling your church's story, fulfilling your ministry, and looking to your church's future, our knowledgeable stewardship consultants can share ideas with pastors, church leaders, Sunday school classes, and small groups about cultivating generosity and sustaining giving over the long term.

And Everence partners with denominations and networks to offer benefits such as retirement plans for pastors and staff. Check out everence.com/churches to learn more about how we can work together.

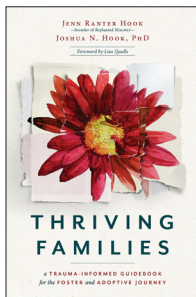


Report to Virginia Mennonite Conference

Spring 2023

At MennoMedia we publish curricula and books that call readers to follow Jesus in word and deed. We publish resources about Christian discipleship, spirituality, reconciliation, justice, and theology from an Anabaptist perspective. Our curricula, periodicals, and hymnals reach a broad spectrum of evangelical, mainline, and Anabaptist readers and congregations, cultivating passion for faith formation and an active life of discipleship.

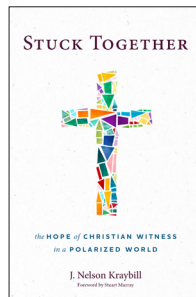
NEW RESOURCES FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH, FROM HERALD PRESS



Thriving Families

A Trauma-Informed Guidebook for the Foster and Adoptive Journey

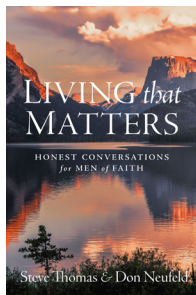
Drawing on the latest science and research on trauma, attachment, sensory processing difficulties, cultural competence, and grief and loss, authors Jenn Ranter Hook and Joshua N. Hook provide a trauma-informed approach for adoptive and foster families to help their children heal, grow, and thrive.



Stuck Together

The Hope of Christian Witness in a Polarized World

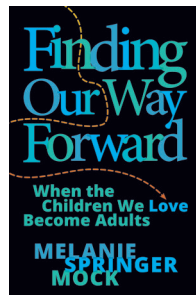
It can feel as if the world has never been more polarized. But when we feel worn down by the chasms dividing us, we can take hope from the early Christian vision of God uniting all things in Christ. *Stuck Together* explores Bible stories and narratives that inspire us to open hearts and minds to persons with whom we disagree as we gain confidence in our own convictions.



Living That Matters

Honest Conversations for Men of Faith

Do you wonder what it means to be a man? With over 60 years of combined experience in pastoral ministry and social work geared toward men, authors Steve Thomas and Don Neufeld offer many short reflections to help individuals and groups deepen relationships with one another, with ourselves, with our families and communities, and with God as we seek to live into God's shalom.



Finding Our Way Forward

When the Children We Love Become Adults

Melanie Springer Mock draws on her decades as a college professor and mom to explore how finding our way means developing a more expansive understanding of calling for ourselves and for the young adults we love, one that moves beyond vocation and capitalistic enterprises to what God really calls us to: Seeking justice. Loving mercy. Walking with humility. Loving others. Loving God.

CELEBRATE 500 YEARS

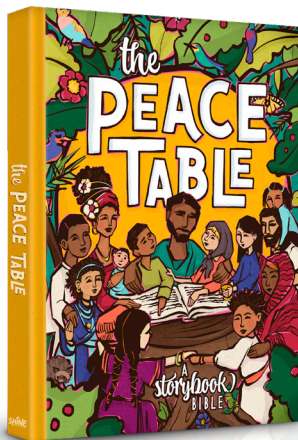


ANABAPTISM
at FIVE HUNDRED

The five hundredth anniversary of Anabaptism in 2025 gives the church a unique opportunity to celebrate the Spirit's calling together of diverse people across all boundaries of culture and geography. MennoMedia's vision is to lead the way in helping North American Anabaptist Christians experience spiritual renewal by creating fresh, forward-looking resources for Anabaptism's quincentenary celebration.

Learn more at
AnabaptismAt500.com

A NEW STORY BIBLE FROM SHINE



From beginning to end, the Bible reminds us that we are made in God's image and that God's table has room for us all. *The Peace Table* is a comprehensive family storybook Bible that makes God's presence and peace real to children of all ages.

- Faithful retellings of 140 Bible stories and stunning artwork from 30 illustrators
- Prayer prompts, peace themes, and ideas for reflection and conversation
- A resource section includes ideas for how to experience peace with God, self, others, and creation, as well as maps, Bible background information, interactive ways to pray, and prayers for many occasions

Learn more at ShineCurriculum.com



2023 report for Virginia Mennonite Conference

MCC East Coast

Toll Free: (888) 563.4676 • EastCoast@mcc.org • mcc.org

Connect with MCC staff in your community

Luke Schrock-Hurst, Donor Relations Associate & VA Coordinator • LukeSchrockHurst@mcc.org



Father Olin Pierre Louis (left), a Haitian Roman Catholic priest and Andrew Bodden, program director for MCC East Coast at the Church of San Mateo de Cangrejos.

In Puerto Rico, MCC is partnering with Father Olin and his parish to provide canned meat and hygiene kits to Haitian asylum seekers arriving in Puerto Rico. In Florida and New York City, MCC provides immigration services to members of Anabaptist churches and beyond. MCC staff also provide education and resources for congregations interested in raising awareness about immigration related issues.

MCC photo/Andrew Bodden

MCC and Virginia Mennonite Conference connections

- MCC appreciates supporters of the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale, which took place in October 2022 and raised \$317,000 for MCC. Support the 2023 sale on October 6 – 7 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, VA.
- MCC values the service of international service workers: Liz and David Driver (Representatives for Ukraine); Adam and Sarah Sensamaust (Area Directors for Central and Southern Asia); Evelin and Jaime Miller Gonzalez (Representatives for Nicaragua and Honduras); Peg and Lee Martin (SWAP Location Coordinators); Isaac Alderfer (SALT participant in Cambodia).
- Sewing groups from Park View Mennonite Church and other VMC churches sew comforters for MCC.
- In April 2023, MCC alumni in Virginia gathered with EMU students and IVEP (International Volunteer Exchange Program) participants at EMU's Common Grounds Coffee House for an evening of storytelling and music on the theme of "Trauma and Resilience."

In South Sudan, MCC supports a school kits distribution project through partner Loreto Schools Rumbek for vulnerable families in the Maker Kuei community and Diocese of Rumbek to improve school attendance and enrollment. The project also includes distribution of dignity and hygiene kits and infant care kits for young and expectant mothers. Supplies contained in the kits help families send their children to school, increase school attendance for girls and

improve the health of infants and young children. The dignity kits for women and girls in schools address the heightened need for hygiene protection from sickness and disease that is a common problem. The dignity kits offer more than the basic necessities.

Loreto Girls Secondary School students with their newly acquired MCC school kits and dignity kits. (Loreto Schools Rumbek photo/Herbert Orwa)



MCC's 2023 guiding Scripture

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters...

Isaiah 55:1 (NIV)

Dear Friends:

This year's prayer focus is Isaiah 55:1-2 which is a reminder of God's bountiful invitation to "Come, all ... Come without" and there will be provision. Your generosity and support enable us to partner with uprooted and vulnerable people. For over a century, MCC has continued its commitment to expressing God's love and compassion in tangible ways. The generosity of supporters like you is a witness of God's bountiful blessings and sustains the work of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. We are building relationships and connecting with communities, whether in Puerto Rico or South Sudan, envisioning them in the right relationship with God, one another and creation. You are part of our community and story.

Thank you for the many ways you come alongside the global work of MCC.

With thanksgiving,

Hyacinth Stevens, *MCC East Coast executive director*
Glenda Siegrist, *MCC East Coast board member*

Strengthening the church through education

HISTORIC GRADUATION CEREMONY

MEA's flagship Hispanic Ministry programs continue to train Hispanic pastors and leaders for discipleship in the church. Students are drawn to the Hispanic Anabaptist Bible Institute and Seminary, known as IBA (*Instituto Bíblico Anabautista*) and SeBAH (*Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano*) respectively, for their strong theological and biblical teaching, in Spanish and from an Anabaptist perspective that is uniquely Hispanic. Led by



passionate staff, professors, and tutors, the programs are accessible and affordable: SeBAH is 100% online while local congregations host study centers for IBA groups. IBA's inaugural virtual center launched this year – an initiative we expect to expand.

GOING DIGITAL

MEA's Hispanic Ministries has offered programs of study and continuing education courses for many years. Now



they've moved into digital faith formation. The ezine, "*MenoTicias*," (Mennonite News) and the podcast, "*Un Momento de Anabautismo*" (An Anabaptist Moment) aim to inspire and teach about Mennonites and Anabaptists, the vision of the 21st century Anabaptist-Mennonite Church, and what it means to walk with Jesus. You can subscribe to these resources at

www.MennoniteEducation.org/hispanic-ministries/menoticias.

HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP

A new partnership emerged in the past year with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Ind., to create the first Spanish language graduate certificate in theological studies. The course of study for the **SeBAH-AMBS Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies** will be taught in Spanish and is designed to provide professionals, congregational leaders, and bivocational pastors with a foundation in theological and biblical study. The certificate requires 21 credit hours and can be completed in two years. Graduates will then be eligible to enroll in AMBS master's programs. The program is set to begin in the fall of 2023.

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

The visionary behind MEA's Hispanic Ministries is Director Marco Güete, who was part of the group of Hispanic



pastors in 1988 who imagined a way to train leaders in every Hispanic Mennonite church. They founded IBA and built partnerships with local congregations across the country, established study centers within those churches, and recruited students and teachers. Hundreds of students have enrolled in the

program since then. Many have graduated with certificates or diplomas and have gone on to serve as pastors and leaders in the church. SeBAH emerged in 2010. **"The Hispanic Mennonite church is growing, and we want these congregations to have well-trained disciples of Jesus to lead them," he said.** As the director, Marco has invested more than most in these ministries, and he continues to dedicate himself to strengthening the Hispanic Mennonite Church. This summer he is completing the third leg of a multi-year pilgrimage along *el Camino de Santiago* (the Way of Saint James) in Spain – a total of 483 miles! – to raise awareness and support for IBA. Keeping the program affordable is a priority, and fundraising is critical. Güete hopes his walks raise awareness and inspire generosity within the church.

MENNONITE LEARNING NETWORK

MEA operates the Mennonite Learning Network, a Moodle platform for online learning. Current partners include SeBAH, [Semilla](#), [Mennonite Mission Network – Sent training](#), the [Collaborative MBA program](#), and the [Doctorate in Nursing Practice consortium](#). MEA is shaping



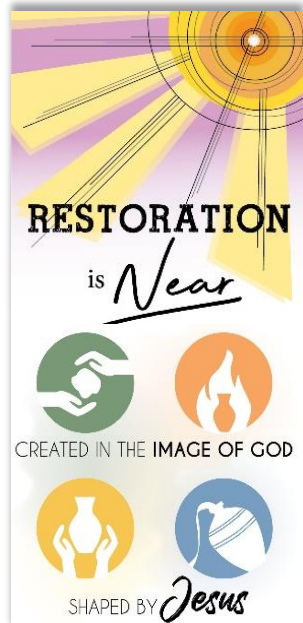
plans to make this platform available more broadly to MC USA area conferences as an online

learning platform they can access at reduced costs compared to getting the services on their own.

AMBS PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW

In accordance with its bylaws, the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) Board of Directors launched a regular presidential review of Dr. David Boshart in October 2022. Michael Danner was a member of the Review Committee, and MEA staff Jolene VonGunten provided administrative support. The Committee completed its role in April. We are pleased to be part of this important work.

"AT HOME" RESOURCES



Inherited from our friends at Mennonite Church Canada, the At Home worship guide series leads individuals and families through the days and weeks of Lent and Advent with the goal of deepening their experience of the seasons. Daily and weekly Scriptures are woven with worship rituals, prayers, activities, and background information.

Whether at home or in the classroom, MEA is committed to helping teachers and parents as they impact children and young people.

At Home resources can be downloaded at no cost from

MEA's website: www.MennoniteEducation.org/resources.

2022-23 ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mennonite schools are touching the lives of 9,290 students, an increase of 189 (2.1%) since 2021-22. The headcount for higher education institutions decreased by 71 students, while preschool, elementary, and secondary education levels showed an increase of 260. The number of students connected with MC USA congregations decreased in higher education by 69 and increased among PreK-12 schools by 181, for a total net increase of 112. MEA collects these statistics on an annual basis from all member educational institutions and programs, from early childhood through continuing education. We compile the data to develop a picture of enrollment trends across the institutions: the total number of students enrolled in the institutions, the number of Mennonite and non-Mennonite students enrolled, racial/ethnic diversity, breakdown by grade and degree level, and other demographics. The 2022-23 report and previous years' reports are available at this link: [MEA Enrollment Reports](#).

NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR BIPOC STUDENTS

MEA is finalizing a new scholarship to encourage BIPOC students (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), who are members of MC USA congregations, to attend higher education institutions affiliated with MC USA. The scholarship will be launched for the 2023 – 24 academic year.

MENNONITE EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

MEA's Jo Helmuth provided event planning and logistical support for the [Mennonite Educators Conference](#) in Leesburg, Va, February 2 – 4. Following a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the theme "**Better Together**"



resonated deeply with the 330 attendees, who represented fourteen Early Childhood – grade 12 schools from across the U.S., plus an international affiliate from Albania. Eastern Mennonite

University Professor Emerita Dr. Judy Mullet was one of the keynote speakers, and Harrisonburg-based [The Walking Roots Band](#) gave a concert and led a worship session. The event was co-sponsored by Everence Financial, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Disaster Service, and Mennonite Mission Network.

JOB BOARD

MEA publishes a weekly [Job Board](#) and distributes it to congregations, schools, constituents, and donors across the denomination and beyond. Schools partnered with MEA can list their job openings at no charge. There are a significant number of vacancies at all levels across Mennonite education.

PRAYER SUPPORT

The MEA prayer newsletter is a monthly prayer resource that continues to be a blessing to the schools and local congregations. These prayer requests come directly from schools and educational programs across all levels of Mennonite education to help congregations and individuals know how best to pray for the schools and the work being done toward faith formation. The prayer requests can be shared in bulletins each week and/or printed or emailed to congregants each month for home use. To view or subscribe, visit www.mennoniteeducation.org/monthly-prayer.

MEA INVESTMENT FUND

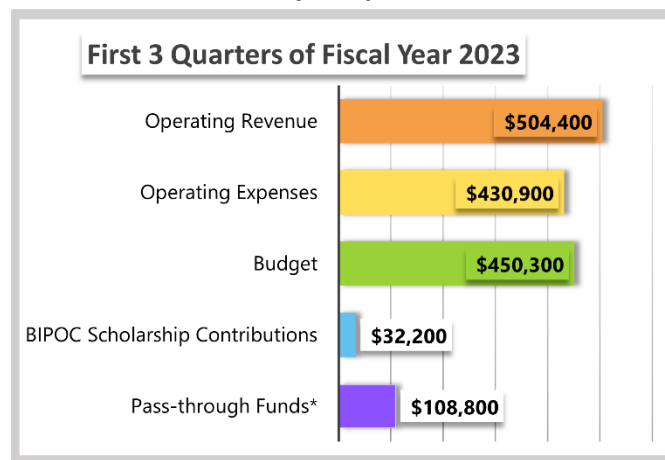
Since 1995, [The MEA Investment Fund](#) has served MC USA-affiliated schools, congregations, area conferences, and other programs with Mennonite education-related assets that are integrated into an investment pool. Pooling funds offer many benefits to the participants. Today, over twenty entities participate in the pool. As of January 31, 2023, it was valued at \$197.2 million.

NEW WEBSITE

MEA launched a new website in April. Designed by Shé Langley of [Rank Lift](#), the new site has improved navigation and search capabilities as well as a sharp, new look. We are excited to utilize the site as a communication hub for schools and congregations. Check it out at www.MennoniteEducation.org.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The following chart shows the financial activity for the first half of fiscal year 22-23. (Investment-related gains and losses are not included.) MEA is in a good financial position currently. COVID's silver lining was reduced travel costs, which had been a huge line item, and there were staffing changes. We do have a safety net now. However, looking forward, there is concern about changes in significant funding sources and whether contributions will continue a downward trajectory.



*Pass-through Funds are donated for schools, colleges, and seminaries sent through MEA.

On behalf of the staff and board of directors, thank you for supporting Anabaptist-Mennonite education.

Submitted by Michael Danner
Executive Director

2023 has been full of exciting work and meaningful connections as the work of Mennonite Men continues to benefit our communities and congregations. Our three programs—JoinTrees, JoinMen, and JoinHands—continue to thrive as we invite men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus.

To learn more about our work, download resources, or contribute to our programs, visit mennonitemen.org.

Steve Thomas, Mennonite Men U.S. Coordinator
stevet@mennonitemen.org | (574) 202-0048

Don Neufeld, Mennonite Men Coordinator for Canada
don.neufeld@outlook.com | 905-650-1577



Mennonite Men

Engaging men to grow, give and serve.

JoinTrees

Planting trees to restore the earth



JoinTrees is our campaign to plant one million trees by 2030. This campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with this JoinTrees campaign, our goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) support vulnerable communities.

Our vision is a healthy, thriving planet where God's abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation.

Our board recently approved eleven additional JoinTrees grant applications for planting 121,004 trees. Once these are planted, our total will be

301,373 trees, nearly one-third of the way toward our goal of one million trees planted by 2030! Many of these are in the States but most are international agroforestry projects in Mennonite communities in Latin America and Africa.

Now the challenge is to raise \$142,785 to fund these eleven projects. To make these grants, we request major gifts from households and contributions from businesses seeking to reduce their carbon footprint and support creation care and climate action. Visit mennonitemen.org/jointrees to learn how you can participate in or support this campaign to restore God's Earth.

JoinHands

Sharing resources for new church buildings



JoinHands is our program for giving and grantmaking. Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we provide grants to help new congregations acquire their first church building. Mennonite Men has given over 2.3 million dollars to new congregations for this purpose.

We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands. We especially ask churches pursuing building projects to give as a way of sharing resources and serving "fair balance" with congregations in need.

Our next JoinHands grants will go to two

international Mennonite building projects. Our first is for Iglesia Menonita Caminando En Esperanza in Bogota, Colombia which is purchasing a large two-story building to renovate for church gatherings, Christian education, and shops to rent in support of their ministries.

The second is for Kodení Evangelical Mennonite Church in Kodení, Burkina Faso. This church plant has outgrown the small building it was using. They are constructing their new space themselves with help from local Muslim youth - a remarkable illustration of Christians and Muslims living together in community!

For more details about this program, visit mennonitemen.org/joinhands.

JoinMen

Gathering men and promoting their growth



JoinMen provides retreats and resources from an Anabaptist perspective to promote healthy masculinity, Christian formation and community. We desire that all men find a place of belonging among men who are strong, loving and wise as we follow Jesus in building God's shalom.

Retreats provide opportunities for men to gather together and engage issues in community. More than an event, these experiences are also meant to encourage participants to be part of an ongoing men's group and growth process. A full list of retreat themes we offer can be found at

mennonitemen.org/joinmen.

Fewer retreats in the last year has given us the opportunity to complete a new book with Herald Press titled *Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith*. This practical handbook is a guide to help individuals and groups engage in honest conversations on what matters most for men—with a focus on following Jesus, forming community, and building peace. These short reflections help individuals and groups deepen relationships with one another and with God as we seek to live into God's shalom. You can purchase the book today from Herald Press.

Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus

Be local. Be global. Be the Gospel.

Note: Underlined words indicate active links.



Virginia Mennonite Conference + Mennonite Mission Network

Service participants



Service sites

SOOP sites

- » [Highland Retreat](#)
- » [Unique World Gifts](#)
- » [Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center](#)

Mennonite Voluntary Service

- 1** [Andrea Troyer](#), serving in Tucson, Arizona

Service Adventure

- 2** [Stef and Josh Musser](#), serving as Service Adventure leaders in Johnstown, Pennsylvania

SOOP

- [Gordon and Susan Miller](#), Kykotsmovi, Arizona
- [Gloria and Jack Rutt](#), Lincoln City, Oregon

Congregational giving to Mission Network



During Mission Network's past fiscal year, Aug. 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022, Virginia Mennonite Conference congregations gave **\$140,329**. **Thank you!**

Prayer partners

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We, at Mennonite Mission Network, want to thank Virginia Mennonite Conference for your ongoing support. Your partnership, through prayer, gifts and participation, makes it possible for us to partner with churches, organizations and individuals around the world to share all of Christ with all of creation. We draw hope for the coming year from the word of God, as it says in Hebrews 10:23, "Let us hold strong to the confession of our hope, never wavering, since the One who promised it to us is faithful" (VOICE). Thus, let our faith in God be unshakeable, and may we move forward together, trusting in God's promises. Blessings to you!

Marisa Smucker

Marisa Smucker, Interim Executive Director



Thank you for your generous support toward the work of Mennonite Mission Network. Blessings to each congregation and your ministries!

Eric Frey Martin

Eric Frey Martin
Interim Director of Constituent Engagement

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

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



Appendix



RETIRED CREDENTIAL LEADERS

Myron S. Augsburger
Donald Bare
David W. Bartow
Floyd G. Blosser
Janet K. Blosser
G Edwin Bontrager
Joseph E. Bontrager
Richard L. Bowman
Clifford D. Brubaker
George R. Brunk, III
J. Harold Buckwalter
Owen E. Burkholder
J Daryl Byler
Merle J. Christner
Randy Coblentz
James S. Delp
Otis W. Dove
Russ Eanes
Richard K. Early
Anna M. Engle
Ernest M. Godshall
E Richard Good
Harley D. Good

Roy F. Good
Tim Green
Lowell W. Haarer
Bruce W. Hankee
Phillip N. Helmuth
Daniel A. Hoopert
Ken R. Horst
Loren E. Horst
Willis G. Hunsberger
David S. Huyard
Rose Huyard
J Melvin Janzen
Thomas E. Kauffman
Mark H. Keller
Paul L. Kratz
John T. Kreider
Dennis R. Kuhns
Mark N. Lehman
Wilmer R. Lehman
Catherine S. Longenecker
Carolyn J. Lyndaker
Milford E. Lyndaker
Robert W. Mast

Floyd R. Matteson
Arthur G. McPhee
James B. Meador
James W. Mellinger
David F. Miller
Edmond F. Miller
Frederic A. Miller
Donald P. Mishler
John R. Petersheim
Clifford S. Poirot Sr
Ben Risser
Elwood G. Schrock
Dorothy J. Shank
Rowland Shank
Clayton O. Shenk
Raymond W. Shenk
H Michael Shenk II, II
Edith N. Shenk Kuhns
Hazel Shirk
Omar V. Showalter
Carl L. Smeltzer
Arthur E. Smoker, Jr
James K. Stauffer

Glenn M. Steiner
Edward B. Stoltzfus
Bonita Stutzman
Ervin R. Stutzman
Marvin Stutzman
Paul L. Swarr
Loren Swartzendruber
Irvin D. Weaver
Samuel O. Weaver
Angie B. Williams
Amos P. Witmer
Daniel J. Yoder
Kathy D. Yoder
Lawrence M. Yoder
Shirlee K. Yoder
Shirley E. Yoder Brubaker
Gordon D. Zook



CONFERENCE MINISTRIES

Eastern Mennonite School
eastermennonite.org

A 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 Mission
vmmissions.org

VMissions equips the church to share new life in Jesus Christ with new neighbors near and far. VMissions envisions a Spirit-filled church of many cultures living out God's kingdom in every sphere of life.

CONFERENCE ENDORSED MINISTRIES

Eastern Mennonite University
emu.edu

EMU educates undergraduate, graduate, and seminary students to serve and lead in a global context for the common good, grounded in the enduring biblical values of community, service to others, sustainability, peacemaking and discipleship.

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 and committed to helping people pursue health and wholeness as individuals and in their relationships.

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 Virginia
mds.mennonite.net

The state chapter of Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), which coordinates volunteers from Anabaptist churches for disaster response.

Mennonite Women of Virginia
virginiacommunity.org/
mennonite-women-of-virginia/
Empowered women creatively building Christ-centered relationships through fellowship, leadership, mission and service.

Mennowood Retirement Community
mennowood.com

An oasis of peace on 12.5 wooded acres in the midst of a cosmopolitan city, providing independent and assisted living to 100 residents.

NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center
newbridgesirc.org

Through extensive training and experience, NewBridges works diligently to engage immigrants, connect cultures, and build community with a vision for a thriving community that everyone can call home.

Pleasant View, Inc.
pleasantviewinc.org

Pleasant View supports individuals who have disabilities through a variety of residential, day, and spiritual supports needed for individuals to not only live in the community, but become a part of and enrich the community.

Roberta Webb Early Education Center
robertawebb.org

Partnering with families to provide rich educational experiences that prepare children for a lifetime of learning.

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

A vibrant continuing care retirement community offering a full spectrum of living options in the city of Harrisonburg. VMRC strives to be a community of hope, meaning and growth where people can age well and live fully.

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center
wcrc.info

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center provides a place for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of kids and adults through camping and retreats.



DONORS

Virginia Mennonite Conference is grateful for our contributors' generous financial support. Below is a list of voluntary financial contributors from September 1, 2022 to June 3, 2023. An asterisk (*) indicates that the donor is a Philippian level donor who gave \$500 or more in the same time period. Thank you!

Alleman, David & Julia
Anders, Devon & Teresa B*
Bowman, John D & Hazel M*
Bowman Kreider, Lois
Bowman, Richard L & Elsie*
Brunk, Twila*
Burkholder, Ruth L
Carpenter, Steven P & M Christine*
Diener, Eugene & Gloria
Early, Allen K*
Eberly, Karen*
Eshleman, Robert & Rosalie
Fairfield, John & Kathryn*
Groff, Paul & Pam
Hardin, Nancy

Hartzler, David & Kathleen
Heishman, Irvin & Anna*
Janzen J Melvin & Anna
Kauffman, Glen & Sandra
Kindy, David
King, Rosemary G
Lantz, Pearl L*
Le, N Can
Leaman, Paul & Mary
Lehman, Galen & Gloria
Lehman, Wilmer R & Mary Louise*
Longacher, Joseph W*
Maust, Wendell L & Lois E
Maven, Craig & Wendy*
Miller, Craig M & Lois*

Mininger, Eleanor V
Moyer, Vernon R
Moyers, Odessa & Carroll
Musser, James & Aldine*
Nauman, Gerald E
Reinford, Joel and Valerie
Reitz, Mary E
Shank, Rebecca K.
Shenk, Alan L & Sharon B
Shenk, Jonathan D & Sheryl L*
Shouey, Glennys
Van Donk, Carol L
Wenger, Linda
Wenger, J Lowell & Janet

BEQUESTS

Alger, Ruth K
Blosser, Glendon
Horst, Samuel
Trumbo, Norwell & Doris
Weaver, Kenneth

ESTATE BENEFACTORS

The following persons have included Virginia Mennonite Conference in their estate planning. Thank you!

Michael Beckler
Steven and M. Christine Carpenter
John and Mary Ann Heatwole
Kenneth Heatwole
Raymond and Betty Hertzler
Elizabeth Hostetter
Lila Mae Janzen

Rosie Jones
Paul and Evelyn Kratz
Pearl Lantz
Wilmer and Mary Louise Lehman
Joe Longacher



CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Virginia Mennonite Conference is grateful for the financial support from our member congregations. Below is a list of congregations and their financial contributions per member from September 1, 2022 to June 27, 2023. Thank you!

More than \$35 per member

Big Spring Mennonite Church
Concord Mennonite Church
Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church
Ridgeway Mennonite Church
Staumton Mennonite Church
Valley View Mennonite Church

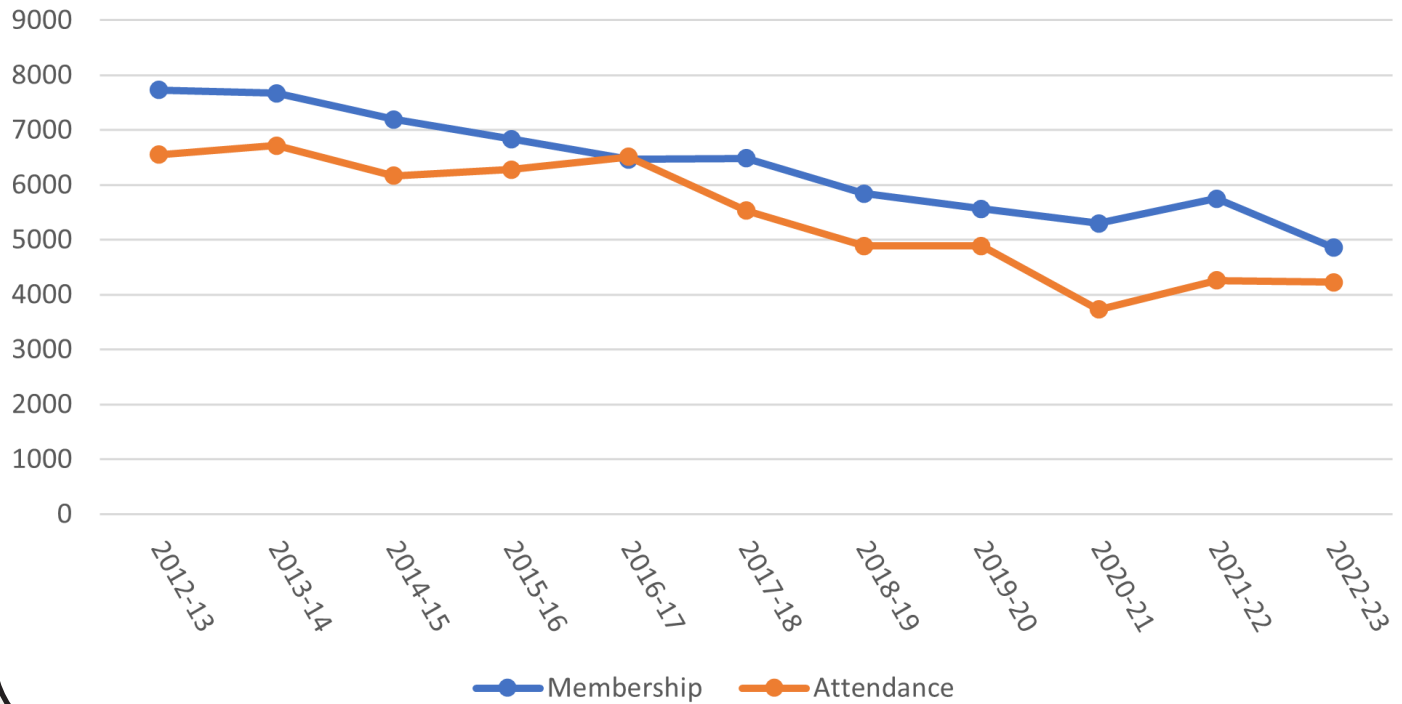
Up to \$35 per member

Asheville Mennonite Church
Calvary Community Church (C3)
Crossway Mennonite Church
Durham Mennonite Church
Family of Hope
First Mennonite of Richmond
Grace Mennonite Fellowship
Greenmonte Mennonite Church
Huntington Mennonite Church
Immanuel Mennonite Church
Knoxville Mennonite Church
Lindale Mennonite Church

Lynside Mennonite Church
Mountain View Mennonite Church
Park View Mennonite Church
Powhatan Mennonite Church
Providence Mennonite Church
Springdale Mennonite Church
Trissels Mennonite Church
Waynesboro Mennonite Church
Weavers Mennonite Church
Williamsburg Mennonite Church
Zion Mennonite Church

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

10-year Membership & Attendance



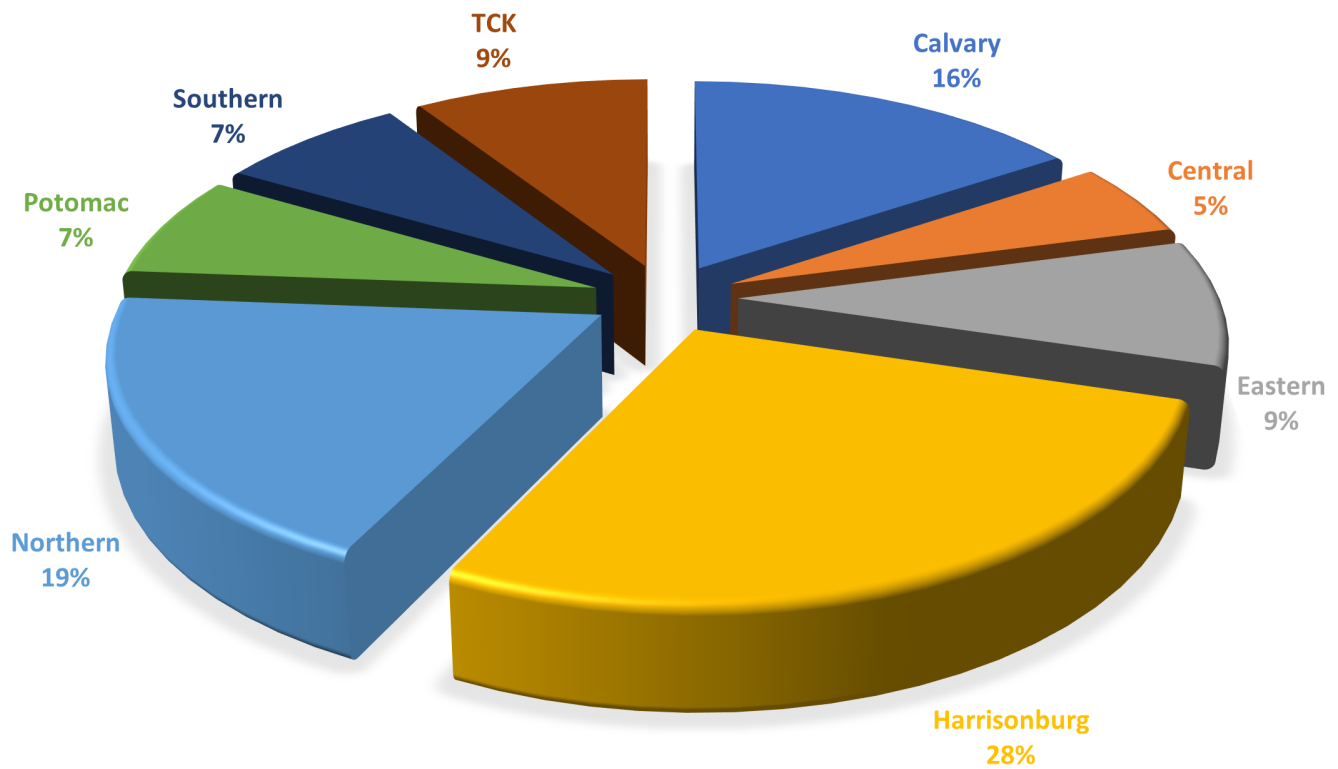
10-year Membership and Attendance

	Membership	Attendance
2012-13	7731	6551
2013-14	7675	6718
2014-15	7196	6167
2015-16	6839	6280
2016-17	6467	6513
2017-18	6487	5535
2018-19	5841	4893
2019-20	5563	4893
2020-21	5302	3732
2021-22	5754	4259
2022-23	4855	4225

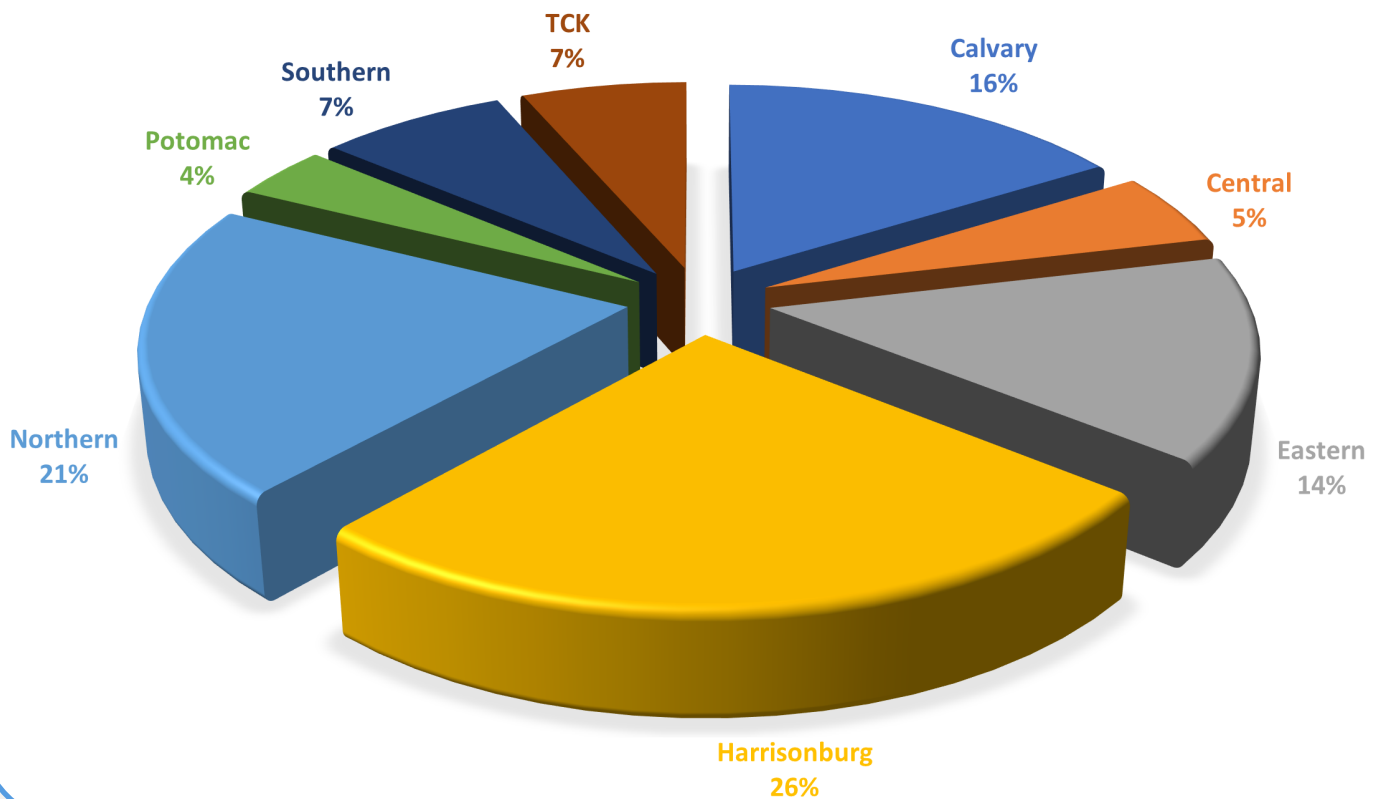
Membership & Attendance by District

	Membership	In person	Online	Total Attendance
Calvary	750	250	500	750
Central	250	207	34	241
Eastern	427	307	362	669
Harrisonburg	1323	707	500	1207
Northern	912	794	168	962
Potomac	346	139	38	177
Southern	356	286	56	342
TCK	440	280	22	302

2022-2023 MEMBERSHIP BY DISTRICT



2022-2023 ATTENDANCE BY DISTRICT



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

"Virginia Mennonite Conference
Unrestricted Operations
For fiscal year to date - 9/1/22-5/31/23"

Revenues

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Contributions:			
Contributions - Individuals	25,987.90	37,506.01	(11,518.11)
Contributions - Congregations	60,709.18	75,000.01	(14,290.83)
Transfer from Conference Assembly			
Bequests/Grants	6,424.36		6,424.36
Total Contributions	93,121.44	112,506.02	(19,384.58)
Other income:			
Congregational Membership fees	2653.09	12,000.01	(9,346.92)
Associated Ministries		3,000.01	(3,000.01)
Endowments	33,143.89	32,250.01	893.88
Archive reimbursement	125.00	1,499.99	(1,374.99)
Forwarding fees	960.00	1,312.51	(352.51)
Miscellaneous income	1,226.52	187.51	1,039.01
Total other income	38,108.50	50,250.04	(12,141.54)
TOTAL REVENUES	131,229.94	162,756.06	(31,526.12)

Expenses

Salaries and related expenses	121186.21	114,363.00	(6,823.21)
General administration	23,284.90	25,668.00	2,383.10
Staff directed offices	10,246.32	10,125.00	(121.32)
General churchwide expenses	3,002.64	2,849.99	(152.65)
Conference minister's office	2821.62	4,500.00	1,678.38
Racial Justice staff	650.57	1,500.02	849.45
Other expenses	1,240.71		(1,240.71)
Total expenses	162,432.97	159,006.01	(3,426.96)

Net income	(31,203.03)	3,750.05	(34,953.08)
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