

LIVING STONES 2024

Report Book



And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. 1 Peter 2:4.

2024 Summer Delegate Assembly
Harrisonburg Mennonite Church • July 18-20
virginiaconference.org

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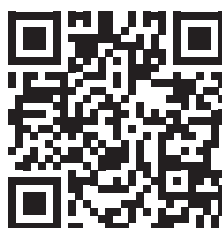
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ABBREVIATIONS

DAWG: Denominational Affiliation Working Group
FLC: Faith & Life Commission
iCLT: Interim Conference Leadership Team
MC USA: Mennonite Church USA
RJTF: Racial Justice Task Force
VMC: Virginia Mennonite Conference

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virginiacommunity.org/donate.



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Virginia
Mennonite
Conference

A conference of
Mennonite Church USA

Why we exist!

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.

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

Community of Faith Statement

As an Anabaptist community, we commit to one another with Jesus at the center of our lives, giving witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and making every effort to maintain the unity God has given us while seeking to trust each other as we minister in our local contexts.

We pledge to support and work together through these commitments:

We will do our best to **practice mutual trust and respect** in thought, word and deed, giving each other the benefit of the doubt when we perceive there to be inconsistencies. We will move toward conflict with curiosity, expecting the Holy Spirit to illumine us.

We will seek to **draw from each other's strengths and support each other** as we grow together, seeking to publicly and privately support and honor each other.

We will seek to **be in touch with our own feelings and to express them clearly and appropriately**, while recognizing the validity of each other's feelings and experiences.

We will attempt to **clearly communicate** our own needs and expectations and **listen carefully** to each other with ears, mind, and heart before speaking critically to an issue. (James 1:19)

We will do our best to **provide a safe and brave place** to express differing opinions and ideas, and make space for everyone to contribute. (Ephesians 4:15)

We will **seek to represent** the love, grace, and reconciliation of **Jesus Christ** in all we do.

Community of Faith Statement was passed by VMC delegates July 15, 2023

Schedule

THURSDAY, JULY 18

- 9 a Workshop I*
- 10:15 Workshop II*
- 1:00 p Workshop III*
- 2:15 Workshop IV*

(See Workshop schedule)

- 4:30 Pastor & Credentialed Leader Appreciation Dinner
- 7 p **Worship Service @ Lindale Mennonite****

*Workshops are open to anyone at no charge, however registration is requested. Deadline Monday, July 15.

**Evening Worship Services are open to all. No registration required.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

- 8a Doors Open

Session I

- 8:30 Welcome & Opening Worship
- 10:30 Break
- 10:40 Congregational Transitions
- 12p Lunch

Session II

- 1:30 Welcome Back & Worship
 - Opening Business
 - Moderator's Report
 - Approval of Minutes
 - Finance Report
 - Gifts Discernment
 - Racial Justice Task Force
- 2:45 Break
- 3:05 Resuming Business
 - Denominational Minister
 - Denominational Affiliation Work Group
- Closing Worship
- 4:15 Adjourn
- 7p **Worship Service @ Lindale Mennonite****

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Session III

- 8a Doors Open
- 8:30 Opening Worship
 - Opeing Business
 - Personnel Committee
 - DAWG motions
 - Congregational Life Commission
 - Faith & Life Commission
- 10:30 Break
- 10:50 Voting results
 - Discussion
- Closing Worship
- 12:00p Adjourn

Workshops

Open to anyone. Register at virginiaconference.org/events.

WORKSHOP I 9:00 am

Growth, Good Feelings, and Fragmentation, 1990-2005, Elwood Yoder
Membership in the Virginia Conference grew by 46% during the 1990s, with an all-time record membership of 9,639 by 1999. New congregations were added during the decade. Good feelings, volunteerism, and a desire to help others fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose. However, by 2005, the Virginia Mennonite Conference grappled with significant challenges. Membership dropped considerably as eighteen congregations departed from 1995-2005. There were deep-seated doctrinal and theological differences, which were further complicated by the Integration of the Mennonite Church and General Conference.

Peace with Creation, Steve Pardini

This workshop examines how God has entrusted humans with the responsibility to care for the Earth, explores how human activity has contributed to climate change, discusses our current efforts in addressing climate change, and explores ways to further reduce human impact on the climate.

Celebrate Recovery: Enjoy the Holy Spirit in our life!, Jim Hershberger, Duane Beck, Margaret Michael, Nathan Carr
Celebrate Recovery is a Sermon on the Mount, Christ centered recovery program for anyone struggling with hurts, habits or hangups of any kind. This church ministry is a safe place to find community, accountability and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life. It helps us recover and strengthen our relationship with God, our families and our church brothers and sisters.

WORKSHOP II 10:15 am

Seeking to Make an Impact: Race, Faith and Finance, Leonard Dow
Leonard Dow is VP of Community & Church Development. Leonard will be sharing about his own life journey and how his Anabaptist faith and life experiences intersect with his current work at Everence, where he engages historically underserved and low to moderate income communities. What can be done, how is Everence seeking to respond, how are/can you participate in making an impact? It promises to be a time of sharing, learning, listening and equipping.

Christ-centered Identity and Inclusion (Acts 10-15), Mark Thiesen

Given the Jewish context of the original Jesus movement, there is no question but that which happens in Acts 10-15 is unexpected and radically re-defining. What had previously been seen as "unclean" meat, forbidden for faithful Jews, is now rendered clean. Moreover, God had required circumcision of every

male in Israel (Gen. 17), and now Paul and other Jewish leaders among the followers of Jesus the Messiah are saying that circumcision is no longer required of every male to be in a faithful, covenantal relationship to the God of Israel and His people. Centuries-old, God-ordained requirements were made optional. How can we understand these six chapters as they relate to being Christ-centered and inclusive today? And how might they help us in our current discernment regarding our identity and disagreements?

Cultivate: How to Sow the Gospel in Your Circle of Relationships, Lizzette Hernandez and Kierston Kreider, VMissions

This workshop will introduce you to 10 fundamental paradigms of a missional church, alongside introducing a highly practical framework for making disciples anywhere and everywhere called Four Fields. Expect an engaging and hands-on experience, offering a glimpse into two multi-day trainings VMissions will provide for missional leaders this fall. Additionally, VMissions is offering a cohort-based opportunity to receive coaching and peer-mentorship for pastors and leaders wanting deeper engagement with these paradigms.

WORKSHOP III 1:00 PM

From Non-Resistance to Justice: A Mennonite Shift to Active Peacemaking, Ervin Stutzman

This workshop examines the transformation of progressive Mennonite theology and practice over the last several decades. This change came about through modernization and a shift in the spiritual life in congregations.

Mission: a dying colonial experiment or our intentional way of showing up in the world?, Eric Frey Martin, Mennonite Mission Network

Depending on what circles you run in, mission can feel like an outdated word fraught with the fear of being implicated in a system of colonialism, racism, or cultural insensitivity. Certainly, there is a history that informs us that Christian mission has been co-opted by these pervasive systems in the past. The temptation for us can be to walk away from any endeavors that resemble "mission". However, we can also recognize that following Jesus demands that we show up in certain ways in this world. So how can we embrace a mission that is reflective of the liberation and reconciliation seen in Jesus' ministry?

In this session we will look at:

- Dominant narratives that surround our lives and effect how mission has and is done
- Pre-conceived notions we have around mission
- Personal experiences with mission
- Ways in which we can envision a liberating and reconciling mission

Return to Hope: Inner Healing in Congregational Life, Paula Stoltzfus, Roy Hange, Juan Carlos Malvaez, Peter Eberly (Double session, workshops III & IV)

Jesus spent much of his ministry healing persons and the early church had a 3 year catechism that included emotional and spiritual mentoring and transformation. In this workshop the four pastors will tell how inner healing ministries has become a core part of congregational life and a source of hope.

WORKSHOP IV 2:15 PM

Will Our Children Have Faith? Urgent Questions about Faith Transmission, Sarah Bixler

In 1976, theologian John Westerhoff published *Will Our Children Have Faith?* Over the past 50 years, pastors, congregations, families and researchers continued to ask this question. As church attendance declines in the U.S. and young people are less interested in organized religion, the question feels all the more urgent. This workshop explores connections between key factors that impact the transmission of faith to the next generation, emphasizing new research findings about the importance of relational security. Participants will reflect on networks of belonging in their congregations that support children growing in faith and align with the core Mennonite value of community.

Introduction to Mindful Self-Compassion, MaryBeth Moore

In this workshop, we will explore how to be kind and caring towards ourselves during difficult times, just as we would be towards a treasured friend. This simple yet powerful practice can help us develop inner strength, reduce self-criticism, and thrive in ministry. The session will include a guided meditation centered on receiving God's abundant loving-kindness and sharing it with others.

Return to Hope: Inner Healing in Congregational Life (continued)

(See description under Workshop III)

Evening Services

@Lindale Mennonite Church

6225 Jessee Way, Linville, Va 22834

Thursday, July 18 and Friday, July 19 at 7pm.

Join us for two nights of worship with our VMC family.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

Where Do We Go From Here?

Leonard Dow will join us Thursday evening in worship, speaking about moving forward in difficult times using Hebrews 10:23-24 & 1 Peter 2:4-8. You can also hear him at his Thursday morning workshop, *Seeking to Make an Impact: Race, Faith, and Finance*.



Leonard Dow is Vice President of Community and Church Development for Everence® - leading the effort to serve emerging diverse communities and churches that historically have been underserved. Dow also leads the Everence team in Philadelphia. He is a member of the Everence Senior Leadership Team, as well as

President of Everence Community Investments, LLC.

Leonard joined Everence in April 2017 after nearly 20 years as pastor of Oxford Circle Mennonite Church in Philadelphia. He was a founder of Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association, which launched many programs to benefit children and adults. Dow also worked in the retail banking field for 12 years.

He currently serves on the board of directors for The City School, Missio Seminary, The Brooklyn Peace Center and The Common Place.

Leonard earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia and was recognized with EMU's Distinguished Service Award for 2017. Dow lives in Northwest Philadelphia with his wife, Rosalie, and three adult children.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

Living Stones Among Us

On Friday we will hear inspiring stories of God at work among us. Pastors and congregants from various congregations will share the hope, excitement, and inspiration experienced, felt, and lived through the Spirit's work. Stories will be interwoven with songs and prayers to mark these living stones among us.

1 Peter 2:4-5, NIV
‘As you come to him, the **LIVING STONE**—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵you also, like **LIVING STONES**, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

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Lithops

LIVING STONES
2024

interim Conference Leadership Team (iCLT)



Maren Tyedmers Hange, Minister of Formation and Soulcare

It has been a privilege to serve on the iCLT, a team that can work, laugh and enjoy a good BBQ together in the midst of the immense complexity of the work. I have learned a lot and tried to stay curious. It has been a struggle to figure out a sustainable workload with three part-time roles.

I realize that much of my work has been tending the soul of the conference most visibly through the worship experiences at Winter and Summer Delegate gatherings, but also more informally in iCLT meetings, newsletter communication, conversations and in several of the district worships. I shared some of my story at the Southern and Central District Worship gathering. My work on the Racial Justice Taskforce, Faith & Life Commission, in my Harrisonburg District role, and drawing from my art journey have contributed to that soul tending. In addition, I have been relating to various organizations and projects to explore connections and collaborations and imagining new ways forward. In March I preached at Eastern Mennonite Seminary chapel and met with a number of staff and students.

It has been a joy to work with youth leaders and begin a rhythm of two gatherings a year, with additional connection and resourcing. 16 people from 11 congregations gathered on March 2 at Immanuel Mennonite Church. I am grateful for the Youth Visioning Group that guides these efforts, which we are looking at continuing amid several



Caleb Schrock-Hurst, Church Relations and Racial Justice Minister

It's very hard to believe that two years on iCLT are nearly over. I've enjoyed another year of serving our VMC churches in whatever way I can. From various racial justice events and trainings to Sunday-morning worship services, it's been a privilege to support the way God is moving in our communities.

Two larger new puzzle pieces for me this year were a deeper emphasis on fundraising and adding an associate pastorate to my overall employment picture. Fundraising allowed me to connect one-on-one with many folks I'd otherwise not have; I'm so grateful for the support of individuals and churches that makes VMC possible. Also, Joining Daniel's Run Peace Church in October gave me even deeper appreciation for the work that our pastors and lay-leaders do from week to week – we should remember that God is doing tremendous things through us and will continue to open doors for our ministering in the world.

Leslie Francisco, III, Minister of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

It has been an honor to serve the Conference in the capacity as Minister of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. In my role, I had the privilege of working with a stellar group of individuals who truly love the church and are committed to the well-being of all. I was provided the opportunity to bring up sensitive issues around DEI, and my sentiments were received, leading



to appropriate corrective actions. The ability to have a safe space to share and be heard is of the utmost importance. This role is vital to the longevity and health of the Conference as we expand into a community that welcomes people from all creeds and cultures into our family.

I applaud VMC for being proactive and making this role an essential part of the conference structure. The work of iCLT will continue, whether through staff roles or a continuation in some form of the current structure. I would encourage leadership to continue to make DEI an essential priority and not just incorporate it into a staff role on a job description. I trust that I gave back to the Conference as much as I received in learning the ins and outs of conference life. God is doing something fresh and new in the church; let's continue to be a people who understand the times and be on the cutting edge of what the Spirit is ushering in as we show forth the love of God for all humankind.

Revelation 5:9 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."

June Miller, Director of Administration and Communication

In May of this year, I hired an Administrative Assistant and Event Planner at 0.5FTE. While it can be a source of pride being the "go to" person, I'm tired and grateful

iCLT continued...

to have more time to dedicate to Communications. (That's where all the fun is.)

In April, a bi-lingual issue of Pathways was published and was welcomed by many after a long drought. The previous one was published in the Fall of 2022 when the iCLT first began. The next issue, Summer 2024, is dedicated to Conference Endorsed Ministries.

As to my Administration duties, I have a lot in common with Bounty™ - the quicker picker-upper. I pick up all the leftovers and spills. Without a Credentials Committee chair, I stepped in as a convenor because the work still needs to be done. When I see something falling through the cracks, it is identified and lodged in its proper location.

I serve as an advisor and staff liaison to Congregation Life Commission, Leadership Enrichment Committee, Credentials Committee, and ad hoc groups; most recently my contributions were to the Leadership Handbook revisions.

This crew we call the iCLT fills a unique time in VMC history. We can banter, laugh, challenge, and appreciate each other. Ultimately, we know that each one of us is trying to be faithful to Christ to the best of our understanding.

Duane Beck, Consultant to Pastors and Leaders

"All who are thirsty, come to me and drink, and out of your heart will flow rivers of living water."

Worship services sponsored by the Districts were opportunities to worship God, fellowship, and celebrate the life and ministry of the body of Christ at work in district congregations. My role was helping organize the first VMC worship held in May 2023, which gave impetus for the District worship services.

I am proud of how our district ministers have risen to the leadership challenges and cared for their congregations and pastors. My role has been to be a sounding board to district ministers, and to provide guidance in pastor leadership transitions.

One of my priorities is cultivating a renewed consciousness of the importance of a congregation's local ministry. When we discover what God is doing in our neighborhoods, communities, and cities, we can embody Christ's presence, too.

I helped initiate two webinars this spring. Celebrate Recovery works with addictions and hurts that people carry. The Ministry of Inner Healing allows the Spirit of the risen Christ to heal the root causes of emotional pain and trauma. These ministries provide significant opportunities for congregational missions. Recordings of both webinars are available on the VMC website.

The Self-Evaluation of the Conference Council was a crucial step in our organizational healing and added to my time in December and January. It was necessary to hear and address the stories of pain, dismissal, and mistrust that contributed to the Conference's brokenness. These results will challenge our leadership groups to develop new, more effective habits and steer clear of old patterns of leadership.

Craig Maven, Minister of Administration and Church Relations

I have been honored to serve on the interim Conference Leadership Team (iCLT). My regular duties have been to create the agenda for our weekly meetings, chair those meetings, handle the large picture administrative needs (June Miller does a superb job of handling

most of the administrative and logistical tasks), serve as a staff resource for Conference Council which includes serving on the Executive Committee, being the liaison with Mennonite Church USA, and assisting several districts with inner processes. Other tasks that I picked up along the way are serving as the chair of the Denominational Affiliation Work Group (DAWG), and serving as the staff resource for Conference Council Personnel Committee.

Highlights for me always revolve around relationships. Not only did I get to work with an amazing team on the iCLT, but I thoroughly enjoyed working with Conference Council, and Faith and Life Commission. My role as liaison to MC USA meant that I met monthly (via zoom) with many of the other MC USA conference staff and attended the Constituency Leadership Council meetings. Although I was limited by my continuing responsibilities at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church, I valued the times I was able to connect with other congregations and leaders that I do not normally work with.

My assessment of Virginia Mennonite Conference is that we are a stronger and more cohesive conference, in spite of the loss of churches in the past two years. While I grieve every departure, I believe VMC has a bright future as a vibrant conference of engaged congregations and leaders. I will continue to be a supporter and active participant in VMC as part of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church.

Conference Council

Conference Council continues to meet regularly over Zoom, but has begun to replace some of those meetings with the 2-day in-person gatherings of old. In November of 2023, we met at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church. And in May of 2024, we met at Lindale Mennonite Church. Zoom participants were accommodated on both occasions.

In our worship, conversation, and planning there continues to be a strong sense of faithful rootedness in the past and passionate hope for the future, even whilst carrying through delicate tasks such as critical self-evaluation and the release of congregations from VMC.

We remain committed to making changes, both concrete and cultural, to our way of going about Conference leadership in accordance with the Gilliam report and the feedback gathered by Duane Beck and Cliff Brubaker.

To quote the historic Franconia Mennonite Conference church statement, "We are still willing to continue in the simple and nonresistant faith, looking for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and savior Jesus Christ."

I ask each person reading this report to consider (1) how Conference Council might better support Christ's work in our churches and (2) whether you could join our meetings— either as a member or a guest. The more diversity and buy-in we have as a group, the more effective our service can be.

Andrew Fairfield, Moderator

Conference Council meetings are open to all VMC constituents. Contact the office (info@virginiaconference.org) if you are interested. Exceptions include executive meetings and joint Faith and Life Commission meetings.

Officers of Conference Council

Moderator, Andrew Buckwalter Fairfield (2025); Moderator Elect, Jim Hershberger (2025); Secretary, Mary Jo Veurink (2026); Treasurer, Leroy Kauffman (2024)

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, Ervin Stutzman; Faith and Life Vice Chair, Pearl Hartman; Faith and Life, Secretary, Michael Shenk, III; Congregational Life, Steve Pardini

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 Minister, Caleb Schrock-Hurst

MC USA Constituency Leaders Council

Moderator, Andrew Buckwalter Fairfield; Member-at-Large, Phil Kniss; Conference Executive, Craig Maven

Standing in the Gap: a Bridge to Poverty



September 6

**8:30am-3:30pm
Harrisonburg Mennonite**

**with Lana Miller
Everence®**



congregations relating to various economic levels
virginiaconference.org/events

It is difficult to discuss money and finances within the congregation, especially when we know people are living in vastly different financial realities. And, how might we as a congregation relate better to people at various economic levels, maintain appropriate boundaries, and understand the hidden rules of economic class? We will explore these questions, listen to God's invitation for us as people of faith, and find practical ways to engage.

Register at virginiaconference.org/events.

Faith and Life Commission

For many years, the Faith and Life Commission (FLC) has served a key leadership role in the conference. Yet, in recent years, the dynamics of change and ongoing tension in our conference have made it difficult to find people to lead the FLC. For four years, Joe Longacher served as an interim chair, and finally resigned with no one to take his place. We are grateful for his diligent service.

After functioning for some months without a chair, Ervin Stutzman accepted the invitation to serve a three-year term in a transitional role. He did so with the proviso that the board would seek to identify his successor halfway into the assignment, so that Ervin could work with the new leader before ending his role.

In most of 2023, the FLC met by Zoom, continuing the practice began during the Covid pandemic. In 2024, we returned to the traditional practice of a quarterly meeting in person, with an online option. We believe face-to-face discussions are more appropriate for the type of discernment which we are called to do on behalf of Virginia Mennonite Conference (VMC).

A new feature of our meetings is to use rounds, a type of circle process that invites each person around the table to share their personal perspective without interruption. Rounds provide an opportunity for oversight ministers to share about the state of congregations in their district, and to share what they need from VMC or Mennonite Church USA (MC USA). We believe that VMC exists for the sake of healthy congregations, and that we must do all we can to help congregations to thrive.

The FLC also includes cluster leaders and several members chosen at large. Cluster leaders provide resources and accountability to credentialed ministers in roles other than pastoral ministry. Members at large are chosen to bring balance and broader perspectives to our group, which comprises mostly older men.

In our April meeting, we heard from the Denominational Affiliation Work Group (DAWG) regarding other MC USA conferences who have wrestled with similar polarization and unrest regarding affiliation with the denomination. We also discussed the effects of the shift in MC USA (and VMC) regarding spiritual streams. In our lifetime, we have witnessed a significant shift from the primacy of the Evangelical and Holiness streams toward the primacy of the Contemplative and Social Justice streams. This shift shapes our denominational discernment on many moral and ethical issues, including gender relationships and same-sex marriage.

The FLC also discussed several elements, such as an "exit interview" that are needed to provide a healthy transition for congregations leaving VMC this summer. We hope for continued relationships and potential future collaborations with these congregations, both formal and informal. We also want to give due diligence to transitions in ministerial credentials and other logistical questions. Credentials ministers in congregations who are leaving VMC must seek cre-

Officers of Faith and Life Commission

Ervin R. Stutzman, Chair (2026); Pearl Hartman, Vice-Chair; Michael Shenk, III, Secretary.

Staff

Craig Maven, Conference Executive.

District and Cluster Ministers

Bishop Leslie Francisco, III, Calvary; James Åkerson, Central; Pearl Hartman, Chaplains; Ryan Ahlgrim, Eastern, Maren Tyedmers Hange, Harrisonburg; Roy Hange, Harrisonburg; vacant, Leadership; vacant, Member-at-Large; Veronica Sanchez, Member-at-Large; Jean Oswald, Member-at-Large; Aldine Musser, Northern; Michael Shenk, III, Northern; Luke Schrock-Hurst, Potomac, Kevin Gasser, Southern; MaryBeth Moore, Teaching, Chuck Hostetter, Tennessee, Carolina, Kentucky.

Credentials Committee

June Miller, Interim Chair; James Åkerson; Sarah Piper; Michael Shenk, III; Luke Schrock-Hurst.

Leadership Enrichment Committee

Aldine Musser, Chair; June Miller, Staff; MaryBeth Moore; Jean Oswald; Luke Schrock-Hurst.

dentiaing in the receiving conference, since VMC grants credentials only to ministers in VMC congregations.

The stress of managing church relationships in a turbulent time weighs on the FLC in various ways. We are dismayed to see congregations shrink or close their doors. It is painful to release congregations under our care. Yet we must not ignore or deny the pain of separation.

FLC has several committee positions which are unfilled, including the chair of the credentialing committee and the chair of the placement committee. Besides a general sense of busyness, people have been reluctant to serve in a tension-filled environment. Or perhaps we will need to "right size" our organization to adjust to our current needs.

The Commission gratefully receives staff support from the Interim Leadership Team. We recognize there will be significant changes in the shape of that team when the two-year interim comes to an end in August. The loss of congregations across various districts may call for a change in staff roles to best serve our conference in the days ahead. We seek God's grace, forgiveness and renewal during these troubled times.

Ervin R. Stutzman, Chair, 5/15/23



DISTRICT & CLUSTER REPORTS

Districts

Calvary	Potomac
Central	Southern
Eastern	Tennessee/Ken-
Harrisonburg	tucky/Carolina
Northern	

Clusters

Administrative/ Leadership
Chaplain
Teaching

Key

M = Membership
A = Average Attendance
O = Online Attendance
~Not reported
*Departing Congregation, not eligible for delegates.
Pastoral Staff

VIRGINIACONFERENCE.ORG/EVENTS

Standing in the Gap: a Bridge to Poverty



September 6

**8:30am-3:30pm
Harrisonburg Mennonite**

with Lana Miller
Everence®



“Slaves are being FORT MONROE - Massachusetts soldier

Learning trip to Hampton, Virginia
hosted by Racial Justice Task Force
October 11-13
virginiaconference.org/events



Achieving Relational Wholeness Wholeness Wholeness



Virginia Mennonite Men Workshop

November 2

8am - 3pm
Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
Fellowship Hall

Calvary District

OFFICERS

Bishop Leslie Francisco, III, District Minister

CONGREGATIONS

Calvary Community Church (C3)

M: 750 A: 250 O: 500

Rev. Dr. Lesley Francisco McClendon

Caleb McClendon

Ray Barnes

Nicole Francisco

Natalie Francisco

Ronnie Mack

Alicia Manning

Shawn Manning

JoAnn Pheonix

Donnell Spruill

C3 Hampton

This year we are focusing on evolving as a church. Our tagline for the year is unity, maturity and spiritual growth. We are taking the first two months of the year to walk through the entire book of Ephesians as we mature as a church. The church meets in person every 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday with a virtual 4th Sunday. The congregation has adapted to our virtual 4th and 5th Sundays. We have 5 next steps you can take at C3. 1. Follow Jesus 2. Baptism 3. Become a Legacy Maker 4. Serve with Team C3 5. Join a Small Group. In the first 6 months of the year we've already seen over 50 next steps to the glory of God!

We are launching our fourth-round small groups and we have more than doubled in the amount of offerings we provide, going from 4 groups to 9, possibly even 10. The summer session of small groups is up to 9 groups with the hopes of even more offerings in the fall.

C3 Atlanta still remains a virtual community.

C3 Rocky Mount – Although the physical building has shut down, we still have virtual members from that area that we stay in communication with via our ministerial staff.

Chesapeake

We continue to provide a space for a local church that has continued services throughout Covid. They are a smaller congregation but they have a presence in the community and Bishop remains in contact with the Pastor on a regular basis.

South Africa

Pastor Flinn continues to provide leadership and has reopened in person services. Attendance and church participation is doing very well, they are also exploring relocating to a new facility which will give them more space and versatility. Lauren Francisco journeyed to South Africa three weeks and worked with the new orphanage we have partnered with. We are exploring how we might strengthen our partnership and support of their ministry. As a result of this, we have a group of 15 from C3 Hampton who will visit C3 South Africa as well as the orphanage and explore South Africa for a cross-cultural experience. During this trip, we will show the sites we've financially supported over the year including a school and orphanage. We will likely do a service project at the orphanage as well. This trip will happen in July.

Bishop Leslie Francisco, III, Calvary District Minister



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Central District

OFFICERS

James Åkerson, District Minister; Dale Hartzler, Chair

CONGREGATIONS

Beldor Mennonite Church

M: 17 A: 19 O: 3

James Åkerson

Emily Åkerson

Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship

M: 20 A: 20 O: 2

Joseph Bontrager

Mt Clinton Mennonite Church

M: 71 A: 68 O: 12

James Hershberger

Andrew Shantz

Weavers Mennonite Church

M: 128 A: 120 O: 12

Curt Stutzman

Don Martin

Daniel Martin

Central District of Virginia Mennonite Conference finds great hope as it is touched by scripture and the Holy Spirit. The Lord points us to his powerful way of hope, peace, and joy. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Beldor congregation reaches its community through visitation, posted sermon messages, and bluegrass

gospel music. Our worship is made lively with hearty praise of God through mountain bluegrass gospel tunes and traditional hymns. Sermons, confession, and public announcements are posted on YouTube & Facebook weekly to reach a broader east Rockingham County area. We send out printed weekly sermon devotionals. Our first Sunday of the month evening concerts attract people from a four-county area. We conduct adult Sunday school, men's Bible studies, and women's gatherings, encouraging service and study.

Christiansburg congregation supports a preschool program in their building and contributes to a county food assistance program. There is joy in worshipping together with music, scripture, children's messages, and prayer. We have monthly fellowship lunches at the church, fellowship picnics at members' homes, and have summer picnics. We enjoy gathering in fellowship groups. We are in a transition time as we search for a new lead pastor; Pastor Andrews transferred to Lindale Mennonite Church.

Mt. Clinton congregation reaches out to its community through prison ministry, substance-abuse recovery, pastoral care outreach, Kid's Club (with Weavers MC), and disciple-making. We are growing our fellowship groups. We hold fun events for kids (about once a

continued on next page

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Central District continued

month), calling them "Parents Night Out." We are celebrating 150 years as a congregation this year and hope you will join us for some of our 150-year events in August-September. Pastor Jim remains active in immigrant resettlement services.

Weavers' congregation offers Kids Club (with Mt. Clinton), hosts its living nativity weekend in December, an Easter play this year, and conducts MDS service projects. Worship attendance is strong. We are helping an immigrant family find their place in the community. Our coffeehouse has been a good space for discussion and fellowship. We completed our renovations and expansion, now offering added ADA accessible spaces. We hope to offer after-school childcare beginning in the Fall 2025. We voted to invite Curt Stutzman to another term and are glad for his leadership and preaching.

James Åkerson, Central District Minister

Eastern District

OFFICERS

Ryan Ahlgrim, District Minister; Craig Wilson, Chair; Betty Kurtz, Vice-Chair, Interim Treasurer; Valerie Wermuth, Secretary

CONGREGATIONS

First Mennonite Church

M: 72 A: 74 O: 15

Ryan Ahlgrim

Emily Nyce

Sandra Joireman

Huntington Mennonite Church

M: 80 A: 40 O: 0

Howard Miller

Betty Kurtz

Powhatan Mennonite Church*

M: 63 A: 80 O: 2

John Engle

Providence Mennonite Church

M: 28 A: 22 O: 0

Mark Marvuglio

Evangeline Yoder

Warwick River Mennonite Church

M: 45 A: 45 O: 10

Steve Wiebe-Johnson

Sue Yoder

Williamsburg Mennonite Church

M: 79 A: 64 O: 7

Zachary Dey

Josh Brown

In this past year Powhatan Mennonite Church made a formal decision to withdraw from VMC and MC USA. In addition, a house fellowship, Garden City, that was attempting to plant a church in the Manchester neighborhood of Richmond, decided to discontinue its ministry. So the Eastern District now consists of five congregations, stretching from Richmond to Newport News. These five congregations each have an average Sunday attendance ranging from 20-90 (including online attendance). Two of the congregations are growing modestly, two appear to be stable and vital, one is in decline due to an aging membership.

Last year Providence Mennonite Church hired Mark Marvuglio as their interim pastor. In January the congregation voted to extend an ongoing call to him as their pastor, and recently he was credentialed by VMC.

Last year Warwick River Mennonite Church hired Steve Wiebe-Johnson as their interim pastor. Earlier this

year, that interim call was extended, and Steve is in the process of transferring his credential to VMC.

This past spring Huntington Mennonite Church was devastated by the death of Anna Janzen, their associate pastor. Congregational leaders are re-evaluating staffing needs.

The Eastern District Council lost its long-time treasurer due to a stroke and is struggling to fill needed positions. Recently, the EDC voted to meet quarterly, rather than three times a year, in order to improve the conducting of needed business, become better resourced, and enhance our joint ministries.

On October 22nd, four of our congregations came together on a Sunday morning at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center for a joint worship service and potluck meal. 130-150 attended an enthusiastic service of music and mission stories from the four congregations. The service was so well received, the EDC has decided to hold another joint worship service and potluck on Sunday morning, September 22nd of this year.

With the pandemic having now significantly receded, our congregations are back to full ministries, and most have added an online worship option. Despite an aging population in most of our congregations, vital ministries, enthusiasm, and outreach continue.

Ryan Ahlgrim, Eastern District Minister

Harrisonburg District

OFFICERS

Roy and Maren Tyedmers Hange, District Ministers;
Paula Stoltzfus and Steve Pardini, Co Chairs; Jim
Beachy, Treasurer.

CONGREGATIONS

Charlottesville Mennonite Church

M: 48 A: 25 O: 8

Roy Hange

Maren Tyedmers Hange

Holly Scott

Iglesia Esperanza De Vida

M: 15 A: ~ O: ~

Eastside Church*

M: 100 A: ~ O: ~

Peter Eberly

Matthew Swartz

Early Church*

M: 26 A: ~ O: ~

Mark Thiesen Nations

Harrigan Bowman

Family of Hope

M: 8 A: 10 O: 0

Harvey Yoder

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church

M: 455 A: 253 O: 115

Jacob Lee

Craig Maven

Carmen Schrock-Hurst

Mark Harmon

Pete Burkholder

Les Helmuth

Pearl Lantz

Deb Pardini

Immanuel Mennonite Church

M: 73 A: ~ O: ~

Matthew Bucher

Tim Friesen

Manantial de Vida

M: 67 A: 85 O: 0

Juan Carlos Malvaez

Wendy Malvaez

Mosaic of Grace*

M: 17 A: 34 O: 0

Michael Metzler

Risha Metzler

Mt Vernon Mennonite Church

M: 52 A: 35 O: 4

Gregory Stenson

Park View Mennonite Church

M: 336 A: 164 O: 143

Phil Kniss

Paula Stoltzfus

Rosemary King

Fred Kniss

Shirley Yoder Burbaker

Shirley Hochstetler

Ridgeway Mennonite Church

M: 91 A: 77 O: 5

Chad Miller

Glen Kauffman

Pastoral/Ministry Transitions:

Ken Wettig moved from pastoring at Early Church to becoming the director of Corhaven Retreat Center. Mark Thiessen Nation became interim pastor at Early Church.

Magdiel Diaz resigned as pastor at Esperanza de Vida to move to full time work with another group, Equipping the Saints.

Moriah Hurst resigned as pastor at Park View MC to move to northern Indiana. Two interim youth and family life leaders have been appointed: Carissa Gredder and John Stoltzfus from within the congregation.

Phil Kniss has announced his retirement after 28 years of ministry as lead pastor at Park View MC. Processes are underway to find a transitional pastor. Paula Stoltzfus has been moved to full time for the interim time.

Ministry Highlights:

The churches of Harrisonburg District continue to hold ministries to children, various pastoral needs and outreach in the presence and power of the Spirit.

Some congregations in the district are finding ways to host or integrate Congolese immigrants.

A number of churches have hosted inner healing ministries to augment therapy and spiritual direction for the sake of transformation. The September 2023 district delegate session highlighted this ministry with four churches telling their stories and interacting in a Q and A time.

The pastors of the district met monthly for lunch for connection, encouragement and discernment.

Esperanza de Vida and Family of Hope have held discernment conversations about meeting schedules, locations and viability.

Church Transitions:

Three churches have made the decision to leave VMC: Early Church, Eastside Church and Mosaic of Grace.

Maren Hange and Roy Hange, Harrisonburg District Ministers

Northern District

OFFICERS

Aldine Musser and Mike Shenk, III, District Ministers; David King, Chair

CONGREGATIONS

Big Spring Mennonite Church

M: 30 A: 21 O: 0

Pearl Hartman

Kathy Yoder

Crest Hill Community Church

M: 26 A: 23 O: 0

Marian Buckwalter

CrossWay Mennonite Church

M: 6 A: 6 O: 0

estimate

James Rhee

Grace Mennonite Fellowship*

M: 110 A: 133 O: 0

Joshua Cox

Lashonda Russell

Hebron Mennonite Church

M: 55 A: 30 O: 0

Mark Conley

Iglesia Enciende una Luz*

M: 80 A: 90 O: 0

Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah

M: 26 A: 24 O: 0

estimate

Alfonso Alvarado Ayala

Lindale Mennonite Church

M: 272 A: 193 O: 113

Andrew Buckwalter Fairfield

Amanda Swartley

Megan Sandberg

Freddy Satalaya

Elana Satalaya

Erin Kennedy Hess

Gloria Lehman

Randy Schwitzer

Mathias Mennonite Church

M: 19 A: 19 O: 0

Dean Williams

Stephens City Mennonite Church

M: 17 A: 12 O: 11

Linda Wenger

Trissels Mennonite Church*

M: 110 A: 82 O: 3

Harold Miller

Valley View Mennonite Church

M: 29 A: 22 O: 0

Mike Shenk, III

Lois Moyers

Woodland Mennonite Church

M: 17 A: 6 O: 0

Zion Mennonite Church

M: 143 A: 80 O: 10

Sarah Piper

Lori Friesen

Elwood Yoder

Joe Friesen

those who wish to leave VMC.

The monthly pastor's fellowship has remained a steady and valuable source of encouragement and support in the midst of differences. One highlight this year was hearing Robert Harper and Councilwoman Monica Robinson talk about their experiences of growing up in Newtown during the Urban Renewal Project.

We experienced a wonderful service of renewal in February at **Lindale**. The bilingual service included individuals or groups from nearly all of our congregations. It was a great time of celebration through worship, creative and fun activities and fellowship around good food.

We have been happy to provide resources from our Kingdom Building Fund the past several years to Lindale for their Vacation Bible School which they jointly sponsor with **Zion**. The resources have helped them extend the program beyond the two congregations.

Two leadership transitions occurred this year. Robert Yutzy requested an early release at Lindale and left in December. Andrew RW Buckwalter Fairfield began as pastor at Lindale on April 1 and was installed on May 12. Armando and Veronica Sanchez ended their leadership at **Iglesia Enciende Una Luz** and began providing leadership to two growing congregations in the Waynesboro area. They are currently discerning new leadership for the congregation.

Three of our congregations **Trissels, Grace and Iglesia Enciende Una Luz** have requested to withdraw from Virginia Mennonite Conference. Each of these requests were processed by the district with each one bringing sadness, lament and frustration. Delegates did approve all three requests, with regrets and sent them on to Conference Council for their action to bring them to the summer delegate assembly.

These subtractions will force us to evaluate our future as we try to determine the impact on finances and programming. We are committed to working with the conference leadership as new ways of being and doing are explored and implemented. We are open to what the Lord may have in store for our congregations, our district and our conference. We will be determining what our congregations need and how best to meet those needs.

David King, Northern District Chair

During the past year, the winds of change began to blow through the Northern District, probably not unlike the experiences of other districts in VMC. They started slowly but increased throughout the year providing a clear indication that things will be different in 2024-2025 as congregations discerned their future relationship to VMC or their future existence. In the midst of the windy conditions, we experienced signs of hope and vitality.

District leadership walked closely alongside congregations who were experiencing leadership transitions as well as those discerning their existence, providing counsel, support, lament and celebration. While district leadership was not invited to congregational discernment processes for those considering realignment, we remain committed to a smooth transition for

Potomac District

OFFICERS

Luke Schrock-Hurst, District Minister

CONGREGATIONS

Daniels Run Peace Church

M: 41 A: 36 O: 3

Stephen Intagliata

Caleb Schrock-Hurst

Karen Zehr

DC City Church

M: 80 A: 65 O: 0

Bruce Clark

Fourth St Community Fellowship

M: 61 A: ~ O: ~

estimate

Sang-Jin Choi

Iglesia Alfa y Omega

M: 115 A: ~ O: ~

estimate

Jose Borjas

Vietnamese Christian Fellowship

M: 19 A: 12 O: 0

estimate

Peter Nguyen

Washington Community Fellowship

M: 68 A: 60 O: 30

Andrew Cheung

Kristal Graber

The Potomac District is made up of Washington Community Fellowship, Daniels Run Peace Church, DC City Church (formerly Christian Conquest Word of God), Vietnamese Christian Fellowship, Fourth Street Fellowship, La Iglesia del Evangelio Completo Alfa y Omega, and the DC Chaplaincy Ministry at Dulles Airport.

This District finds it very difficult to find times to meet together, given the number of bi-vocational ministers, DC traffic nightmares in the large metro area, and differences of culture and language. However, the churches of Potomac District continue to be living stones!

In September, **Daniels Run Peace Church** invited Caleb Schrock-Hurst to be part-time preaching pastor and to share his gift of music with the congregation. Beginning his service in October, Caleb was formally installed by his father, Luke Schrock-Hurst, on Sunday afternoon, November 19th, with Pastor Craig Maven, of the VMC interim leadership team, preaching.

Daniels Run also invited other Potomac congregations to join them on Sunday evening, March 3, for a "Potomac District Night of Worship" and fellowship. The evening featured the EMU Chamber Choir led by Dr. Ben Bergey and a message by lead pastor of Daniel's Run, Tig Intagliata.

"How is Daniels Run Peace Church living out being 'living stones?'" muses Pastor Tig.

One thing I think of is our ministry with Afghan refugees in our area of Northern Virginia. We have helped several families get set up in homes and support them in other ways during the past two years. Last month, on May 5, our church had a "Picnic in

the Park" across the street from our church where we invited all of our Afghan friends and families to be our guests. We provided Afghan food from a local restaurant as well as other picnic fare. There were some organized games for the children, and live music provided by a young Afghan musician. Overall, it was a joyful time of reconnecting with friends we hadn't seen for a while, and also building new relationships.

Pastor Andrew Cheung of **Washington Community Fellowship** offers this example of his congregation being living stones in the Kingdom.

Over the past two years, we have placed a renewed emphasis on communal spiritual formation through shared spiritual practices. Last fall, we made a significant change to our Sunday morning programming by offering our adult and children's nurture programs during a teaching hour before our Worship service, rather than offering children's programming during the service. As a result, there have been more people studying Scripture together and the children have been able to witness the adults worship through the duration of the Worship service.

Pastor Cheung began a six month sabbatical in June.

Chaplains Eugene and Christina Kraybill, continued to lead Christian worship services at Dulles Airport and shared this.

We continue to represent Christ Jesus through our presence in the airport chaplaincy ministry at the Washington Dulles International Airport, leading the Sunday morning Christian worship services two to three times a month. Volunteers that lead the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Volunteers from different faith groups lead their respective religious services to their respective communities. Though all leaders are leading, we as followers of Christ Jesus, seek to be living stones to all persons, which includes other religious leaders. Having the privilege of being a "Chaplain" allows us to share words of faith that in most workplace settings would be difficult for others. We open meetings with prayers, walk the hallways, and interact with employees, passengers, and airline personnel through listening, prayer, and occasionally officiate weddings and memorial services. All that we are able to do, we do not take for granted. How important it is to clearly be thoughtful of words chosen to be spoken that insinuate who we are in Christ Jesus...living stones. Note: the chapel location at IAD is inside security across from gate A-32.

Luke Schrock-Hurst, Potomac District Minister

Southern District

OFFICERS
Kevin Gasser, District Minister; Phil Lehman, Chair;
Gerald Shenk, Treasurer

CONGREGATIONS

Greenmont Mennonite Fellowship* M: 127 A: 228 O: 0 Seth Hankee	Springdale Mennonite Church M: 74 A: 45 O: 5 Ann Frank
Lynside Mennonite Church M: 50 A: ~ O: ~ Gordon Miller Keith Showalter	Staunton Mennonite Church M: 32 A: 45 O: 15 Kevin Gasser Glen Zendt
Rehoboth Mennonite Church M: 10 A: ~ O: ~ estimate Terri Jordan	Waynesboro Mennonite Church M: 67 A: 42 O: 11 Phil Lehman John Arbaugh, II

The Southern District has undergone a season of change. Change brings a disruption of what is normal and often with it a fear of the unknown. But change also provides an opportunity to do something new, exciting, and perhaps even more faithful to that which God has called us.

Three of our congregations have joined together again this year to provide a community-wide Vacation Bible School. These collaborative efforts give me hope for the future as our congregations work together for the greater good and the kingdom of God.

We will be saying goodbye to two of our congregations this summer as **Greenmonte Fellowship** is leaving Virginia Mennonite Conference and **Signs of Life Fellowship** has not been meeting for worship or other church-related activities. We wish the best for those affected by these changes and hope to continue to relate to one another in various capacities moving forward.

Lynside Mennonite Church has continued to strengthen their lay leadership as pastor Gordon Miller has begun a slow retirement process, cutting back in his hours. Congregation members are preaching twice a month, providing them with an opportunity to strengthen their gifts and dig deeper into their study of scripture.

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

Springdale Mennonite Church said goodbye to

pastor **Kevin Goertzen** in March after around eleven years of service to the congregation. Kevin and Denise are serving as co-hosts at Corhaven, a Christian retreat center north of Harrisonburg. Patrick and Christine Nafziger have been providing interim pulpit supply as the congregation begins searching for their next pastor. Springdale will also be celebrating their 200th anniversary as a congregation in 2025 and have begun planning a celebration to mark this event.

Staunton Mennonite continues to support their Bible Quizzing Team, which will participate in a regional quiz in Boston and nation quiz in San Diego this summer. The church is now working with their third refugee family from Afghanistan and has grown through interactions with our new neighbors.

Waynesboro Mennonite recently went through a series of meetings focusing on the mission and vision of the congregation. The church said goodbye to pastor Clair Good at the end of 2023 and saw this as an opportunity to reconsider what God was calling them to in the future. Phil Lehman has assumed a number of additional responsibilities as Waynesboro begins the search for their next lead pastor.

The Southern District is excited to welcome **Iglesia Shalom-Nuevo Comienzo** as a Congregation in Formation. Armando and Veronica Sanchez have already been a gift to our community and we look forward to continuing and developing our relationship with one another.

Kevin Gasser, Southern District Minister

TCK continued

Mennonite Fellowship. They continue to stay connected informally with some of the others.

Durham Mennonite Church: They continue to look for a part time pastor. They are functioning well with great lay leadership and several in the congregation who take turns preaching each Sunday. They have great fellowship and connections with each other and are growing into their community. Hoping and praying for some addition leadership soon.

Please continue to pray and support the work of the TCK district and the churches here. I have told the district that this is my last year as district minister, so please pray for the district as they seek new oversight leadership. We will be losing the support of three churches this year and that also affects our ability to recruit and support a new district minister. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers

Chuck Hostetter, TCK District Minister

Tennessee, Carolina, Kentucky (TCK) District

OFFICERS

Chuck Hostetter, District Minister; Vernon Moyer, Chair; John Bender, Vice Chair; Roy Hunsburger, Secretary; Leroy Kauffman, Treasurer

CONGREGATIONS: STATS & DELEGATES

Concord Mennonite Church

M: 7 A: 7 O: 0
Jerry Hartness

Durham Mennonite Church

M: 12 A: 24 O: 12
estimate
Cheryl VanHorn

Greensboro Mennonite Fellowship

M: 22 A: 20 O: 0
John Storm

Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo (CIF)

M: 33 A: 23 O: 0
Juan Jose Lagos

Knoxville Mennonite Church*

M: 44 A: 45 O: 0
Patrick McFarren

Mara Christian Church of America, NC

M: 220 A: 180 O: 0
Tial Thawng

Outlet 10.27

M: ~ A: ~ O: ~
Tami Nice

West Liberty Mennonite Church*

M: 10 A: 11 O: 10
Josh Fyffe

Concord Mennonite Church: Continues to gather together as a small ageing congregation of around seven people. Ageing and deaths have affected this group greatly in the last several years. They are without a pastor, at present and a lay leader, Paul Bergan, usually preaches each Sunday, and Jerry Hartness leads the Sunday school. They continue to provide a fellowship meal for all who come. Pray for them as they seek to know God's will for them as they move forward.

Asheville Mennonite Church: Asheville Mennonite has decided to end their life as a congregation. Do to not being able to find a pastor and people ready for a change and others moving away it just made sense to close as a church. Those that are left have found other faith communities that they are plugging into. The ladies continue to meet together weekly for breakfast and fellowship as do some of the men.

Mountain View Mennonite Church: The church has enjoyed the leadership of Joe and Charissa Bellone. They have continued to grow both their in-person as well as their online congregation. They are working hard creating youth ministries, and small groups for the ongoing discipleship of the congregation.

Iglesia Christana Renuevo: Juan Jose and his wife CiCi are giving good leadership to this new emerging church planting work in Winston Salem, NC. Juan has been meeting with a number of individuals and families for discipleship and is constantly reaching out to new people in their community. The exciting news for them is that they are sharing the old Oakhill Mennonite Church building with another congregation that has been renting the building for over 10 years. The arrangement is working very well. They feel blessed to have a stable place to gather and worship.

Mara Christian Church: The church continues to feel blessed with their own building. They are very excited to finally have a pastor who came from Myanmar this year. We are praying that he will be able to bring his wife and family soon. Their church membership hovers around 195 with an average attendance of about 150. They continue to function well with a good leadership team.

Greensboro Mennonite Fellowship: is finding ways to stay connected and directed by using the great gifts of the members of the congregation. They take turns filling the preaching schedule and asking others to preach for them on other Sundays. The church has a great international feel with members from several different countries. Over Easter they moved to a new location and are very excited with their new location and facilities.

Outlet 10.27: A church in formation, that formerly met in the home of Keith and Tami Nice, is now on hold. Many of their members now connect to Greensboro

Continued on previous page

TCK district is made up of 8 Churches and two Churchs in Formation. Our district ranges from Durham North Carolina to the hills of West Liberty Kentucky. We are one in the spirit of Christ but very different in many other ways. I praise God for the faithfulness of these congregations, who despite many of them who are without pastors at the moment, are serving the body of Christ well and their communities.

West Liberty Mennonite Church: Beginning in the west, West Liberty Mennonite is VMC's church west anchor. Josh Fyffe continues to pastor this small congregation of mostly family members. The congregation is working to reach out to the families of the community. They have decided that with the changes in biblical understandings at MCUSA that now is the time for them to exit. They are deeply biblical and Mennonite and are looking for a better realignment for their congregation and witness.

Knoxville Mennonite Church: Pat and Jan McFarin are giving good pastoral leadership for this growing congregation. The Church enjoys great fellowship and teaching by Pat and others in the congregation. They are in the process of leaving VMC and realigning with a more progressive conference in Indiana and Ohio. They are seeking to be faithful to the call to love and care for all people as Jesus would.

Teaching Cluster

The Teaching Cluster of Virginia Mennonite Conference (VMC) and Allegheny Mennonite Conference (AMC) continues to serve as a community dedicated to the sacred ministry of teaching. Despite experiencing a leadership transition this year, the cluster has remained dedicated to fellowship, prayer, and mutual support.

In August, Sarah Bixler stepped down from leading the cluster to have more time to focus on writing a book and to provide leadership for the newly created Conectere project at Eastern Mennonite University. Caleb Schrock-Hurst then served as interim Cluster Leader. In April, the Faith and Life Commission approved the Teaching Cluster's appointment of MaryBeth Heatwole Moore as Cluster Leader.

Throughout the year, the teaching cluster has continued its tradition of monthly gatherings, providing a space for members to share personal updates, pray for one another, and deepen their bonds in Christ. These meetings have been important for maintaining connection and offering support, especially during times of transition and change.

Several members of the cluster have recently retired or are preparing for retirement, prompting meaningful reflections on vocational identity and life transitions. Together, the group navigated these changes with grace and mutual encouragement, recognizing the value of our collective wisdom and experience.

The Teaching Cluster maintains a heart for global concerns, particularly the ongoing challenges in the Middle East. Some members have deep, personal relationships with Palestine and Israel. Our shared concern for justice and reconciliation has led to heartfelt discussions and prayers for peace and healing in the region.

As we continue to journey together, the Teaching Cluster remains dedicated to nurturing a spirit of community, prayer, and learning among its members. We are confident in God's faithfulness and guiding presence in our midst.

MaryBeth Heatwole Moore, Cluster Minister, May 14, 2024

Members: Brian Burkholder (AMC), Kevin Clark, Penny Driediger, Byron Peachy (AMC), Carl Stauffer, Linford Stutzman, Dorothy Jean Weaver, Sandy Wenger, Lonnie Yoder (AMC)

Chaplain Cluster

Chaplains continue to provide hope, blessings and spiritual care in their respective places of ministry. Blessings and support are given to those facing the end of life in hospice. Finding God's presence and hope in illness and aging is guided by chaplains working in Retirement Communities and hospitals. The incarcerated are given a loving place to tell their own struggles in life. The differently-abled find joy and acceptance through worship that is inclusive and understanding of their own way of seeing God. "Faith and Light" services, held monthly at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, are a gift to our community. In these worship services chaplains engage in the profound insights of those who see through eyes of faith and love, unhindered by expectations of being proper. God has blessed VMC with gifted, compassionate and wise chaplains. We give thanks for their commitment to ministry.

Pearl Hartman, Chaplain Cluster Minister

Members: Dave Gullman, Steve Landis, Carmen Miller, Ron Peritoni, Steve Swartzendruber, Bruce Martin, Jewel Martin, Derek Yoder (AMC)

Administrative / Leadership Cluster

The position of Cluster Minister has been vacant since Beth Good's departure in the fall of 2023, when she and Clair moved to Pennsylvania. A new appointment is in process.

Members: Aaron Kauffman, Joe Hackman, Les Helmuth, Beryl Jantzi, Jason Showalter, Skip Tobin, Vacant-Cluster Minister

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virginiaconference.org

Racial Justice Task Force

The Racial Justice Task Force has had another busy year. We have hosted more than half a dozen events, ranging from panel discussions about mission and indigenous peoples to sermons and events on cultural difference; some of these events are recorded and available on the VMC YouTube page. Caleb has also continued taking the last few districts through the IDI training and has preached a dozen sermons on racial justice at VMC churches since last summer

As a general thought, it's important to observe that as an American culture we've entered the 'backlash' phase that tends to follow large civil rights steps forward; while many organizations committed to racial diversity initiatives in 2020 after the murder of George Floyd, many are now backing away from these goals. We hope VMC can continue being committed to becoming a racially inclusive organization, serving to equip Christian people of color to thrive in this country and congregations who want to do their part to combat racism in all its forms.

We've had a bit of turnover on the task force this year

– we welcomed Mojo Lee from Daniel's Run, Alfonso Alvarado from Monte Moriah, and Ronnie Mack from C3 to the group throughout the year, and thank our former members who have had to step away for various reasons. We will also now face a big transition with Caleb departing the conference soon; we are very open to feedback from churches and individuals about what efforts we should make as a task force going forward. Prayers and ideas are always appreciated.

Peace of Christ,

Caleb Schrock-Hurst, Racial Justice Minister

Members: Vivian Stevens-Lyons (C3 Hampton, co-chair), Maren Hange (Charlottesville MC, co-chair) Alfonso Alvarado (Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah), Andrew Fairfield (Lindale MC), Mojo Lee (Daniel's Run Peace Church), Ronnie Mack (C3 Hampton), Aldine Musser (Valley View MC), and Tami Nice (Greensboro MC).

Congregational Life Commission

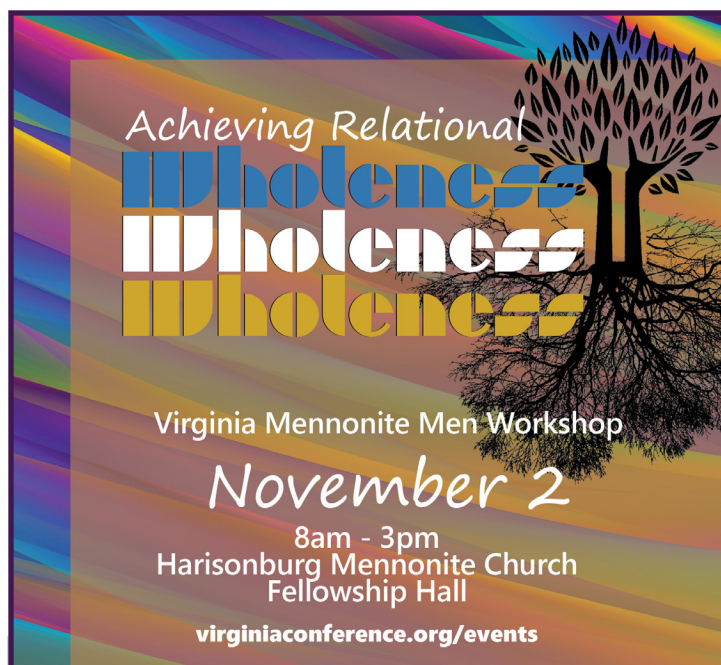
The Congregational Life Commission continues to sponsor Virginia Mennonite Missions, Mennonite Women of Virginia, and Mennonite Youth Fellowship activities.

More recently, Congregational Life has supported the restart of the Mennonite Men's Bible study at Park View Mennonite Church. CLC will host a creation care networking dessert night in June for area churches and has scheduled several workshops for the Summer Delegate Assembly.

In September, CLC will co-sponsor a workshop by Everence, *"Bridge to Poverty,"* with the Faith and Life Commission's Leadership Enrichment Committee. In November, CLC will sponsor a Virginia Mennonite Men's workshop, *"Achieving Relational Wholeness."*

Submitted by Steve Pardini, Chair

Members: Steve Pardini, Chair; June Miller, Staff; Pearl Lantz, Member-at-large; Mark Harmon, Youth Council; Sylvia Yoder, Mennonite Women of Virginia; Skip Tobin, VMissions



Achieving Relational
Wholeness
Wholeness
Wholeness

Virginia Mennonite Men Workshop
November 2
8am - 3pm
Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
Fellowship Hall
virginiacommunity.org/events

Led by Mark Sensabaugh

This workshop will provide a supportive space to explore our beliefs about how God sees us and how that influences our self-perceptions and relationships. It encourages men to reflect on their own journey towards wholeness in their closest relationships. The workshop includes teaching, opportunities for personal reflection, discussion, and practical applications.

Mark is a Professional Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist and member of Harrisonburg Mennonite Church.

Historical Committee

At this juncture in the Virginia Mennonite Conference (VMC), we appeal to churches leaving VMC or closing to send materials to the Archives. About forty percent of congregational collections in the VMC archives are from churches either no longer with VMC or that have closed. Those collections are valuable for research and information. One congregation that departed VMC over twenty years ago recently found the materials in the archives very useful for their congregational life.

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

Conference staff should submit important papers, annual reports, minutes, 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, 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 VMMissions, Family Life Resource Center, Highland Retreat, Mennonite Disaster Service of the Shenandoah Valley, Eastern Mennonite School, Mennonite Women of Virginia, Mennowood Retirement Community, Pleasant View Inc., Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, and Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center.

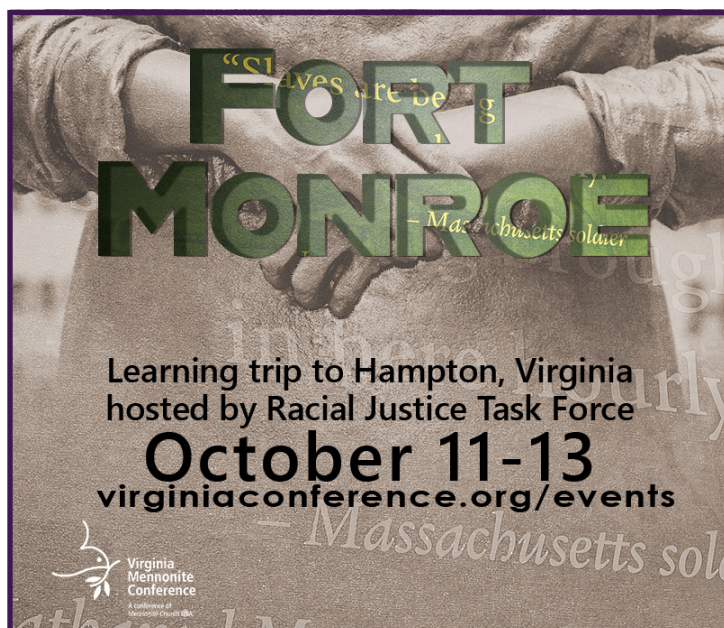
Digital records are preferred, but paper copies are welcomed. To submit digital records, attach the document(s) in Word or PDF format and send it to archives@emu.edu. To submit paper copies, either contact Simone Horst to arrange a drop-off time or send them via U.S. mail to Simone Horst, VMC Archivist,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

History Book: Steve Nolt and Elwood Yoder are co-authors of a forthcoming History of Mennonites in Virginia and the Southeast. They have written eight 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 fourteen-year vision. 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. Find an update on the book project at virginiaconference.org.

Projects: Virginia Conference Minutes are bound in four volumes through 2002. We intend to make the recent era of Conference Minutes accessible in both print and digital formats. Second, we plan to update several of the Virginia pages on gameo.org, which are woefully out of date.

Submitted by Elwood Yoder.

VMC Historical Committee: Elwood Yoder, Chair; Simone Horst, VMC Archivist; James Rush; Mary Sprunger



“Slaves are being”
FORT MONROE
— Massachusetts soldier

Learning trip to Hampton, Virginia
hosted by Racial Justice Task Force
October 11-13
virginiaconference.org/events

Virginia Mennonite Conference
A Conference of the Mennonite Church USA

The VMC Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) is planning a learning trip to Hampton, Virginia from **October 11-13th**.

The group will visit **Fort Monroe**, the site of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans on American soil in 1619, and **connect with brothers and sisters from VMC at C3 Hampton**, over a meal and in Sunday worship. (Pending interest, one car may return to the Harrisonburg area Saturday for pastors who need to be at church Sunday morning.)

Register your interest at virginiaconference.org/events to get updates as planning continues, and feel free to extend this invitation to interested members of your congregation.



CONFERENCE ENDORSED MINISTRIES REPORTS

Eastern Mennonite School

801 Parkwood Dr
Harrisonburg, Va 22802
540-236-6000
easternmennonite.org

Eastern Mennonite University & Seminary

1200 Park Rd
Harrisonburg, Va 22802
540-432-4000
emu.edu

Family Life Resource Center

273 Newman Ave
Harrisonburg, Va 22801-4027
540-433-3805
flrc.org

Highland Retreat

14783 Upper Highland Dr
Bergton, Va 22811-2414
540-705-0554
highlandretreat.org

Mennonite Disaster Service of Virginia

488 Howardsville Tpke
Stuarts Draft, Va 24477-2800
mds.org/unit/virginia-shenandoah-valley
mds.org/unit/virginia-eastern

Mennowood Retirement Community

13030 Warwick Blvd
Newport News, Va 23602-8374
757-249-0355
mennowood.com

Mennonite Women of Virginia

601 Parkwood Dr
Harrisonburg, Va 22802
540-246-0126 (Pres.)
mwvsecretary@gmail.com
virginiaconference.org/mennonite-women-of-virginia

NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center

41 Court Sq, Ste B
Harrisonburg, Va 22801-3759
540-438-8295
newbridgesirc.org

Pleasant View, Inc.

✉ PO Box 426
Broadway, Va 22815
📍 151 Commerce Dr.
Harrisonburg, Va 22802
540-433-8960
pleasantviewinc.org

Virginia Mennonite Missions

601 Parkwood Dr
Harrisonburg, Va 22802
540-434-9727
vmmissions.org

Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale

601 Parkwood Dr
Harrisonburg, Va 22802
540-433-9993
vareliefsale.com

Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community

1491 Virginia Ave
Harrisonburg, Va 22802
540-564-3400
vmrc.org

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center

9275 Barnes Rd
Toano, Va 23168-8908
757-566-2256
wcrc.info



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

801 Parkwood Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Eastern Mennonite School

With over a century of learning behind us, Eastern Mennonite School (EMS) honors its founders, while looking forward.

Today over 370 students attend K-12 and approximately half identify as Mennonite. EMS emphasizes Christian faith, requiring a Bible course each year and a senior presentation reflecting on spiritual, academic, and co-curricular experiences.

Families are drawn to the EMS experience, resulting in strong enrollment trends. While our elementary school is at full capacity, we have additional seats available in the middle and high schools as our class sizes increase.

We are grateful for all the families, churches, and donors who help us achieve our mission to invite students to faith in Jesus Christ, academic excellence, personal integrity, and compassionate service.

Paul Leaman
Head of School



EMS Highlights...

EMS recently received its **10-year accreditation** with commendation for our strong sense of community, professional culture, and commitment to individual student development.

Our elementary school is thriving. The Gathering Space, an indoor/outdoor learning facility, will fill the need for a “family room,” With completion in early 2025.

OUR VISION

Eastern Mennonite School aspires to embody the love of Jesus as a learning community where every student belongs, thrives, and joins God’s work in the world.



Greetings to our friends from President Huxman at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU)!

We are thankful for your support in prayer, advocacy, financial gifts, and sending us students who are fulfilling their call in all our educational programming. We are fortunate to have an impactful contingent of support from churches, agencies and visionary individuals as represented by our current students, loyal alumni, trustees, faculty and staff who call communities within this conference their home.

The 2023-2024 academic year has given us much, for which we are grateful. Highlights from this year are many, including:

- We have expanded programming and student access in our seminary (EMS) and the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP) thanks to donor support and major Lily Foundation grants. These combined efforts allow us to hire instructors and advisors, make it easier and more affordable for students, and to launch new programming, such as the continuing education program, Shalom Academy, in early January.
- We have launched our first ever comprehensive philanthropic campaign: “Forward Together, 2023-2028” after a third-party feasibility study indicated that a reservoir of goodwill from our loyal supporters would support a \$40M campaign with joy. This will be our largest campaign for people, programs and facilities.
- We have celebrated a new women’s networking and philanthropic group: “[Royal Women for EMU](#).” At the inaugural kick off, we honored 18 pioneering women from EMS, EMC, and EMU as part of a larger initiative to support diversity, equity and inclusion at EMU.
- The PBS Viewpoint Series with Dennis Quaid has been so impressed with our diversity, equity and inclusion work that they came to record a documentary on our campus in October.

As highlighted in our new strategic plan, “Pathways of Promise,” this is our moment to position EMU as a premier faith-inspired peace and justice university (see our “[Reaffirmation of EMU as a Peace and Justice University](#)” on the context of the Palestine-Israel atrocities.)

This is our challenge: to make a radical difference in educating more “bridge-builders” in our world today.

Psalms 119 gives us direction in navigating our polarizing times: “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*” Our mission sets forth the ultimate “pathway of promise”—to follow Jesus, a pathway of enduring light well-marked as a lamp onto our feet.

In gratitude,

Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D.
President, EMU

How can EMU serve you?

Contact the church relations office
to schedule the president or a
faculty guest speaker:
540-432-4200 or
ChurchRelations@emu.edu

**Virginia Mennonite
Conference Connections
to EMU****Students**

Thirty-six undergraduate students, three graduate students and four seminary students from the Virginia Mennonite Conference were enrolled in the spring 2024 semester.

Giving

Virginia Mennonite Conference churches gave \$49,175 in matching church grants during 2023-2024.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, *president*
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, *vice president for advancement*
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, *associate vice president of advancement*
- ▶ **Mary Jensen**, *vice president for enrollment and strategic growth*
- ▶ **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.

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, with flexibility built into the degree so students can choose relevant courses in theology, biblical studies, racial justice, conflict analysis and peacebuilding.

EMS Celebrates 2023 Graduates

On May 7, EMS celebrated its largest graduating class since before the pandemic in 2019. Nineteen graduates earned master’s degrees in Christian leadership, divinity, and religion; and certificates in Christian studies, general theology, and faith-based peacebuilding. 2022-23 seminary enrollment was strong, with a 14% increase over the previous year.



Seminary graduates receive a blessing at EMU commencement

Conflict Transformation Trainings Equip Ministry Leaders

The first series of workshops in conflict transformation, trauma resilience, and adaptive leadership were held in the spring 2023. Director Dr. Jacob Cook works with leaders at EMS and EMU’s Center for Justice and Peacebuilding to equip pastors and lay leaders through digital content, online courses, regional on-site



Participants learn trauma-aware practices in May 20 workshop

trainings and on-campus workshops. Utilizing a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., EMS is developing these interdisciplinary leadership workshops and trainings that integrate personal spiritual formation, biblical and theological frameworks, and conflict transformation skills. More offerings are forthcoming, and custom-designed trainings are available on EMU’s campus or at your location.

EMS Averages 82.5% Tuition Scholarships for 2023 Admits

Students admitted to EMS master’s programs in 2023 were awarded, on average, scholarships covering 82.5% of their tuition. Thanks to generous donors, applicants can receive up to 100% tuition scholarships on the basis of merit and financial need. Plus, now that all EMS courses are available virtually, EMS is seeing an increase in attendance from students outside of Virginia and beyond the U.S. EMS’s Zoom technology and online learning management system make our synchronous learning dynamic and formative. Apply now or recommend EMS to someone you know. Visit emu.seminary/admissions/grad

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

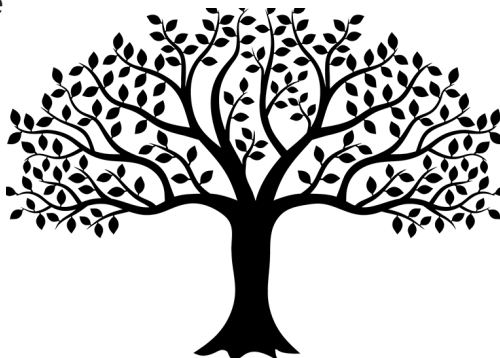
emu.edu/seminary/workshops

Family Life Resource Center

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 and a sense of knowing they matter.

With going into our 37th 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 continue to help people realize the importance of mental health. Mental health challenges can 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 and 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 are super thankful for the dedication and service from our Board of Directors.

In 2023, our operating costs were \$544,795. Contributions and fundraising covered 8.5% of this cost. Counseling income provides 87% of the total funding. Community support is imperative to FLRC since we are a nonprofit that receives no government funding. The agency

gave away over \$12,400 in services to individuals that would not otherwise be able to afford counseling.

Family Life Resource Center continues to strive toward the commitment to provide another successful year of offering Hope, Health, and Healing.

Marie Bradley, Administrative Director



called to
Equip

Mission

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



Together, we can empower individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities to live in and enrich their communities.



www.pleasantviewinc.org

Highland Retreat

In many ways this past year was Highland's busiest year in more than a decade! We served almost 9,000 people (more than 19,000 camper days), with attendance growth across all facilities, driven by a longer camping season and higher midweek use. What a blessing to serve so many churches, families, pastors, and campers! Our guests are appreciative:

We love Highland Retreat! It is a peaceful, beautiful place to enjoy God's creation and connect with one another!

Last summer 370 children and youth attended summer camp. 37 campers (10%) received scholarship assistance, and Highland contributed funds to match church contributions towards tuition for nearly 100 campers. We are encouraged by camper reactions:

Our daughter's first words after camp were: "It was AMAZING!" I have happy memories of attending Highland myself ages ago and had great hopes for her first time there -- and I think those hopes were fulfilled.

340 campers have already registered for the 2024 summer camp season as of June 1. Our theme is "My feet are on the Rock," from Matthew 7:24-27. Our camp schedule has been revamped with a special focus on activity progressions that account for our campers' ages and developmental stages, and we are excited to launch a new archery program.

Though we know working at camp is a formative opportunity, it has recently become more challenging to find **summer staff**. Older teens and young adults are so important to the life of camp and the church! The Highland Board and staff members continue to evaluate how we can have a greater positive impact on this important age group as they come to Highland to serve. Late last year we began hosting two young men as year-round interns in cooperation with VM-Missions' tranSend program. They received coaching, oversight, and a fair wage while serving at Highland and in the surrounding community.

Donors and volunteers continue to support Highland generously! Donors exceeded our Great Community Give fundraising goal: \$26,000 is designated for major work on our main water line, which will ultimately lead to fewer repairs and better water clarity; an additional \$4,000 went to new chairs, benches, and tables that will improve outdoor seating in the lower camp area. Donors also covered our three greatest equipment needs: a new-to-us Ford F350 and TWO new zero-turn mowers. The new equipment is being put to good use by staff and volunteers. Volunteer mowers, trail blaz-



ers, and woodcutters contributed an estimated 1000 hours of service, and guests are noticing:

I noticed how well the property is cared for and maintained, and how intentional you are in providing a place for groups and families to rest and be renewed together.

Highland is grateful for many other blessings: A very generous gift anonymous gift designated for summer camp ministry. A new partnership with The Soil and The Seed Project. A full reservation book with ample opportunity for serving campers and guests in the name of Jesus!



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Anabaptist Community Bible

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—JOHN D. ROTH

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- Historical notes from Anabaptist historians
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- The Common English Bible (CEB) translation, accessible for younger readers and those who read English as a second or other language



MennoMedia

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Anabaptismat500.com

MennoMedia.org/Anabaptist-Community-Bible

Mennonite Disaster Service of Shenandoah Valley

In the last year, the Shenandoah Valley unit of MDS worked mostly offering volunteer support for regional and national projects. Volunteers provided repairs and rebuilds after flooding in Hurley, VA and Crisfield, MD. Local volunteers traveled as far as Florida, Vermont, and Louisiana.

We are continuing our partnership with Eastern Mennonite School. 2024 brought the third year of students working at an MDS site over their spring E-term. It was the second year for the construction class sponsored by MDS. This class constructs a set of walls for an MDS house recipient.

We're also investigating the need for disaster relief closer to home. Currently MDS has 3 houses to be built in the Charleston, WV area. We're currently exploring the need to rebuild homes after the March 2024 forest fires in VA and WV. If you'd be interested in helping at an MDS site, contact Woody Driver, Chair, Shenandoah Valley MDS Unit.

Submitted by Woodrow Driver

Pictures by Larry Stoner. Construction in Crisfield Md



Finished home in Hurley, Virginia.



Construction in Crisfield, Maryland



House in Crisfield, Maryland being elevated.

⁴As you come to him, the **LIVING STONE**—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵you also, like **LIVING STONES**, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5, NIV

Mennonite Women of Virginia

Empowered by God



The year two thousand and twenty-three for the organization of "Mennonite Women of Virginia" is one that I would like to recall as a re-evaluating year. Who are we as individuals and who are we as an organization? Our common belief is in our Father God and our Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. What should we be doing? Encourage and empower each other in our mission and service, so as to strengthen our families, the community we live in and the church, as put forth in the book of Philippians.

Throughout the year we were encouraged by our late President with scripture. In Jeremiah we were reminded that God satisfies our desires. In Luke 18 we are encouraged to allow for God's grace to help us live a life of surrender. Communion with God and fellowship with other believers is a crucial part in being followers of Jesus Christ. Through it all God's presence

remains, whether we choose to remain in Him or not. Jesus's words have value, they have great value, quoting scripture is the most powerful tool we have as followers of Jesus Christ. God showed Jesus' validity as Messiah through the words of scripture He chose to use.

As current President of Mennonite Women of Virginia, I am challenged to seek out God's will for our organization going forward, the phrase "let's get back to the basics" jumps out at me. What does that mean for us, how do we move forward with this? We empower by encouraging each other with scripture, know that God alone satisfies our soul, a life of surrender reflects Jesus Christ. Communion and fellowship with Christ is, Immanuel, God with us. We are valuable to God and valuable to each other. Nothing in this world has more value than you and me, the scriptures tell us that. Do we believe this? Like, really believe!

As Mennonite Women of Virginia, our goal is to have all women recognize themselves as valuable and to encourage creativity, developing ways to be involved in fellowship, leadership, mission and service. Last year we demonstrated fellowship, leadership, mission and service in the three events that we held. Annual Missions Day, Prayer Breakfast and the Fall Retreat. All events were well supported and attended.

Our Mission should always be to; Empower Women, Creatively building Christ Centered Relationships through Fellowship, Leadership, Mission and Service.



Respectfully submitted, Sylvia Yoder, President of MWV, May 8, 2024

Pleasant View, Inc



Celebrating Relationships!

This spring, Pleasant View dedicated a new pavilion at our Day Program in Harrisonburg. This kind of space has been a long-time dream: a place for gathering outdoors which would also provide some safety from the extremes of heat, chill, or rain. A memorial gift, made in honor of one of our previous residents, was the seed which allowed the dream to grow to fruition. Now the pavilion has immediately emerged as a favored place for gathering. It is wonderful to see residents, staff, and friends sitting down for coffee or lunch; spectators are cheering on games of basketball or cornhole on the adjacent patio; the Day Program is offering a variety of activities there; and in general, we are excited by imagining the different ways that we can use the pavilion and continue to develop its surroundings.

At the same time, Pleasant View is also undertaking the renovation of two houses: Mumaw House in Broadway and Gehman House in Harrisonburg. These residences were named in honor of families who are well-known in Virginia Conference and who have also been extremely supportive of Pleasant View's mission:



Pleasant View Pavillion Ribbon Cutting

those of John R. and Evelyn Mumaw and Dr. Linford and Rebecca Gehman. The work on these residences (that are currently unoccupied) is positioning Pleasant View for development and growth into the future.

Financially, the picture for Pleasant View is strong. In the most recent fiscal year, revenues outpaced expenses by over 25%, and we have a strong asset base for growth into the future. We have been able to share these blessings with our staff by increasing wages and covering the cost of health insurance premiums. Pleasant View has been recognized by The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Living Wage Campaign as



Chuck and Maria

offering a living wage to our 100 employees.

It is a simple thing to point to facility improvements and financial strength as a cause for celebration. They are easy to explain and describe. But it is Pleasant View's belief that these tangible signs are symbolic of more meaningful realities. Home renovations are nice, but having a sense of 'being at home' is better. A strong balance sheet is reassuring, but enabling equitable opportunities in the community is more important. A pavilion is a nice addition to the Day Program, but the hospitality and community present under the roof are the real reasons for celebration.

Virginia Conference has supported Pleasant View in every way, including offering church community to the people we serve. We welcome your continued support: time, prayer, finances... you might even wish to come work with us! Above all, we invite you into friendship, because in those moments—where two or more are gathered—God is with us, as well.

If you wish to connect further, contact Derek Yoder (derek@pleasantviewinc.org) or Pam Miller (pmiller@pleasantviewinc.org).

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

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

17 NEW WORKERS IN 2024

69 TOTAL WORKERS

36 SERVING 5+ YEARS (52%)

23 NON-U.S. BACKGROUND (33%)

30 SERVING UPGs* (43%)

84 E³ PARTICIPANTS IN 2024

13 COUNTRIES

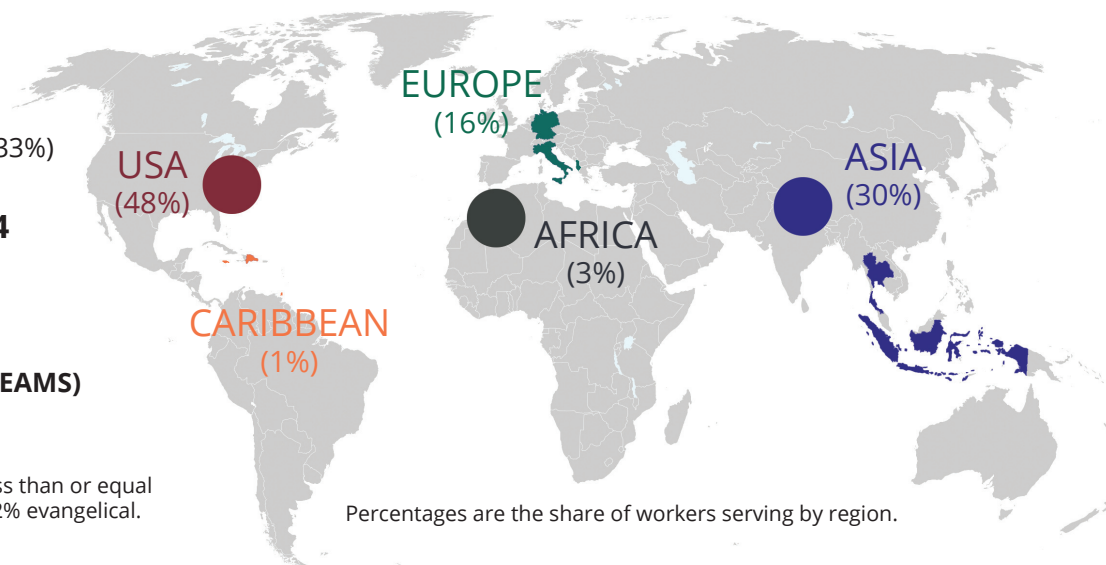
14 STAFF

11 BOARD MEMBERS

19 MSTs (MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAMS)

104 MST MEMBERS

* Unreached People Groups, defined as less than or equal to 5% Christian AND less than or equal to 2% evangelical.



SEND PLAN UPDATE

Our SEND Plan is a roadmap guiding our ministry. The VM Missions board approved a 3-5 year plan in 2021 to enhance, expand, and strengthen the ministries of VM Missions in four areas. Since then, VM Missions has made significant progress in meeting the goals of these priorities. **Here are a few recent highlights of where we have seen God at work this past year:**

SEEK SPIRIT-LED RENEWAL.



During Lent this past winter, we initiated an experiment with weekly hybrid prayer meetings on Tuesdays at 8:00 AM. When Lent was over, those participating asked us to continue meeting. It has been a meaningful time of praying for our mission workers and needs both local and global.

EMPOWER MISSIONAL DISCIPLES.

God has brought an increasing number of participants to our short-term E³ Collectives this year. We've sent teams to Thailand, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and the US-Mexico border. Another team will go to the Middle East later this summer. Feedback has been very positive. A few participants are even signing up for longer term assignments.

NURTURE DIVERSE PARTNERSHIPS.

We just appointed ten young adults for one- to two-year internships through our tranSend program. A variety of partners will mentor them in ministry, including a recovery ministry in the Shenandoah Valley, a community center and house-church in Germany, a team of entrepreneurs in Central Asia, a youth ministry in Colombia, and a Mennonite church in Sicily.



DESIGN SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS.

Our business for transformation board continues to come along-side entrepreneurs with planning assistance, mentoring, and low interest loans to help them share Christ in the marketplace. Our growing portfolio of businesses includes a hospitality center in North Africa, a preschool and a language school in Central Asia, and a handcrafted wooden toy company in South Asia.

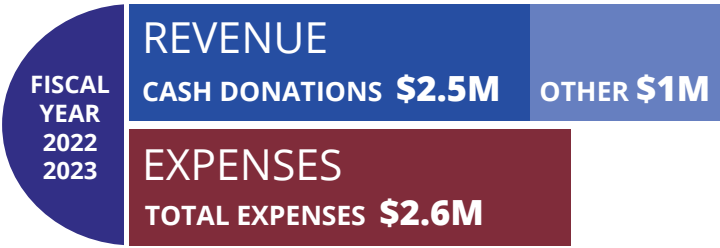


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Vecteezy.com

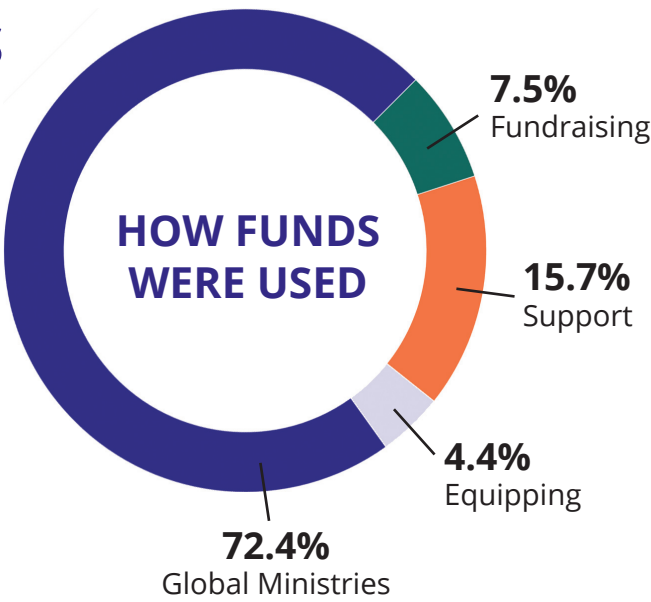
For more detail on the specific action steps related to the SEND priorities, visit vmmissions.org/beliefs-and-values/

VMMISSIONS BY THE NUMBERS

THANKS TO THE **1,190 DONORS** WHO GAVE TO THE MISSION FUND AND SPECIAL PROJECTS



(September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023)



BOARD (2023-2024 term)



Paul Yoder
Central District
Chair (2024)



Chris Conley
Tenn./Car./Ken.
(TCK) District
Vice Chair (2024)



David Yutzky
Northern District
Secretary (2025)



Shelley Abline
Member at Large
Treasurer (2024)



Yanely Ponce Correa
Member at Large



Casey DeYoung
Eastern District



Hannah Guisewite
Member at Large



Johnny Hsu
Potomac District



Ronnie Mack
Calvary District



Angie B. Williams
Member at Large



Laura Yoder
Harrisonburg District

STAFF

David Gingerich
Director of Partner Development

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

Cindy de Tablan
Events and Publicity Coordinator

Skip Tobin
Ministry Coach - USA

Jon Trotter
Communications Manager

Karen Yoder
Global Team Assistant

Tom Yoder
Ministry Coach - Balkans

VMMISSIONS LAUNCHES REDESIGNED WEBSITE AND NEW GIVING APP



In spring 2024, VMissions launched a completely redesigned website at **vmmissions.org**. This redesign places the site on modern web architecture and is designed to look and function well on mobile devices. Our goal is for visitors and current partners to more easily discover, serve, and partner with us as we help people join God's movement to change the world.

Check out the new VMissions app! Easily donate and connect with VMissions news and events, stories of mission, opportunities to serve, prayer support, and other ways to engage. It even has a built-in Bible app! Available for iOS and Android, find the free app by searching for VMissions at the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store.



VMMISSIONS OFFERS NEW COHORT OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY LEADERS

As VMissions equips the church to share new life in Jesus Christ with neighbors near and far, a new opportunity is being offered for ministry leaders through a year-long cohort with curriculum, monthly peer accountability, and monthly coaching.

Contact Kierston Kreider, Missions Mobilizer, to learn more: kierston.kreider@vmmissions.org

GET READY FOR THE 2024 VIRGINIA MENNONITE RELIEF SALE

The 2024 Virginia Mennonite Relief sale will take place at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds on October 4 and 5. The auction will be again both online and in person. Forms for donating items are available at <https://vareliefsale.com/> but paper forms can be picked up at the Virginia Mennonite Conference office, 601 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg. We can always use more donations of wood, quilts, meals, or art items.

We will once again have a range of ethnic foods, as well as the traditional Friday night supper, Saturday breakfast, and barbequed chicken. Strites donuts will be back. Apple butter boiling, always a great family event, will take place on September 21 at the Old Augusta Mennonite School (Friendship Park). If you don't want to buy anything at the sale, you can always give to our Refugee Relief and My Coins Count. We will take up a special offering during the auction for Village to Village and MMC Refugee project.

The Relief sale is wholly dependent on volunteer labor and donations—we have no paid staff. As always, we will need people to help set up on Thursday and Friday, October 3 and 4, and to take down on Saturday, October 5 after the sale. We have a particular need in addition this year for a church or youth group to collect trash, and children's auction and children's activities coordinators. We badly need more pies and baked goods. We also always need baked goods. Last year donations of baked goods were down, and we ran out quickly. Please get back to baking this year!



THE 2023 RELIEF SALE: A GREAT SUCCESS

The 2023 Relief Sale was a very successful sale. We raised \$435,520 in income and after covering expenses were able to donate \$333,000 to MCC, My coins count received \$13, 597 and \$9,250 to the MCC Traveling Quilt from Zimbabwe and other special projects. Food items sold well, with the Friday supper bringing in over \$4,000 more than in previous years. Particularly important to the relief sale's success were the Singing Light Concert in December featuring the Walking Roots Band, which brought in almost \$24,000. The Share Our Surplus project, now called Refugee Relief, raised almost \$35,500.

We thank God for your generosity in a time when there is much need in the world.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Approximately 1,000 volunteers work together to make the Relief Sale run smoothly each year





“Expanding the possibilities for aging well”

VMRC Welcomes New CEO



Jake Bell is an experienced executive leader having served primarily in faith-based senior living for the past 20 years. Jake’s expertise is in leading strategic change and preserving and expanding an organization’s mission.

Before coming to VMRC, Jake was President and CEO of Christian Horizons, an organization system with eleven locations across four states with headquarters in St. Louis, MO. Most recently, he served as interim CEO for a senior living facility in Dallas, TX. Jake assumed the role of President and CEO at VMRC on April 1, 2024. We are happy to welcome Jake to VMRC.

Claude Hess Distinguished Service Recipient

At our Annual Volunteer Reception on April 24, VMRC was honored to announce **Carolyn Wilson** as our 2023 Volunteer of the Year. Carolyn grows, creates and delivers beautiful floral arrangements for neighbors, friends, the Main St. Store and countless VMRC programs. Carolyn spends significant time supporting our VMRC Farm at Willow Run, especially with seed starting, potting and the flower program. Carolyn leads the resident Friends of the Farm Club, spreading her energy and enthusiasm and recruiting others to get involved in gardening efforts around campus. We are immensely grateful for her volunteer work at VMRC. Congratulations, Carolyn!



A New Foundation Director

On August 1, 2023, **Joe Hackman** became the Executive Director of the VMRC Foundation after serving as Foundation Manager since September 2022. Before joining the staff at VMRC, Joe served as lead pastor at Salford Mennonite Church in Harleysville, PA and Director of Development and Partner Engagement at MennoMedia. Now, as Executive Director, Joe brings a bright perspective to this role and is working diligently to advance the goals of the Foundation: Compassion Care, Staff Empowerment, and Community Enrichment. Joe provides strong leadership and has already made a significant impact through his work with the Foundation. In 2023, the Foundation raised \$1,046,098 to support VMRC’s programs and initiatives.

Philanthropist of the Year

The philanthropist of the year is an award that the Foundation gives annually to mark exceptional generosity within our community. This year’s recipient, **Joanne Lockhart**, moved to VMRC about 9 years ago with her husband Harry, who passed away November 30, 2023. This year, Joanne made two very significant contributions to VMRC: First, through becoming a Visionary, she has pledged one of the largest planned gifts in the foundation’s history, and she also is providing significant funding for a long awaited and much anticipated new bus for VMRC residents to enjoy for years to come.



Happy 70th Birthday, VMRC!!

On July 4, 1954, our community was officially dedicated with residents moving in just two days later. Our founder, George B. Showalter was a businessman, innovator and man of faith who set aside a portion of his estate for the purpose of providing assisted living and nursing home care in a faith-based retirement setting--the Virginia Mennonite Home. Today, we honor our origins as a Christ-centered organization rooted in Anabaptist traditions while welcoming persons of all faiths, backgrounds and beliefs.

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center

New Ways, Old "Whys"



WCRC is entering its 40th year! The number 40 shows up often in the Bible, usually in terms of 40 days, but sometimes as 40 weeks or 40 years. The most notable 40 year period is likely while the Israelites

were wandering in the desert. One author says, "In the Bible, the number 40 signifies new life, new growth, and new transformation."

As WCRC enters its 40th year, we are excited about several "new ways" on the horizon.

- We are beginning to pass the ministry on to the next generation with new, young staff.
- We also have some new, young Board Members.
- Last year was our best financial year ever, with new financial stability.
- Our board has completed a year-long Strategic Planning season to set new direction.

Amidst these new ways though, the old "why"—our vision and mission—remain the same. Lloyd Weaver and Bob Mast dreamed of a place where young people could give their hearts to the Lord, and a place for young and old alike to experience fellowship, growth and renewal in a peaceful setting. Amidst many new ways, WCRC is holding on to the original "why":

Our Mission: To provide a place for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of kids and adults through camping and retreats.

Our Vision: Every life changed by Jesus, welcomed into His family and called to serve Him.

By hosting retreat groups throughout the year, and providing Summer Camp, and Quilting Retreats, WCRC is giving thousands of guests and campers the opportunity to come away from the busy and noisy world to a refuge of peace and worship – a place to hear God's "still small voice" and a place where we can "be still and know that He is God." Here they are encouraged to find God's way while pursuing His "why."

Thank you for your support of WCRC. Please be assured that as your gifts provide a place for the Holy Spirit to work, you are helping to change lives every day of the year. Thank you!

Bob Briscoe, Executive Director

called to
Equip

Thinking about
Seminary or Bible School?

WE CAN HELP GET YOU THERE!

Virginia Mennonite Conference offers \$500 grants/semester to full-time students.

Applications available at virginiakonference.org/resources

over
\$25K
available
annually

**Ministerial
Training
Trust
Fund**



**Virginia
Mennonite
Conference**

A conference of
Mennonite Church USA



denominational agencies & affiliations

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Education Agency

MennoMedia

Mennonite Mission Network

Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Everence

Mennonite Central Committee East Coast

Mennonite Women



Mennonite Church USA equipped, empowered and gathered the church together in many ways in 2023.



The annual [Hope for the Future](#) conference in Atlanta, Georgia, Feb. 3-5, 2023, brought together 70 Black, Indigenous and people of color from across the church to worship, network and honor legacy leaders.

More than 1,400 youth and adults attended [MennoCon23](#), MC USA's leading faith formation event, in Kansas City, Missouri, July 5-8, 2023, where they were invited to "Be Transformed" by the Holy Spirit.

The [Delegate Assembly](#), leading decision-making body, convened in July 2023, voting to clarify the MC USA bylaws and shift Everence and MHS Association from program agencies to ministry partners.

MC USA expanded its Peace & Justice work to include a deeper emphasis on climate justice. Three hundred youth and young adults attended MC USA's [Climate Summit](#) in Kansas City, July 7, 2023, where they put their faith to work, addressing the spiritual and human crisis caused by climate change.



In 2023, MC USA's [Justice Fund](#) provided resources to five congregations who are sharing the reconciling work of Christ by alleviating poverty, dismantling racism, addressing immigration reform or reimagining policing in their communities.

MC USA launched [Safe Church](#), a new abuse prevention ministry to equip and educate conferences and congregations to protect the most vulnerable among us.

MC USA reinforced the church's peace mission by honoring denominational peacemakers Jonathan Kuttub and Sydney Leah Bontrager with the 2023 [Bring the Peace](#) award.

The [Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence](#) initiative called the denomination to understand this crisis through the lens of our Anabaptist faith and to inspire action to bring God's healing to our hurting communities.



MC USA collaborated with Mennonite Church Canada to host the annual Binational [Conference Minister/Regional Pastors Retreat](#) in Banff, Canada, in Nov. 2023, where leaders focused on worship and pastoral wellbeing.



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

Church Vitality

MC USA's Church Vitality team empowers and equips the church every day through:

- Pastor salary guidelines
- Wellbeing in ministry resources
- The Corinthian Plan healthcare plan for church workers
- Ministerial Leadership Inquiry process

Learn more here.



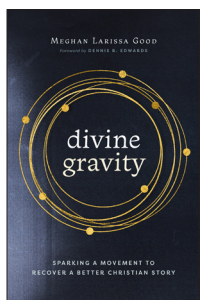
Subscribe to MC USA's weekly email newsletter.

Report to Virginia Mennonite Conference

Spring 2024

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.

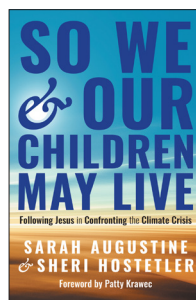
NEW RESOURCES FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH, FROM HERALD PRESS



Divine Gravity

Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story

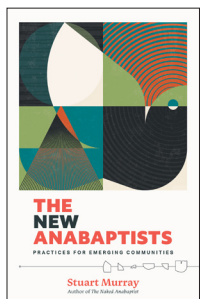
Meghan Larissa Good invites readers into a movement that is finding ways to tell a better Christian story. Readers will rediscover what an authentic, Jesus-centered Christianity looks like and how, through Christ, God is breathing new life among us, restoring creation, and reconciling all divided things. In this better story, isolation, intolerance, polarization, and death have no grip.



So We and Our Children May Live

Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis

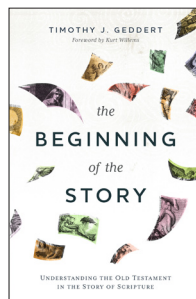
Everywhere we look, we see signs that all is not right with our earth. Ecological justice requires challenging our assumptions about creation and our relationship to it. It requires decolonization. Authors Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler offer hope for a better future alongside concrete actions for joining with Indigenous Peoples to protect life and negotiate with decision-makers for sustainable change in the way of Jesus.



The New Anabaptists

Practices for Emerging Communities

What does it look like to be an Anabaptist community in the modern world? In this companion to *The Naked Anabaptist*, author Stuart Murray identifies 12 common practices of churches and communities that are shaped by an Anabaptist vision. He explores how these practices might shape emerging Christian communities and inspire those seeking fresh expressions as cultural changes accelerate.



The Beginning of the Story

Understanding the Old Testament in the Story of Scripture

Although the Bible contains 66 books, most Christians turn first—and perhaps only—to the New Testament. Author Tim Geddert says that to understand the Bible—the grand story of God's dealings with humanity, of God's relationship to the whole universe—we must learn to read the first three-quarters of Scripture as Jesus did, and as the New Testament teaches us to do.

NEW FOR SUMMER: PATH TO PEACE CURRICULUM FROM SHINE

Shine's new *Path to Peace* summer curriculum allows teachers and children to follow the peace paths in *The Peace Table* storybook Bible. The curriculum includes faith formation materials for PreK–Kindergarten and Elementary age levels.

For 2024, the unit is built around the "Peace with Creation" peace path from *The Peace Table* and includes three 5-session modules. Each session includes songs, prayers, instructions for telling the Bible story, wondering questions, activities, and media connections. Churches will need a copy of *The Peace Table* for each classroom.



New for Families: "Follow the Peace Path" Cards

Extend learning and bring the Bible story home with a deck of "Peace with Creation" cards. Each of the 52 cards in the deck comes packed with ideas for families to do at home together. Whether a church has summer Sunday school or not, these cards are a great way to stay connected with families and provide parents and caregivers with an easy and fun faith formation resource. Purchase one deck of cards for each family.

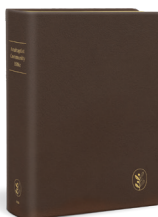
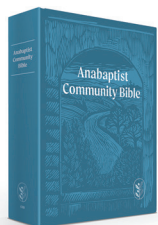
**PATH to
PEACE**
with Creation

SHINE
LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT

Learn more at ShineCurriculum.com.

ANABAPTISM AT 500: LOOKING BACK, LIVING FORWARD

The 500th 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.



Coming January 2025: *The Anabaptist Community Bible*

Embark on a transformative journey with the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. Immerse yourself in the teachings of Scripture, seamlessly interwoven with the rich tapestry of the Anabaptist movement. Expertly designed using the Common English Bible translation, this edition connects you more deeply to the biblical story, the Anabaptist story, and your own story. Experience a renewed engagement with Scripture as you engage the text in conversation with a larger community of believers, expecting God's Word to transform your life. Accessible to Christians from all faith traditions who want to read Scripture through a Jesus-centered lens. The *Anabaptist Community Bible* will be available in hardcover, soft touch, and limited edition genuine leather for preorder in late spring 2024.

Key features of all editions:

- The text of the Common English Bible (CEB)
- Single-column format for the biblical text, with over 7,200 marginal notes
- Biblical book introductions written by Anabaptist pastors, leaders, and scholars provide context and guidance
- Biblical Context notes from Anabaptist pastors, leaders, and scholars
- Community Reflection notes from nearly 600 Bible study groups
- Early Anabaptist Witness notes offer insights into how early Anabaptists engaged the Bible
- 40 original linocut illustrations of the biblical story
- Informative essays on Anabaptist hermeneutics, the Apocrypha, and other topics useful for group discussion
- A 365-day Bible reading plan and suggestions for group Bible study
- Durable Smyth-sewn lay-flat binding
- Presentation page for gift-giving
- 2-color interior
- Full-color Oxford maps
- 10-point font size

Learn more about other products marking this anniversary at AnabaptismAt500.com.

FINANCIALS, FISCAL YEAR 2023–24*

* MennoMedia's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Amounts are listed in USD.

INCOME	FY23–24 to date		FY23
	July–Dec. budget	July–Dec. actuals	July–Dec. Actuals
GROSS SALES			
Herald Press	\$ 525,000	\$ 519,802	\$ 478,353
Curriculum/Church Products	\$ 294,250	\$ 248,938	\$ 284,217
Periodicals	\$ 130,000	\$ 122,932	\$ 128,484
Shine Project Income	\$ 150,000	\$ 103,560	\$ 80,670
Distribution & Royalty	\$ 32,900	\$ 33,689	\$ 33,451
Total Gross Sales	\$ 1,132,150	\$ 1,028,921	\$ 1,005,175
COGS & ROYALTIES	\$ 301,208	\$ 374,253	\$ 314,758
Gross margin	\$ 830,942	\$ 654,668	\$ 690,417
OTHER INCOME			
Misc. Income	\$ 44,094	\$ 63,680	\$ 41,341
Donations	\$ 384,600	\$ 266,651	\$ 306,056
Grants	\$ 17,502	\$ 1,265,000	\$ 30,000
Total Other Income	\$ 446,196	\$ 1,595,331	\$ 377,397
TOTAL INCOME LESS COGS	\$ 2,249,999		\$ 1,067,814
EXPENSES			
Wages & Benefits	\$ 591,642	\$ 653,485	\$ 510,373
Fixed Expenses	\$ 49,216	\$ 49,947	\$ 50,256
Variable Expenses	\$ 584,535	\$ 507,962	\$ 625,240
Other Expenses	\$ 6,984	\$ 14,241	\$ 16,170
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,232,377	\$ 1,225,635	\$ 1,202,039
NET INCOME	\$ 44,761	\$ 1,024,364	\$ (134,225)

Report to Virginia Mennonite Conference – June 2024

Helping Mennonite Church USA fulfill its educational mission

2024-25 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

MEA recently awarded the 2024-25 Scholarships for BIPOC Students to 13 students from five schools partnered with MEA. **Thanks to the generosity of donors, we granted \$28,000 in scholarships – more than double the awards of the 2023-24 academic year!** Photos of the 2024-25 scholarship recipients are below.



Awards are based on an applicant's connection with an MEA-partner school, an MC USA congregation, and their leadership on campus and at church. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage the next generation of church leaders to complete their education and continue serving the church.

The scholarship recipients are from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Bluffton University, Eastern Mennonite University, and Goshen College. To learn about the recipients, read the article from MEA [here](#). You can learn more about the scholarship at www.MennoniteEducation.org/schools/mea-scholarship-for-bipoc-students. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, you can do so at www.MennoniteEducation.org/donate. Applications for the 2025-26 academic year are due by April 1, 2025.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY MERGER

Bluffton University recently announced their intention to merge with the University of Findlay in Ohio. You can find more information about this merger at www.FindlayBlufftonFuture.com. If you have questions or concerns, please contact www.FindlayBlufftonFuture.com/contact-us/ or email MEA at info@MennoniteEducation.org.

MEA is committed to promoting Anabaptist values in education and strengthening the relationships between Mennonite schools and Mennonite Church USA.



MEA'S HISPANIC MINISTRIES programs are growing and thriving. The first cohort of the **Certificado de Posgrado en Estudios Teológicos** (Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies), in partnership with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), is completing their second semester of study. This historic program is the first graduate certificate program taught in Spanish at an Anabaptist seminary in the United States. We are proud of the vision of our staff to bring this dream to fruition – and in partnership with an MC USA seminary!

Four students of the **Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano** (SeBAH – Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary) will be graduating

this summer. We uplift these determined students as the next leaders of the Hispanic Mennonite Church!

The **Instituto Bíblico Anabautista** (IBA – Anabaptist Bible Institute) program now has 13 study centers across the U.S., including a **new center at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.**, in partnership with Prairie Street Mennonite Church. IBA is also expanding beyond physical centers with **one hybrid and one online center.**

MEA is also excited announce **a new partnership between IBA, Western District Conference of MC USA, and Seminario Anabautista Latinoamericano (SEMILLA – Latin American Anabaptist Seminary)** in Guatemala City. IBA will help to train the leaders of a new church plant in Uspantán, El Quiché, Guatemala, called Iglesia Arca de Salvación (Ark of Salvation Church). The partners are providing the curriculum, instructors, and student scholarships.

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME



MEA publishes the **Advent- and Lent at Home** worship guides, available for free download in English and Spanish from the MEA website. The At-Home series is designed to be an accompaniment through the seasons of Advent and Lent. They are intergenerational and can be used by individuals, families, and congregations of

Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. With daily Scriptures, worship rituals, prayers, activities, and background information, these resources enhance the experience of these holy times. **The At Home series is the most downloaded resource of all Mennonite Church USA materials!**

FAITH FORMATION: MENNONITE EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORK



Building Faith is the online ministry of the **Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN)**, a partner ministry of MEA. Each month, Building Faith creates simple, accessible resources for families to

help their children grow in their faith. Families can sign up to receive an email with the month's faith practice, including a verse, activity, and prayer. Each lesson is written in English and Spanish. Visit www.BuildingFaithFamily.com to learn more about this ministry or to subscribe.

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

2023-24 ENROLLMENT REPORT

MEA produces the Enrollment Report annually to create a snapshot of enrollment trends across all schools that partner with MEA: from early childhood programs through graduate schools and seminaries. Based on headcount in the fall of 2023, **Mennonite schools are impacting the lives of 8,971 students**, a decrease of 3.4% since the 2022-23 academic year. To view the 23-24 report or previous reports, visit www.MennoniteEducation.org/about-us.

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATORS

The **Mennonite Public Educators** group was formed by teachers to give faculty and staff in public schools a place to talk about some of the unique challenges Mennonites face in public education: what to do about the Pledge of Allegiance, how to respond to wars and violence, and how to (whether to) be a peace witness. The group has met virtually several times this academic year. MEA is helping to promote the group and broaden its reach. **The next virtual meeting is July 25 at 7 pm Eastern.** Participation is free but registration is required. Contact info@MennoniteEducation.org for more information.

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

Grace & Peace,

Michael Danner
Executive Director

Be local. Be global. Be the Gospel.

When the people of God take Jesus' call to live lives of peace seriously, there is hope.

In the midst of war and strife, God is still at work, and we are committed to joining in that work. Here are some ways you can join in, too:



Partner with workers across the street and around the world through financial support. Contact KarenH@MennoniteMission.net to support workers financially.



Support Mission Network ministries and workers by becoming a prayer partner. Visit our website to join: MennoniteMission.net/Prayer.



Explore what service options are the best fit for adults and youth in your congregation: MennoniteMission.net/Serve.



Learn about social justice through a spiritual lens by participating in a Just Peace Pilgrimage: MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace.



Virginia Mennonite Conference partnership

Note: Underlined words indicate active links.

Service participants



Service sites

SOOP sites

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

Just Peace Pilgrimage

U.S. Racial Justice Learning Tour to Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi
» [Kathleen and Wayne Kurtz](#)

Service Adventure

Stef and Josh Musser, serving as Service Adventure leaders in Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Youth Venture — Indonesia

- » [Chris Cox](#)
- » [Zahria Elliott](#)
- » [Graham Kanaan](#)
- » [Portia Stokes](#)

Prayer partners

25

Congregational giving to Mission Network



During Mission Networks' past fiscal year, August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, Virginia Mennonite Conference congregations gave **\$125,916**. Thank you!



On behalf of all of us at Mennonite Mission Network, thank you, Virginia Mennonite Conference, for your commitment and support! Your prayers, contributions and participation in our programs is a vital part of our partnerships with congregations, organizations and individuals around the world. Like 1 Peter 4:10-11 says, each of us uses our gifts for the good of one another, and we can trust that our service and love for others is guided and strengthened by God. Blessings to you!

Marisa Smucker

Marisa Smucker, Executive Director



Thank you for the generous ways in which you have supported Mennonite Mission Network. Blessings to each congregation as you seek to join in God's mission.

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



Annual Report 2023-24

Serving the Anabaptist Community:

- **Accessibility Services** for MennoCon 2023
- **Breaking Down Barriers Study Committee** for Church of the Brethren Annual Conference 2023
- **Workshops and Trainings** on church membership for adults with intellectual disabilities at MennoCon and the AMBS Pastor's & Leaders Conference
- **Webinars** with Church of the Brethren Discipleship Ministries
 - Resiliency & Hope after Childhood Trauma
 - Becoming the Baptized Body: a conversation about intellectual disabilities and baptism
 - Believing and Belonging: implementing the new baptism curriculum

Resourcing Congregations:

- **Consulting, preaching, teaching** for 26 congregations by Staff & Field Associates
- **Believing and Belonging:** an Anabaptist adult baptism & membership curriculum, written at a third-grade reading level
- **Online Accessibility Audit:** congregations receive a seal of accessibility and on-going support from ADN in increasing accessibility. In 2023, we awarded accessibility seals to 14 Congregations.
- **Barrier Free Grants:** up to \$500 for a project that increases the accessibility of your congregation. In 2023, we administered grants to 6 congregations.



Sharing Your Stories:

- **Connections Newsletter**
 - Mental Health and Youth, Winter 2023
 - Outdoor Accessibility and Spirituality, Summer 2023
 - Youth & Young Adults, Fall 2023
- **Opening Doors Blog** stories of belonging, tips for inclusion



Be Involved:

- **Become a Partner Congregation.** Designate a **congregational disability advocate** to work with church leaders to foster belonging. Give a **congregational donation** of \$500 or \$1000 annually.
- **Become a Building the Future Partner:** As an individual, donate \$1000 per year.

Our Staff and Board:

Jeanne Davies, Executive Director

Zoë Brown, Office Administrator

Emily Hunsberger, Communications Director

Peter Graber, Board President

Mitch Stutzman, Board Vice President

Jon-Erik Misz, Board Secretary

Chris Stauffer, Board Treasurer

Brandon Grady

Rebekah Flores

Julie Foster (term ended)

Lyle Miller (term began)

Laura Stone (term began)

Financial Summary:

Income: \$82,420

Individual

Contributions: \$62,440

Congregational

Contributions: \$14,800

Other Income: \$5,180

Expenses: \$99,650

Barrier Free Grants: \$850

Resources: \$5890

Staffing: \$54,875

Other Expenses \$38,040

Operating Fund:

\$25,541.34

Reserve Fund:

\$62,310.99

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*
- Doctor of Ministry in Leadership*
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction*
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies* (fully customizable)
- Mennonite Education Agency Hispanic Ministries – AMBS Graduate Certificate in Theology* (in Spanish)
- 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

- Practical Leadership Training modules*
- Online Short Courses*: six weeks, discussion-based, noncredit (no grades, no papers!)
- Invite AMBS*: request a speaker (in person or online)
- Pastors & Leaders conference*: Feb. 17–20, 2025

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



(Above) In April 2024, 13 women and nine men from four countries — Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania and the U.S. — graduated from AMBS. (Seven are not pictured.) Sixteen graduates completed part or all of their studies at a distance.

Conference connections

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

AMBS statistics

- In 2023–24, 149 graduate students were enrolled at AMBS: 65 from the U.S., 11 from Canada and 73 international students. Ten are pursuing the MEA Hispanic Ministries – AMBS Graduate Certificate in Theology. The Journey program has 40 participants in Canada, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Uganda and the U.S.

Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course:
 - 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
 - Resisting Christian Nationalism with the Gospel of Peace

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 and learn what AMBS has to offer! ambs.edu/visit
- Stay connected: facebook.com/followAMBS • instagram.com/ambs_seminary • youtube.com/ambsedu • ambs.edu/subscribe

"People plan their path, but the Lord secures their steps."

– Proverbs 16:9 (CEB)

Your Mission. Your Finances.

Everence 2024 report

Virginia Mennonite Conference
Annual Assembly
July 18-20, 2024

Everence revamps advocate program

Exciting changes are happening with the Everence® church stewardship program in 2024!

After working with churches, advocates and stewardship consultants, the redesigned Everence Stewardship Partners program will include major enhancements – including expanded participation opportunities for pastors and other stewardship leaders, and the possibility for participating churches to be eligible for up to \$3,000 a year in Sharing Funds.

Everence has been building strong relationships with churches for over 30 years through its church stewardship program, and today more than 1,100 churches participate. Go to everence.com/partners to learn more about the changes.

Sharing Fund helps churches impact their community



When the going gets tough, we have community to lift each other up. Churches can make an impact in their community by helping their members through a Sharing Fund grant.

The Everence Sharing Fund program helps thousands of families and individuals every year. In fact, over the last five years alone, the Sharing Fund has distributed nearly 9,000 grants for a total of \$4.7 million – all of which was matched by an additional \$7.1 million from churches.

You can support the Everence Sharing Fund with a fully tax-deductible donation, and 100% of your gift will go to meet financial needs. Visit everence.com/sharing-fund to donate or learn more.

MyNeighbor card a tool for giving to charitable causes



With the Everence Federal Credit Union MyNeighbor credit card program, individuals, businesses and churches generate reward dollars for their favorite nonprofits every time they make a purchase.

Whenever a cardholder uses their MyNeighbor card to buy groceries, pay bills or make other purchases, Everence donates 1.50% of the purchase total to the charity of his or her choice. Then in January, Everence writes and sends checks to the selected 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations.

In January 2023, Everence distributed over \$500,000 in donations to support nonprofits, including individual churches.

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

Find a stewardship advocate for your church



Want to learn how a healthy stewardship ministry can contribute to your church's ministry? An Everence stewardship advocate can help encourage and inspire your faith community toward greater understanding and practice of biblical stewardship.

Everence stewardship advocates are volunteers who work with your church's pastor and other leaders to support and strengthen your church's mission and ministry by sharing resources designed to help church attendees live out faith values in their financial decisions.

Want to learn more about how a stewardship advocate can contribute to your congregation? Talk to your Everence stewardship consultant and/or visit everence.com/advocates.



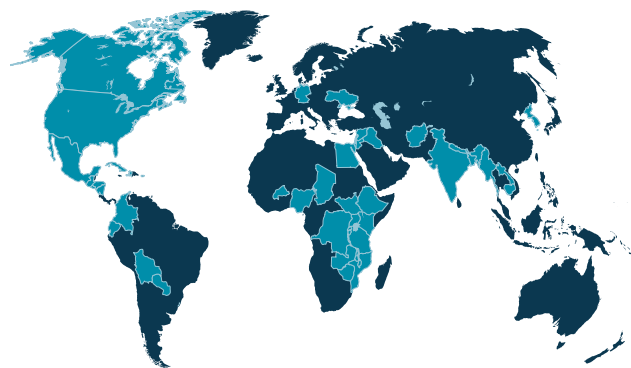
2024 report for Virginia Mennonite Conference

MCC East Coast

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

Connect with MCC staff in your community

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



45

countries

393

partners

508

projects



Melanie Mafinga, a member of the Women Situation Room (WSR), a women-led group supported by MCC for peace training in Kikwit, Democratic Republic of the Congo, carves out time from her work as a trader to help resolve local conflicts and promote peace. Through MCC, you join in the legacy of Mafinga and so many others, through the past century and across the globe, who have dedicated themselves to a world where the peace of Christ rules in more hearts.

MCC/Fairpicture photo/Justin Makangara

MCC's 2024 guiding scripture

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15 (NIV)

Dear friends,

Thank you for your continued commitment to MCC's work. Your investment through prayer, volunteerism and resource sharing enables us to continue working with our partners worldwide. In these uncertain times, what a gift we have in the comforting words of this year's scripture card that assures us that Christ's peace can rule in our hearts. The gift of peace invites us to respond as Christ's body, amplifying our peace witness. MCC does that through the ministry of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. Thank you for the many ways you support MCC's global work. May Christ's peace continue to fill our hearts.

With thanksgiving,

Hyacinth Stevens, MCC EC executive director

Glenda Siegrist, MCC EC board member

MCC and Virginia Mennonite Conference connections

- MCC appreciates supporters of the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale, which took place in October 2023 and raised \$333,000 for MCC.
- By late May 2024, the VA Relief Sale raised an additional \$42,000 for MCC's Palestine and Israel response. On May 9th, the Share Our Surplus (SOS) committee hosted a fundraising hymn sing at Park View Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg, VA), contributing \$32,000 to the total funds raised.
- MCC values the service of international service workers: Liz and David Driver, Representatives for Ukraine; Adam and Sarah Sensamaust, Area Directors for Central and South Asia; Peg and Lee Martin, Appalachia Build (formerly SWAP) Location Coordinators.
- Two MCC alumni and friends gatherings were held in Virginia in 2023. The June gathering at Weavers Mennonite Church (Harrisonburg, VA) featured Syria and Ukraine updates from Linda Herr and James Wheeler, MCC Area Directors for Europe and Middle East. The second gathering took place during the VA Relief Sale and involved MCC staff from National Peace and Justice Ministries (NPJM) and 2023-24 International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) participants.

“The gift of peace invites us to respond as Christ's body, amplifying our peace witness.”

-Hyacinth Stevens

In January 2023, twenty-four young adults traveled from urban areas near and far to attend *Peace for the Weary*, an MCC peace camp hosted at Camp Deerpark in Westbrookville, New York.

Peace for the Weary invited young adults living in urban contexts to engage in a week of reflecting on

personal and communal trauma and healing.

Over the course of the week, participants explored strategies for healing, nonviolent intervention and resilient hope through activities, discussions and reflections surrounding trauma, healing, cycles of violence and reconciliation.



MCC photo/Yujin Kim

International Women's Fund --- annual scholarships



The IWF scholarship fund helps women around the world receive training for church leadership and makes a way for supporting women scholars by preserving 100% of designated donations for awards. In 2024 we are giving 37 women in Angola, Sierra Leone, Columbia, Brazil, Guatemala, and the US a total of \$12,700.

Coffee + Conversation --- topical discussions



Recent discussions include mental health awareness, surveying Black history, a women's Christmas exam- en, and bridging the generational gaps that divide us in life and death. Reach out with your topic ideas for our bi-monthly gathering via Zoom or request an in-person gathering in your region.

Connections to Sisterhood --- communications channels



Every month MW USA distributes the Grapevine eNewsletter to regularly report updates and upcoming pro- grams. We also send a quarterly print edition of the same information to our sisters who prefer to stay offline. For those on social media, we seek engagement on our Facebook and Instagram channels, and we always welcome ideas and impressions by phone or email to the office and via our Regional Representatives.

Women Powered Media --- publications



Read MW USA's Women's Voices blog for what women have to say about the concerns of life and faith with which we share and differ. Let their stories inspire you to share yours as well by responding to our stand- ing call for writers. Each year we also publish a woman-authored Bible study guide around which many dozens of local womens' groups gather.

Sister Care --- self healing and caregiving curriculum



Sister Care seminars reach across the world with curriculum offered in a multi-day retreat format to give women opportunities for healing and sustainably supporting one another. In 2023 we served 122 women in Thailand, Laos and Chile.



appenix

Membership Statistics

Congregational Giving

Donors

Retirees

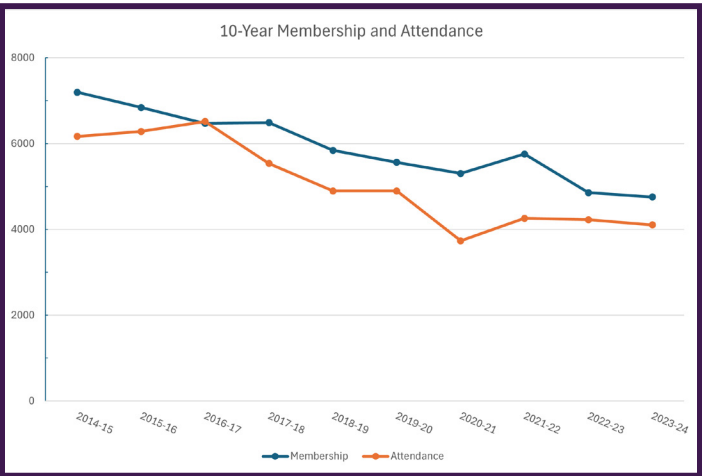
Other VMC Leaders (non-voting)

Finance Report

Safe Church

Membership Statistics

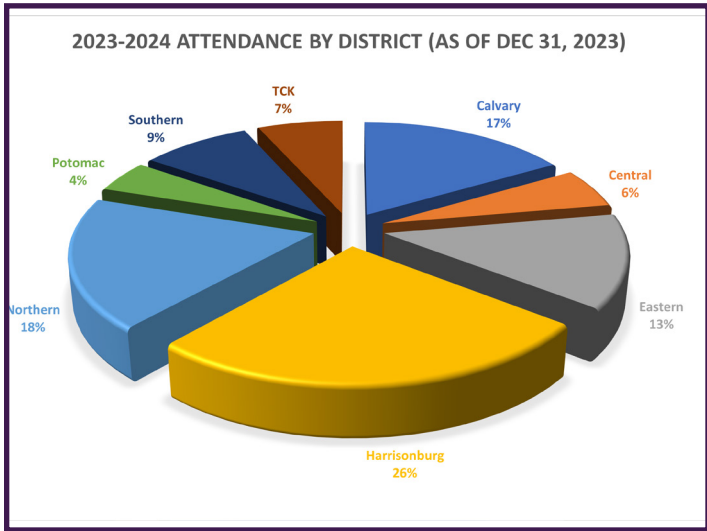
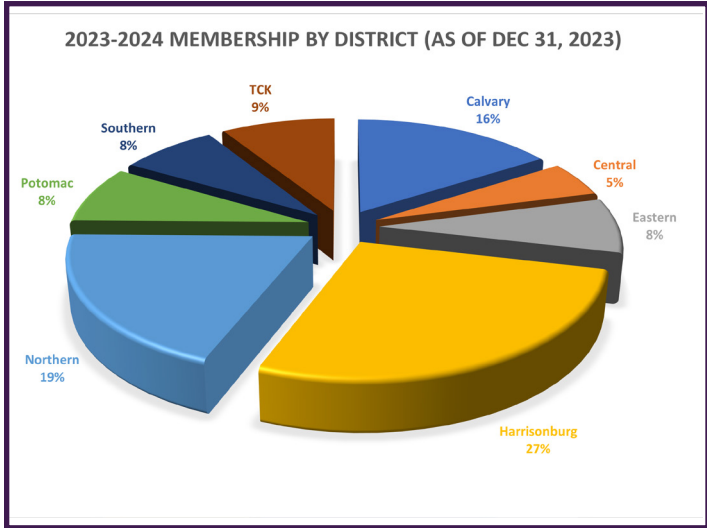
10-Year Membership and Attendance



Fiscal Yr.	Membership	Avg Attendance
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
2023-24	4753	4103

Membership and Attendance by District

District	Attendance	Online	Total Attend.	Membership
Calvary	250	500	750	750
Central	227	29	256	236
Eastern	325	275	600	367
Harrisonburg	683	500	1183	1288
Northern	701	137	838	910
Potomac	173	33	206	384
Southern	360	31	391	360
TCK	291	12	303	423



Congregational Giving

Virginia Mennonite Conference is grateful for the financial support from our member congregations. In addition to annual membership fees, VMC recommends a donation of \$35/member. Below is a list of congregations and their financial contributions per member from May 31, 2023 to May 31, 2024. Thank you!

Donations of \$35 or more per member

Big Spring Mennonite Church
Concord Mennonite Church
Crest Hill Community Church
Family of Hope
Greensboro Mennonite Fellowship

Harrisonburg Mennonite Church
Iglesia Esperanza de Vida
Lindale Mennonite Church
Mt Clinton Mennonite Church
Powhatan Mennonite Church

Ridgeway Mennonite Church
Staunton Mennonite Church
Stephens City Mennonite Church
Williamsburg Mennonite Church
Zion Mennonite Church

Donations up to \$35

Beldor Mennonite Church
Calvary Community Church
Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship
Daniels Run Peace Church
Durham Mennonite Church
First Mennonite of Richmond
Grace Mennonite Fellowship

Huntington Mennonite Church
Immanuel Mennonite Church
Knoxville Mennonite Church
Lynside Mennonite Church
Mountain View Mennonite Church
Park View Mennonite Church
Providence Mennonite Church

Springdale Mennonite Church
Trissels Mennonite Church
Valley View Mennonite Church
Waynesboro mennonite Church
Weavers Mennonite Church

Donors

Virginia Mennonite Conference is grateful for our contributors' generous financial support. Below is a list of voluntary financial contributors from May 31, 2023 to May 31, 2024. An asterisk (*) indicates donor who gave \$500 or more in the same time period. Thank you!

Ryan & Laurie Ahlgrim
James & Emily Akerson*
Richard & Louise Alderfer
David & Julia Alleman
Anonymous*
Even Bender
Anna Bishop
David & Pamela Bone*
Lois Bowman Kreider
John & Hazel Bowman
Larry & Emma Brubaker Martin
David & Martha Brubaker
George & Ruthann Brunk, III
Twila Brunk*
Steve and Marian Buckwalter
Steven & Christine Carpenter
Richard & Kay Early
Kenneth & Myrna Eshleman
Robert & Rosalie Eshleman*
John & Kathryn Stoltzfus Fairfield*
Bishop Leslie & Natalie Francisco, III*
Rebecca Gehman
Wanda Good

Christopher & Gloria Gredler
Pearl Hartman
Dale & Barb Hartzler
David & Kathleen Hartzler
Leo & Ruthanne Heatwole*
Irvine & Anna Heishman
James & Ann Hershberger*
Gerald & Jeanette Hershey*
Ken & Susie Horst
Greg & Joyce Hutchinson*
Tig & Karen Intagliata
J Melvin Janzen
Milton Janzen
Aaron & Laura Kauffman
Glen & Sandi Kauffman
David & Debra King
Walter & Miriam King
Phil & Irene Kniss
Dorothy Kreider
Betty Kurtz
Pearl Lantz*
Can N Le
Galen & Gloria Lehman

John Lehman
Phil & Marcia Lehman
Wilmer & Mary Louise Lehman*
Joe Longacher*
Ruth Martin
Wendell & Lois Maust
Craig & Wendy Maven*
Craig & Lois Blauch Miller*
Sara Grace Miller*
David & Marian Mininger
Eleanor Mininger*
Christopher & MaryBeth Heatwole Moore
Vernon Moyer
James & Aldine Musser*
Gerald Nauman*
Joel & Valerie Reinford
Raymond & Naomi Ressler
Paul Riner
James & Amy Rush
John & Charlene Sandberg
Laurence & Evelyn Sauder
Rebecca Shank

Michael & Ramona Shenk, III
Sharon & Alan Shenk
Gerald & Sara Wenger Shenk
James & Eileen Shenk
Glennys Shouey*
Samuel & Jan Showalter
Millard Showalter
Omar Showalter*
John & Paula Stoltzfus
Ervin & Bonnie Stutzman*
Loren & Pat Swartzendruber
Donald & Erma Taylor
Lowell & Sharyn Tieszen
Carol Van Donk
Michael & Rachel Weaver
Linda Wenger
Lowell & Janet Wenger
Kenton & Shirley Yoder Brubaker
Elwood & Joy Yoder
Evangeline Yoder*
Gordon & Bonnie Zook

Retired Credentialed Leaders

Myron S. Augsburg
David W. Bartow
J Harold Bergey, Jr
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
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
David S. Huyard
Rose Huyard
J Melvin Janzen
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
Carl E. Mericle
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
Edith N. Shenk Kuhns
Hazel Shirk
Omar V. Showalter
Carl L. Smeltzer
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
Linda K. Wenger
Angie B. Williams
Daniel J. Yoder
Don A. Yoder
Kathy D. Yoder
Lawrence M. Yoder
Shirlee K. Yoder
Shirley E. Yoder Brubaker
Gordon D. Zook

Other Credentialed Leaders

Ronald R. Baker
Seth T. Crissman
Justiniano Cruz
John M. Dey
G. Marci Frederick
Del J. Glick
Shawn T. Green
Kevin T. Goertzen
Stephen M. Horst
David A. King
Gary L. Koontz
Christina J. Kraybill

Eugene D. Kraybill
David J. Lehman
Nicholas S. Meyer
Wendy J. Miller
James W. Musser
Christopher L. Riddle
Kinley N. Simmers
Carl S. Stauffer
Bethany J. Tobin
Jason A. Wagner
Robert D. Yutzy

Virginia Mennonite Conference
Unrestricted Operations
For fiscal year to date - 9/1/23-4/24/24

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
1 Revenues			
2 Contributions:			
3 Contributions - Individuals	45,614.45	33,333.36	12,281.09
4 Contributions - Congregations	66,453.63	66,666.64	(213.01)
5 Transfer from Conference Assembly			-
6 Bequests	-		-
7 Total Contributions	112,068.08	100,000.00	12,068.08
8 Other income:			-
9 Congregational Membership fees	8,385.00	10,666.64	(2,281.64)
10 Associated Ministries	1,200.00	2,666.64	(1,466.64)
11 Endowments	33,523.53	28,933.28	4,590.25
12 Archive reimbursement	1,025.00	833.36	191.64
13 Forwarding fees	855.00	1,000.00	(145.00)
14 Miscellaneous income	1,800.00	166.64	1,633.36
15 Total other income	46,788.53	44,266.56	2,521.97
16 TOTAL REVENUES	158,856.61	144,266.56	14,590.05
17			
18 Expenses			
19 Salaries and related expenses	110,721.31	110,946.64	225.33
20 General administration	22,948.20	21,726.64	(1,221.56)
21 Staff directed offices	10,281.77	8,800.00	(1,481.77)
22 General churchwide expenses	685.70	1,600.00	914.30
23 Conference minister's office	2,984.11	3,333.28	349.17
24 Racial Justice staff	240.12	566.64	326.52
25 Other expenses	256.77	-	(256.77)
26 Total expenses	148,117.98	146,973.20	(1,144.78)
27			
28 Net income	10,738.63	(2,706.64)	13,445.27

Protect children, youth and vulnerable adults!

Use thorough background checks.



Safe Church works with Safe Hiring Solutions to run background checks. The Background Checks will include:

Social Security number verification

1



National Sex Offender Registry

2



National Criminal Database

3

Arrest Alert Pre-Search

4



County Criminal Search (7 year)

5

**Federal Criminal Courts
(regional database searches, there
are 12 regions across the nation).**

6

**SCAN
ME! >>**



 **Safe
Church**
MennoniteUSA.org/background-checks



virginiakonference.org/equipping

icymi

In case you missed it, we've been adding teaching videos to our website.

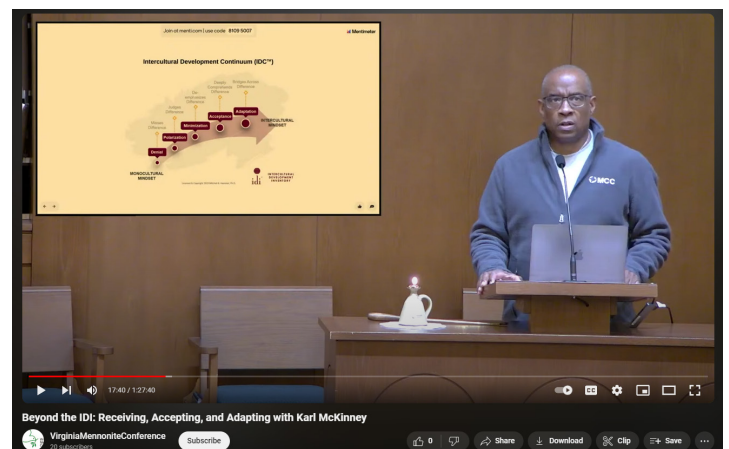
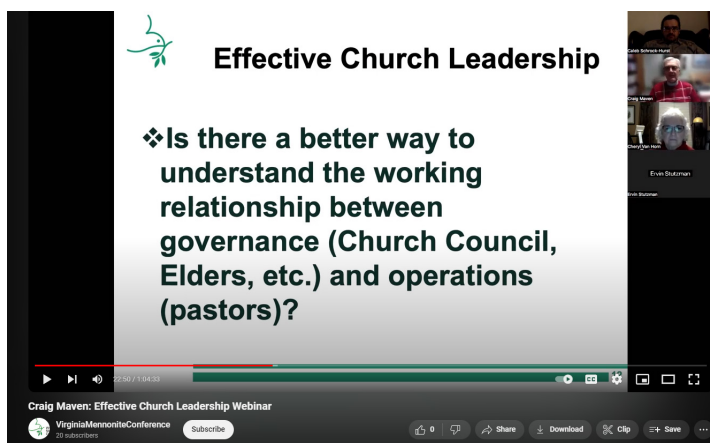
Ministry of Inner Healing

Hope in the Midst of Crisis

Effective Church Leadership

Christian Mission and Indigenous Communities Today

Beyond IDI: Receiving, Accepting, and Adapting





Your mission. Your finances.



LEARN MORE

Find out how we can help you meet your financial goals at everence.com/virginia
800-442-7930

On your life's journey,
Everence is your financial guide.

Generations of members have turned to us to clarify, navigate, and encourage their missions and financial moments with help from faith-rooted personalized services.



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Banking | Investing | Retirement | Financial Planning | Insurance | Charitable Giving

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