



**Central
District
Conference**

A conference of
Mennonite Church USA

focus

**KNOWING
CHRIST'S LOVE
- ANSWERING
GOD'S CALL**

DECEMBER 2013

CDC Board of Directors encourages congregations to plan a *Central District Conference Sunday* in 2014

Learn to know your family!

Central District Conference Board of Directors encourage CDC congregations and members to become better acquainted with the larger CDC family. To assist this learning, the board invites congregations to plan a "Central District Conference Sunday" in 2014.

*Several resources are available to make this a memorable worship experience. This **focus** issue shares the purpose of this project and provides an outline of resources that will be available to help congregations make this special event a reality.*

Earlier this month all CDC congregations received a 16-page e-mail offering ideas on how to plan this special Sunday. Here is an overview of that resource.

Using the theme: "We need each other," what if one Sunday existed to consider the ways we in CDC can encourage, support, challenge and respond to each other as we work in a common ministry?

Purpose of Central District Conference Sunday

- Engage the story of Central District Conference, a story that has contributed to our identity as fellowshipping congregations
- Celebrate and give thanks for God's faithfulness to our family of congregations
- Increase awareness of and appreciation for the congregations – people, pastors, locations – that make up CDC
- Deepen a sense of connection to other congregations in one's own region
- Broaden our sense of identity as a Mennonite follower of Jesus beyond the local congregation

One of the core understandings of the church for us as Mennonites is that the church is a family. We commit ourselves to following Christ, and we commit ourselves to each other in the family of faith. We invite you to help your congregation live into its commitment to the larger family of faith and to begin that by getting better acquainted.

The back side of this issue provides an overview of resources.

Worship resources available for Central District Conference Sunday

• Suggested order of service

- Gathering songs
- Call to worship/opening prayers
- Scripture
- CDC PowerPoint-like slide show of congregations
- Children's time
- Lighting of CDC or peace lamp and praying for CDC congregations
- Sermon

Suggested title: "We need each other"

- Response
- Congregational prayer
- Benediction

• Christian Education Hour Possibilities

- Joseph Stucky monologue
- Anne Neufeld Rupp monologue
- DVD presentation (with discussion options) on polity
by Janeen Bertsche Johnson
- *Heilsgeschichte* in Song (Singing Salvation Story)
- Discussion based on part two of "What is an Anabaptist Christian?"
- "CDC 101"

• Some options for CDC 101

- Invite a CDC Board, Missional Church or Ministerial Committee member, or Lois Kaufmann, Conference Minister; Emma Hartman, conference administrator; or a retired CDC pastor to lead the Sunday school hour
- Show a map of the conference
- Share a brief history of CDC
use Joseph Stuckey story - either tell, or invite someone from your congregation to present the monologue or show video of monologue
- Describe the structure of the Board of Directors
- Describe the work of the Ministerial Committee
- Describe the work of the Missional Church Committee, including Reign of God grants
- Describe regional gatherings and the annual meeting
- Look at the CDC budget
- Describe the relationship of CDC to Mennonite Church USA
- Talk about the new two-year theme of "Transformed Through Text and Table"

*More information on "Central District Sunday" resources are available at the CDC office.
Call 800-662-2264 for details.*