

MAY 2014

Annual meeting in Madison to focus on text, table and transformation

The 2014 Central District Conference Annual Meeting is set for June 26 through 28, hosted by Chicago Community Mennonite Church, St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship, Madison Mennonite Church and Milwaukee Mennonite Church and held at Madison Mennonite.

The annual meeting provides an opportunity for people within the conference to connect and worship together and for conference delegates and leadership on behalf of their congregations to determine major policy issues, evaluate the work of the board of directors and discern the voice of the Spirit in the midst of the CDC.

This year, along with considering the 2014-2015 spending plan and naming new members to CDC committees, delegates will look at two resolutions.

One resolution calls Central District Conference to greater inter-racial and cross-cultural engagement, while the other recommends the CDC commit to unity in a time of disagreement within Mennonite Church USA.

Delegates will also vote on whether to bring Cove-

nant Mennonite Fellowship into Central District Conference. Covenant Mennonite in Sarasota, Florida has been in conversation with CDC about joining since August of 2012.

While considering welcoming Covenant to the CDC family, delegates will also be asked to formally end relationships with two dissolving groups. Hively Jesus Village Church in Elkhart, which most recently aimed to work with and care for Korean students in the Goshen/Elkhart area, is undergoing structural changes making it unclear if the group will continue. A letter from the church's organizers ask that because of that, it end its relationship with CDC.

Mennonite Fellowship of Asheville, North Carolina was named a CDC church plant in 2009, but because of several families relocating elsewhere, is requesting to no longer be a church plant.

Delegates and others can find copies of the resolutions, membership status requests and various other reports on the CDC's website.



Delegates discuss at the 2013 Central District Conference Annual Meeting in Bluffton, Ohio.



Communion is offered during a worship session at the 2013 Central District Conference Annual Meeting in Bluffton, Ohio.

*2014 CDC Annual Meeting
June 26-28
Madison, Wisconsin*

Don't leave the kids at home during the annual meeting

Children's activities throughout meeting

THURSDAY, 4:30-9 P.M.

Childcare will be provided for all children, including those whose parents attend the Pastor Appreciation Dinner. Children will be invited to participate in the family potluck.

If the weather is nice, we will have outdoor games on the greenery in front of the church. If it is rainy, we will have indoor games and crafts in the basement.

FRIDAY, 8:15 A.M.-9:15 P.M.

Drop off and pick up at the church entrance.

Sunny Day Plan

8:15 a.m. Leave for Vilas Park

9:30 a.m. Visit Vilas Zoo, Snacks provided

11 a.m. Return to Church

11:45 a.m. Lunch in tent with parents

1:15 p.m. Leave for Vilas Beach, Snacks provided.

In case of Beach closure, we may go to the Madison Childrens Museum followed by visiting the

Madison Capitol, which is across from the museum.

4:30 p.m. Return to church

5 p.m. Dinner: pizza and dessert

6:30 p.m. Choice of outdoor games, crafts, board games

7:30 p.m. Movie in the basement

9:15 p.m. Pick up in church entrance

Rainy Day Plan

8:15 a.m. Drop off at church entrance. Games and crafts in the basement. Snacks will be provided.

11:45 a.m. Lunch in tent with parents

1:15 p.m. Leave for Madison Childrens Museum

The rest of the day will be same as the sunny day except for indoor games.

SATURDAY, 8:15 a.m. to Noon

8:15 a.m. Drop off at church entrance

Leave for Elver Park and play outdoor games. Snack provided.

11:30 a.m. Return to church for pick up at noon.

If rainy, we will have crafts and games in the church basement.

Host churches to share preaching

Four pastors will work with the CDC theme of Text, Table and Transformation during the three worship times during the annual meeting.

During the first worship session Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Matt Morin of Milwaukee Mennonite Church and a member of the missional church committee, will examine the overall theme using Mark 10:17-31 in a sermon titled "The Rich Young Ruler."

During Friday evening's worship time, Ron Adams, pastor of Madison Mennonite and a member of the ministerial committee, will develop the theme using Luke 19:1-10 with his sermon titled "Table." An offering for Central District Conference will be taken and communion will be served during this worship session.

The final worship time will be Saturday morning, led by Lisa Pierce and Helen O'Brian of St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship. Their sermon, titled "Transformation" will use Mark 7:24-30.



Fun at the Madison Children's Museum.

Madison annual meeting brings first bike/run/walk fundraiser

Attendees to this year's annual meeting are welcome to join in the first Run-Walk-Bike-a-thon during Family Day, Thursday, June 26.

Instead of the usual golf scramble, Madison Mennonite has organized this event to help people get outdoors and see Madison from a vantage point that opens up people to the sounds, smells and other experiences in this amazing creation.

The event will start at 1 p.m. Central Time, with organizers providing t-shirts, printed maps of several route options and bike rentals, if needed.

Trails will include state trails of 49 and 22 miles a piece, trails through the University of Wisconsin arboretum at 10.5 miles and a 7 mile run/walk course and a 5K course through the Orchard Ridge neighborhood.

Everyone of any age is welcome to join in. Participants should bring bikes, running shoes, water bottles and other appropriate attire, smartphones or GPS devices to help follow routes and \$4 for a trail pass, if biking the longer routes.

Organizers also suggest that participants find sponsors to provide a suggested target sponsorship of \$100 to the work of the CDC. This can be done by raising funds per mile or a single total donation. However, any donation amount is appreciated. Children 12 and under are free if accompanied by a parent.

For more information, contact Jacob Boehr at jacobanderica@yahoo.com. If interested in renting a bike, people should also contact Boehr as soon as possible to reserve a bike. Road bike rentals are between \$50 and \$60 each, depending on the volume of rentals. Hybrid bikes are \$20 each.

Registration forms and more information are available under the Annual Meeting tab at www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net. You can also find more at the CDC Run-Walk-Bike-a-thon page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cdcrunwalkbikeathon.

From the CDC Resource Advocate:

In just five weeks, the Central District Conference of MCUSA will meet in Madison, Wisconsin. Because I am your resource advocate, I will provide a "browse and buy" selection of books and resources from MennoMedia, offered for sale at an event price discount. I'll also feature books by many CDC authors. If you have specific recommendations of materials you would like available to explore and purchase, please email me at terryandlo@yahoo.com and indicate CDC in the subject line. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at conference.

Curious about the new Shine Sunday School Curriculum? Plan to attend the Shine workshop for a preview of the materials and to participate in a lesson.

Lois Kaufmann-Hunsberger,

FIND
REGISTRATION FORMS
AND MORE INFO AT

www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net



During the 2013 Central District Conference Annual Meeting in Bluffton, Ohio. **3**

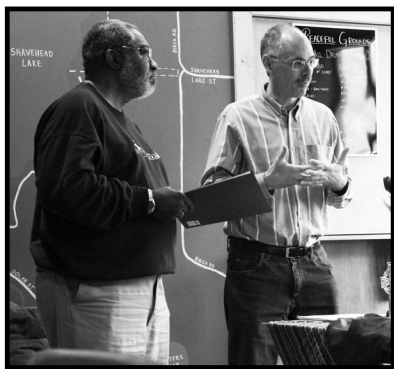
Workshops look at new children's curriculum, growing communities, faith and the environment, faith and art, and pastoral relationships

Workshops will be held on Friday afternoon from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. Participants to the annual meeting are invited to choose one workshop to attend, indicating their choice on the registration form.

SPIRITUAL AND PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR GROWING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH AND PEACE

Presenters: *Andre Gingerich Stoner (MC USA Director of Holistic Witness and Interchurch Relations) and John Powell (Shalom Community Church, Missionary Church Committee)*

As our neighborhoods and cities become more socially, ethnically, economically and religiously diverse, understanding our context is vital for engaging our communities with the reconciling message of Jesus. It is critical that we learn to see with eyes of faith and to listen deeply to our neighbors if we are to grow as communities of faith and peace and help birth new shalom communities. John Powell and Andre Gingerich Stoner will introduce the concrete tools of contextual "dwelling in the Word" and "one-on-one" relational meetings, share stories and examples, and engage in conversation with each other and workshop participants.



INTRODUCING SHINE: LIVING IN GOD'S LIGHT

Presenter: *Lois Kaufmann-Hunsberger (CDC Resource Advocate, Maplewood Mennonite Church)*

How can your congregation help children experience Christ's love and answer God's call? Learn about the new Sunday school curriculum now available from MennoMedia for use in Fall 2014. Discover how Shine can help your congregation nurture faith. See Shine materials and learn how to order your own starter kit.

FAITH IN PLACE

Presenter: *Brian Sauder (Executive Director of Faith in Place, First Mennonite Urbana)*

How do people of faith impact and change the environmental movement? What does faith have to say

about ecological thought and daily praxis? Learn about Faith in Place, a not-for-profit dedicated to answering these questions by inspiring religious people of diverse faiths to care for the earth through programs of connection, education, and advocacy. Hear stories about congregations learning, sharing, taking action, and making a difference.

SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES: THE MAKING OF JOHN P. KLASSEN'S MCC MEDALLION

Presenters: *Louise Matthews (Director of Lion & Lamb Peace Arts Center, Bluffton University, First Mennonite Bluffton) and Lisa Weaver (Author, Swords to Plowshares, Madison Mennonite Church)*

Art reflects and influences our life experiences and understandings. The first part of this workshop will explore the life and work of Mennonite artist John P. Klassen (1888-1975). The second part of this workshop will be a sneak preview of the forthcoming children's book *Swords to Plowshares*, written by Lisa Weaver, illustrated by Amanda Huston, and published by the Lion & Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University. *Swords to Plowshares* tells the story of how John P. Klassen melted down scattered bullets to make a medallion. The medallion was given in 1922 to the newly-formed Mennonite Central Committee as thanks for the food and relief supplies that had reached his war-ravaged village in Russia. A Central District Conference Reign of God grant helped to fund the children's book project.

STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PASTOR AND THE CONGREGATION

Presenter: *Nancy Kauffmann (Denominational Minister of Mennonite Church USA)*

In order for a pastor to enjoy a healthy and successful congregational ministry, the relationship between the pastor and congregation must be well-tended. A healthy pastor-congregation relationship is likewise essential to the well-being and mission of the congregation. This workshop offers congregational leaders and pastors opportunity to learn how to do excellent tending of their pastor-congregation relationship. You will hear and share stories of healthy ways to tend to the other for the sake of an effective and sustainable ministry together.

Full schedule for the 2014 annual meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Family Day events are open to everyone! You don't need to be registered for the annual meeting to attend.

- 1 p.m.** Run/Walk/Bike-a-thon at Madison Mennonite
- 1 p.m.** Registration begins at Madison Mennonite
- 5 p.m.** Pastor Appreciation Dinner at Quivey's Grove, 6291 Nesbitt Rd, Madison, WI 53719
- 5:30 p.m.** Backyard Picnic at Madison Mennonite
- 7:30 p.m.** WORSHIP I: Matt Morin (Milwaukee), The Rich Young Ruler, Mark 10:17-31
- 9:00 p.m.** Outdoor Concert with "Off the Porch" and "Pushing Chain" and ice cream in the tent at Madison Mennonite

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

8:30 a.m. SESSION I

- Welcome
- Introduction of Resolutions and Listening Committees, Parliamentarian
- Summary Review of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes
- ACTION:** 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes
- State of the Conference Address
- Treasurers Report/Presentation of the 2014-2015 Proposed Spending Plan
- Presentation of the 2014-2015 Slate
- ACTION:** 2014-2015 Slate
- Commissioning
- 9:15 a.m.** Getting acquainted around tables
- Congregational Story: Madison Mennonite
- Membership Vote for Covenant Mennonite Fellowship
- 9:45 - 10:15 a.m.** Break/Snacks
- 10:15 a.m.** Dwelling in the Word
- Constituency Leaders Council Report
- 11 a.m.** Missional Church Committee Report
- Hearing from Mennonite Church USA
- Introduction of Guests
- Announcements
- 11:45 a.m.** Lunch
- 12:45 p.m.** Visiting/displays/book signing
- 1:15 p.m.** SESSION II
- Congregational Story: Milwaukee Mennonite
- Recognition of Congregational Transitions: Mennonite Fellowship of Asheville, Hively Jesus Village Church, Camp Friedenswald Highlights, Term Review for Conference Minister, MCC Great Lakes Report
- 1:45 p.m.** Plenary Session: Growing Communities of Faith and Peace with John Powell and Andre Gingrich Stoner
- 3:15 p.m.** Transition
- 3:45 p.m.** Workshops (Choice of attending Spiritual and Practical Tools for Growing Communities of Faith

and Peace with Andre Gingrich Stoner and John Powell, Introducing Shine: Living in God's Light with Lois Kaufmann-Hunsberger, Strengthening the Relationship Between the Pastor and Congregation with Nancy Kauffmann, Swords to Plowshares: The Making of John P Klassen's MCC Medallion with Lisa Weaver or Faith in Place with Brian Sauder

- 5:15 p.m.** Transition
- 5:30 p.m.** Dinner
- Mennonite Women Dinner at Madison Mennonite in the Fellowship Hall
- Mennonite Men Dinner at Madison Mennonite in the Bridges Room
- A list of area restaurants is available (in delegate packets and at the registration table) for those who are not participating in one of the above dinners.*
- 7:30 p.m.** Free Time
- 7:45 p.m.** WORSHIP II: Ron Adams (Madison), Table, Luke 19:1-10
- Offering
- Communion
- 9:15 p.m.** Board games/snacks in the Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

- 8:30 a.m.** WORSHIP III: Lisa Pierce/Helen O'Brien (St Paul), Transformation, Mark 7:24-30
- 10-10:20 a.m.** Transition/Break
- 10:20 a.m.** SESSION III
- Congregational Story: St Paul Mennonite Fellowship
- ACTION:** 2014-2015 Spending Plan
- ACTION:** Resolution: A Call to Greater Inter-Racial and Cross-Cultural Engagement
- ACTION:** Resolution: A Resolution on Unity in a Time of Disagreement
- 11 a.m.** Ministerial Committee Report
- Recognition of new pastors/credentialed leaders
- Remembering pastors who have died
- 11:15 a.m.** Open Mic
- Listening Committee Report
- 11:45 a.m.** **ACTION:** Gratitude Resolution
- Evaluations
- Close of Delegate Sessions
- Noon** Going Home (No lunch served on site)



Pastoral changes

Brian Sauder was licensed toward ordination on May 4 at First Mennonite, Urbana, Ill., for his work with Faith in Place.



Bonnie Neufeld retired from Community Mennonite, Markham, Ill., on March 31.

Terri Geiser was licensed toward ordination on March 16 at Hively Avenue Mennonite, Elkhart, Ind., for chaplaincy.



Mike Score was licensed toward ordination on March 9 at Ann Arbor Mennonite, Mich., as co-pastor.

Tim Stair was installed as interim pastor at Eighth Street Mennonite, Goshen, Ind., on March 2.



Upcoming events at Camp Friedenswald

- June 9-14 High School Camp (grade 9-12)
- June 16-18 Primary Camp (grade 1 and 2)
- June 16-21 Junior High Camp (grade 7-8)
- June 16-21 Junior High Music Camp (grade 7-8)
- June 23-28 Pre Junior Camp (grade 3-4)
- June 30-July 5 Junior Camp (grade 5-6)
- July 7-11 Family Furlough
- July 12-13 Builders Weekend Celebration
- July 14-18 Family Retreat
- August 1-3 Know Jesus - Junior High event (with Amigo Centre at Goshen College)
- August 11-14 Art in Response to Nature Workshop/Retreat

Friedenswald Junior High Music Camp is June 16-21. Make music at camp with Director Dr. Jon Peterson and guitar instructor Matt Steinmetz. Some guitars will be provided. Music campers will interact with regular Jr. High campers except during rehearsal times. The music and theme will explore the text of Psalm 100. To register, go to www.friedenswald.org or call 269-476-9744.

Hively Avenue involved in Elkhart peace march

A number of Hively Avenue attendees were involved in a peace march on Palm Sunday in Elkhart, Ind., this spring.

According to *The Elkhart Truth*, Elkhart Advocates for Peace and Justice organized this fourth annual march and rally to remember victims of violent crime in the city and pray for peace.

The march began at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church and ended at the Elkhart Civic Plaza.

The event included singing and reciting the names of those who have been killed by violence in the city since 2009, according to *The Elkhart Truth*.

CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORTER

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