



**Central  
District  
Conference**  
A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

# Reporter

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

MAY 2012

CDC 56th annual meeting June 21-23 in Illinois

## God's story...Our stories!



Mennonite Church of Normal

Central District Conference continues its ongoing conversation "God's Story...Our Stories!" launched earlier this year in regional meetings as delegates meet June 21-23 at Mennonite Church of Normal during CDC's 56<sup>th</sup> annual business session.

**Lois Kaufmann: "The annual meeting is an extension of the work with this theme that we began in regional meetings."**

the song we will sing throughout business sessions, plenary session, children's activities, Mennonite Women's dinner – is tied to that theme."

Worship speakers are Tim Schrag from Mennonite Church

Carlock Mennonite, First Mennonite Urbana, Mennonite Church of Normal and North Danvers Mennonite host this year's meeting.

"The annual meeting is an extension of the work with the theme that we began in regional meetings this year," said Lois Kaufmann, CDC conference minister. "So much of what we will be doing – in worship, workshops,

of Normal, Emily North from Shalom Mennonite Congregation (Va.) and Michael Crosby from First Urbana. Sermons during the annual meeting are based on texts from the Book of Ruth.

Janeen Bertsche Johnson will lead a plenary session, which focuses on Central District Conference and Mennonite Church USA over the past 10 years.

### Conference action

Action items include votes on:

- **Congregational Peace Resolution.** The resolution is a congregational peace pledge to intentionally encounter the realities of war. It invites three opportunities for congregations to commit themselves to:

- send members on a delegation to a conflict zone with Christian Peacemakers Teams, Witness for Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Mission Network or other organizations dedicated to providing a nonviolent presence;

- sponsor at least one event each year that asks youth to

## Central District Conference

# 56th annual business session schedule

### Thursday, June 21

**11 a.m.** Golf Scramble at Highland Park Golf Course

**3 p.m.** Registration at Mennonite Church of Normal

**5 p.m.** Pastor Appreciation Dinner at North Danvers

**7:30 p.m. Worship I**

- Speaker: Tim Schrag,  
Pastor at Mennonite Church of Normal

### Friday, June 22

**8:30 a.m.** Business Session 1

- Welcome
- **ACTION: 2011 Minutes**
- Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the 2012-2013 Spending Plan
- Historical Vignette

**9:15 a.m.** Congregational Story  
from Mennonite Church of Normal

- State of the Conference Address
- **ACTION: 2012-2013 Slate of Nominees**
- Commissioning Service for incoming and continuing committee members

**9:45 a.m.** Break

**10:15 a.m.** Roll Call

- Getting acquainted around tables
- Dwelling in the Word

**11 a.m. ACTION: Voting St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship into membership**

- Hearing from the Missional Church Committee
- Introduction of Guests
- Announcements

**11:45 a.m.** Lunch at Mennonite Church of Normal

**12:45 p.m.** Visiting/displays

**1:15 p.m.** Business Session 2

- Congregational Story: Oak Grove Mennonite Church
- MCC Great Lakes Report
- **Discussion and ACTION:**  
A Congregational Peace Pledge Resolution
- Recognition of new pastors and credentialed leaders

- Remembering pastors who have died

**2 p.m.** Plenary Session: The Framework that Shapes Us: Mennonite Church USA and Central District Conference led by Janeen Bertsche Johnson

**3:15 p.m.** Transition to workshops/drink break

**3:45 p.m.** Workshops

**5:15 p.m.** Transition to Dinner

**5:30 p.m. Dinner**

- Mennonite Men at Grace Church,  
1311 W. Hovey, Normal
- Mennonite Women at  
North Danvers Mennonite Church,  
Danvers

*A list of area restaurants is available in delegate packets for those not attending either the Mennonite Men's or Mennonite Women's dinners.*

**7:30 p.m.** Free time

**8 p.m. WORSHIP II**

- Speaker: Emily North,  
Pastor of Shalom Mennonite Congregation

### Saturday, June 23

**8:30 a.m. Business Session 3**

- Congregational Story: First Mennonite Sugarcreek
- **ACTION: 2012-2013 Spending Plan**
- Camp Friedenswald Highlights
- Ministerial Committee Report
- Open Mic

**9:45 a.m.** Word from MC USA

**10:15 a.m.** Listening Committee Report

**ACTION: Gratitude Resolution**

- Close of business sessions
- 10:30 a.m.** Transition to worship/drink break

**11 a.m. WORSHIP III**

- Speaker - Michael Crosby,  
Pastor of First Mennonite Church Urbana

**12:30 p.m.** Going home (*no lunch served on site*)

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### 2012 annual meeting planning committee:

Suzi Waller, Carlock; Steve Eickhorst, North Danvers; Louise Reeser, Mennonite Church of Normal; Janelle Friesen, Mennonite Church of Normal; Chuck Gibson, First Urbana.

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# God's story...Our stories!

question participation in war;

- bring at least one speaker to the congregation each year who has worked at peace building with victims of war, is a former combatant who knows the experience of having inflicted harm on others or did alternative service during a previous war.

The entire text of the resolution is on CDC website.

- Voting the recommendation of membership for St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship, St. Paul, Minn., into CDC. It is a small lay-led congregation committed to peace and justice. The congregation meets at Cherokee Park United Church of Christ in St. Paul, Minn. The fellowship began in 1984 as a church plant from Faith Mennonite Church in response to racial tensions and violence in St. Paul's West Side neighborhood.

- Spending plan. Delegates will also act on a proposed 2012-13 spending plan of \$209,258.

Each item will be given time for discussion prior to a vote taken.

During the annual meeting there will be time for conversation with the CDC Board and Ministerial Committee about the decisions regarding a credential review of a CDC pastor. The credential review report was sent to CDC pastors in May.

Delegates will hear a State of the Conference address by Joyce Schumacher, CDC board president.

Another part of the annual meeting agenda includes congregational stories from three congregations. Those congregations

include Mennonite Church of Normal, Ill.; Oak Grove, Smithville, Ohio; and First Mennonite, Sugar creek, Ohio.

## Worship services

Preaching from three CDC clergy make up the worship services at this year's annual meeting.

Tim Schrag, one of the pastors at Mennonite Church of Normal, will speak at 7: 30 p.m., Thursday, June 21. His sermon focus is on where is God at work?

Emily North, pastor at Shalom Mennonite Congregation, will speak at 8 p.m., Friday, June 22. Her sermon title is "Stranger, Friend, Host," using Deuteronomy 10:17-19 and Ruth 4:13-17.

Michael Crosby, associate pastor of First Mennonite, Urbana, will speak at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 23. His sermon focus is on where is our community in God's story? A communion service will follow Saturday's worship service.

Worship service planners include David Wright, First, Urbana; Holly Zehr, Mennonite Church of Normal; Gerry Schrock, Mennonite Church of Normal; Darvin Miller, North Danvers; and James Bortell, Carlock.

## Friday workshops

Delegates will choose Friday afternoon workshops they plan to attend. Each workshop is 90 minutes in length. Workshops focus on the following subjects: "As Unbroken Circle of Care," "How Churches Change People: Spiritual Formation and Social Mis-

sion," "Many Voices, one Story: Enhancing Worship with Global Music," "Tearing Down Racial and Cultural Walls," "Seeking God Together: Youth and Adults." Workshop leaders and summaries of workshops are found inside this issue.

## Plenary session

Janeen Bertsche Johnson, CDC member and campus pastor at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind., will lead a plenary session titled "The Framework that Shapes Us: Mennonite Church USA and Central District Conference."

"Now that MC USA is 10 years old, we will look at the way the new church was organized, balancing the values and perspective of our past tradition, and see how the way we are structured shapes our decision-making today," she said. "The presentation and table discussions will help us understand the way the church works at both the conference and denominational level and what that means for our congregations."

## Clare House

Delegates have an opportunity to give back to the annual meeting's host community. This year's recipient is Clare House, a food pantry and kitchen in Bloomington. Clara House welcomes CDC delegates to consider bring the following items to the annual meeting as donations:

- Canned goods (not expired)
- Non-perishables, cereals, pastas, beans, oatmeal, ramen noodles, etc
- Baby food

See page 4



**Worship speakers, from left:  
Tim Schrag  
Michael Crosby  
Emily North**

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- Diapers
- Baby formula (Similac is preferred)
- Toiletries: soap, feminine-hygiene products, other bathroom items

Monetary donations may be made during the registration process

### **Pastor appreciation dinner**

A pastor appreciation dinner will take place at 5 p.m., Thursday, June 21, at North Danvers Mennonite Church, rural Danvers. Entertainment is by Glenn Wilson, professional jazz saxophonist. He has performed at The Kennedy Center and Blues Alley Jazz Club, New York City and is a member of Mennonite Church of Normal. He has appeared on over 25 jazz recordings as a sideman. He is Visiting Lecturer in Jazz at the University of Illinois, Urbana and teaches Music Business and Jazz Pedagogy.

The dinner, hosted by CDC Ministerial Committee is for pastors and spouses or significant others. Childcare and a sack lunch are provided for children. There is no charge for the dinner

and RSVPs are required by June 13.

### **Children's program**

Several activities are planned for children ages 4 to sixth grade. Childcare is provided during the Pastor Appreciation Dinner. Children's activities will begin on Friday morning. Registration fee for children includes admission to The Children's Museum of Discovery.

Childcare will be available during all delegate sessions and worship on Saturday morning. Friday events include a walk to White Oak Park, scavenger hunt, magic show with Jep Hostetler, travel to the Children's Discovery Museum, art activities and games outdoors. A sack lunch is provided if parents wish to attend the Mennonite Men's or Mennonite Women's dinner.

### **Honor gifts**

Delegates will have the opportunity of giving a gift in recognition of a friend or family member during the annual meeting. Gift suggestions may be made

as a memorial or as a tribute to someone living, for example, a relative, pastor, mentor, Sunday school teacher or friend. Designee names will be visible on an honor board at the annual meeting.

### **Golf Scramble**

This year's golf scramble tee time is noon, Thursday, June 21, at Highland Park Golf Course, 1613 S. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. It is open to men, women and youth. A lunch and registration is at 11 a.m.

The scramble offers several opportunities to raise funds for CDC. These include player fees and hole sponsors. Player's fees are \$50 per person or \$200 per team, which includes green fees, electric cart and a light lunch. Hole sponsorships are \$100 for businesses, organizations, families or individual. A registration deadline to play is June 14.

Persons wanting additional information may contact Charles Gibson, 217-418-0654 or [orgibson@fastmail.net](mailto:orgibson@fastmail.net).

Friday, June 23, 3:45 to 5:15 p.m.

# Workshops at CDC annual meeting

## **An Unbroken Circle of Care**

*Presenters: Ted Larrison and Doris Weaver,  
Paoli Mennonite Fellowship*

This workshop will focus on the value of a systematic approach of care for members and family during times of loss, illness, death and grief. The approach can include the whole congregation and reduce the opportunity for caregiver fatigue and burnout.

Ted and Doris will share Paoli's experience of establishing a Circle of Care. They will show participants how to set up a Circle of Care. This includes identifying existing supports within the congregation, naming barriers to setting up support by those in need and by those who want to help.

## **How Churches Change People: Spiritual Formation and Social Mission**

*Presenter: Gerald Mast,  
First Mennonite Church, Bluffton*

The workshop will explore how the practices of the church prepare the church's members to represent the reconciling life of Jesus Christ in their daily stations – to allow God's healing and hope to flow through them to the world.

Practices to be discussed include: baptism, pot-lucks, committee meetings, singing and discernment groups. Some of the workshop will be based on the new Herald Press book: *Go to Church, Change the World: Christian Community as Calling*.

## **Many Voices, One Story: Enhancing Worship with Global Music**

*Presenter: Jon C Peterson,  
Assistant Professor of Music, Bluffton University*

This workshop will explore the diverse ways in which Christians across the globe worship God through music. Participants will engage in the learning of select pieces of sacred music from across the world and will leave with new ideas of how to incorporate diverse music into worship.

Planning and literature resources will be presented, and methods of teaching new music to congregations, choirs and bands will be explored

and experienced in the workshop. By embracing the diverse ways that God's story is proclaimed across the globe, we can enhance worship in the local church for our congregations and, with God's help, for those that have yet to worship with us.

## **Tearing Down Racial and Cultural Walls**

*Presenter: John Powell*

Undoing Racism and Advancing Intercultural Transformation is a priority of Mennonite Church USA. Conferences and congregations are called to work at dismantling individual and systemic racism and begin the racial and cultural healing process.

Workshop participants will look at Mennonite engagement with racial issue. They will explore the dynamics of racism and cultural issues (including embracing a single story) that impact racial relationship. Emphasis will be given power dynamics as it affects race and cultural understanding. Focused attention will be given to next step towards racial/cultural healing.

## **Seeking God Together: Youth and Adults**

*Presenter: Brenda Sawatzky Paetkau,  
Pastor of Eighth Street Mennonite Church*

- *Longing for God ... true for both youth and adults*
  - *Longing that God's ways are lived in this world ... true for both youth and adults.*
  - *Questions of discernment for living ... true for both youth and adults.*
  - *Making choices of where to belong and contribute ... true for both youth and adults.*
- Both youth and adults are "seeking God" ... so how does this affect ministry with youth?*

This workshop will highlight:

- Suggestions for structuring some youth group settings ... where both the adults and youth are together seeking God (monthly youth meal, catechism, etc)
- Celebrating youth ministry beyond the "youth group model"
- Space for conversation and questions

# CDC authors have book signings at annual meeting



**Top:**  
**Gerald Mast**  
**Right:**  
**Lisa Weaver**

Two CDC authors will have copies of their recent books available in a book signing event following the Friday evening worship service.

Gerald Mast, First, Bluffton, has released "Go to Church, Change the World: Christian Community as Calling."

Published by Herald Press, the book explores traditional church practices and how participation in them determines how churchgoers see the rest of their world, including their careers.

Lisa Weaver, Madison, has released "On the Zwieback Trail."

Published by Canadian Mennonite University Press, the book's focus is Russian Mennonites. It celebrates their history, culture and service from the early 1500s to the present.



# How to register for CDC annual meeting in June

Persons interested in attending the annual meeting may visit CDC's website at [www.centryrldistrict.com](http://www.centryrldistrict.com) for all registration forms.

The registration fee for adults and youth delegates made by June 11 is \$40. Registration for children ages 4 to grade 6 is \$25 for registrations made by June 11.

After June 11 the registration fee increased to \$50 for adults and youth delegates and \$35 for children. Walk-ins at the conference site will pay the \$50 registration fee.

## Payments

Registration checks may be payable to Central District Conference. Send checks to Central District Conference, 1015 Division St., Goshen, Ind., 46528-2000. To pay by credit card, persons may register by phone at 800-662-2264 or 5674-534-1485.

## Slate of officers

To view the slate of officers for 2012-13 visit CDC website at: [www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net](http://www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net).

## Annual meeting location

The annual meeting is held at Mennonite Church of Norma, 805 S. Cottage Ave., Normal, Ill. 61761. The church phone is 309-452-6622. Fax: 309-452-309-452-0478. E-mail: [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org). Website: [normalmennonite.org](http://normalmennonite.org)

## CDC Financial Facts: 10 months, 2011-12 report

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$159,788</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$160,255</b>
<b>YTD difference</b>	<b>-\$467</b>
<b>Spending Plan</b>	<b>\$162,421</b>
<b>Difference from Spending Plan</b>	<b>-\$2,633</b>

As I come to the end of the allowable terms, I want you to know that I have enjoyed serving as your treasurer these past seven years. It was especially nice to be able to meet many of you at regional and annual meetings.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support as together we help fulfill our conference missional activities.

*-Chris Habegger, CDC Treasurer*

## CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORTER

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Editors: Fred and Mary P. Steiner

E-mail: [steinerm@bluffton.edu](mailto:steinerm@bluffton.edu)

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## Central District Office:

Lois Johns Kaufmann, conference minister

Emma Hartman, administrator

1015 Division St., Goshen, IN 46528

Toll-free: 800-662-2264

Phone: 574-534-1485

Fax: 574-534-8654

E-mail: [office@mcusacdc.org](mailto:office@mcusacdc.org)

Web address: [www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net](http://www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net)