



Central  
District  
Conference

A conference of  
Mennonite Church USA

# Reporter

KNOWING CHRIST'S LOVE—  
ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

May 2018

## Annual Meeting: “Come, walk with us. Tell us your story.”

With the invitation to walk together and listen to each other's stories, the Central District Conference Annual Meeting will begin on Thursday, June 21, and continue through noon on Saturday, June 23, in Goshen, Ind.

The central Bible text for the gathering is Acts 16:6-15, which recounts how Paul, Timothy and Silas encountered both a closed door and a welcoming invitation in their missionary journeys.


Three worship services will draw on themes in this text:

- The Divine “No”—shared by Nina Lanctot, spiritual director and recently retired pastor of Florence Church of the Brethren Mennonite;
- Host as friend, enemy, stranger, guest—shared by John Powell, pastor, strategic planning consultant and mission advocate;
- The Divine “Yes”—shared by Jonathan Larson, storyteller, pastor and former mission worker in Africa.

Many stories of ministries and congregational life are included in the schedule. We will hear from congregations with long histories in the conference and congregations asking to become part of the conference.

For those who want to be more active, the

fundraisers on Thursday afternoon—golfing, biking, running, walking—are good ways to discover some of the unique flavor of the Goshen community.

All are welcome to attend any part of the Annual Meeting and are invited to join the fellowship, worship and learning. The hosts are the Goshen and Elkhart area congregations, and most sessions will be held in College Mennonite Church on the campus of Goshen College. 

### Visit the CDC website

For all details of the Annual Meeting, visit [mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting](http://mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting). You will find:

- Registration forms for the gathering, along with forms for childcare and children's activities, Mennonite Women and Mennonite Men dinners, Pastor Appreciation dinner, and the fundraisers
- Delegate Report Book, including items requiring action
- Maps of the Goshen College campus and things to do in Goshen
- Information about housing and meal options
- Speakers, seminars, storytelling stations



tell us  
your **STORY**

## Annual Meeting details

# Schedule

## Thursday - Family Day

Family Day events are open to everyone! You do not need to register for the Annual Meeting to attend.

10:30am - Golf Outing at Black Squirrel Golf Club, Goshen

1:00pm - Bike-Run-Walk registration begins in the lobby outside the fellowship hall

2:00pm - Registration begins in the lobby outside the fellowship hall

3:00pm - The Art of Listening, seminar led by Nina Lanctot, Room 113

5:00pm - Pastor Appreciation Dinner, Koinonia Room

5:00pm - Backyard Picnic, fellowship hall

7:30pm - **WORSHIP** in the sanctuary.  
Speaker: Nina Lanctot

9:00pm - Ice cream social, fellowship hall



*Nina Lanctot,  
Thursday  
evening  
preacher*

## Friday

**DELEGATE SESSION 1** in the fellowship hall

8:30am

- Welcome
- Getting acquainted around tables
- State of the conference address
- Centering, silent reflection, prayer
- Congregational story: Silverwood Mennonite Church
- Introductions
- Summary review and ACTION on 2017 Annual Meeting minutes
- Highlight actions in 2018 agenda
- Treasurer's report and presentation of the 2018-2019 proposed Spending Plan
- Presentation of and ACTION on the 2018-2019 slate of nominees
- Commissioning prayer

9:45 - 10:15am - **BREAK**/Snacks

10:15am

- Introduction of congregations seeking membership in CDC: Americus Mennonite Fellowship, Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Jubilee Mennonite Fellowship
- Receiving Berea Mennonite Church, Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship, Raleigh Mennonite Church  
ACTION: Vote to receive into membership
- Introduction of guests

11:00am

- Sharing around tables about affiliation with Allegheny Mennonite Conference
- Announcements

11:45am - **LUNCH**

12:45pm - **VISITING/DISPLAYS/BOOKSIGNINGS**

**DELEGATE SESSION 2** in Fellowship Hall

1:15pm

- Announcing membership vote
- Congregational Story: Southside Fellowship
- Historical Vignette

1:45pm - **STORYTELLING STATIONS** (see more on p. 3)  
Scheduled to allow participants to rotate from one to another: 1:45-2:10; 2:20- 2:45; 2:55-3:15; 3:25-3:50

- Hope House, with Kay Bontrager-Singer, Newcomer Center 19
- A Quintessential Story of Jesus-like Mission, with Jonathan Larson, sanctuary
- International Guest House, with Jonathan and Betty Schrag, Koinonia Room
- Get Home Safe: African Americans' Rules for Survival in an Age of Hate and Guns, with Cyneatha Millsaps, Genesis Room (basement)

3:50pm - **BREAK**/Snacks

4:15pm - **SEMINARS** (see more on p. 3)

- Mennonite Boomerang Project: Full-Circle Mission for the Outward Bound, led by Jonathan Larson and Sarah Thompson, Room 113
- Missional Discipleship, led by Karla Minter, Room 111
- Mennonite Worship and Song, led by Bradley Kauffman, sanctuary
- The Future of Mennonite Education, led by J Denny Weaver, Room 108
- MCC Relief Kits led by Susan Setiawan, and Grade 6 to 12 youth, Room 131

5:15pm - Transition

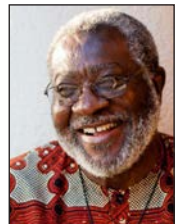
5:30pm - **DINNER**

- Mennonite Women, Koinonia Room
- Mennonite Men, Gathering Place
- Others may eat in the fellowship hall or choose from a list of restaurants available in delegate packets

7:00pm - **FREE TIME**

7:30pm - **WORSHIP** in the sanctuary.  
Speaker: John Powell

9:00pm - Informal Gathering - Get Acquainted with folks from Americus, Emmanuel and Jubilee, with snacks, fellowship hall



*John Powell,  
Friday  
evening  
preacher*

*Continued on page 3*

## Annual Meeting details

### Schedule (continued)

#### Saturday

8:30am - **WORSHIP** in the sanctuary.

Speaker: Jonathan Larson

9:45am - **BREAK**/Snacks

**DELEGATE SESSION 3** in Fellowship Hall

10:15am

- Missional Committee report
- Congregational Story: Assembly Mennonite Church
- Ministerial Committee Report: Recognition of new pastors/credentialed leaders and remembering pastors who have died
- ACTION: 2018-2019 Spending Plan
- Constituency Leaders Council Report
- Sharing around tables
- Word from Mennonite Church USA
- MCC Great Lakes report
- Listening Committee Report

11:45am

- Evaluations
- Close of Delegate Sessions
- Songs/Benediction

12:00pm - **CLOSE** of Annual Meeting



*Jonathan Larson,  
Saturday  
morning  
preacher*

### Children's activities

Activities and care for children are planned during the Annual Meeting sessions. Please check the online schedule for specific times for care and/or activities for 1) infants and preschoolers, 2) children in K-grade 5, and 3) children and youth in grades 6-12.

Care for infants and preschoolers is available at the church where sessions are held. Visit [www.mcusacdc.org/infants-preschool/](http://www.mcusacdc.org/infants-preschool/) for details, registration and other forms to submit.

Activities for the K-5 group include exploring the Dam Pond and surrounding trails and woods, swimming and playing at Shanklin Park. Activities for the grades 6-12 group include a service project, group-building games, creative work around one of the storytelling stations, assembling MCC Relief Kits and visiting Pathways Retreat Center. For details, to register and to obtain needed forms, visit [www.mcusacdc.org/children-k-grade12/](http://www.mcusacdc.org/children-k-grade12/).

### Storytelling stations

Participants will have opportunities to hear four stories during the first Friday afternoon session, rotating from one to another.

**Short-term Transitional Housing.** Presenter: Kay Bontrager-Singer. How Faith Mennonite Church, Goshen, provides short-term transitional housing.

**International Guest House.** Presenters: Jonathan and Betty Schrag. Allegheny Mennonite Conference's Washington, DC, Guest House offers hospitality and opportunities for building relationships.

**A Quintessential Story of Jesus-like Mission.** Presenter: Jonathan Larson. On a train in Sri Lanka, midst the horror of ethnic strife, a woman stranger snatches a young man from death at the risk of her own life.

**Get Home Safe: African Americans' Rules for Survival in an Age of Hate and Guns.** Presenter: Cyneatha Millsaps. African Americans have always walked carefully in this country; today we are reminded to focus on simply getting home safely.

### Seminars

**Thursday, June 21, 4 pm**

**The Art of Listening**, with Nina Lanctot.  
Thursday, June 21, 3 pm.

**Friday, June 22, 4:15 pm** (choose one)

**Mennonite Worship and Song**, with Bradley Kauffman, editor of the new worship and song collection.

**Mennonite Boomerang Project: Full circle mission for the outward bound**, with Jonathan Larson and Sarah Thompson.

**The Future of Mennonite Education**, with J. Denny Weaver, editor of the newly published *Education with the Grain of the Universe*. College presidents James Harder (Bluffton) and Rebecca Stoltzfus (Goshen) will participate.

**Missional Discipleship**, with Karla Minter.

**MCC Relief Kits**, with Susan Setiawan.

## Annual meeting details

### Additional events

#### Family Day, Thursday, June 21, afternoon

**11 am - Golf Outing:** a fundraiser at the Black Squirrel Golf Club in Goshen. Register by June 11: [www.mcusacdc.org/golf-outing/](http://www.mcusacdc.org/golf-outing/)

**1:00pm - Bike-Walk-Run:** Explore the Pumpkinvine Rails-to-Trails trail or the Millrace and Goshen Dam Pond and raise funds: [www.mcusacdc.org/bike-run-walk/](http://www.mcusacdc.org/bike-run-walk/)

**5 pm - Backyard picnic:** Enjoy an informal meal with friends old and new.

**9 pm - Friday evening ice cream social:** Time to get acquainted with others who are participating in the Annual Meeting.

#### Special dinners

**Pastor Appreciation Dinner,** Thursday, June 21, 5 pm. RSVP by June 10.

**Mennonite Men's Dinner,** Friday, June 22, 5:30 pm. RSVP by June 10.

**Mennonite Women's Dinner:** Friday, June 22, 5:30 pm. RSVP by June 10.



J. Tyler Klassen

The bicycling fund-raiser will follow the Pumpkinvine trail, which extends between Goshen and Shipshewana, Ind.

Reporter

Central District Conference

### Giving projects

This year's **Giving Back to the Community** project, selected by the host congregations, is Faith Mennonite Church's ministry of hospitality through Hope House. The congregation offers short-term housing to people in transition.



Kay Bontrager-Singer

**MCC Relief Kits:** Check the information online about contents for these kits and bring items with you. Adults may choose to join the youth in assembling kits on Friday afternoon.

### Financial report

#### April 30, 2018

Year-to-date giving  
from congregations . . . . . \$149,404  
Year-to-date plan . . . . . \$160,416  
Difference between giving and plan . . . -\$11,012

Year-to-date giving  
from individuals and families . . . . \$21,051  
Year-to-date plan . . . . . \$19,167  
Difference between giving and plan . . \$1,884

The finances of Central District Conference remain strong thanks to everyone. At the end of June I'll be finishing my time as your treasurer. It's been an honor and privilege to serve you these past years.

Congregational giving is a bit of a concern; we have received about \$11,000 less than the plan. Giving by families and individuals has remained ahead of the plan—\$21,051 compared to the goal of \$19,167. Thank you! Expenses are running about \$7,000 less than the spending plan through April so in total, we're right at break-even.

Thanks again for all you do contributing your time, talent and resources to our Central District Conference.

*Report provided by Roger Nafziger, conference treasurer*

May 2018

4

# Doug's Mug: Change

by Doug Luginbill, Conference Minister

I have change in my mug. I used to put my loose change in a mug that I kept on my bedroom dresser. It was always fun to drop in a penny, dime or quarter that I found along the sidewalk or in the garden. When the mug was full, I'd take it to the bank.



I have a different kind of change in my mug these days and it has pretty much filled my mug. What I'm talking about is change within Mennonite Church USA leadership. Take a sip and here's what you might taste.

April 30 was the last day for **Ervin Stutzman** in his role as Executive Director of MC USA. Ervin has retired after a lifetime of faithful service to the church. His depth of knowledge of Anabaptist history, his positive presence, and his various involvements in the formation of MC USA have served us well. On May 1, **Glen Guyton** began as Executive Director of the denomination. Glen has served in denominational leadership since 2009, most recently as Chief Operating Officer and Director of Convention Planning. Glen provided much of the energy and vision behind the Future Church Summit at our Orlando Convention last summer. I look forward to Glen's leadership as he is deeply committed to Christ and the way of peace.

April 30 was also retirement day for **Nancy Kauffmann** as Denominational Minister. She has been an incredible resource to CDC, assisting with pastoral transitions, managing the pastor data base, providing leadership to Healthy Boundaries initiatives and providing wise counsel on a variety of topics. She was also a faithful prayer partner for CDC. **Sue Park-Hur** began as Denominational Minister for Leadership Development in April. I have already observed Sue's commitment to developing strong pastoral leadership, her positive presence, attention to detail and faithful vision.

On May 31, **Terry Shue** will step down as Denominational Minister and Director of Leadership Development. I have valued Terry's enthusiasm, commitment to the church and positive presence. Serving in a similar but somewhat revised role will be **Michael Danner**. His title is Associate Executive Director for Church Vitality and Engagement and he will begin June 1. Michael and I have built a strong peer relationship over the past two years in his current position of Executive Conference Minister of Illinois Mennonite Conference and I look forward to building upon this good relationship in his new role.

**Shana Peachey Boshart** will begin in an expanded role of Denominational Minister for Faith Formation on August 1. In this position she will develop resources that nurture Christian formation and Anabaptist theological identity, as well as supervise seminars, worship and other formational events related to MC USA's biennial convention. Shana is an excellent leader and communicator and is committed to faith formation in the church.

Central District appoints four members to the Bluffton University Board of Trustees and I also serve as a Trustee representing MC USA. I am grateful for **Dr. James Harder's** 12 years of faithful service as president of Bluffton University. He has led the school well during a period of rapid change and challenge in higher education. Jim will retire June 30. On July 1 we will welcome **Dr. Jane Wood** as president. Jane brings a breadth of educational and leadership experience in Christian liberal arts schools, and I am struck by her vision and commitment to the way of peace as a core value rooted in her Christian faith.

These are just some of the changes in MC USA. Please pray for both those stepping out of leadership and those picking up the mantle of leadership. While change is bittersweet, I am excited and optimistic by the opportunities and possibilities for this small but significant part of God's church known as Mennonite Church USA. And you can take that to the bank! ☺

## Installations



Devon Miller (left,) was installed as pastor of Florence Church of the Brethren Mennonite Church, Constantine, Mich., on April 29, 2018. Devon also teaches anthropology classes at Glen Oaks Community College and Goshen College. He and Margaret, his wife, have seven children, including Jacob and Marcus (pictured), and one granddaughter.



Hillary Watson (center) and Trevor Bechtel (right) were installed as pastors of Shalom Community Church, Ann Arbor, Mich., on May 6. Cinda Nofziger (left) and the children presented the new pastors with “mystery seeds” the children had planted.

## Licensing



Eliza Wertenberger was licensed toward ordination at Columbus (Ohio) Mennonite Church on April 22, 2018. She is a chaplain at Riverside Hospital in Columbus.

## Commissioning



Tim Peebles (right) was commissioned as interim pastor of Madison (Wisc.) Mennonite Church on April 15, 2018.

**Central District Reporter**  
**Volume 62, Number 3, May 2018**  
**Editor: Mary E. Klassen**  
**Email:** [cdceditor@gmail.com](mailto:cdceditor@gmail.com)

Reporter is published six times a year. It is the official organ of communication among the churches of Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. It is distributed free to CDC congregations through the CDC spending plan.

**Central District Office:**  
Doug Luginbill, conference minister  
Emma Hartman, administrator  
1015 Division St., Goshen, IN 46528

**Toll-free:** 800.662.2264  
**Phone:** 574.534.1485  
**Email:** [office@mcusacdc.org](mailto:office@mcusacdc.org)  
**Web:** [www.mcusacdc.org](http://www.mcusacdc.org)