

Welcome to the Delegates from the CDC Board President

Welcome to Smithville, Ohio! It is a pleasure to hold our 64th annual meeting here in the heart of it all. Thank you to the good people of **Oak Grove Mennonite Church, First Mennonite Church Sugarcreek, and First Mennonite Church Wadsworth** for hosting us, planning the worship, coordinating the meals and providing the childcare. It is a significant commitment, and we are grateful for the willingness and energy of the people at Oak Grove.



This year we want to extend a particular welcome to Mennonite Church USA Executive Director, Glenn Guyton. It is a gift to have him with us this week and to hear him preach on Thursday evening. We are grateful for his willingness to join us.

This weekend we'll hear stories of the recent Central District Conference-sponsored trip to the Anabaptist Seminary *Semilla* in Guatemala City. This was a formative trip for the eight CDC members who attended, as we hope to continue to strengthen the bonds of connection that many within CDC have with Semilla and the Anabaptist Church in Central America.

While three regional gatherings were held this year — in Elkhart, Indiana, Madison, Wisconsin, and Raleigh, North Carolina — the fourth, scheduled for this spring in Cincinnati, was cancelled amid growing concerns about Covid-19. All of our congregations have had to rethink the way we worship together and care for each other in these challenging times. I have been grateful for the way congregations and communities have supported each other and shared ideas and information freely.

As a board, we hope that in this time together you experience meaningful worship, laughter and fellowship, and above all a sense of God's spirit moving us forward toward God's dreams for Central District Conference and Mennonite Church USA.

Blessings,

Anna Yoder Schlabach