



Welcome to the delegates from the CDC Board President

Welcome back to Goshen for our 68th Annual Meeting. A huge thank you to the staff, board, and committee members for all they've done to shape the work of the Conference and this Annual Meeting. Welcome to all in the room and all joining via Zoom.

Every two years representatives of the Leadership Council choose a theme to guide our work. Last August, we grounded our brainstorming in the results of the Sacred Listening visits and wondered what might guide us as we seek to do the work God calls us to.

Listen! Wisdom is Calling bubbled to the surface as we shared, meditated, prayed, and worshiped together. And, what a rich theme it is! A few of the ideas sparked so far are:

- A robust Zoom Mid-Year Gathering attended by over 70 people who shared the signs of wisdom they see in their congregations
- A project to collecting Wisdom Sayings from congregations
- A four-part worship series for use by congregations
- Quarterly Zoom retreats and a half day pre-Annual Meeting retreat

The Tending Transformation capital campaign is nearing its goal and has already borne fruit in the work of Matt Pritchard, our Associate Conference Minister for Emerging Communities of Faith, and the wisdom of new communities being birthed among us.

I've heard it said we're a story-telling conference and Sarah Werner, our Communications Coordinator, has helped us share our wisdom with each other and spread the news about the work of CDC congregations in the broader Anabaptist community.

Emma's wisdom and understanding of CDC and her deep care for its people and congregations make our work easier and more productive.

Doug has expanded our understanding of the theme, using it in sermons, Doug's Mug and conversations with congregations and committees and denominational leaders.

I am blessed by the stories of the amazing, faith-filled work being done in congregations. There is, of course, much still to do to bring our world closer to the vision of God's Kingdom. We are stronger when we move together and when we listen for the wisdom that is calling us. I'm grateful to be doing church with all of you.

Jan Lugibihl