

CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE
Minutes
June 19-21, 2025
Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio
Listen! Wisdom is Calling

Thursday, June 19

*Seminar: Contemplating Radical Hospitality led by Elizabeth Kelly and Matt Pritchard

*Pastor Appreciation Dinner

*Worship I: Grace Mennonite Church

Theme: Wisdom from our Anabaptist History

Speaker: Perry Bush

Offering: Giving Back to the Community – Lima Mennonite Church for Haitian ministry

*Ice Cream Social at Grace Mennonite

Friday, June 20

Delegate Session I

Janeen Bertsche Johnson (Eighth Street) led in singing *Revive Us Again*.

Welcome

Jan Lugibihl (Chicago Community) welcomed delegates to the 69th session of Central District Conference with the sounding of the gavel. Alex Sider, (First Mennonite Bluffton) interim president of Bluffton University, welcomed delegates to Bluffton University. Joel Miller (Columbus) invited delegates to get acquainted around tables by sharing about one of their grandparents.

State of the Conference Address

Jan Lugibihl (Chicago Community) reflected on the role of conference during this time. While lots of things are the same, much has changed. Some are scared, angry or sad, some are confident that things are going well, and some are wondering what comes next in our world and conference.

**What are some things conference does?* We offer each other support while we try new things. We are here to support children and young people. We support each other to find ways for peace and justice. We offer care and community to pastors and congregations. We invite congregations and welcome new groups who want to walk with us. We search for answers together. Worshiping and singing together inspires us and keeps us stronger together.

**Where do we find wisdom during these days?* For the past two years the conference theme has been, Listen! Wisdom is calling. Wisdom is often identified as one of the faces of the holy. We have spent time exploring the different aspects of the divine. We can sit together, take a breath and hear what wisdom is saying.

**Why conference?* Because we need each other.

Centering, silent reflection, and prayer: Jeff Boehr (Lima) led delegates in a centering exercise and read an adapted prayer by Marva Dawn.

Congregational Story: Karl Shelly (Assembly)

Karl shared that he recently attended a festival of homiletics where he heard Dr. Melva Sampson deliver a sermon on Hebrews 10. Sampson summed up the passage as saying to the faithful, “Don’t shrink back. Don’t shrink back from proclaiming the Gospel’s good news in word and deed because a prophetic witness is not a spiritual elective. It is the Church’s birthright.” One of the most powerful tools of engagement and resistance at our disposal is memory. Remember who you are as one of Christ’s followers, remember what God has done, and that the spirit continues to move among us.

On the first Sunday of the month, Assembly takes a second offering for payments the congregation makes in the spirit of reparations on the debt owed to black and indigenous peoples, for the immeasurable harm of white supremacy. We make these payments to help us become more of who we are created to be, a community of repentance and repair.

In their book, *Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair*, Duke Kwon and Gregory Thompson describe white supremacy as a kind of theft: a theft of wealth, truth, and power. The biblical response called for from those who participate in or benefit from this theft is repentance and repair.

Assembly has made a commitment to work at reparations and repairs. The way we do it isn’t the same as the way Columbus Mennonite, Eighth Street, or Shalom Community works at. There is no one right way, but we are committed to the necessity to responding beyond just reading and lamenting about our history. The church is the only institution claiming to be in the business of salvation and restitution. The white church has largely shrunk back but it is never too late to do what is right. Karl encouraged congregations to consider whether reparations and repentance might be their way of being the church in these troubled times. Check with other CDC congregations: Assembly, Columbus, Eighth Street, or Shalom Community to learn more about details of how they go about it.

Introductions: Joel Miller (Columbus) introduced the following:

Resolutions Committee: Jeff Boehr (Lima), Kiva Nice-Webb (Chicago Community), Rich Preheim (Hively Ave). Joel noted that a guide for developing resolutions is on p125 of the report book.

Listening Committee: Michael Crosby (First Urbana), Anna Yoder Schlabach (Assembly), Robin Walton (Columbus)

Parliamentarian: Gerald Mast

Review of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes: Christine Guth (Eighth Street) summarized the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting. *A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting as written.* Steve Hartman Keiser (Milwaukee), David Moser (Southside Fellowship)

Treasurer's Report/Presentation of 2025-2026 Proposed Spending Plan:

Year-end Report: Tim Lind (Florence Church of the Brethren Mennonite reported that income exceeded expenses for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Doug Luginbill (First Bluffton) reported that the Tending Transformation campaign met its goal.

Proposed Spending Plan: The proposed spending plan for 2025-2026 will increase by about 10% over last year’s plan. Most of the increase is due to personnel costs and incorporating the expense of the Associate Conference minister into the general budget. The remaining funds in the Tending Transformation campaign for the associate conference minister will be depleted in a couple of months and then payment will come out of the spending plan. Tending Transformation funds designated for Leadership Development, Missional Church Committee and the Emerging Communities of Faith will not be replenished through the spending plan.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, Tim Lind moved to accept the proposed 2025-2026 spending plan. The affirmation vote by delegates will be taken on Saturday, June 21.

Presentation of Gifts Discernment Committee and Slate: Chuck Gibson (First Urbana) introduced members of the committee: Laura Brenneman-Fullwood (First Urbana), Janeen Bertsche Johnson (Eighth Street), George Lehman (First Bluffton), David Moser (Southside), and Rebecca Rich (Chapel Hill). He directed delegates to p47 of the report book and named the nominees for 2025-2026:

**Board of Directors:* Clayton Gladish (Silverwood), secretary; Steve Jolley (Chapel Hill), treasurer; and Karla Minter (Open Table), president-elect

**Ministerial Committee:* Kevin Chupp (Mennonite Church of Normal) and Ruth Guengerich (Eighth Street)

**Missional Church Committee:* Krista Showalter Ehst (Shalom Mennonite Congregation) and César Moya (Emmanuel)

**Camp Friedenswald Board:* Steve Hartman Keiser (Milwaukee), Brent Miller (Columbus), and Sibonokuhle Ncube (Eighth Street)

A motion was made and seconded to affirm the 2025-2026 slate of nominees. Ardean Friesen (Silverwood), Jaimie Houghton-Thompson (Maplewood)

Commissioning Prayer: Doug Luginbill (First Bluffton) thanked all new incoming and ongoing committee and board members for their willingness to share their gifts, experience, time and energy to the work of Central District Conference. He led in prayer.

Break

Song/Centering: Janeen Bertsche Johnson (Eighth Street) led in singing VT #113 *Cantai ao Senhor (O Sing to the Lord)*. Jeff Boehr (Lima) led delegates in a centering exercise and read adapted lyrics from Joseph Johnson.

Camp Friedenswald Report: Jenna Liechty Martin (Eighth Street)

Exactly 100 years ago, youth gathered at Bluffton University (BU), marking a pivotal moment for our community. Twenty-five years after that initial gathering, the vision for youth engagement culminated in the founding of Camp Friedenswald (CF). These milestones serve as important reminders of our enduring commitment to creating intentional spaces for discernment and growth.

Throughout our history, we have reflected on what elements we borrow from broader culture and how camp can be a place for spiritual discernment. Today, this tradition continues as campers are invited to disconnect from technology—leaving their phones behind—and fully immerse themselves in communal living. Staff and campers share meals, living quarters, and meaningful experiences, fostering a deep sense of belonging. As early as 1950, leaders recognized the need for dedicated spaces for youth, with one quote noting, “We realized we needed a place for youth.”

Linking this historical realization to our present, the camp’s current theme, “Wisdom of Trees,” encourages campers to find a tree and spend ten minutes in quiet reflection. This practice is a direct continuation of our commitment to discernment and personal growth. Campers have shared how these moments have impacted them; as one camper expressed, “Spending time with my tree helped me feel calm and connected to nature in a way I never had before.” Such reflections underscore the real and lasting impact that Camp Friedenswald continues to have on all who participate.

The importance of providing a space for youth remains just as vital today as it was a century ago. In addition to our summer camp programming, we continue to serve school-age children through outdoor

education opportunities. We also recognize and honor that we are not the first people to inhabit this land, as marked by a commemorative marker. Recent campaigns have enabled much-needed updates to our facilities, ensuring that camp remains a welcoming and supportive environment for generations to come.

On behalf of Camp Friedenswald, we extend sincere gratitude for your ongoing support, which allows us to honor our history and invest in the future of our community.

Presentation of Knoxville Mennonite Church and Peace Mennonite Fellowship for membership: Matt Pritchard (The Intention Church) introduced representatives from Knoxville Mennonite Church, Knoxville, Tennessee and Peace Mennonite Fellowship, Archbold, Ohio. The congregations are in the membership process to join Central District as member congregations. Conference congregations are encouraged to get to know and welcome Knoxville and Peace over the next year. A vote to affirm Knoxville and Peace as member congregations of CDC will be taken at the 2026 annual meeting.

Rachel Frantz, representative of Knoxville Mennonite Church, brought greetings from the congregation. She noted that the congregation was formerly affiliated with Virginia Mennonite Conference. During their discernment process to find a conference, they found that CDC was a good fit for their congregation. The focus of the congregation currently is to expand the children's program. There is a large group of teachers in the congregation.

Denton Yoder, representative from Peace Mennonite Fellowship, shared the congregation has been meeting for about two years. During that time, they have been trying to find a place to meet, choosing a conference, finding a place to build a church, and establishing a new structure. They are meeting with a resource person to process what they want and don't want in their structure. He asked for prayer as they continue to figure out their new structure. The congregation is still working through some trust issues. Denton asked for prayer as they continue to work on the trust issues. The congregation is trying to listen for God's guidance in determining the right thing to do.

Update on First Mennonite Chicago: Doug Luginbill (First Bluffton) shared a brief history of First Mennonite Chicago. The congregation has not met in its building since Covid. The congregation has dwindled to 6-8 people, and the building is in disrepair. Alfreda Burke has contacted a realtor and is exploring options for getting rid of the building. The best scenario would be for a non-profit to take ownership and serve the community.

Release of Agora Christian Fellowship (ACF): Doug Luginbill (First Bluffton) shared a brief history of Agora Christian Fellowship's vision for ministry in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Columbus, Ohio. Since its beginning in the 1990's, the ministry has grown into a thriving non-profit ministry to children known as Agora Ministries. Agora Mennonite Fellowship meets as a small group for worship. In March 2022, Agora Christian Fellowship became a member of Evana Network. Central District Conference sent a letter of release to the congregation. Doug led in prayer.

Abuse Prevention and Response in Mennonite Church USA: Michael Danner, Associate Executive Director for Church Vitality and Engagement, shared a PowerPoint presentation about the [Abuse Prevention and Response in Mennonite Church USA](#) document that will be presented to delegates for action at the 2025 MC USA Convention in July 2025. Delegates discussed and provided feedback on the document.

Introduction of Guests: Doug Luginbill (First Bluffton) welcomed and introduced guests and representatives from Mennonite Church USA executive leadership and its agencies, Mennonite schools, and from other organizations related to the conference.

Lunch

Delegate Session II

Song/Centering: Janeen Bertsche Johnson (Eighth Street) led in singing VT #209 *We Dream of a Turning*. Jeff Boehr (Lima) led delegates in a centering exercise and shared words of Joseph Arencio of the Dakota people.

Conference Minister Evaluation: Jan Lugibihl (Chicago Community) introduced members of the task group who facilitated the evaluation process along with her: Brian Bolton, Ministerial Committee (Shalom Mennonite Congregation), Lydia Brenneman, Board of Directors (Lima), Elizabeth Kelly, Missional Church Committee (First Bluffton). She drew delegates attention to p59 of the report book. Respondents to the evaluation express overwhelming support for Doug. Jan read some highlights from the evaluation responses.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Jan Lugibihl (Chicago Community) moved to extend a new three-year term for the conference minister, Doug Luginbill. Joel Miller (Columbus) seconded the motion. Delegates affirmed the motion.

WORSHIP II: Marbeck Center

Theme: Wisdom from our Churches Today

Storytelling: Each participant was invited to bring a symbolic object that represents something the Spirit has been doing among his/her congregation the past year.

Offering: Central District Conference

Communion

Break

Delegate Session III: Seminars

*Swiss Historical Society and Schumacher Homestead facilitated by Doug Luginbill (First Bluffton)

*Wild Church led by Janeen Bertsche Johnson (Eighth Street), James Rissler (Atlanta), Brian Sauder (Chicago Community), Sarah Werner (Columbus)

*Hymnsing: Anabaptist singing through the years led by Adam Tice (Faith) and Katie Graber (Columbus)

Dinner

Free Time

Saturday, June 21

WORSHIP III: Yoder Recital Hall

Theme: Wisdom for the Future Church

Speaker: Melissa Florer-Bixler

Break/BU Alumni Get Together

Delegate Session IV

Song/Centering: Janeen Bertsche Johnson (Eighth Street) led in singing VT #297 *You are Salt for the Earth*. Jeff Boehr (Lima) led delegates in a centering silence.

Congregational Story: Joel Miller (Columbus)

About six years ago, the leadership team at Columbus began discussing the idea that as an extension of the congregation's anti-racism commitments, they pass on a portion of their budget to indigenous and black organizations. The idea was confirmed by the congregation. After discussion and discernment, the congregation decided to call this reparative debt payments. They wanted to be as contextual as possible. They began by deciding how much they would owe per year in property taxes on their building were they not exempt (~\$20,000). They decided to include that much to their budget over four years adding \$5000 each year. Rather than include it in the mission portion of the budget, it was included as a facilities expense. Every year they distribute and release these funds half to a local indigenous organization and half to a black organization. Joel shared stories of two organizations that received the funds from Columbus Mennonite. The congregation was able to achieve their goal of adding \$20,000 to the budget over four years. They have learned a lot from the experience. Further research revealed that the property taxes would actually be closer to \$40,000. Instead of adding that amount to the budget, this year they will add 4% of the annual budget for the purpose of reparative debt payments. Overall, it has been a powerful and widely held important practice. In order for the practice to continue, it will be important leadership to continue to tell the story of what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what we continue to learn in the process.

Missional Church Committee: Matt Pritchard (The Intention Church)

Matt directed attention to the Missional Church Committee report on p80 in the report book. The committee is excited about the ways your congregations are partnering with God to bring more of God's shalom to the world. In our changing world, we need new and creative ways of doing this. The committee wants to resource and partner with you as you experiment. We want to hear about the work you are doing and what you are learning. Some resources from the Missional Church Committee include the Reign of God Grant intended for two or more congregations to work together. There is also an Anti-racism Grant available for congregations to work at dismantling racism in their communities. Over the last year the Missional Church Committee granted \$36,050 to various missional initiatives throughout the conference. We also partnered with conference leadership to envision more and deeper diversity and inclusion work as a conference. That work is centered around power and how that works in and through our communities. Matt drew attention to the booklet of emerging congregation stories found in the delegate folders. This year the committee renewed \$32,000 in grants for our emerging communities that will be matched with \$18,000 from them. The emerging communities are doing incredible work in the spaces they inhabit. He encouraged delegates to read stories of the work the emerging communities are doing. More stories will be shared and can be found using the link found in the booklet.

Ministerial Committee: Gayle Gerber Koontz (Assembly)

Gayle drew attention to the Ministerial Committee report found on p79 of the report book. She introduced members of the committee: Brian Bolton (Shalom Mennonite Congregation), Kevin Chupp (Mennonite Church of Normal), Ruth Guengerich (Eighth Street), Robin Walton (Columbus), Matthew Yoder (Grace), and herself as chair. The committee has decided to require the completion of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) for all future ordination candidates and will cover the cost for doing so. Area conferences are responsible for credentialing, educating and accompanying pastors in relation to the ethical standards they have agreed to follow. The committee has spent time looking at the Prevention and Accountability Resource (PAR) document and thinking about how CDC might respond. Gayle acknowledged an anonymous donation that was given to help relieve some of the educational debt of credentialed persons within the conference.

Recognition of Pastors who have died in the past year:

Elizabeth Kelly (First Bluffton) recognized the death of Gary Martin (Faith) and read the obituary. Gary served within the conference in a number of ways, most recently on the Missional Church Committee.

Recognition of newly credentialed pastors

Gayle shared there is much movement among pastors and credentialed leaders in a year's time (see pp70-71). She recognized the following:

*Ralph Ferguson III (Trey) (The Intention Church – licensed toward recognition of his current ordination

*Lauren Satchewell (Mennonite Church of Normal)– licensed toward ordination

*Karla Minter (Open Table Mennonite Fellowship) – ordained. Karla shared a bit of her journey that led to her ordination.

Journey graduate recognition

Jewel Gingerich Longenecker (AMBS) and Doug Luginbill (First Bluffton) presented gifts to April Lo (Chicago Community) and Rachel Stolpe (Milwaukee), who completed the three-year Journey program. Doug noted there will be three new students from CDC entering the program this fall. April and Rachel shared about their time in the Journey program. They were gifted with an oil lamp, certificate of completion, and free registration to the Pastors and Leaders Conference.

Break

Janeen Bertsche Johnson (Eighth Street) led in singing VT #715 *Longing for Light*.

ACTION: 2025-2026 Spending Plan: Jan Luginbill (Chicago Community) opened the floor for discussion of the proposed 2025-2026 spending plan.

A question was raised as to whether adding a Conference Safety Liaison as recommended in the Prevention and Accountability Resource document would add to the budget. *Nothing will be added this year to the budget.*

The motion to affirm the 2025-2026 Spending Plan was affirmed unanimously.

Open Mic Joel Miller (Columbus)

**Dan Nester-Detweiler (Evanston):* Dan has also been part of Reba Place Fellowship for 25 years. He shared some wisdom from Ann, a member of a small group from Reba Place. "White people tend to sing about and concern ourselves with the goodness of God. We do this to assure ourselves that we are basically good people either by the grace of God or by the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Other people, i.e., the non-dominant culture tend to sing and concern themselves with the power and presence of God. They do this to remind themselves that God is with them even through the rough times. Many of these rough times have and continue to be caused by white people. Dan hopes we have heard and heed the call for repentance and repair from Assembly, Columbus, and other congregations.

**Mary Dyck (Mennonite Church of Normal):* Mary appreciated the PAR document. She is working on her congregation's church employment manual. Mary is not convinced that the person does not need to be a minister but could be other professional people such as a social worker who might provide good perspective as they are working on this issue.

**Chima Ozor (Ann Arbor):* Chima thanked Columbus for what the church is doing and hopes that more congregations will engage in reparations. Chima would like to see more diversity in the conference, including leadership.

**Anne Spelman (First Bluffton):* Anne Marie appreciated the childcare workers: Carrie Mast, Georgia Metz, Trusty Schumacher, and Sarah Phillips.

**Phil Martens (First Urbana):* Every year that Phil attends the annual meeting, he feels a sense of empowerment and ongoing energy. He is gratified and blessed to see more young people in leadership. He feels confident in the future of our congregations and conference. His observation is that attendance at the annual meeting is getting younger and that is encouraging. Younger people are the future of our congregations, conference, and denomination.

**Rachel Skilliter (First Bluffton)*: Rachel is a baby Mennonite, having only been a member at First Bluffton for one year. She stated it has been so beautiful to be here and see so many people who care about other people. We live in a world where we are surrounded by terrible news and terrible things. To see people from all over, not just Bluffton, with this same mission in their hearts feels very warm and she is thankful to be here.

**Lydia Brenneman (Lima)*: The Mennonite Church has always been a church for peace and justice. Lydia encouraged participants to pray for MennoPin and the new Mennonite Action group as they engage with what is happening in Gaza and Palestine.

**Janeen Bertsche Johnson (Eighth Street)*: One of the things that did not show up in Doug's review is that he is part of the first Doctor of Ministry cohort at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. James Rissler, Charles Buller, and herself from Central District are in the first cohort. Janeen encouraged those who have been in ministry for several years to consider joining the program.

**Doug Luginhill (First Bluffton)*: Doug shared that his dissertation in the DMin program is focused on what it means to be a wise leader. He is studying Sophia, biblical wisdom from the Hebrew Bible, the Apocrypha, and Christian scriptures to see if we can have a fuller understanding of what wise leadership means and how that can enhance what God is doing in the world.

Listening Committee Report [Michael Crosby, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Robin Walton] We heard a lot, and we divided our report into three threads that we noticed over the weekend.

- **Thread: Discerning wisdom from within and without**
 - The first thread is the work of discerning wisdom – wisdom from within, and wisdom from without.
 - At our opening worship on Thursday night, Perry Bush reminded us that being an Anabaptist is, and always has been, the work of spiritual discernment. He asked us what walls enforce our identity, and what walls come down – by choice or by force of culture?
 - He pointed at our “ugly failures” of cultural accommodation: to the false wisdom of racism, patriarchy, and homophobia, and highlighted how profoundly we’ve been shaped by an identity grounded in God’s peace and justice, and in serving each other and the world.
 - Stories from Assembly and Columbus Mennonite reminded us of the twin tasks of right remembering and coming restoration: telling the truth about a society that is organized around White Supremacy and taking prophetic action to return stolen wages and stolen land.
 - We reflected on the need for wisdom in organizational leadership. MC USA’s Prevention and Accountability Resource sets a new tone for how we exercise our collective power, and how we hold each other accountable to it. This is important work that helps “to create an ecosystem where it is less likely that abuse will happen” Few of us may read those 86 pages, but we all benefit from a denomination that is trying to do better in instances of pastoral misconduct and abuse.
 - We were reminded that our best wisdom comes both from within and without. It comes from within us and within an Anabaptist tradition that is both half a millennium old yet still “new every morning.”
 - And it comes from without – from beautiful mashups of faith and cultural expression like the Mennonite Women’s musical last night.
 - And from Camp Friedenswald and a Wild Church gathering at the Bluffton Nature Preserve inviting us to set aside our phones and listen to the sacred wisdom of the trees.
 - And as we heard on Thursday night, sometimes a Leonard Cohen song about sex can be the best teacher of our spiritual calling as followers of Jesus.

- **Thread: gratitude**

- For Story. Our session began with a story of our 16th century radicals who set the tone for our movement.
- For financial generosity, the success of the Tending Transformation and Friedenswald Capital Campaigns.
- For hearing the stories of congregations that have dreamed of finding a home in CDC: Knoxville, Peace Mennonite and engaging with other emerging congregations.
- For new pathways to ministry, like the Journey Program and the stories of call we have celebrated.
- For Doug, who is a steady, patient, accessible, thoughtful, faithful, and skilled leader.
- For a word cloud sermon that emerges from the priesthood of all believers and many shared values.
- For the hospitality of Bluffton University, and the leadership of several congregations: Grace, First Mennonite, Lima, Jubilee, Cincinnati, and Peace who led worship. Carrie Mast and Georgia Metz who tended to the fun and care of the 13 kids who were present, who scavenged things from the displays, went treasure hunting, created murals and learned prayer practices.
- For Emma, who does all the work to build this event and make sure that it runs smoothly and in general keeps CDC in order. And for Sarah, our master communicator who has captured our moments in photographs and will represent this gathering well for the rest of CDC in the Connector.

- **Thread: Grounded in a Christ centered community**

- We were appreciative of the regular Centering practices led by Jeff Boehr “which grounded our work and worship in the presence of the fullness of God with us and in us.” In a weekend that is full of words, these practices gave us spaces to be aware of the spirit moving in us and all around us. As well as the musicians and music leaders who helped us to sing our theology and enter into times of worship.
- Not the spiciest conference but we are comfortable with each other and happy to be around each other. Around 145 of us gathered. And all 145 had edits to the bios in the Slate that we joyfully and unanimously approved. Thank you to those of you who said yes to those positions.
- At an informal gathering at Phil’s house, pastors watched the sun set and the fireflies come out. This conference has pastors who genuinely enjoy being together even when they don’t have to.
- From Melissa we heard that the church’s prophetic task is to tell the truth about the world: to stand against war, greed, resolution copper, genocide. May we be empowered in this work and encourage each other. And we place our trust in the one who does not abandon us and pour out life-giving spirit on us all.
- When we come together, we are strengthened to go back to our congregations, dreaming new dreams of tacos, peace, those delicious Bluffton monster cookies, and this broader community of faith that carries on the work of our Anabaptist ancestors, discerning together the future we create together.

Closing: Doug Luginbill (First Bluffton) closed by reading a reflection “Upside-Down Kingdom” from *Drawing Near: A Devotional Journey with Art, Poetry, and Reflection*, John D Roth, ed. He invited participants to reflect on The Upside-Down Kingdom image done by Dona Park in the Anabaptist Community Bible Art Collection found in *Drawing Near*. Doug closed the meditation by reading the poem, “When” by Joseph Gascho.

Joel Miller (Columbus) invited delegates to complete the evaluation forms and to share suggestions for committee nominations on the form found in the delegate packets.

Jan Lugibihl (Chicago Community) thanked staff of Bluffton University, Mark Bourassa for his behind the scenes work in hosting the delegates, and Merv Schrock for his help with the technical details. She thanked Phil Martens (First Urbana) for his help with running Zoom.

Jan ended the delegate sessions with the sounding of the gavel.

Janeen Bertsche Johnson (Eighth Street) led in singing VT #202 *Peace, Be Still*.

Emma Hartman

Recorder