



Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

Centered in Christ, Building Connections, Sharing God's Love

Above: Youth enjoying ACC's youth retreat last fall with Glen Guyton, CEO of Mennonite Church USA as speaker.

HIGHLIGHTS



1 Youth Retreat



2 The Khilos from Syria



3 ACC Mennonite Women



6 Comforters at Blossom Hill



Annual ACC Youth Retreat

Glen Guyton let us in an inspiring weekend.

Instead of fellowshipping around a potluck meal, Atlantic Coast Conference's youth stood around a fire and roasted marshmallows, while exchanging embarrassing stories and catching up with old friends.

The annual ACC youth retreat took place on the weekend of September 18, 2015, at Refreshing Mountain Retreat and Adventure Center where youth had the opportunity to play Ultimate Frisbee, attempt the high ropes course, and mingle with other youth groups. There were eight different churches represented at the retreat.

Glen Guyton, Chief Operating Officer of Mennonite Church USA, was the weekend's featured speaker. His message, "Becoming Me," focused on "finding your IDEAL self in a cluttered world." Guyton used the acronym "IDEAL" as a helpful reminder of his main message (I am; I Decide; I Evolve; I Adapt; I Let go).

Throughout Guyton's three sessions, the youth had an opportunity to answer tough questions such as "Why was I created? What am I supposed to do with my life? and How can I achieve my dreams?" The youth were equipped with packets where they could

reflect and continue learning more of who they were meant to be.

"Glen really made me think about what my purpose really is," said Sophia Martin, high school senior and member at Community Mennonite Church. This was Martin's first time at the ACC youth retreat. "I had a great time hanging out with the other youth groups; I wish I would have come to earlier retreats."

Music was provided by a group from Forest Hills Mennonite. We sang not only hymns, but also contemporary worship music that was sung and performed at Mennonite Church USA

Convention last summer.

Other weekend activities included a variety of tournaments, a coffee house where we teens could show off our talents, and of course, the annual youth leaders versus youth Ultimate Frisbee game.

Atlantic Coast Conference's next youth retreat will take place in 2016 on September 16-18 again at Refreshing Mountains Retreat and Adventure Center.

~ Abby King, Ridgeview Mennonite and senior at Lancaster Mennonite School

**I am
i Decide
i Evolve
i Adapt
i Let go**

Currents

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ACC Moderator's Reflections

John Denlinger,
ACC Moderator

And the angel of the Lord said ... "Fear not for behold I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all people: Unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior who is Christ the Lord! And this shall be a sign..."

As we begin this New Year, what and where are the "signs" that bring us **good news of great joy** which shall be for "ALL PEOPLE?"

We as followers of Jesus are signs to the world! We are called more than ever to be living signs that "Fear Not" and bring "great joy," of life, light, and love, for the world to see. Jesus said we are to be known by our love. We are called to be the "cup of water, the sweet smelling fragrance, the salt, the light, the bread, the peacemaker and more." We are strangers and aliens. We are not of this world; even though we are in the world this world is not our home.

Bringing Good News to the Khilo Family

Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pa., is helping to resettle a Kurdish refugee family from Syria. Working with Church World Service, Forest Hills has secured housing, clothing, and household items, for the two parents and five children of the Khilo family who fled Syria in 2012 when the Assad government destroyed their village. They lived in Istanbul, Turkey, until arriving in the U.S. this year.

A refugee support team at Forest Hills has been helping the children—Ahmad, Hevin, Ameneh, Fekrat, and Mohammad—who range in age from nine to 18, to register in the local public schools, as well assist the family in taking English classes, and cultural orientation. The parents, Salah and Khalideh Abdulrahma, have begun seeking work.

The refugee support team grew out of Forest Hills' winter Bible school on the topic of

Unfortunately we live in a time when social media influences and informs our thoughts in a way that is not Christ like. So as followers of Jesus ... "we must not forsake our gathering together as some are in the habit of doing, but we need to gather to encourage one another for such a time as this." (Hebrews 10:25)

We must gather together to be transformed by the living, spoken, and written Word of God, so that we can "stand against" the influences of the social media of the world. We must be the voice "crying in the wilderness" that speaks out against racism, militarism, consumerism, individualism, nationalism, etc., and welcome the stranger, the widow, the poor, the estranged in our communities across the street and around the world. What a better time to begin than this New Year!

God is calling and inviting us as ACC congregations to be *signs of great joy which shall be for all people!* Together we can! Come will of God, be done will of God!

**CENTERED IN CHRIST
BUILDING CONNECTIONS
SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

- John Denlinger, ACC Moderator,
Ridgeview Mennonite Church



immigration, when members felt called to take action by helping refugees flee poverty and violence and settle in the U.S. Partnering with Church World Service in Lancaster, the team began praying and preparing to welcome a refugee family to the area.

Earlier in the autumn, Forest Hills actually prepared to welcome another Syrian family, but while that family was being screened and awaiting placement, a family member gave birth, and the new baby, incredible as it may sound, had to go through a screening process of its own. In the meantime, the family's documents expired, and . . .
(continued on page 8)

“Give Him Glory, No Matter What”

Be joyful no matter what. Give praise to God—no matter what. Minister about Jesus because He truly brings comfort.

These were the main themes at the beautiful ACC Mennonite Women’s dinner the night before the 2015 ACC Fall Assembly at Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster.

“The people are very friendly here. There’s such an attitude of getting acquainted that I enjoy,” said Erica Shirk, of Leola, Pa., the mother of my minister Sylvia Shirk, from Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship. This was my first time for me as a MMF delegate.

We were spellbound with our spiritually-nourishing banquet speaker—Rhonda Stoltzfus who spoke boldly and proudly.

“I come to you a woman saved by grace and a ‘Daughter of the King.’ My story is not easy to hear . . .”

Her enthusiastic and dramatic experience with God was definitely not the ‘get in’ and ‘get out’ kind. She engaged us with her fascinating life story, describing how her life changed in 1993 when she experienced the Holy Spirit flowing through her. After that so much more happened. Now this Pennsylvania farm woman of Atglen, Pa., is exuberant, having lived through so much.

She talked of her struggles with rheumatoid arthritis, the pain, the troubles with her hands, her walking, how it interfered with her love of active sports such as baseball and farm chores. “That was the most lonely time of my life.”

Doctors decided at one point her illness was fibromyalgia, but the spasms and cramps got worse and even made her sleep-deprived. She turned to praise music and got down on her knees crying out to God. “I can’t function like this . . . what am I to do?!”

She distinctly heard God say, “It was the only way I could get you on your knees.”

This realization woke up Stoltzfus. She learned so much from being at her low point crying out, even though the fear and loneliness

Speaker Rhonda Stoltzfus (left) with writer, Carla Marie Rupp (right).



was incredible. “I just got hit on the head by a 2x4 . . . it was an incredible journey the next couple of years . . . I had a lot of ‘baggage’ to get rid of. I was a slave to it. I needed time to go from pauper to royalty. It took me on my knees to come to confession.”

In 2014, Stoltzfus found God to tell her to “let go” when she was having worse pain and a bulging disc. “I kept my pain very quiet. I kept my mask on during church and lived in isolation and fear, something that is the enemy’s ploy. I wanted to praise my Savior more than my pain.”

However, one weekend a group of women met and revealed their hurts. “My being vulnerable led to women praying together. We ladies were compelled to drink deeply from the Living Water, not just sip.”

In her case, “pain named itself. I felt my pain rush out from head to feet. I have never felt the love of God rush through me as that day. The washing of the Holy Spirit through me was incredible with 15-20 people around me. Lives were changed that day.”

“Everything changes when you allow God to use you and you obey and declare yourself against the pain.” She learned this and now has no more fibromyalgia, no more tumor, and no more bulging disc!

“Last year I didn’t know where I was going to go from here and all the pain.” This past summer she amazingly played softball. “I’m healed, but it’s not the end of the journey.”

Letting go of bitterness and unforgiveness is so important. Repentance and restoration is needed to be have a pure heart.” We cannot live with a “spirit of fear” (II Timothy) as a Daughter of the King!”

~ Carla Marie Rupp, Manhattan Mennonite

ACC
LADIES
MEET

“If the Lord is fluttering your heart, deal with it.”

“Women, we are in the middle of a crisis. Can we claim Jeremiah 29:12 that when you call upon God, God will listen? We need to call out, to see Him, and to pray to find that ‘fresh, flowing river of God.’ Yes, it is a journey!”

Try this on a Sunday Morning—You'll Like it!

When getting ready to go to church on a Sunday morning, it is not enough to comb your hair, brush your teeth, grab a Bible, and be on your way.

To be a really good church member/attender, why not additionally identify in your mind a compliment or a word of encouragement that you want to direct to someone known to be walking through a dark valley?

In making your selection, don't overlook the youth. They too carry some heavy burdens and are in need of intergenerational support.

This simple practice is what brotherhood/sisterhood is all about. In fact, it binds the membership together and breaks down barriers that quite often evolve so easily.

Best of all, the blessing will also accrue to you. *It is in this kind of giving that we also receive.* It leaves us feeling genuinely good, precisely because it is good.

Try it—you'll like it. And your church will be the better for it.

~ Edgar Stoesz,
Akron Mennonite



New ACC leaders installed this past year in prayer at the ACC Fall Assembly after they received a towel of blessing. Left to right: Conference Minister Warren Tyson, Jane Peifer leading in prayer, Michael Howes (Akron), Hunter Hess (Neffsville), Michelle Dula (Blossom Hill), Wes Boyer (Crossway), Mindy Nolt (Blossom Hill), Rebecca Mosley (North Baltimore), Leslie Homer-Cattell (Hopewell Reading, Living Branches Retirement Community), and Joyce Martin (Philhaven). Credit: Dean Smith.

ACC Leadership Transitions

Leadership Beginnings:

Virginia "Ginny" Hartman was approved for a license toward ordination credential as chaplain with Pleasant View Retirement Community in Manheim, licensing date December 27, 2015. She is a member of Akron Mennonite Church.

Joyce Martin (Wilmer) was approved for ordination as chaplain with Philhaven, ordination service date yet to be decided. She is a member of Zion Mennonite Church.

Cindy Petersheim (Robert) was approved to fill the volunteer staff position of Conference Related Ministries Council Coordinator. Cindy is a member of Conestoga Mennonite Church.

Merv Stoltzfus (Jan) was approved to fill the Executive Conference Minister of ACC. Merv has been Conference and Youth Minister with ACC since 1991. He is a member at Ridgeview Mennonite Church.

Leadership Endings:

Becky Hess (Jack) resigned her role as ACC representative on the Eastern Mennonite Missions board in order to pursue employment with EMM.

Warren Tyson (Linda) retired from his role as Executive Conference Minister of ACC, where he served for 17 years. Warren is a member of Forest Hills Mennonite Church

~ by Brook Musselman, Conference Coordinator

“Searching for Signs” was theme at ACC’s Fall Assembly

ACC ASSEMBLY



Becky Hess praying a blessing on Jill and Sam Waters and Sam Wanjau whose organizations were recipients of ACC’s Nickels for Neighbors.

ACC represents a wide spectrum of racial, cultural, and theological diversity. Congregational delegates (both lay and credentialed) are appointed and gather together twice each year for fellowship, worship, and discernment about our common mission.

Our commitment to Anabaptist Christianity centers us on the person of Christ, the counsel of Scripture and the interpretive framework of the 1995 *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.

As part of Mennonite Church USA, we are committed to living into our common Vision for Healing and Hope: “God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God’s healing and hope flow through us to the world.”



John Denlinger and Pastor Hunter Hess at Neffsville welcome delegates.



Visiting with each other is always special at Assemblies.



Photo Credits:
Dean Smith and
Lois Ann Mast



Brook Musselman and Jane Peifer posting delegates’ comments.



Warren and Linda Tyson enjoying our time of blessing his ministry of 17 years with ACC.



Ruhama Abebe from the Hiwet Legata Worship Team and friends who led us in our morning worship.



Table work involves discussion, listening to each other, and discernment.

NEWS & NOTES

News, notes, and announcements may be sent to Currents editor: currents@atlanticcoastconference.net



An Associate Pastor of Community Life to support the Pastoral Leadership Team (32-40 hours) is available at Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pa. The role includes providing oversight and direction for the Sunday School leaders and serves as the community outreach person for the church. Interested candidates should uphold Christ-centered Anabaptist theology. Send cover letter and resume to Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Attn; Search Committee, 100 Quarry Rd., Leola, PA. 17540, or email to fhmc@foresthillchurch.org.

Mennonite Church USA Convention is scheduled for July 4-8, 2017, in Orlando, Florida, with the theme *Love is a Verb*. The convention planning team is hard at work, collaborating with leaders and church members all across the

country, to help ensure that Orlando 2017 is a meaningful and important event for all ages.

A New Way to Go: GO! Summer is an eight-week missions exposure program for adults (ages 18+). Participate in a week of discipleship training before heading to an outreach location for six weeks. Then finish with a week of re-entry training to process your experience and help you put down roots for a continued deeper life with Jesus. To learn more about these opportunities, visit emm.org/opps/gosummer or contact Sherrie Ober at 717 898-2251, ext. 269.

College scholarships are given by Everence every year. Apply by February 29, 2016, for the 2016 scholarships if your family uses any Everence faith-based services: everence.com/scholarships.



Comfort

“It was very moving to look around our worship space and see the variety of faces adding their knots of hope—a fitting way to begin the Advent season.”

~ Michelle Dula

On the first Sunday of Advent, an unusual sight could be seen in Blossom Hill Mennonite’s worship space. Inserted in three corners of the worship space, were three comforters waiting to be knotted. Throughout our morning worship, people young and old, gathered around the comforters to add their knots. The idea was given by member, Elizabeth Landis. Elizabeth, who is the middle school principal at Lancaster Mennonite Middle School (LMMS), knew how transformative knotting comforters was for the middle school students at LMMS. Here was a way to actively and directly contribute to caring for those who suffer, during our time of worship. Ruth Rudy, another member of our congregation who volunteers

at the MCC Material Resource Center, was a great help in getting us organized and supplying the necessary comforters and supplies. Each comforter station had an “expert” on hand to help new knotters. To introduce the idea, five of our LMMS students read the following reflection that Ruth Rudy wrote, to denote the trail of these comforters:

The comforter is just that COMFORT. In refugee areas, it is used in many ways: as a mattress on cold, hard, stony ground, as a door to keep out the cold, or as a blanket. Imagine leaving everything behind, fleeing for your life with nothing, then receiving one of these colorful, warm, fuzzies with so much time to spend in your camp to study the colorful patches, making up games, or finding animal patches that remind you of the pet you left behind. These comforters are often used until they are shreds because they lack washing facilities. No two comforters are alike, each a unique one-of-a-kind fabric, design, and texture. As you knot, observe these different patterns, textures, and designs and know that you will make someone very grateful for the warm love and prayers you invested in the name of Christ in each knot.”

~ Michelle Dula, Blossom Hill



God Always Provides the Light to See You Through

*Sandra Pérez
at age 26 in 1970.*

Sandra Pérez, a member of Manhattan (New York) Mennonite Fellowship, serves on the New York City oversight ministry team for ACC and on the steering committee for the Women in Leadership Project of Mennonite Church USA. She works and serves across cultures, equipping leaders with resources to build relationships across the church.

Sandra's mother brought her to New York City when she was just eight months old. Her father had been killed in a car accident in Puerto Rico just months before. Her mother married a merchant seaman (an alcoholic) who was at sea for months at a time. Sandra was one of 10 children. "I didn't experience much kindness at home," Sandra says.

Sandra describes herself as a social child—optimistic. She shares a story about a social worker who worked with families in their neighborhood. Sandra could speak both English and Spanish, so the social worker enlisted her help. Before he made his visits, he would stop by and pick her up, and she would translate for him as he worked with families in her neighborhood. "People admired and respected me for this job," she says with a laugh. "I was maybe nine years old."

"By the time I was 22, I had four children," she says. "I was thankful for my husband because I was able to stay home with my children when they were small. He was a provider. But he was also an alcoholic."

Eventually, Sandra became a member of the board at the daycare center her children attended. "At that point, my life took a different direction," she says. "I started getting jobs," she reflects, "I worked with the board of elections and with city government. I ran for political office." Eventually, Sandra would work for the New York City mayor's office.

"I have always tried to help women, to mentor them and raise up leaders," she says. It was, in fact, her passion for women's issues that led her to the Mennonite Church. A long-time friend invited Sandra to a celebration of Women's History Month at a Latina Mennonite Women's Fellowship. At the celebration, there was a dynamic presenter who, at the end of her sermon, made an altar call. "She invited me to come to the feet of God," Sandra says. "At that point, I knew that God was calling me. I wanted to see where God would lead me."

Sandra was baptized soon after that and eventually heard that Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) was opening an immigration office in NYC. Sandra worked with MCC's Immigration Office from 1998 to 2002, and then again from 2006 to 2010, when she retired.

"I felt that this was my calling because it fit everything I felt in my heart that God wanted for me to do. Everything just seemed to be the right fit. The people I came in contact with were so loving—not judgmental."

"In retrospect," she says, "I think that the common thread among all my life experiences is that every problem has a solution and that you will find the answer to every problem if you look to Christ. God always provides the light to see you through."

~ Jenny Castro, MCUSA

*It was,
in fact,
her
passion
for
women's
issues that
led her
to the
Mennonite
Church.*



*Sandra Pérez,
above center,
with Dave and
Ruth Wenger,
2011.*

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Good news of great joy
which shall be for
"ALL PEOPLE"



Bringing Good News

(continued from page 2) . . . their screening process had to start all over.

But then the Khilos were cleared for entry into the U.S., and on November 3, members of the Forest Hills refugee team, along with Church World Service representatives, picked up the family at Lancaster Airport and escorted them to their new home in Lancaster city.

Since then, Forest Hills members have welcomed the Khilos into their own homes for meals and times of fellowship and fun. Recently, the Khilos played a rousing Sunday afternoon game of soccer at the home of a Forest Hills family. The Khilos also celebrated Thanksgiving at another member's home.

The Khilos met the congregation and attended worship on November 15, followed by a truly American lunch of pizza and soda. The church also sang "Happy Birthday" to Mohammad, who turned 15 that day, and presented him with presents and a cake. Then in December, Forest Hills prepared to celebrate Christmas with the Khilos. The church set up a Christmas tree in the lobby with tags for presents for each family member. ~ Michael Degan, Forest Hills



Jason Spicher:
ACC is praying
for you!

Jason Spicher, Community Mennonite, is serving a one-year term of Mennonite Voluntary Service in Alamosa, Colorado, as health associate with Alamosa County Public Health Department. A 2015 graduate of Eastern Mennonite University, Spicher is the son of Carol and James Spicher of Mountville, Pa. Rooted in the Spirit of Jesus, MVS invites adults, ages 20+, to join together in Christian ministry for one- to three-year terms, living in intentional community, and working in a wide range of fields under Mennonite Mission Network, the mission agency of Mennonite Church USA.

March 12, 2016
Stewardship University
at Lancaster Mennonite School
717-394-0469; lynette.morales@everence.com

April 16, 2016
ACC Spring Assembly
Frazer Mennonite Church, Frazer, Pa.
Anyone who would like to join in on the planning, contact Brook Musselman at 717-394-8107; atlanticcoastconference@gmail.com

\$\$\$ CURRENCY CORNER \$\$\$

As of October 31, 2015, our expenses have exceeded our income by \$14,403 for the fiscal year July 1, 2015-October 31, 2015. Fortunately we have sufficient reserves to cover our expenses, but our reserve balance at the end of October was dangerously low at \$15,967. Considering our annual expense budget is \$289,000, this means our reserve balance will cover less than one month's expenses. Our goal as executive committee was to have adequate reserves to cover three to six months of expenses. Congregations, individuals, conference related ministries, supporters of ACC, would you please consider making an extra contribution to ACC so we can continue to meet our financial obligations?

Thank you in advance for your faithful support.

- Ken Martin, ACC Treasurer
Forest Hills Mennonite

EVENTS & MORE

Dates
for our
calendar

Cross-Cultural Working Community

Camp Deerpark has always existed between two worlds: historically, our leadership, workforce, and volunteer base come from rural-oriented Mennonite cultures, but the people who use the camp for ministry and retreat come from the multi-ethnic urban cultures of New York City. Camp Deerpark is a “third-place” mercy-space that is neither urban nor completely rural. Camp is outside both the entanglements of home and neighborhood and the pressures of the work world.



While this provides an excellent opportunity for people to experience God and grow, it also creates problems unique to the two worlds joined together by Camp. Volunteers often lack the cross-cultural and ministry skills needed to collaborate with the urbanites who come to Camp. Urban church members tend to see Camp Deerpark as a place they visit—a place to consume—and not as a place they own and where they can make a vital contribution.

Up to this point, the capital campaign project has largely followed the pattern above: non-urban Mennonites give money and volunteer to build the project and urbanites visit the new facilities as users.

As our development project, Promise Woods, reaches the half-way point, Camp has a unique opportunity to build cross-cultural skills for staff and volunteers and to increase ownership among our users by designing a more collaborative and cooperative working community. We desire to become a community



that both watches over the city and builds a refuge with the Lord, seeking together the peace of the Kingdom of God (Psalm 127:1-2).

We look back over the past three years and marvel at how God worked through many people to make the first four cabins in Promise Woods possible. Perhaps three years from now, we will look back and marvel at how God brought folks together from the rural and urban churches to not only build cabins, but to build a cross-cultural Christian community.

We are in the process of developing a training curriculum, but most importantly, for this vision to become a reality, we need willing volunteers.

To learn more about joining a cross-cultural work team please contact Ben Cheek by email deerparkcabins@gmail.com or cell phone at 973-710-7182.

Thank you, ACC congregations, for your participation and prayers!

~ Ken Bontrager, Executive Director



CONFERENCE
RELATED
MINISTRIES

Camp
Deerpark
Inc.

200 Brandt Road
P. O. Box 394
Westbrookville
NY 12785

845-754-8669

www.campdeerpark.org

A ministry
of the
New York City
Mennonite
churches,
founded in
1969.

Mission is to
empower youth
to serve Christ
in the city.



Germantown

Mennonite Historic Trust

Germantown Mennonite Historical Trust

6133 Germantown
Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
19144

www.meetinghouse.info

215-843-0943

Since 1952, the nonprofit Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust (GMHT) has cared for the 1770 Mennonite Meetinghouse. The site welcomes visitors to this touchstone of Mennonite faith and American history that recalls the:

- first permanent Mennonite settlement in America
- first written protest against slavery in America
- first paper mill in America
- first baptism and communion celebrated by Mennonites in America.

Through tours, exhibits, and scholarly research, we share stories of Mennonites in Germantown from 1683 through the present.

The year 2015 was a banner year for GMHT when The Meetinghouse welcomed guests from around the globe who attended Mennonite World Conference; 16 volunteers formed the Meetinghouse Guide Corps; numerous concerts and community events were hosted with hundreds of friends and neighbors; and our Candlelight Carol

Sing began Advent for 130 people! 2016 is full of possibility: a GMHT tenant is leading efforts for a Community Garden and Orchard on the property, school tours are in the works, and necessary capital improvements are scheduled to begin.

GMHT invites our partners in ACC to connect with the Germantown Mennonite story. Bring a group to visit the Meetinghouse, invite GMHT to visit your congregation, or



Director Alison Shiloh Wear recently spoke at Hopewell Mennonite Church in Reading, Pa.

connect with GMHT online at www.meetinghouse.info.

Our staff: Alison Shiloh Wear, Executive Director; Michelle Bruhn, Office Manager; and Joel Snyder, Caretaker.

Our board of directors: Ruth Arn, Drew Hart, Angela Henderson-Kulpa, Dave Hersh, Brent Hershey, Fred Kauffman, Devin Manzullo-Thomas, Ruth Marino, Lois Ann Mast, Chris Nickels, Craig Stutman, Dan Thut, and Nathan Wright. ~ Alison Wear, Executive Director



GMHT tenant, Vita Litvak, is leading efforts to organize a Community Garden on GMHT grounds.



GMHT's 13th annual Candlelight Carol Sing took place on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Featured artists included the Fleetwood Mennonite Church youth choir and Bobby Wibowo.

ACC Conference Related Ministries . . .

Black Rock Retreat
1345 Kirkwood Pike
Quarryville, PA 17566
Phone: 800-858-9299
Fax: 717-786-6022
info@blackrockretreat.com
www.blackrockretreat.com
Retreat facilities for churches and other Christian organizations, a summer camp program for youth, an outdoor education program for public & Christian schools, a challenge ropes course, and road scholar programs for seniors.

Camp Deerpark, Inc.
200 Brandt Road, P.O. Box 394
Westbrookville, NY 12785
Phone: 845-754-8669
Fax: 845-754-8217
info@campdeerpark.org
www.campdeerpark.org
A ministry of the New York City Mennonite churches, founded in 1969. Mission is to empower youth to serve Christ in the city. Summer children's camps.

Camp Hebron
957 Camp Hebron Road
Halifax, PA 17032
Phone: 800-864-7747
Fax: 717-896-3391
hebron@camphebron.org
Web site: www.camphebron.org
Changing lives since 1957, this camping and retreat ministry offers a variety of overnight camps and year-round events for all ages where people connect with God, nature, and each other.

Choice Books PA
121 S. Main Street
Manheim, PA 17545
Phone: 717-665-3933
Fax: 717-665-3059
info@pa.choicebooks.org
Web site: www.choicebooks.org

Eastern Mennonite Missions
53 West Brandt Blvd.
P.O. Box 458
Salunga, PA 17538-0458
Phone: 717-898-2251
Fax: 717-898-8092
info@emm.org
www.emm.org
Equips, sends and supports almost 200 workers in 39 countries, focusing particularly where the church is weak or nonexistent.

Friendship Community
1149 East Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543
Phone: 717-656-2466

Fax: 717-656-0459
office@friendshipcommunity.net
www.friendshipcommunity.net
A non-profit, Christian ministry serving people with developmental disabilities. Since 1972, Friendship has offered residential services, training in daily living skills, and social services.

Garden Spot Village
433 South Kinzer Avenue
New Holland, PA 17557
Phone: 717-355-6000
Fax: 717-355-6006
info@gardenspotvillage.org
www.gardenspotvillage.org
Carriage Homes, Cottages, Apartments, Assisted Living, Memory Support, Skilled Nursing Households, Adult Day Services, Garden Spot Village At Home, Center for Health.

Germantown Mennonite Historical Trust
6133 Germantown Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
gmht@meetinghouse.info
www.meetinghouse.info
Site of the first permanent settlement of Mennonites in America called "The Gateway of American Mennonitism," through which most North American Mennonites have symbolically passed.

Harmonies Music Ministry
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office@harmonies.org
www.harmonies.org
Committed to creating new Christian music resources for the church worldwide through performance, resource development, leadership training, and product creation.

Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation
2160 Lincoln Highway East #13
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717-669-2957
Kairos@on-the-journey.org
www.on-the-journey.org
Provides programs in spiritual formation and spiritual direction from September to May in weekend retreats. Other opportunities include day retreats and experiential prayer sessions in congregational settings.

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society
2215 Millstream Road
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717-393-9745
Fax: 717-393-8751
lmhs@lmhs.org
www.lmhs.org
Educates, inspires, and promotes the history, beliefs, and lifestyle of the Mennonite expression of the Anabaptist tradition. Offers educational programs and a library/archives, bookstore, and museum.

Lancaster Mennonite School (LMS)
2176 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: (717) 299-0436
Fax: (717) 509-4088
thomasjr@lancastermennonite.org
www.lancastermennonite.org
Serves over 1,500 students at:
• Hershey Campus, K-12
• Kraybill Campus, PreK-8
• Lancaster Campus, 6-12
• Locust Grove Campus, PreK-6
• New Danville Campus, PreK-5

Landis Communities
1001 E. Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543
Phones: 717-569-3271
717-581-3935
Fax: 717-569-5203
info@landishomes.org
www.landiscommunities.org
Serves aging adults and their families by honoring and enriching them in a Christ-like community. Residential living, assisted living, healthcare, rehab, adult day care services, special care for persons with memory loss, at-home care, and child day care.

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center
941 Laurelville Lane
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666
Phone: 800-839-1021
info@laurelville.org
www.laurelville.org
Conference center specializing in retreat services and innovative programming.

Mennonite Home Communities
1520 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601
Phone: 717-393-1301
Fax: 717-509-2823
mhash@mennonitehome.org
www.mennonitehome.org
A continuing care retirement community (CCRC) providing care to senior adults with a tradition of care spanning 100 years. Services include cottage and apartment residences, assisted living, health care, and rehabilitative therapies.

New Person Ministries
PO Box 223
Reading, PA 19607
Phone: 610-777-2222
info@newperson.org
www.newpersonministries.org
Helps ex-offenders build new lives and provides community reentry services.

No Longer Alone Ministries
630 Janet Ave.
Lancaster, PA 17601
Phone: 717-390-4891
office@nlam.org
Inspired by Christ's love, No Longer Alone Ministries provides professional services that build hope and empower individuals and families experiencing mental illness.

Reservoir Hill House of Peace
2401 Eutaw Place
Baltimore, MD 21217
An outreach ministry of the North Baltimore Mennonite Church that includes a Mennonite Voluntary Service unit, Asylum Seekers Housing Network, New Lens, as well as housing for residents committed to the mission of RHHP.

Tabor Community Services
308 East King Street,
PO Box 1676
Lancaster, PA 17608-1676
Phone: 717-397-5182
info@tabornet.org
www.tabor.net
Celebrating 45 years of rebuilding lives and community by teaching skills to solve housing and financial problems.

Tel Hai Retirement Community
1200 Tel Hai Circle
P.O. Box 190
Honey Brook, PA 19344
Phone: 610-273-9333
Fax: 610-273-4141
info@telhai.org
www.telhai.org
Tel Hai is a nationally accredited, nonprofit provider of services for senior adults. For over 60 years, they have provided health care, housing, and services to enhance residents' quality of life in cottage and apartment residences, personal care, Adult Day Services, health care, and rehabilitative therapies.

The City School (formerly Philadelphia Mennonite H.S.)
860 North 24th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130-1996
Phone: 215-769-5363
office@pmhsonline.org
http://cityschool.org/
Founded in 1997 for grades 9-12 interested in pursuing college.

ACC is an area conference of Mennonite Church USA with many of our 34 congregations located in southeastern Pennsylvania, but also in Massachusetts, New York, and Maryland, plus eleven associate member churches who comprise the Puerto Rico Mennonite Conference.

Formed in 1978, ACC members minister in urban, suburban, and rural contexts.



A Parting Blessing From Warren Tyson ...

The Song of Solomon reminds us that seasons are a part of life; there's a time to begin and time to end, a time to sow and time to harvest, there's a time for everything under the sun.

I entered into the role of ACC conference minister in July 1998 with much anticipation of what lay ahead. Having been an ACC pastor for ten years prior, ACC was not altogether new to me. But I knew I was entering leadership at a different level than serving as a congregational pastor. Being a conference minister meant serving the church at a different level with different responsibilities. I loved being a pastor to pastors, of listening to church leaders talk about their joys and challenges and giving them feedback from what I heard and sometimes being able to provide counsel that seemed to fit the need. I was graciously received even though sometimes I needed a translator to interpret our words of exchange in the local setting.

There have been a few bumps along the road but looking back over the 17+ years, I can honestly say there are many more pleasant memories than hard or difficult times. There were enough challenges along the way to keep me on my knees asking for God's wisdom to be imparted, that grace be multiplied, that my eyes and the eyes of other leaders be opened so that we all see the big picture of what God is up to in our midst.

Today, many parts of Mennonite Church USA are in transition as area conferences examine whether they stay connected. I often give thanks for the diversity of who ACC has been in the past and remains today. I value ACC's mission of staying Centered in Christ, Building Connections, and Sharing God's Love. May this model of being church with and toward each other serve us well for many years to come. Galatians 6:9: Be not weary in doing good for in due season you will reap a harvest if you don't give up.



Warren Tyson, Forest Hills, cleaning out his ACC office as he anticipates retirement.



H.A. Penner, Neffsville, receiving the annual ACC Peace Mug from Larry Shirk, Ridgeview.



Usher training begins early at Birch Grove Mennonite Church in Port Allegany, Pa.



Loading up the hundreds of MCC grocery bags at our ACC Fall Assembly.