



# Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

Above: Singing together in worship at the 67<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Mennonite Evangelical Churches in Puerto Rico.

## 67<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Mennonite Evangelical Churches in Puerto Rico

### HIGHLIGHTS



4 Bowery Mission



5 Engaging the homeless



7 Annual Assembly

The sun was shining, the leaves were green, and the flowers were blooming on a lovely spring day as we drove up a Puerto Rican curvy, scary, road to the 67<sup>th</sup> convention nestled in the mountains of Puerto Rico, several miles southwest of Aibonito.

Our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico comprised twelve churches which are associate members of the Atlantic Coast Conference of the Mennonite Church. Each year the conference is held in a different church and this year we are going to the Iglesia Evangelica Menonita Palo Hincado pastored by Juan Carlos Colon, last year's conference moderator.

The theme was "Behold I make all things new." Rev.21:5a. We were encouraged to seek and acknowledge, in a greater way, the Holy Spirit in our lives and churches and to let the Holy Spirit change us, change our character.

Here are a few "Nuggets of Truth" shared by the resource ministers:

- ✓ We must get deeply connected with the Holy Spirit—start with the basics, believe what you preach.
- ✓ The church has more to offer the world than social services—miracles.
- ✓ What happens in our churches must happen in our homes and work places.
- ✓ Even though the disciples received the

Holy Spirit, this did not necessarily mean their characters were Christ-like.

- ✓ The world cannot see Christ except through the church.

- ✓ You are enrolled every day in the Character University—we need the character of the Holy Spirit as our character is deceitful.

Each church reported on its accomplished ministries during 2014. Here are a few:

Marriage Retreat—  
Youth Retreat—A month of prayer—baptism of 13 brothers and sisters—  
outreach by a church band—  
an on-going extensive home visitation—a workshop on how to begin discipleship groups—Vacation Bible School for the community children—outreaches to



Pastor Juan Carlos Colon and family at Palo Hincado.

Dominican Republic, . . .

One of the pastors is also the director of the pastoral and chaplaincy Services of the Mennonite Health Systems in Puerto Rico. In 2014, this ministry visited nearly 27,000 people among the three Mennonite hospitals.

The Mennonite Health Systems of Puerto Rico also regularly supports the annual outreaches the Mennonite churches have to the Dominican Republic. Several "preacher kids" were involved in

(continued on page 3)

## Currents

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## ACC Moderator's Reflections

John Denlinger,  
ACC Moderator

# A Season and a Time for Everything

*There's* just something about summertime that is energizing and refreshing. Whether it is the change of schedule, family vacations, sitting outside watching fireflies and the setting sun, or enjoying the bounty of garden, a picnic or cookout, it is all "life-giving."

In the Atlantic Coast Conference region, we are fortunate enough to experience summer life "up in the mountains" or "down at the shore."

This summer in the month of July, we get to experience the season of our Mennonite Church National Convention and Mennonite World Conference. These are times of celebration with brothers and sisters in Christ from the United States and around the world. There is a time for worship and fellowship, renewing of friendships and creation of new relationships.

I love the Mennonite Church and I love to meet with many different people from all over the United States. What a joy, what a gift, to celebrate who we are as the body of Christ.

This year in Kansas City we have the privilege of practicing and living out our understanding of what it means to be members of the one body of Christ. In our heads, we know that every member of the Body of Christ is needed and necessary in order to be a healthy life-giving body. In our hearts, however, our discernment and practice of what it means to be a life-giving and healthy body of Christ is different.

It is my prayer that we, as the Mennonite Church, can be open to the Spirit's leading with our diverse and deeply-held convictions

and value even more our sense of learning and being together as the body of Christ. Together we can be the face of God making a difference, and showing the way to our world that we can agree to disagree in love and sit and commune with one another at the same table here on earth as we will in heaven someday.

In Harrisburg at the Mennonite World Conference, we get to see, hear and taste God at work around the world. I can't even imagine what it will be like! I have never been to a Mennonite World Conference, so I am so looking forward to this party, this celebration of people from every tongue, tribe and nation praising God and saying Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people!

We are so *blessed* to be part of God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. We are so *blessed* to catch glimpses of God at work in our families, our churches, our neighborhoods across the street, and around the world. Let us truly embrace this season and this time in our lives and give God the glory!

May we be refreshed and energized to be life-giving in all that we say, are, and do! Come will of God, be done will of God! May it be so!

- John Denlinger, ACC Moderator, is a member of Ridgeview Mennonite Church, and is Advancement Associate at Lancaster Mennonite School.

## September 12, 2015



**8:00 am**  
**Yard Sale & Silent Auction**  
**9:00 am**  
**Benefit Auction**

**9:00 am-12:00 pm**  
**Children's Activities**

**10:30 am - 3:00 pm**  
**Chicken BBQ**  
*(Eat In or Take Out)*

**10:30 am - 1:30 pm**  
**BBQ Drive Thru**



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Robert and Judy Martin (Immanuel Community Church) are the liaisons between the Puerto Rico Mennonite Church and ACC. Every year, Robert visits Puerto Rico to represent ACC.

**Puerto Rico** (continued from page 1)

the worship ministry of their “dad’s” church—how beautiful! Even a little five- year-old boy was playing his “toy” guitar with his grandfather’s worship team!

The church provided delicious meals and snacks for everyone such as *arroz com*



The 2015 Puerto Rico Conference Council.

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

April 30, 2015, marked the ten-month point of our fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. As of this date, our expenses have exceeded our income by \$6,088.39.

Would you or your congregation consider making an extra contribution to ACC in order to erase this deficit? It would be great to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget.

The summer months are generally a time when contributions are lower, but our expenses continue and we count on your financial support to continue our mission.

Thank you for your faithful and generous support.

- Ken Martin, ACC Treasurer  
Forest Hills Mennonite

*pollo* (rice with chicken), *habichuelas* (kidney beans), *bacalao com pan* (cod fish sandwich), and, of course, *cafe com leche* (coffee with hot milk), etc. This was a time of fellowship as we sat around the tables eating and sharing!

There was a beautiful spirit of love and respect among the pastors and leaders. And reconciliation happened right there—a pastor came to the front who needed healing and restoration—what a sight as the leadership surrounded him with prayers, tears, and embraces—it was a tiny bite of heaven expressed on earth! Another pastor rededicated his life to the ministry and yet another pastor from an outside conference came to the meetings desiring to “work together.” “Behold, I make all things new,” suddenly had new meaning.

We asked Pastor Jose Vegas, current moderator, “How can ACC churches pray for our sister churches in Puerto Rico?” Pastor Vegas said, “Pray for wisdom as we seek to grow, plant new churches, and need financial direction. And we are open to receiving any volunteers who would like to come to Puerto Rico to work in our churches and/or schools.” If you are interested, contact the Martins at [rmartin53@juno.com](mailto:rmartin53@juno.com).

**PUERTO RICO**



Five-year-old boy playing his “toy guitar” in his grandfather’s worship team at the Puerto Rico Conference.

When it's time to

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## Serving Christ at The Bowers Mission



Maundy Thursday footwashing. Jason Storbakken (above left), is Director of Chapel & Compassionate Care at The Bowers Mission, a credentialed minister in MC USA, and author of *Radical Spirituality: Repentance, Resistance, Revolution.*

The feet and legs of the homeless men we serve at The Bowers Mission are a testimony to the pain they endure daily. Many of their legs are swollen because, like Jesus, they have “nowhere to lay [their] head to rest.” They wander the streets and subways, ride on free casino buses, and sit in libraries and other public spaces.

Many of these men sleep upright a couple hours and are then asked to move on, rarely sleeping flat with their legs elevated which causes unhealthy blood circulation. Sometimes their legs are hardened so badly that they feel like stone or wood. One friend in the community, who went by the nickname Wheelchair Charlie, eventually had both legs amputated and later died of complications related to blood clots.

On Maundy Thursday this year, I led the foot-washing service at The Bowers Mission during chapel. This year, my colleague Delon Ali, who was homeless for several years and is now an ordained minister, will bend low with me to wash the feet of our friends.

Often during the service, a staff person or member of the community will play hymns on the piano including “Blessed Assurance,” and “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior.” Someone will surely read John 13:1-17, the passage where

Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

After a person has their feet washed, the tubs are emptied and refilled with hot, soapy water. We also make sure there are plenty of towels and washcloths. There are usually a couple of dozen people who come forward to have their feet washed. Many churches have annual footwashing services, although most parishioners at these mainline or evangelical churches will arrive with feet already washed and perhaps pedicured! Our community may shower twice a week if they make both shower days, and many have crusty socks, gnarled toes and severely calloused feet. Over the years, many have mentioned that *The Spirit of Jesus* is very present at The Bowers. It is quite humbling to wash feet, and it is also evident that it is humbling for many of the men to have their feet washed.

The Bowers Mission has a rich history founded in 1879. Fanny Crosby wrote many of her famous hymns at the Bowers—we still have her piano! The first congregation to sing many of her songs were the homeless community that gather here. Charles Sheldon was a minister at The Bowers Mission (and writer for the *Christian Herald*, the Mission’s umbrella organization) when he wrote *In His Steps* also known as *What Would Jesus Do*. It was also at The Bowers Mission where Henry Louis Klopsch, an early director of the Mission, created the *Red Letter Bible*.

~ Jason Storbakken, *Radical Living*, Brooklyn, NY

## ACC Leadership Transitions

**H. Wesley Boyer** (Lois) started as intentional interim pastor at CrossWay Church, Ocean City, Md., on May 1, 2015.

**F. Hunter Hess** (Grace) installed as lead pastor at Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa., on January 18, 2015.

**Cheryl Hollinger** (Joe), associate pastor of spiritual formation and nurture at Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola, Pa., ended her role on December 15, 2014.

**David Klingensmith Jr.** (Belle), associate pastor at Sandy Hill Community Church, Coatesville, Pa., ordination transfer to Alliance of Mennonite Evangelical Congregations (AMEC).

**Rebecca S. Mosley** (Paul) was licensed and installed as associate pastor at North Baltimore Mennonite Church, Baltimore, Md., on June 7, 2015.

**Larry Shirk** (Elaine) appointed by Executive Committee to complete unexpired term of Barbara Beiler Mast, chair of the Peace and Justice Committee. Barbara passed away on March 24, 2015.

**Dale Weaver** (Ida), pastor at Sandy Hill Community Church, Coatesville, Pa., ordination transfer to Alliance of Mennonite Evangelical Congregations (AMEC).

**Howard Weir** (Colette), Great Joy Christian Fellowship, Bear, Del., license toward ordination expired (April 10, 2015) upon request to end congregational affiliation with ACC and MC USA.

~ Warren Tyson, *Executive Conference Minister*



# Engaging the Homeless During KC2015

GOD'S PEOPLE IN WITNESS

**Oley** Valley Mennonite Church summed it up pretty well in a blog they wrote following Phoenix2013, "We mean well, but we can be pretty stupid." Like many people who stayed at the Sheraton Hotel, the group from Oley Valley noticed the food some well-meaning group sat out for the homeless. The blogger made the following observations:

Perhaps when we seek to be inclusive, we actually **demonstrate tokenism**. Perhaps when we seek to combat injustice, we **alienate potential allies**. Perhaps when we seek to live charitably, we actually **perpetuate economic disparity**.

Mennonites are well-meaning, sincere people seeking to live like Jesus and follow the way of the cross. But as we stumble along the way, we would be well-served to **walk slowly, gingerly, patiently**, always seeking to **listen and respond** to those most directly impacted by our actions.

How we engage the homeless at our national convention is always a complicated and sensitive topic. How do we show the love of Christ and help those in need while ensuring the safety and security of our participants? In the past, some groups have invited homeless people to worship with them with mixed results. I say mixed results because these groups do not inform the convention planning staff and they often do not maintain contact with their guests. This means that the local security officers often try to remove the person from the premises, leading to embarrassment and confusion. Also many cities, including Kansas City have vagrancy laws which the convention planning staff have no control over. Right or wrong, Kansas City seeks to keep the homeless from tourist areas and out of places like the Kansas City Convention Center (KCCC). So our random acts of kindness can have a negative impact on the very people we seek to help.

The convention planning staff has made contact with local ministries that provide long-term support to the homeless. Our groups will only be around a short-time. The homeless in Kansas will remain long after our generosity returns to our home congregations. Here are a

by Jenny Castro  
taken from blog written by  
Jon Carlson, then pastor of  
Oley Valley Mennonite Church, in 2013

list of suggestions for those wishing to engage the homeless in meaningful ways.

**1. Start in your home community.** Before launching out to help the homeless in Kansas City, start with showing love and compassion to the neighbors who you can minister to on an ongoing basis. The first time you feed a homeless person or invite them to worship shouldn't be at the biennial convention.

**2. Partner with a local homeless shelter.** Kansas City Rescue Mission is a great place to start. This ministry has been helping the homeless since 1950. They have a list of immediate needs on their website. This organization provides over 85,000 meals and 43,000 nights of shelter a year.

**3. Know your guest.** Before deciding to invite someone to a convention gathering ask yourself two questions: Would I invite them home with my family? Would I invite them to church with me? You should be able to yes to one if not both questions. Studies suggest that 20-25% of homeless people in the U.S. suffer from mental illness. Also, abused women and children make up a large portion of the homeless community. One last question you should ask yourself: By inviting a homeless person to worship, are you meeting their needs or satisfying yours?

**4. Register your guest with the convention planning office.** We have many youth and children who attend convention and are trusted to our care. It is important that we know who is in the building and provide as much safety as possible.

**5. Remain with you guests.** First, it is rude to invite a person to worship and then abandon them. Second, you are responsible for anyone you invite to convention.

*We certainly welcome hospitality and the opportunity to engage new people, but remember that true hospitality begins at home.*



The seminars, worship services, and business sessions at KC2105 are geared toward MC USA members. We do have a number of public events and activities that may be well suited to guests and non-Mennonites. Use your best judgment to know what would benefit your guests.

News, notes, and announcements may be sent to Currents editor, Lois Ann Mast 219 Mill Road Morgantown, PA 19543; or e-mailed to: [currents@atlanticcoastconference.net](mailto:currents@atlanticcoastconference.net)



**Eastleigh Choir**, (pictured above) from Nairobi, Kenya, is coming to Mennonite World Conference. Wes and Lois Boyer were asked by Eastern Mennonite Missions to coordinate their lodging and collect funds to pay their expenses. Money gifts should be sent to Eastern Mennonite Missions marked for "Eastleigh Choir to MWC." Please send to: EMM, 53 W. Brandt Blvd., P.O. Box 458, Salunga, PA 17538. The Choir will give a program at Ridgeview Mennonite Church on Sunday evening, July 26, at James Street Mennonite Church on Monday evening, July 27, and at Landis Homes at 10:00 a.m. on Monday morning, July 27.

justice system, learning about law enforcement, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry. All who are interested in learning about disparities in the justice system, including those working in or seeking to develop a prison/re-entry ministry, are welcome. For more information, visit [mcc.org/get-involved/events](http://mcc.org/get-involved/events) or contact Chantelle Todman Moore, MCC East Coast Philadelphia program coordinator, at 267-358-8208 or [chantelletodmanmoore@mcc.org](mailto:chantelletodmanmoore@mcc.org).

**ACC's Fall Assembly** will be October 23-24, cohosted by Neffsville Mennonite and Hiwet Legeta (Life for Christ) at Neffsville Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pa. The Leadership Resource Day on October 23 is a "Compassion Care" seminar presented by Carolyn Heggen, Ph.D. and Rhoda Keener, M.S. This will provide tools for ongoing personal healing and caring effectively for others. It is designed for pastors, deacons, elders, pastoral care teams, and Sunday School teachers/shepherds, chaplains, and other caregivers.



A first **Sister Care** Level 2 "Going Deeper" weekend retreat led

by Carolyn Heggen and Rhoda Keener will be offered October 2-4, 2015, at Camp Hebron. See brochure: <https://www.mennonitewomenusa.org/resources/sister-care-seminars/>. Register soon as space is limited. The retreat will include new material while building on the core concepts from the original Sister Care seminar. (Prerequisite: Attend Sister Care Level 1 seminar or view Sister Care DVD/manual.) Contact Deb Sprunger [debirisgarden@gmail.com](mailto:debirisgarden@gmail.com) for more information.

**Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour** is a week-long learning tour from September 20-26, 2015, with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) staff and partners. Based in Lancaster County, Pa., the tour will include day trips to Philadelphia, Reading, Lancaster, and Harrisburg, and will focus on the challenges and complexities of the U.S. criminal justice system. Participants will journey from the local community level through the criminal



Photo by Merle Good.

optional recreational event during PA 2015, the Mennonite World Conference Assembly. Above, Brook Musselman (left), Logistics Coordinator of Mennonite World Conference's Global Youth Summit, with Howard Good, National Coordinator of MWC's PA 2015, prepare for the Anabaptist World Cup at Logan Field, near Harrisburg, Pa.

**The first-ever Anabaptist World Cup** is scheduled to be played on the afternoons of July 22, 23, 24, and 25, as an



The African Community Church of Lancaster will be sharing music during one of Global Village sessions at MWC!

# The Art of Disciple-Making

The last recorded words from Jesus, according to the book of Acts, before his ascension into Heaven are a summary of his life's teachings: go into all the world and make disciples. The act of disciple-making was not glamorous or even safe as followers of Jesus often upset the established order as they invited others to experience the transformation that Jesus offered. Jon Carlson, pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church, shared this at ACC's Spring Assembly as a preface to his invitation to explore and commit to answering Jesus' call to bear witness to what we've seen and to live abundantly.

In the morning, we heard the stories of three congregations that are bringing about transformation and flourishing in their communities as a result of their outreach. Brian Miller and Emily Ralph, pastors of Sunnyside Mennonite Church in Lancaster, shared about how the church and its surrounding community have embraced one another. The congregation was founded as a response to the need of the neighborhood, and has since helped break cycles of poverty and addiction, mended racial wounds, and seen even the most poverty-stricken individuals give back to the church and its ministry programs.

Sam Wanjau, pastor of African Community Church of Lancaster (ACCL), told of the many outreach programs of the congregation: regular service trips to Haiti and the Gulf States, several active church planting projects including a new church in Harrisburg, and ongoing outreach within the city. Sam shared that **"missions is not only what we do or what we think we do, but is you and me serving in whatever capacity the Lord may assign."**

Jason Storbakken, pastor at Bowery Mission and co-founder of Radical Living with his wife Vonetta, an intentional community in Brooklyn, shared his vision for ministry as living out the upside-down kingdom that Jesus established. The community shares life: their joys, vulnerability and brokenness, with the objective being to "see with the eyes of Christ and to understand how God sees us and how he wants us to see one another". Their ministry among one another then spills out of their little intentional community and influences how they see and interact with the neighborhood.

In the afternoon, delegates and participants had the opportunity to gather in groups and mull over one of several questions regarding the ways that ACC as a conference does missions. Warren Tyson, executive conference minister, gave an overview of the important outreach programs the conference has pursued in the past and then delegates explored and shared ideas for what the future of outreach as a conference might look like. Groups were encouraged to dream big and presented some great ideas for the future that the Missions Committee will further consider.

Some other notable aspects of the day included the first (in recent memory) assembly session designated for conference youth delegates. Interestingly, the youth delegates from the conference's minority congregations made up the bulk of this group, in stark contrast to the demographics of the overall assembly attendance. During the business session, delegates regretfully released Great Joy Christian Fellowship from its associate member status and recognized Warren Tyson's retirement notice, which will take effect at the end of the calendar year. After lunch, delegates were treated to a traditional song and dance performed by the ACCL Choir to begin the session.

Conference staff and planners of April's Assembly have greatly appreciated the feedback given after the event. We hope that each Assembly is a meaningful time for those who attend and we try to strike a balance between often conflicting desires for the day such as providing adequate time for informal connecting vs. scheduling enough content to make the day meaningful. Please continue sharing your thoughts about how the conference functions or doesn't. We hope that the conversations about how we do ministry together that started at Assembly continue into our congregations and communities.

~ Brook Musselman, ACC Coordinator

SPRING  
ASSEMBLY



Photos by  
Dean Smith  
and  
Lois Ann Mast.



## A THOUGHT



Pastor  
Kenneth L.  
Thompson

For to me  
to live  
is Christ,  
and to die  
is gain.

Philippians 1:21

# What is Our Life Expectancy?



*“The days of our years are threescore and ten, or even if by reason of strength fourscore years. Additional years bring only labor and sorrow, for it is soon gone and we fly away. Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Satisfy us with your mercy and lovingkindness that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”*

Sadly, the above quotes that are taken from Psalm 90, describe the reality of our life expectancy here. When you factor in the challenges of poor nutrition, disparities in healthcare delivery, and wellness monitoring in working poor communities contrasted with others, air quality that yields the highest number of children stricken with asthma in the city, the stress of underemployment on families struggling to live in an economically-oppressed community, and the meaningless menace of violence that lurks in our neighborhoods preying on young and old alike, **it is guaranteed** you will not live to be 100 or even 90 years old.

Nearby where I live there are two assisted-living buildings for seniors. Visiting them often reminds me of the pool of Bethesda in the John 5, a lonely place “filled with many sick, blind, and crippled” who have suffered many years that way.

I am happy to hear that there are Mennonites in ACC celebrating 100 years of life and the opportunity to contribute or participate in the life of the community. In our area of the city that would really be cause for celebration!

The oldest member of our fellowship is Ophelia Bethea who celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday recently. She shared with me her secret for enjoying life as a senior: “I love the Lord. He is my strength and He gives me strength for every step. I couldn’t make it without Jesus. I go to the senior center when I can, and I stay in touch with my daughter. I try to watch what I eat. I don’t go to bed too early and I do not sleep late. I get up with a purpose to see what my Lord has in store for me each day. And it’s important to learn to forgive. I don’t hold grudges; I take it all to the Lord in prayer.”

We appreciate and celebrate her among us, giving thanks to the Lord for her precious contributions of wisdom, practicality, and genuine ‘heart-faith’ in Jesus Christ. She is a shining light who gives added strength to this fellowship.

~ Kenneth L. Thompson  
Friendship Community Church, Bronx, NY

## EVENTS & MORE

Contributions  
to this page  
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net

or

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June 30-July 5, 2015  
MC USA Convention  
Kansas City, Mo.  
www.conventionmennonite  
usa.org/kansas-city

July 16-20, 2015  
MWC Global Youth Summit  
Messiah College

July 21-26, 2015  
Mennonite World Conference  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
www.mwc-cmm.org/  
pennsylvania-2015

October 23, 2015  
Mennonite Women Banquet  
6:00 p.m. at Neffsville Mennonite

October 23-24, 2015  
ACC Annual Assembly  
and Leadership Resource Day  
cohosted by Neffsville  
Mennonite and Hiwet Legeta  
(Life for Christ) at Neffsville  
Mennonite Church



A missional center for Atlantic Coast Conference

**LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL**

Centered in Christ • Transforming Lives • Changing our World

**Lancaster Mennonite School is seeking an Annual Giving Officer.** This system-wide position will help to guide vision and planning, solicit funds, and facilitate events to meet annual giving goals for the operating budget. Candidates should have a commitment to Mennonite education and the ability to articulate a persuasive case for Lancaster Mennonite School; ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously, working both independently and as a team member; personal initiative, creativity and attention to detail. A bachelor’s degree and prior experience in marketing, sales and/or gift solicitation and cultivation is preferred.

Persons of underrepresented racial/ethnic groups are encouraged to apply. Interested persons should send a resume to Keri Bloom at bloomkg@lancastermennonite.org.

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## 43rd Anniversary Dinner Celebration

### *Love Stories*

Celebrate the year of 2015 with us!

Our featured guest speakers, Ian & Larissa Murphy, will explain how, through a car accident that left Ian with a brain injury, the couple found how persistent love would be, both theirs and God's. Their love story isn't just about them; it's about you too. Hear their story and gain a picture of love that will challenge how you think about love; what is true and what persists.

You'll also hear some of Friendship Community's own love stories, and will have an opportunity to share your own!

Love shines through many relationships... in a husband, wife, friend, parent, sibling, neighbor, child. Bring your family to celebrate love and to hear how powerful God's love can be.



Join us on Friday,  
October 23rd at  
6:30 pm  
Shady Maple Banquets  
129 Toddy Drive  
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Scan the QR Code to watch Ian & Larissa's love story!

## CONFERENCE RELATED MINISTRIES

### Friendship Community

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[www.friendshipcommunity.net](http://www.friendshipcommunity.net)

Friendship Community is 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.



Tickets are complimentary, but reservations are required. Call the Events Coordinator at 717.656.2466, ext 112 between September 7th- October 16th to reserve your ticket.

Visit [FriendshipCommunity.net](http://FriendshipCommunity.net) for more information.

## Harmonies Music Ministry

34 W. Eby Road  
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717-656-2749

[www.harmonies.org](http://www.harmonies.org)



*Foresingers in Canada singing early music. (File photo)*

**When just getting the right pitch no longer cuts it.** The song leader has to consider more factors than ever before. Blowing the right pitch is not the half of it. Shall we have piano or not? An introduction? A song from the hymnal or online?

Church publishers used to make hymnals. Then congregations themselves added photocopied booklets. Now we can just go online and start downloading. So is there any point in setting goals and calling forth music leaders for our worship when we could just google it?

When everything seems to change, what does a music leader look like? Who might that leader be? A piano or guitar prodigy? A vocalist with many fans? A hymnologist? A percussionist? A schoolteacher? A talented amateur with a heart for worship and a knack for music?

No one answer could fit all cases. But let me begin a list. Maybe a leader would be one who:

- puts the congregation on stage, front, and center
- lets God alone be the audience
- brings children into that picture with solid training
- develops a choir of heart, soul, and discipline
- invites instrument players to support all the above
- eagerly keeps learning.
- insists that music is more about Gospel than applause

**Harmonies leads.** From its start in 1992, Harmonies decided to work alongside the other structures of the church and not be its own brick and mortar institution. Our working principle is to have board members who stay close to congregations. Recently those ACC churches include Blossom Hills, Forest Hills, Neffsville, and Community, as well as others.

**Reaching back to plow forward.** Harmonies has unearthed treasure of our deep history in America. Think *Ausbund* and *Gesangbuch*. They are texts and tunes which sound sublime, mysterious, and beautiful, leading to peaceful, mature spirituality. Many requests came to hear them. So Harmonies is launching a capital campaign of \$15,000 to professionally publish them as well as many hymns of the singing school era.

**When hitting doesn't hurt.** Unbeknownst to us, someone put several of our Table Singers recordings on YouTube. Before we knew it, "Beulah Land" had over 91,000 "hits." "Amazing," my younger generation friend said.

~ Harmonies staff, Glenn Lehman, and Margaret High; [www.harmonies.org](http://www.harmonies.org)



When just getting the right pitch no longer cuts it.

## 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.ca2mphebron.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.  
Germantown, 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**  
34 W. Eby Road  
Leola, PA 17540  
Phone: 717-656-2749  
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:  
• 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 churches who responded to the survey:

- Akron MC
- Blossom Hill MC
- Community MC of Lancaster
- Conestoga MC
- Forest Hills MC
- Frazer MC
- Hebron MC
- Neffsville MC
- Ridgeview MC

\* \* \* \*

Christian Formation Sunday

MEA partners with Mennonite Church Canada and MennoMedia to provide worship materials for Christian Formation Sunday. Christian Formation Sunday (sponsored by Mennoite Education Agency) is designated as the second Sunday in September and serves as a reminder of the importance of Christian nurture and education in raising Christ followers.

Worship resources are produced yearly for use in the Sunday morning service. Congregations are encouraged to find their own innovative ways of recognizing Christian formation in their congregations.

# Christian Education Funds

As many of you know, I work at Lancaster Mennonite School where part of my role is relating with our churches. Lancaster Mennonite School was founded almost 75 years ago by Mennonite Church leaders who thought it was important to provide a holistic approach to education. The threefold cord of families, churches, and schools working together was thought to be the ideal way to nurture and educate our students. Lancaster Mennonite School continues to reach out to partner with churches and families to make Christian education affordable.

Today, one of the challenges facing parents as they consider Christian education is affordability. In my position, I know that many churches in Atlantic Coast Conference choose to partner with families and schools to help make Christian Education possible. I have become aware that churches have worked creatively and have discovered different ways to make this possible. I contacted individual churches and here is what I found.

About two-thirds of ACC churches believe in the mission and ministry of Christian education so much that they designate a budget line or offering(s) to support participating families. The amount of the budget line or offerings varies greatly among ACC churches. Most of the churches that support Christian Education at LMS in their budget, take advantage of the LMS Partner Church plan. The Partner Church Plan for LMS invites each participating church to pray for, participate with, and contribute \$1,000 annually. In turn, every student who comes to LMS from their church receives a \$200 tuition scholarship. I should also say that most of the Christian Schools in Lancaster have their own church partner plans.

Some churches designate an "in and out" account where anyone in the congregation can contribute to a designated Christian education fund and whatever is contributed toward that account will be distributed equally among

all the students who choose to enroll at our Christian schools.

Most of the ACC churches who returned my request also have a support plan for students desiring to go to Mennonite/Anabaptist colleges or Seminary as well. Again the amount given and the process used varies with each church.

I encourage any ACC church that is considering a Christian Education Fund to be in touch with your sister churches as they have been very creative in creating plans that are unique and work well for their church family. Amounts vary from the \$1,000 church partnership plan to some churches who budget up to \$20,000 for Christian Education. Conestoga Mennonite Church has used an estate gift from a family to generate annual gifts for Christian Education. As soon as the gift reaches \$100,00, their Tuition Assistance Fund will generate 5% of the earnings each year to support Christian Education.

Currently, Blossom Hill MC is the ACC Mennonite Church with the most students (22) enrolled at LMS. There are several other churches (not Mennonite) that have higher student enrollment at LMS which is both exciting and challenging for us as Mennonite churches.

Next year Frazer Mennonite will have one student enrolled in the LM high school.

One thing is certain, if it were not for our ACC churches who give regularly to the mission and ministry of LMS, we could not survive. Thank you for your ongoing and faithful prayers, advocacy, and your gracious and generous financial support.

LMS is also blessed by the gifted students, and excellent faculty and staff who are members of our ACC churches. As Director of Church Relations, I am more than delighted to talk with anyone about questions you might have as it relates to enrolling students at LMS. One of our goals is to make education affordable and accessible to all students who want to be a student at LMS.

*- John Denlinger, ACC Moderator, is a member of Ridgeview Mennonite Church, and is Advancement Associate at Lancaster Mennonite School.*

