



# Atlantic Coast Conference Currents

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

## Sweet and salty . . . ACC Spring Assembly

Above: ACC delegates working at table groups. Professor Awad is sharing with Ken Herr of Zion Mennonite and Katy Heinzel of Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster.

### HIGHLIGHTS



1 ACC Spring Assembly



6 Seeds of Justice



12 Weaver in PULSE

Rather than work on income tax on April 16, more than 200 persons attended ACC's Spring Assembly at Frazer Mennonite Church.

The blessings multiplied as we heard reports, met old and new friends, heard Alex Awad share amazing information on the Israel-Palestine conditions, and reflected on the Kairos Palestine study guide.

Each ACC congregation was given a packet of seeds to plant somewhere on their church property and take photos over the summer months. This reminds us of the parallel between the mystery and miracle of God's seeds and the unique way that God uses each of our congregations.

The theme for the day was *Seeds of Righteousness—Seeds of Justice*—certainly appropriate for Alex Awad's heartfelt sharing as a Christian Arab born in Jerusalem. The Christian church in the Holy Land is struggling to survive in the land where the church was born!

Professor Awad acknowledged several times, the impact that the Mennonite peace witness had on him. He believes that peace among the Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Israel/Palestine would advance peace world-wide. However, for now, the church is caught in the middle of a very complicated global religious and political conflict.



There are currently about 40,000 Palestinian Christians living among 3.9 million Muslims in the Palestinian territory today. There is so much need to address the root causes of the political conflicts, economic instability, and religious misunderstandings.

In 1947, the Palestinians owned about 87.5% of Palestine, while the Jews owned 6.6% of the total land mass. In a short time, 800,000 Palestinians became refugees and lived in tents for 10+ years.

How are we as Christians called to act? Who are the oppressed in Palestine and Israel today? Didn't Jesus come to help the oppressed? Is it enough to just sing songs about peace?

As usual, there were a number of highlights, but a favorite was the closing activity as we shared in our table groups expressing a *sweet joy* holding a grape and then sharing a *salty tear* representing a sadness and dipping the grape in salty water before eating it. Thank you, Pastor Brenda Hurst (Frazer), for your creativity in helping us to connect within ACC.

During one of the Spring Assembly breaks, Ray Hurst (Frazer) led a tour of Frazer Mennonite's community garden.

## Currents

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## ACC Moderator's Reflections

John Denlinger,  
ACC Moderator

**My** comments for this issue will be more of a personal reflection and the challenges that I am living with. Perhaps you will connect with these challenges and reflections in some way.

This is a big year as I turn 65 and celebrate my 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with my lovely wife Debbie who just retired from 30+ years of teaching. I think that means we move to another stage in life. Along the way, our three adult married children and three grandchildren have clearly helped change us for the better, even if it has not always been easy.

Some recent world events have challenged me yet again in my faith journey. The death of Muhammad Ali reminded me of his courageous actions as a young man who chose to uphold his beliefs as a conscientious objector regardless of the consequences which included imprisonment. I wish that all of our young adults would voluntarily choose to serve God and others in the world, in a life-giving way for a year or two before they choose college or a permanent job, and I believe that the church and families should work together to make this happen.

Thank you, Brook, for the fine article on page 12 of this issue about Sam Weaver from Akron Mennonite who did this!

And then there was the horrific shooting in Orlando. I am still trying to understand and wrestle with my own complicity in this. It just so happened that I worshipped at Hyattsville Mennonite Church the morning after the shooting while details were slowly released. Debbie and I were visiting our daughter and son-in-law who live in Baltimore, so I made plans to attend Hyattsville MC. The Constituents Leadership Council (CLC) of MC USA has encouraged members to visit one of our Welcoming Mennonite Churches between our Spring and Fall CLC meetings of this year. I have known Cindy Lapp, Hyattsville pastor, for many years and contacted her to inform her of our desire to visit. She was delighted to welcome

us and invited me to share a word of greeting from ACC. I was humbled and delighted to do that.

Hyattsville Mennonite Church is a growing church outside of D.C. with lots of young families and children. Pastor Michelle Burkholder brought the morning message. I remembered her as a young child running around the EMU Campus when I taught there back in the mid 1980s and early 1990s, again a reminder of how old I am! The service was moving and powerful as a reminder of where the church has been and how God continues to lead us.

Other challenges that Merv, Joanne, and I have been speaking to are the Lancaster Conference churches who are desiring to be part of MC USA. We have attended meetings sharing "Who is ACC?" What would you say? How would you describe ACC? We have tried to be honest that we are a delightfully diverse group of individuals and churches who are *Centered in Christ for the purpose of building connections with God and each other by sharing God's love with all of God's creation.*

Back to Orlando, I personally wondered how to respond to this as a white man of privilege and relative security? As a Mennonite pastor, moderator of the "best" Mennonite conference in MC USA, what should I say or do or be as it relates to the LGBTQ community of ACC and MC USA? I am thankful that Ervin Stutzman shared comments in response to the Orlando shootings on behalf of MC USA. As I, (we) are guided by our ACC and MC USA Faith Statements, how am I (we) living out our Resolutions of Forbearance on the one hand and our *Confession of Faith* guidelines on the other hand?

On Sunday, as part of my journey, I chose to stretch my 65-year-old comfort zone and participate in the rally at Binns Park in Lancaster as a small way to stand in solidarity against the atrocities of Orlando and with the LGBTQ community of Lancaster. While I clearly experienced a sense of discomfort at times, I also sensed a deep desire for people to belong. In some ways, it took me back to my college protests of the Vietnam War and

*(continued on page 8)*

# LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

## DO WE STILL NEIGHBOR?

**Do** we still neighbor or has that become another casualty of urbanization and modernity?

Our houses used to have open porches where people relaxed and neighbors conversed. Now instead we see more fences. Our garage doors open to permit entry and then close behind us.

I do not want to put myself forward as the model. I do not know all my neighbors as I should, but I had an experience that I want to share in the hopes that it might inspire others.

I began to notice what seemed like a preponderance of young men in my neighborhood.

No women or children. Just young men, heavily tattooed, always smoking. They seemed mildly ill at ease. Drugs?

One day I saw them on the patio, smoking, so I leaned over the fence to greet them. Once the silence had been broken, I learned that they were in an alcohol recovery program—12 packed into an old house!

As the conversation got more relaxed, more came to participate. We exchanged first names. They were from within 100 miles and at various stages of recovery from alcohol addiction. One used a term with which I was unfamiliar—“sobriety date.” I was intrigued. They went down the line telling me how many days since their last alcoholic drink. Our conversation turned surprisingly friendly and personal. I admitted that while I did not have an alcohol problem, I had other addictions, so that put us on equal footing.

Wanting to close off the conversation, I said, “You guys are away from home. Detox must be tough.” They agreed. “You know,” I continued, “I go to the Mennonite Church just up the street. Anybody interested in accompanying me sometime? I’ll stop by Sunday morning.”

To my surprise, Andrew responded. His clothing was a little substandard and he reeked of smoke, but so what? I introduced him and it seemed to go well, and he was well received. I thought we might be on the verge of a new mission, right here in our own community.

Well, not really. In subsequent Sundays, I knocked on their door, but no answer—8:45 a.m. is after all an early hour. And would they really be attracted to our rather staid service? Good try!

And yet, when I went to my garage, there they were. Millennials, I had heard, are slow to come to church—“If you want to minister to them, you need to go to where they are.” It was Christmas time, so I boldly advanced the idea of a Christmas party. They loved it!

Now how was I going to rise to the occasion? I am not a party guy! I asked the leader, “Do they enjoy singing?” He replied, “Some would.”

Long story short, the agreed day came. The appointed hour came, and with it a knock on the door. They filed in—all 12 of them occupying every chair in my living room with a few lounging on the floor. We went around giving name, home town, and sobriety date.

We were almost done when Alverta came, as pre-arranged, with an assortment of cookies. While finishing up the cookies, here came Jan with Christmas music. After singing one song, someone said, “Not bad! Any shut-ins in the neighborhood for whom we might sing?” So, I replied, “Well yes, I’ll see if it would be suitable.”

Like that we were on our feet. Single file, we entered Eleanor’s apartment, positioned ourselves in her living room and sang maybe three songs. We left her crying tears of joy as we returned to my house and the evening was soon over. Total time? Maybe two hours. Budget? Two plates of cookies.

Now when they see me, they stop what they are doing to greet me, “Hi Edgar.” Edgar has become a household name. All I did was, instead of petitioning them out of the neighborhood, as surely I could have, I simply followed the injunction given by Jesus to love and serve my neighbor, and what a blessing it has been, for me and them!

~ Edgar Stoesz, Akron Mennonite

## IN MISSIONS



Edgar Stoesz

*Just recently, I was invited to their party. I can be sure that there will be no alcohol served!*

“Was forbearance the glue in our past as our churches began to accept women in leadership, add pianos in the sanctuary, and change song books and music styles?”

“Does forbearance allow us both space and time?”

“Does forbearance work the best in the spirit of humility as we seek reconciliation with others when we see things differently?”

## Forbearance works best in the spirit of humility

“**What** does forbearance mean in our context?” Certainly God showed forbearance with His people throughout the Old Testament in holding back His anger. And then there is the story of the Prodigal Son in the New Testament that is a beautiful example of *love*.

Meaningful dialogue developed at the April 27, 2016, ACC Leaders Breakfast in Lancaster as ACC leaders shared their perspectives on how they navigate differences as a result of the document “Forbearance in the Midst of Differences” that was passed at the 2015 MC USA Convention. Here are some comments:

“I left the morning feeling like the Holy Spirit had been in that room helping us to listen deeply to each other’s questions. I was impressed that some leaders traveled a distance for the conversation. What stood out to me is that even though our contexts may be very different, we are all trying to lead and live as faithfully as we can.”  
~ Michelle Dula, Blossom Hill

“I am always encouraged to hear how my pastoral colleagues demonstrate faithfulness in challenging and changing contexts.” ~ Jon Carlson, Forest Hills

“What meant the most to me is that we took the time and had the courage to speak our convictions and listen deeply to one another. Although we serve different congregations in different contexts—as different as an eye is from an ear—we recognized one another as members of the Body of Christ and actually practiced being that.” ~ Leslie Homer-Cattell, Hopewell

“I appreciated the opportunity to be with other ACC pastoral leaders and to engage honestly and respectfully with one another regarding our diverse perspectives and commitments. I cherish ACC’s commitment to unity in diversity and value our dedication to practice this as leaders of ACC congregations.”  
- Brenda Martin Hurst, Frazer

“I was deeply honored for safe space to share from my personal and pastoral experiences. And I am grateful that ACC has in recent years become more intentional about inviting ‘welcoming’ congregations to share their



experiences of including LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) people of faith into the life of our churches. This is a positive step in recognizing and honoring the diversity of ACC congregations.” ~ Chad Martin, Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster

“I sense that we are making slow progress in learning how to speak and how to listen. Forbearance does not mean our differences do not matter; forbearance means our unity in Christ requires great patience to work through the differences.” ~ Dave Greiser, North Baltimore

“I am grateful for the privilege of modeling Acts 15 discernment as we too seek to hear what the Lord of the church is saying to His body regarding commitment both to our teaching documents and a call to forbearance. ACC congregations hold diverse understandings of how to provide pastoral care to the LGBTQ members of our churches and communities. I was humbled anew to listen for the voice of God’s Spirit through ACC leaders deeply committed to Biblical faithfulness and pastoral relevancy.” ~ Robert Petersheim, Conestoga

# Some sacrifices are worth the cost

By the time you read this article, I will have graduated from Lancaster Mennonite School (LMH). Thirteen years of my life have been spent within walls that preached pacifism, encouraged unconditional love for each other, and sang four-part harmony hymns without hesitation. And after this summer, I will continue my Mennonite education at Goshen College.

However, I am one out of only ten 2016 graduates from LMH who will continue our education at a Mennonite college. Compared to decades past, this decrease in students attending colleges like Goshen College, Hesston College, and Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) is shocking. Why are students straying away from Mennonite education?

From my point of view, students do not consider continuing Mennonite schooling because it is too “mainstream.” In years past, EMU has gained many students from LMH, and that, surprisingly enough, has contributed to the drop in students. Many of my peers view EMU or Goshen as somewhat of a “13<sup>th</sup> grade,” or a continuation of Lancaster Mennonite.

How do we change this problem? Should Mennonite high schools try even harder to convince students that Mennonite higher education is the right choice? Should more college bus trips be planned? Maybe Mennonite colleges should give scholarships to those who have already spent money on Mennonite schooling, prior to higher education (Goshen, I am looking at you).

I am not sure how to fix the stigma that surrounds schools like EMU and Goshen, but I do believe it is something that must be acknowledged so changes can be made.

Another reason for the lack of

continuance of LMS students is cost. Like any other Christian colleges, Mennonite higher education is much more expensive than public universities. Speaking from experience, it is a sacrifice to pay for Christian schooling when compared to state colleges. **But some sacrifices are worth the cost.** I do

wonder though why

Mennonite schooling is just as costly as other Christian colleges? Isn't stewardship part of our Mennonite theology? That might not be a fair question, but I believe it is something to be considered.

I gave up financial security to attend Goshen College instead of a state university. I will be in

debt when I leave college, more so than I would have been if I had decided to attend somewhere like Penn State University.

I have been blessed to spend the last 13 years of my life at Mennonite schools, and I cannot wait to spend another four years furthering my knowledge of my faith and theology. I only wish that more of my peers would have considered furthering their Mennonite education.

I believe that many of our youth have the potential to impact the world through peace and justice, and Mennonite schooling is a great way to learn and harness skills that make a peaceful world possible.

~Abigail King  
Ridgeview Mennonite



*Why are students straying away from Mennonite education?*

*Abigail King is a recent graduate of Lancaster Mennonite High School and appears here with her parents, Bruce and Patricia King.*

*Abby serves on the ACC Youth Committee as well as the Youth Planning Committee for Mennonite Convention 2017.*

**Mennonite Voluntary Service** is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 year! Opportunities to serve and live in community with others are still open in a variety of placements and locations,



How do your seeds look?



including teaching in Puerto Rico. Ages 20+ can apply at [MennoniteMission.net/Serve](http://MennoniteMission.net/Serve), or contact [NeilR@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:NeilR@MennoniteMission.net) for inquiries.

**ACC congregations** at the Spring Assembly received a packet of seeds to take back and plant someplace on the church property or in a member's garden. No one knew what seeds were in the packets. Well, on the right you can see the results of **H.A. Penner** who was blessed with Akron Mennonite's seeds. Harold is caring for these seeds with his granddaughters who also attend Akron Mennonite Church: **Anna Bontrager** (age 9) and **Alliah Bontrager** (age 4), daughters of **Josh and Lis Penner Bontrager**. How do your seeds look?

**ACC's Peace & Justice Committee** is again encouraging congregations to fill grocery boxes (formerly bags) for MCC. Boxes are available at the ACC office and will be collected at the Fall Assembly on October 22 at Ridgeview MC. Please contact Brook ([brookm@atlanticcoastconference.net](mailto:brookm@atlanticcoastconference.net)) to arrange the pickup or dropoff of empty boxes for your congregation.

**Seminars** provided by people from across the church are a valued program component of our Mennonite Church USA Conventions. Do you have a 60-minute seminar you would like to share at the July 4-8, 2017, convention in Orlando, Florida? Complete the seminar submission form at convention. [mennoniteusa.org/seminars](http://mennoniteusa.org/seminars).



## Joy in the midst

Merv Stoltzfus stands for the value of God working in all of us.

by Carol Dunham

"College was a surprise."  
Merv Stoltzfus pauses. He swallows several times, and his eyes mist over. "It's been 40 years and it still impacts me deeply," he says. "Jan and I were engaged. We were at a church meeting with some friends, and a missionary was speaking. In the middle of the service, I suddenly felt the words 'I'm supposed to go to college.' I was sure it was God speaking to me. At the same time, I'm thinking, This is ridiculous."

16 The Mennonite | April 2016 | [www.themennonite.org](http://www.themennonite.org)

ACC's Conference Executive Minister Merv Stoltzfus was featured in the April 2016 The Mennonite—a powerful true story about Merv's journey to where he is today as ACC's Executive Conference Minister. Quotes taken from this article include: "My healing has been the process of allowing God to be God. It's not up to me to understand my disability;" "Radical would be knowing you disagree but still being willing to appreciate, value, and be in community with somebody different;" and "We hear from some who say, 'Take a stand.' I do stand for something. I stand for the value of God working in all of us, and we are all at different places, and we are all called to be loving. That is the stand I am taking."

**Culture Shock**, a leadership conference for youth of color, will be held August 26-28 at Calvary Community Church, Hampton, Virginia. Sponsored by Mennonite Church USA and geared to high school youth, college students, and young adults, the event will help participants strengthen their leadership skills and provide a space for them to connect with elders and mentors who can provide ongoing guidance, teaching and support in their journeys as leaders. A travel stipend of \$600 per group is also available to youth groups. Visit [mennoniteusa.org/culture-shock](http://mennoniteusa.org/culture-shock).



Don Good, Landis Communities, talking with Wes and Lois Boyer of Conestoga Mennonite.

Wes and I were asked to represent ACC at the Pastor's Breakfast where 50 pastors and lay leaders met at Landis Homes on May 19, 2016. The theme was "Pastoral Care for Seniors Experiencing Mental Illness and Dementia."

After a delicious breakfast, Larry Guengerich, Director of Communications and Church Relations at Landis Homes, introduced the panelists from Lancaster General Health, Philhaven, and the Adult Day Services from Landis Homes.

Dr. Dale Hursh defined mental illness as a wide range of mental health conditions—disorders that affect mood, thinking, and behavior. Many losses contribute to mental health illness in elderly persons. These include loss of family members and friends, loss of physical functions, pain, financial concerns and

## Caring for seniors in our congregations

medication. It is important for caregivers to recognize these losses.

Faith Hoover stressed the importance of helping the elderly to stay connected to the church with visits, CDs of the sermon, and church bulletins. It is important that they have a sense of belonging and value. She also helped us to understand the struggles the elderly go through when they begin to lose their memory.

Melanie Baer talked about the importance that caregivers play. They need to take care of themselves so that they can take good care of the elderly. Burnout is all too frequent. This can contribute to elder abuse and neglect.

Ruth Ann Dwyer reminded us of things that the church should and should not do. She told stories of elderly persons who were not treated well in church because of their impairments.

This was a very informative and helpful program for pastors. May God help us to be servants of grace and peace to the elderly who suffer from mental health issues and memory loss.

~ Lois A. Boyer, Conestoga Mennonite

Congregations interested in hearing more about this subject are encouraged to contact Larry Guengerich, Landis Communities Director of Communications and Church Relations, at LGuengerich@LandisCommunities.org or call 717-381-3526.

prep

denver, co

8.12-8.13



Empowering Women: Money, Health & Faith

Hosted at Peace Mennonite Church // Aurora, Colorado

All women welcome to the entire event! 7:00-9:00pm Friday, 8/12 and 8:30-4:00pm Saturday, 8/13

Registration opens Sunday, 5/15 here: [mwusa.org/ministries/prep](http://mwusa.org/ministries/prep)

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PREP is a ministry of Mennonite Women USA. Learn more: [mwusa.org/ministries/prep](http://mwusa.org/ministries/prep)

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ACC Moderator's  
Reflections

(continued from page 2)

the "establishment" in the late 1960s both in the church and in the world, with the hopes of bringing about change. In some small ways, I hope that we can all influence Christ-like changes in our world today.

It is my hope and prayer that we as ACC, with our delightful diversity, acknowledge and faithfully support each other in our differing places as we discern God at work through the power of the Holy Spirit. While I will continue to try to understand and embrace my LGBTQ brothers and sisters of our Mennonite churches, I can never fully grasp what life is like for them in our hostile world. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are all called to extend love to everyone, because we are all created in the image of God, each with our own uniqueness and limitations.

So I share this with you as one who continues to seek and learn. I confess that my "not knowing" or seeing dimly as it relates to the challenges for us as church is not comfortable, but Scriptures remind me that someday I shall see clearly and until then I am called to be Christ incarnate embracing the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. I am so thankful to be part of ACC and MC USA.

May we continue to journey together to live out God's call in our families, churches, workplace and in our neighborhoods across the street and around the world.

~ John Denlinger, Ridgeview Mennonite

October 21, 2016

ACC Mennonite Women Dinner  
6:00 p.m., Ridgeview Mennonite Church

October 21-22, 2016

ACC Leadership Day and Fall Assembly  
Ridgeview Mennonite Church

Ervin Stutzman will serve as resource speaker on Friday at ACC's Leadership Day. For more information, contact Brook Musselman at 717-394-8107; atlanticcoastconference@gmail.com

ACC Leadership Transitions

Beginnings:

**Nan and Kevin Kanagy** were installed as Associate Pastors at Hope Community Church of Fleetwood on June 12, 2016. Kevin will serve as Teaching Pastor and Nan will serve as Youth & Worship Pastor. Their previous assignment was at Friendship Mennonite Church in Bedford Heights, Ohio, where they served as co-pastors.

**David Heineman's** (Cheryl) ordination by the Bible Fellowship Church was recognized on April 12 after completing the License Toward Ordination process. He serves as chaplain with Crossroads Hospice of Philadelphia. He and Cheryl are members of Conestoga Mennonite Church.

**Gary Lloyd** (Nancy) was installed as pastor of Oley Valley Mennonite Church on June 5, 2016. Gary was most recently pastor at Providence Mennonite Church in Collegeville, Pa. He served as pastor of ACC member congregation, Hopewell Mennonite Church—Pottstown from 1996 to 1999.

Ending:

**Michael and Sue Conrad Howes** were released of their interim duties at Akron Mennonite Church on January 1.

~ Reported by Brook Musselman, Conference Coordinator

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

The end of our current fiscal year, June 30, 2016, is rapidly approaching and will be past by the time we read this in print.

As of our last financial report on April 30, 2016, our expenses exceeded our revenue by \$10,267.00. Hopefully, we will have made up this shortfall by June 30!

With the support of congregations, individuals, and conference related ministries, I have the faith that we will meet our goal and begin the new fiscal year on a solid financial footing.

ACC's Executive Committee has worked hard to keep a flat expense budget for the coming fiscal year. Now we are depending on each of you to provide the financial resources to cover these expenses.

Thank you for your faithful support of our Atlantic Coast Conference.

- Ken Martin, ACC Treasurer  
Forest Hills Mennonite

# Kairos School of Spiritual Formation—25 Years

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**Kairos** School of Spiritual Formation will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year this fall. Since 1992, Kairos has been inviting others to “come away” from the busyness and distractions of daily life to explore a journey to inner stillness where one can hear “the still, small voice of God.”

Once a month from September through May, we offer a spacious, loving environment where participants can slow down and “disconnect” in order to hear the voice of the One who calls them Beloved. We gather to learn, share, grow, pray, listen, and be still in the silence. Our retreat opportunities range from a day retreat, to overnight, to a full weekend. All meals are included in the cost of the room and board.

In addition to retreat opportunities, Kairos offers three different year-long (Sept-May) Spiritual Formation Programs, and a two-year Spiritual Direction Training program. Our classes are rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus and influenced by Ignatian spirituality and the wisdom tradition. We encourage asking spiritual questions and we embrace the joys, pain, and struggles of our humanity. We view all of life’s experiences as rich, fertile ground for growing into and knowing the fullness of God.

In the late 1980s, six people joined together in a quest to develop a transformational ministry in the contemplative stream. One of those five, described the hunger and personal journey which drew her toward the emerging Kairos vision: “Kairos began in my own longing to experience more deeply the Christ within and to experience my prayer as contemplation—wordless and sensing the movement of Christ in my being and in my daily walk. I longed to validate my being drawn to solitude. I wanted to journey with others of similar spirit to share my journey and to be accountable for my journey.”

The core emphases that have guided KAIROS since our beginnings include

- *Contemplative prayer involving both teaching and practice of prayer forms and meditation.*
- *Retreat experience in silence and solitude to nurture contemplative living and action in our busy, noisy world*
- *A supportive and encouraging community for the spiritual journey*
- *Guidance in formative reading and discernment*
- *Spiritual Direction Training in order to companion others on their journey*

As we enter our 25<sup>th</sup> year, we celebrate our past and anticipate our future with reduced prices and fresh formats for some of our classes. Our introductory formation class called “Foundations of the Contemplative Life,” will start

and end the school year with full weekend retreats in September and May. The other months (Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr.) will be 24-hour retreats on Saturdays. Our second year of formation called, “Deepening Prayer & Contemplative Leadership,” will have three full weekends and five 24-hour retreats. A new focus on leadership has been added to this class to invite the movement of the contemplative journey to reach outward into congregations with a new way of being, listening, and praying. “Awakening to Mystery”, our third formation class is led by Phil Horst and Jessica Okanya, both of James Street Mennonite Church. Caz Tod-Pearson will lead a new “Integrating the Contemplative Journey,” class/retreat designed for people who have already experienced Kairos and would like to reconnect with the Kairos Community.

Whether you have been on the contemplative journey for some time, or have been exploring new ways to deepen your relationship with God, Kairos programs and retreats offer “time apart” to experience the abundant love of God that changes lives, opens hearts, and grows a greater compassion for others and the world. Consider coming for a one-day event on a Saturday, a whole weekend of silence, or enrolling in our year-long formation programs. ~ Marlin Good, Program Director & Mary Kay Alpaugh, Interim Executive Director



## Kairos: School of Spiritual Formation

2160 Lincoln Hwy.  
East #13  
Lancaster, PA  
17602

717-669-2957

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



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## The “Peace House” in Baltimore

In downtown Baltimore, a few blocks from the CVS that was burned down during the 2015 uprising, North Baltimore Mennonite Church (NBMC) operates a Christian community house—the Reservoir Hill House of Peace (RHHP). It is the old mansion that, for years, Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) used as its Baltimore Discipleship Training Center. No longer used to prepare young adults for overseas mission, the house is now utilized as a staging ground and residence for young adults who are committed to bringing peace, justice, and reconciliation to Baltimore—a city that continues to experience much pain. As of June 7, 2016, there were already 116 murders this year.

Since 2003, RHHP has been a house that is always changing as new people move in and others move out. Over the years, young adults serving one-year terms with Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) or Brethren Voluntary Service (BVS) have contributed to this dynamism. Although the MVS unit in Baltimore was recently discontinued, our BVS unit is thriving. Most RHHP residents are now young professionals who strategically work or volunteer

for Baltimore organizations committed to positive change: World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, No Boundaries

Coalition, St. Francis Center, Project Plase, RK&K Engineering, Whitelock Farm, Ten Thousand Villages, Reservoir Hill Improvement Council, Manna House, and the list goes on.

RHHP also serves asylum seekers. The Asylum Seekers Housing Network (ASHN), a non-profit organization founded by MCC’s Ruth Keidel Clemens, is also a ministry of NBMC and utilizes RHHP to provide housing for clients from around the world.

The mission of RHHP is to provide a community rooted in Christian values where persons of diverse cultures and faiths learn from each other and engage the surrounding neighborhood. Core values include: service, simple living, peace and reconciliation, cultural exchange, and spirituality.

Here is a sampling of things you will find us doing together: cleaning, cooking, eating, biking, gardening, reading, picking up garbage, road trips, praying, singing, house meetings, committee meetings, neighborhood association meetings, game nights, and yard work. Of special note, in collaboration with Reservoir Hill’s own Whitelock Farm and New Lens, RHHP is planning a neighborhood movie night on the lawn July 27.

In the center of a struggling and often violent city, the 14 RHHP residents are strategically “being the church”—in the best possible Stanley Hauerwasian sense of the term. Joel Keith Weaver is the coordinator of RHHP and graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary. He lives with his wife Abbi and three children in Baltimore’s Marble Hill neighborhood, about a mile from RHHP. They are active members of North Baltimore Mennonite Church.

## 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**

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  
office@KAIROSjourney.org  
www.kairosjourney.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  
Phone: 717-381-3500  
Fax: 717-569-5203  
info@landishomes.org  
www.landiscommunities.org  
Following God's call to creatively serve the diverse needs and interests of older adults by developing opportunities and collaborative relationships.

### **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**

P.O. 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 Brethren 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  
P.O. 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  
kwieder@cityschool.org  
http://cityschool.org/  
The City School's mission is to train students' minds, disciple their hearts and bring light to the city—one child at a time. Since 1978, our commitment to this mission has guided us as we prepare students to thrive in school, in college, at home and in all of life. Founded in 1997 for grades 9-12.



Sam Weaver



ACC Fall Youth Retreat will meet September 16-18 at the Refreshing Mountain Camp and Retreat Center. The Committee is seeking \$2,000 from sponsors to keep rates affordable while offering high quality speakers. Tax-deductible gifts can be sent to ACC MYC, 2257 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602.

## Gap Year encourages service, learning

In the spring and summer, many young adults are completing their “gap year”—terms taken before or after college to engage in service or missions, pursue self-exploration and test potential career paths or interests.

**Samantha Weaver**, a member of Akron Mennonite Church and recent graduate of Goshen College’s Biochemistry program, joined the PULSE program (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience) to pursue work experience in a new field while continuing the collaborative and supportive community living/learning arrangement that was so important to her at Goshen.

PULSE, like its Lancaster-based sister program, the Shalom Project, aims to provide fellowships within the community for recent college grads to explore fields of interest and network with others in the community. This year’s 32 fellows live together in seven houses across Pittsburgh where they share regular potlucks and meet for Wednesday afternoon seminars on leadership development themes.

After graduating from Goshen in 2015, Sam joined PULSE to test her interests before committing to more education or jumping into a career path while still enjoying the benefits of community life.

Of the many possibilities offered by PULSE, she she was placed into a fellowship with Allegheny Clean Ways, an environmental nonprofit that works throughout Allegheny County and the city of Pittsburgh to protect the region’s waterways, clean up illegal dump sites, and educate community members on protecting their land and water. In her role as Northside Project Coordinator, she manages volunteers on site cleanups, and other projects to improve the water quality of the County.

PULSE’s intentional-living and leadership development program also made the year spent in Pittsburgh an important one for Sam. The weekly leadership seminars, the most recent one entitled “Sexism in the Media,” helped participants gain a greater



understanding of their culture and how to lead effectively within it. Regular retreats and organized social activities helped to build a sense of community for the program’s fellows, which for many, including Sam, served as an important bridge between college and post-college life.

Possibly the most important part of the program for Sam was the community living aspect. Housed on the north side of the city, she said that “living with four different women from very different backgrounds and learning to live in the same space, sharing the same food, operating a shared budget was a stretching but amazing learning experience.” Though sometimes difficult, a shared love of ice cream served as a helpful way to

bond them together.

When asked if she would recommend a gap year for other young adults, Sam strongly recommended it. “The PULSE Program will fit some peoples’ goals more than others, but taking a year off is a really good way to figure out what you like and still be surrounded by a community of young adults, especially if you feel unsure of what to do after college.”

Besides PULSE and The Shalom Project, there are numerous programs for young adults to serve through Eastern Mennonite Missions, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Mission Network, and Mennonite Disaster Service. These programs provide great opportunities for recent high school and college grads to serve while learning about themselves and about the world.

~ Brook Musselman

*“PULSE gave me experience in community organizing and development, volunteer management, and was also a good glimpse into how nonprofits work.”*