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The convention planning staff welcomes you to Kansas City, Missouri! We are excited to worship, learn and fellowship together this week. We have put together worship services that will inspire you, seminars that will equip you, and numerous other opportunities for relationship building and fun. This program book contains quick-glance schedules, as well as detailed descriptions of all the seminars.

We encourage you to have fun this week, meet new friends, and let the grace of God reign supreme in your thoughts and actions.

Mennonite Church USA would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous donations to MennoCon23:

- **App**
  - Everence

- **Mobility Scooters**
  - Everence

- **Quiet/Sensory Room Furnishings**
  - Anabaptist Disabilities Network

- **Registration bags**
  - Anabaptist World

- **Spanish Interpretation Equipment**
  - Mosaic Mennonite Conference

- **Printing Consultation**
  - Mennonite Press, Inc.

- **Volunteers**
  - Special thanks to our many full-time coordinators and volunteers, who gave their time and talents to help make this event possible. We appreciate your service and couldn't have pulled together MennoCon23 without you!

**App**

For schedules, maps, speaker information and much more, download our mobile convention app. This is the best way to stay up to date with any room or schedule changes. To download, follow instructions in the email invitation you received or go to mennoniteusa.org/mc23app or scan the QR Code to the right. Use the email address you used to register for MennoCon23.
Dear MennoCon23 attendees,

Welcome to MennoCon23, MC USA’s leading faith formation event. As the Apostle Paul wrote, it is good for us, as believers, to gather together and encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25).

The last few years have been challenging, but I am inspired daily by the adaptability, faith and motivation of our conferences, congregations, agencies, affiliated schools, ministry partners, constituency groups and individual believers. We live in a time of change and global disruption, but we trust that God will lead us through discomfort to a place of transformation.

As you experience our events here, in Kansas City, I hope you will be energized to live into our Renewed Commitments to follow Jesus, witness to God’s peace and experience the transformation of the Holy Spirit. I pray that our time here helps strengthen you for the journey ahead and equip you to find exciting, new ways to engage with and share your Anabaptist faith. Our Anabaptist faith is good news to share beyond our traditional Mennonite communities. We have a faith that has impacted the world.

As we move forward together, let us continue to be advocates and allies for the marginalized. I pray that our faith facilitates transformation through which all will feel welcome in MC USA and called to bring healing and hope to a broken world. Let us demonstrate the love of Christ in word and deed, to those who don’t know his name, need encouragement or don’t feel that this church is their home. Let us call them to the foot of the cross, because God is enough, and nothing else will do.

Thank you for attending MennoCon23 and bringing your energy and passion to our gathering. You are MC USA and a crucial part of keeping the vision of our denomination alive. We are better together and could not accomplish what we do without your support and participation.

May we celebrate the joy of transformation in Christ together,

Glen Guyton
Executive Director

Mennonite Church USA
Hispanic Ministries
theological and biblical education in Spanish for a growing Hispanic Mennonite church

Strengthening Mennonite Church USA through education
MC USA’S MUTUAL AID HEALTH CARE PLAN FOR PASTORS AND CHURCH WORKERS.

EXPLORE THE MC USA ARCHIVES
FIND YOUR ROAR

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**SHARED EXPECTATIONS FOR CONVENTION ATTENDEES**

As planners, we want convention to be safe and enjoyable for all our attendees, and we are counting on you to help make this possible. While we may not always agree with one another, we should always treat each other with respect. In order to make convention a positive experience as possible for everyone, here are some of our expectations for all convention attendees:

- Convention attendees should not engage in language or behavior that threatens the safety or personhood of another convention attendee. This includes racist speech, hate speech, threats, sexual harassment and any other behaviors that could be understood as threatening. If you experience language or behaviors like this at convention, please report the offender to the convention office.
- Blocking hallways, fire exits and points of egress is prohibited at all times. Gatherings that, in any way, violate fire code regulations will be dispersed.
- No literature — fliers, brochures, handouts, books, etc. — may be passed out beyond the exhibit hall area. However, seminar and workshop leaders may distribute handouts, as necessary, during their session.
- No promotional materials may be hung on convention center walls without the written approval of MC USA convention planning staff. This includes posters, postcards, pictures, etc.
- Disagreements should be resolved peacefully. In any and all disagreements, we ask that you treat your conversation partners with the respect they deserve as beloved children of God.
- Respect the instructions of the convention planning staff and volunteers on-site. We are here to serve you and help make convention a good experience for everyone in attendance. If you have a disagreement or complaint about the behavior of any staff or volunteers, please come to the convention planning office to report this behavior.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Information is listed by topic in alphabetical order.

**Abbreviations**

ACC: Anabaptist Climate Collaborative  
ADN: Anabaptist Disabilities Network  
AMBS: Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary  
AMEN: Alternatives to Military Enlistment Network (now POTC)  
ASL: American Sign Language  
BIPOC: Black, Indigenous and people of color  
DEI: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
EMU: Eastern Mennonite University  
EMS: Eastern Mennonite Seminary  
LGBTQIA+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, plus other sexual and gender minorities  
MCC: Mennonite Central Committee  
MCCN: Mennonite Creation Care Network  
MC USA: Mennonite Church USA  
MDS: Mennonite Disaster Service  
MEA: Mennonite Education Agency  
MennoPIN: Mennonite Palestine Israel Network  
MEDA: Mennonite Economic Development Associates  
MVS: Mennonite Voluntary Service  
MWC: Mennonite World Conference  
POTC: Peaceful Option for Careers and Training (formerly AMEN)  
YMCA: Young Men’s Christian Association

**Accessibility Services**

ADN is offering accessibility options to make all attendees feel welcome and able to participate in a variety of activities. Volunteers are available to assist with accessibility service requests. Visit their booth, located in the main hallway just off the 2200 Lobby, for more information.
Nurturing the whole Christian

• Grounding you spiritually
• Transforming you academically

We ask deep questions. We engage Scripture together as a vibrant, theologically diverse learning community. We live the whole-life calling to be Jesus-followers.

Maybe you’re sensing a call to grow in leadership or develop specific ministry skills. Or you want to nourish your faith and expand your biblical understanding. Perhaps you want to prepare for further theological studies. Or all of the above!

Wherever life finds you, we’ve got a place for you at AMBS.

MENNOCON23 SPECIAL OFFERING:
CREATION CARE FUND

Mennonite Creation Care Network is supported, in part, by Everence.
Children's Programming
The children's programming at MennoCon23 is sure to stretch the mind and body, as children will be active in their own convention experience. Children can expect to engage in biblical storytelling, music making, community building, creation making and partaking in recreation activities of all sorts. Programming on July 4-6 will take place from 8:45 a.m.-5:00 p.m., with a break from 12:15-2:15 p.m. for lunch. Children's programming times for July 7 are 8:15 a.m.-5:45 p.m., with a break from 12:15-1:45 p.m. for lunch. Parents are responsible for picking up their children and taking them to lunch.

Daily check-in will be located outside of 2504A. For security reasons, children will need to be checked in and checked out each session.

Infant-grade 5 activities will take place in rooms 2504A, 2504B.

In case of emergency or evacuation, children should be picked up in the main lobby of the Crowne Plaza hotel, located a block away from the convention center.

Nursing lounge: Room 2518, located near the Grand Ballroom where worship will be held, is a space for nursing your baby or pumping. This room is available from 8:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Use a light knock to alert anyone already in the room that you are entering.

Emergency and Medical Information
First aid: The first aid room is located just outside of Exhibit Hall D. KC Medical has been contracted during normal convention hours. For a medical emergency, call the security operations center at 816-513-5111 or contact event security. Report the emergency, giving location, if possible, and other details. House security will call 911. Stay with the injured/ill person until house security arrives. House security will coordinate the arrival of the Kansas City Fire Department and will also guide emergency medical staff to the location of the injured person. The Kansas City Convention Center is equipped with a sufficient number of first aid stations. Event and house security guards are trained and equipped as first responders for medical emergencies and can provide minor first aid. House security guards are certified in administering the automatic external defibrillator.

Nearest Hospital and Urgent Care Facilities
Truman Medical Center, 2301 Holmes St., Kansas City, MO 816-404-1000
University of Kansas Hospital, 4000 Cambridge St., Kansas City, KS. 913-588-1227
Children's Mercy Hospital (for ages 0–21), 2401 Gillham Rd, Kansas City, MO 816-234-3000

Emergency Number
In an emergency call 816-513-5111 (Convention Center Security Operations)

Exhibit Area
Visit the exhibits of MC USA agencies, schools and other Mennonite-related organizations in the 2300 Lobby. The exhibit area will be the place to gather with your friends and check out what's happening with all our church-wide organizations. A list and map of exhibitors is included on page 18 of this program booklet or can be found in the app.

Exhibit Area Hours:
Monday, 8:30-10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 12:15-2:15 p.m., 8:30-10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, 12:15-2:15 p.m.
Thursday, 12:15-2:15 p.m., 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Information Booth
The information booth is located in the main hallway, next to the 2200 Lobby. Stop by with all your questions about convention. Our volunteers will be happy to help you find your way or answer your questions.

Lost and Found
The lost and found is located at the Information Booth.
Lunch

Lunch will be served in Exhibit Hall D. Lunch is included on July 4-6 for everyone registered for MennoCon23. Lunch is included on July 7 for everyone registered for the Delegate Assembly or the Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit. To help with traffic flow, we are asking adults to proceed to lunch right after worship, while youth groups spend time in their small groups before going to lunch. Hours for lunch are 12:15-2:15 p.m. on July 4-6 and 12:00-2:00 p.m. on July 7.

For those who purchased tickets to a special luncheon, you will find meal tickets in your registration packet. There is a separate meal ticket for each meal purchased. Please treat your meal tickets like cash. They cannot be replaced if lost or stolen. To get new tickets, you must pay for the cost of the meals. You must show your meal ticket to be admitted into the event.

Offering: Creation Care

“We believe that God has created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them ...,” and that, “Human beings have been made for relationship with God, to live in peace with each other, and to take care of the rest of creation” (Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, Articles 5 and 6). As a denomination, we have resolved to grow in our “dedication to care for God's creation as an essential part of the good news of Jesus Christ” (Creation Care Resolution, 2013)

This week, we are demonstrating our commitment by bringing together experts in climate change, spiritual activism and social justice for the Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit. This unique event will provide space for our Gen Z followers to explore ways they can put their faith to work to address our climate crisis.

MC USA is also reaffirming its commitment to creation care by adding dedicated staff to pursue creation care initiatives. Following MennoCon23, we will begin to shift the day-to-day operations of the Mennonite Creation Care Network to the Executive Board staff. Please help us continue this good work by supporting MC USA’s Creation Care Fund. This new fund provides a way for us to live out our commitment to care for God’s creation.

Visit MennoniteUSA.org/give or scan the QR code!

Prayer Ministry

Visit the Prayer Room in 2206. The prayer room will offer a variety of opportunities for individual and group prayer throughout convention. Come alone, to pray on your own; bring a friend or group, to join in prayer together; or join a prayer team member during staffed hours. The room will be supplied with a variety of spiritual practice prompts to engage all the senses. Prayer team members will also lead morning, afternoon and evening prayers each day of convention. Be on the lookout in the convention app to learn more about times and themes for each of these prayer group sessions. All prayer requests are held in confidence.

Hours:

Monday: 6-10:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 8 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Thursday: 8 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Quiet/Sensory Room

The Quiet/Sensory Room in 1501C will be open at various times throughout the week, if you need a quiet place to reflect, pray or rest. There will be sensory aids, such as fidgets and weighted blankets, as well as coloring and prayer stations.

Hours:

July 3: 8:30-10:30pm
July 4: 12-2:30pm, 4:45-7pm, 8:30-10:30pm
July 5: 12-2:30pm, 4:45-5:45pm
July 6: 12-2:30pm, 4:45-7pm, 8:30-10:30pm
July 7: 9am - 6pm
Recreation Hall

The recreation hall is located in Exhibit Hall C, and children, youth and adults are welcome to play! Giant checkers, cornhole and gaga ball will be offered. There will also be volleyball and basketball, pingpong, four square, giant Jenga, soccer games, badminton, board games and an area for younger children. For a complete listing of activities and specific times of events, go to the recreation information table in the recreation hall.

- When you check out a ball, pingpong paddle or other equipment, be prepared to leave an item as a deposit until you return the equipment. For example, you could leave your cell phone, ID or watch.
- We will hold lost and found items at the information table for the day. At closing each night, we will take all items to the lost and found at the Information Booth.

Recreation Hall Hours:

- Monday: 8:30-10:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: 12:15-2:15 p.m., 8:30-10:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: 12:15-2:15 p.m.
- Thursday: 12:15-2:15 p.m., 8:30-10:30 p.m.
- Friday: 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Transforming Wall

One opportunity to share your testimony of Transformation is to write a brief note and attach it to the "Transforming Wall" located outside the worship space. Please share ways that you have witnessed or experienced Holy Spirit transformation at some point in your life, or even during this week. As you read the stories of others, notice how the wall itself transforms from day to day.

Translation and Interpretation

Translation: Mennonites across the United States speak and worship in many languages. Other than English, the most predominant language in our congregations is Spanish, so we are offering a version of this program in Spanish. If you would like a copy, please pick one up at the Information Booth or view/download it from our website, convention.mennoniteusa.org.

Interpretation: MennoCon23 planners want to make information as accessible as possible and have arranged for volunteers to provide Spanish and ASL interpretation services. Spanish interpretation will be provided during worship services and delegate sessions, and ASL interpretation and/or English-based signed transliteration will be available upon request. If you did not indicate the need for interpretation when you registered, we will do our best to accommodate last-minute requests, but we cannot guarantee that volunteers will be available at any given time. Visit the Information Booth to make your request.

Volunteers

Thank you for your willingness to volunteer at MennoCon23! Your help is invaluable. We can still use more volunteers. Please check in at the Volunteer Booth near the 2200 Lobby, whether you signed up, whether you signed up in advance or want to help out now that you’re at convention.

On behalf of Visit KC: In order to maximize the impact of your support within our city, we recommend directing donations and referrals to Kansas City’s local institutions that are dedicated to providing services for unhoused individuals and those in crisis:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Morning Glory Ministries</th>
<th>Shelter KC Men’s Center</th>
<th>Shelter KC Women’s Center</th>
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<tr>
<td>morningglorykc.org</td>
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<td>(816) 842-0416</td>
<td>(816) 421-7643</td>
<td>(816) 348-3287</td>
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</table>

For a 24/7 directory of resources and services available in the Kansas City area, dial 211 in order to speak with a trained professional through the United Way of Greater Kansas City’s hotline.
MEET THE MENNOCON23 WORSHIP TEAM

Worship Planning Coordinator

Becky Degan serves as the associate pastor of worship and Christian education at Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pennsylvania. In her free time, she accompanies a community choir and directs middle and high school plays. Before beginning her current position at Forest Hills, in 2006, she worked for 10 years as a music therapist for children with special needs. Degan holds a bachelor’s degree in music therapy from Elizabethtown (Pennsylvania) College and is currently working toward a Master of Arts in Christian leadership from EMS, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She lives in Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

Worship Band

Onan Alvarez, band leader, is a musician, pastor, and video and sound wizard, based in Houston, Texas. Alvarez has extensive touring credentials and musical experience. He said he hopes that his faith and deep desire to serve God will uplift those around him.

Band members:

Jermaine Figueroa, Houston, Texas | Nicole Francisco Bailey, Hampton, Virginia | Hillary Harder, Elkhart, Indiana
Jeremy Kempf, Phoenix, Arizona | Edwin Rodriguez, Houston Texas | Kate Umble Smucker, Brooklyn, New York

Worship Leaders

Jeff Hochstetler lives in Berlin, Ohio, where serves as lead pastor of Berlin Mennonite Church. He graduated from AMBS in Elkhart, Indiana, with a Master of Divinity and Goshen (Indiana) College with a Bachelor of Arts in business and history. Hochstetler learned to love road cycling on the flat terrain of Northern Indiana. He is the president of the Holmes County (Ohio) Ministerial Association and serves on the board of directors at Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

Ana Alicia Hinojosa serves as the director of constituent engagement at Mennonite Mission Network. She previously served as the immigration education coordinator for MCC Central States. Hinojosa has been a part of the Mennonite denomination all her life, starting at Iglesia Mennonite del Cordero in Brownsville, Texas, and she currently attends New Life Christian Center in San Benito, Texas, where she helps lead and teach alongside her father Eduardo “Lalo” Hinojosa. Hinojosa has served in areas of Christian education, children’s church, youth and middle school ministry, worship, and preaching and teaching. Hinojosa’s passion is to build young leaders to continue serving in the church and communities. She graduated from the University of Texas at Brownsville with a Bachelor of Arts and from the University of Phoenix with a Master of Education in organizational leadership. She lives in San Benito.

Technical Director

Tim Blaum lives in Goshen, Indiana, and works for Everence Financial as the IT user support manager. He graduated from Goshen College in 2010, with a degree in communications. Blaum attends Restór Church in Goshen. This is Blaum’s 11th convention. He says he is carried through convention week by adrenaline, cold brew coffee and the long-term friendships he has built with the convention planning staff, worship team members and the all-star technical crew he’s worked with along the way.

Worship Planners

Derek King lives in Moundridge, Kansas, where he is the pastor of Eden Mennonite Church. Previously, he lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Harrisonburg, Virginia. King received a Bachelor of Arts in justice, peace and conflict studies from EMU and a Master of Divinity from EMS.

Danilo Sanchez lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he is a co-pastor at Ripple Church and serves as the community chaplain for Ripple Community Inc, a non-profit that emerged from the work of Ripple Church. Sanchez also is on staff with Mosaic Mennonite Conference and serves in the areas of youth formation and intercultural work. He graduated from Eastern University in 2010 and received his Master of Divinity from EMS in 2013.
**WORSHIP SPEAKERS**

**Monday evening**

**Nelson Okanya** is the global missions president for the Center for Serving Leadership in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is also the chair of the Global Mission Fellowship, a support network for Anabaptist-related churches and mission groups, facilitated by MWC. Previously, Okanya served as a pastor and the president of Eastern Mennonite Missions. He holds a Master of Divinity from EMS and a doctorate in intercultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary. He attends James Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

**Tuesday morning**

**Brian Moll** is the pastor of Cincinnati (Ohio) Mennonite Fellowship. Before taking on this role, Moll worked as the executive director of faith-based organizations in New York, New York, and San Francisco, California, that addressed issues related to employment difficulties for people with criminal histories, and homelessness. He also founded and led a church in New York. Moll holds a Doctor of Ministry in public theology from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey; a Master of Arts in ministry, leadership and culture from Fresno (California) Pacific University; and a Bachelor of Science in biblical studies from Cincinnati Christian University.

**Tuesday evening**

**Iris de León-Hartshorn** is the associate executive director of Operations and the director of Human Resources for MC USA. Prior to her current role, de León-Hartshorn served as the MC USA director of transformative peacemaking, the MC USA director of intercultural ministries, the conference minister of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, and the MCC director of peace and justice, as well as serving as a member of the MWC executive committee. She holds a Master of Arts in conflict transformation and peacebuilding from EMU in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She is a member of Portland (Oregon) Mennonite Church.

**Wednesday morning**

**Dianne Garcia** is the pastor of the Roca de Refugio church in San Antonio, Texas. Before becoming a pastor, she was a camp director, a teacher and teacher coach, and a gardener. She earned a Bachelor of Science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education, both in Boston, Massachusetts. She is currently pursuing a degree to become a licensed counselor.

**Thursday morning**

**The Kaleidoscope of Generations** is a panel that includes representatives from several generations. MennoCon23 worship leaders Ana Alicia Hinojosa and Jeff Hochstetler will lead the panelists in a discussion about what the church looks like from the perspective of their respective generations, how transformation is influenced by one's peers and what it looks like to be a church that moves forward together, while being transformed by the Holy Spirit.

**Thursday evening**

**Jon Carlson** is the current moderator-elect for MC USA and will step into the role of moderator following the conclusion of the July 7 Delegate Assembly. He has served on MC USA's Executive Board since 2019 and is on the board of directors for Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Schools. Previously, Carlson also served as the assistant moderator for Atlantic Coast Conference. Currently, he serves as the lead pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pennsylvania. Carlson is completing his Master of Divinity from EMS in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Tuesday, July 4**

Hymn Sing  
8:00-8:45 a.m. | 2215A  
Join us for a time of singing hymns together!

**Can't Tell Us Nothing Comedy Improv**  
9:00-10:00 p.m. | 3501EFGH  
Can't Tell Us Nothing is an improv comedy group based in Houston, Texas. They are members of the Station Theater Improv community and have been performing together for over seven years. They have performed at numerous improv comedy festivals around the United States and headlined improv comedy shows in New York, New York, and Los Angeles, California. They won the Contest4Improv4Humans in 2018. Can't Tell Us Nothing utilizes audience discussions and opinions to inspire comedic characters and scenes in their fast-paced shows. Come ready for a lot of laughter and audience participation!

**Wednesday, July 5**

Hymn Sing  
5:00-5:45 p.m. | 2215A  
Join us for a time of singing hymns together!

Trip to Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun Amusement Park  
4:00-10:30 p.m.  
Buses will depart from the Kansas City Convention Center at 4:00 p.m. for the amusement park. Previous purchase required. A limited number of last-minute tickets are available. Stop by the Information Booth for more details.

**Thursday, July 6**

Hymn Sing  
8:00-8:45 a.m. | 2215A  
Join us for a time of singing hymns together!

Ryan and Friends Comedian/Ventriloquist  
9:00-10:15 p.m. | 3501EFGH  
Ryan Bomgardner is a full-time ventriloquist and comedian. Each year, he performs over 150 shows throughout North America. Bomgardner's performances range from corporate events, theatres, and resorts to churches, cruises, TV appearances, and a headlining performance for the Walt Disney Company. Bomgardner's show has taken him to six continents, all while making people laugh. Laughter is guaranteed for the whole family!
1. MHS Association
2. Goshen College
3. AMBS
4. MDS
5. Mennonite Camping Association
6. Mennonite Men
7. Anabaptist World
8. Anabaptist Climate Collaborative
9. Eastern Mennonite Missions
10. Springs Forth! Faith Formation, Inc
11. Big Booth for Intersectional Justice
12. Mennonite Central Committee
13. Mennonite Women USA
14. MEDA
15. Kauffman Museum at Bethel College
16. Bethel College
17. Bluffton University
18. Hesston College
19. Eastern Mennonite University
20. MC USA
21. Mennonite Creation Care Network
22. Mennonite Education Agency
23. Mennonite Mission Network
24. Everence
25. Menno Media
26. Menno Media
# ROOM NUMBERS

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THE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, JULY 3

7:00-8:30 p.m. Worship: Be Transformed
Grand Ballroom

8:30-10:30 p.m. Exhibits Area Open
2300 Lobby
Recreation Hall Open
Exhibit Hall C

9:00 p.m. AMBS Alumni and Friends Reception
2104A
MC USA Church Planters Reception
2104B

TUESDAY, JULY 4

8:00-8:45 a.m. Hymn Sing
2215A

9:00-10:00 a.m. Adult Seminars
Believing and Belonging
2215A
Churches Going Solar
2215C
Equipped for Community Development
2207
Holding Your Story
2215B
Interpreting the Text, Interpreting the Context
2209
Seeing Power as God Sees It
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3501EFGH

Youth Seminars
Can You Be a Rich Christian?
2203
Climate Change and Peace
2214
Fighting With Peace
2211
It’s OK to Not Be OK!
2202
Rivers in the Desert: Experiences From MVS Tucson
2204
Science and Faith
2208
Silence for Dummies Extroverts
2205

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Worship: Fear and Failure in Transformation
Grand Ballroom

12:00-12:45 p.m. Youth Small Groups
2502A, 2502B, 2503A
Lunch
Exhibit Hall D

12:15-2:15 p.m. Exhibits Area Open
2300 Lobby
Recreation Hall Open
Exhibit Hall C

2:30-3:30 p.m. Adult Guided Conversation Rooms
2215A and 2215C
Youth Guided Conversation Room
3501EFGH
THE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, JULY 4 (cont.)

2:30-3:30 p.m. **Adult Seminars**

- Servant Leadership on Steroids  
  2215B
- What Is the KINEO CENTER, and How Can It Help?  
  2207
- Where Two or Three Gather: Dialogue in Divisive Times  
  (continues to 4:45 p.m.)  
  2209

3:45-4:45 p.m. **Adult Seminars**

- Faith and Finances 101  
  2203
- Join the Jubilee: Growing a Repair Network  
  2208
- What Do We Do About Kids? Faith Formation Dreaming  
  2202
- What to Expect During a Pastoral Search Process  
  3501EFGH
- Where Two or Three Gather: Dialogue in Divisive Times  
  (continued from 2:30 p.m.)  
  2209

**Intergenerational Seminars**

- The Anabaptist Community Bible  
  2210
- Creating Relationships and Understanding in Gaza  
  2205
- Healthy Masculinity: On Being a Good Man  
  2211
- Mennonite Disaster Service in the Age of “Nones”  
  2214

**Youth Seminars**

- Art for Change: Exploring Your Creativity  
  2215B
- Called to Be Bad Podcast  
  2201
- Change Your Mind, Change the World!  
  2215C
- Palestine Land Exercise  
  2204
- Prostitutes More Righteous Than Patriarchs?  
  2215A
- What You Do Next Matters  
  2207

5:15 p.m. **Friends of MDS Reception**  
  2102B
- Goshen College Alumni and Friends Reception  
  2104A

7:00-8:30 p.m. **Worship: Healing Transformation**  
  *Grand Ballroom*

  *This worship service will include a time of anointing.*

8:30-10:30 p.m. **Exhibits Area Open**  
  *Exhibit Hall C*

9:00 p.m. **MennoPIN Meet and Greet**  
  2102A
- Can’t Tell Us Nothing Comedy Improv  
  3501EFGH
THE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

9:00-10:00 am.  

**Adult Seminars**
- An Engaged Culture, Plain and Simple 2207
- Got Climate Anxiety? Strategies for Hope and Resilience 2202
- Human Resources Basics for Congregations 3501EFGH
- Practicing Nonviolence in a Time of War 2215C
- Supersessionism and Biblical Interpretation 2203
- Toward a Church in Which Women in Ministry Thrive 2211
- Women, Men and Money 2215A

**Intergenerational Seminars**
- Introduction to LGBTQIA+ 2204

**Youth Seminars**
- Fighting With Peace 2205
- God, Gangs and Global Violence 2210
- “Just a Game”: Sport and/as Religion 2208
- Quarterback, Class President — but No Leader! 2214
- Transforming Community Through Drama! 2201
- Women Will Renew: Short Film Premiere, Discussion 2215B
- Youth and the Contemplative Path 2209

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Worship: Mutual Transformation  
Grand Ballroom

12:00-12:45 p.m.  
Youth Small Groups  
2502A, 2502B, 2503A

12:15-2:15 p.m.  
Lunch  
Exhibit Hall D
- Mennonite History Luncheon 2104B
- Exhibits Area Open 2300 Lobby
- Recreation Hall Open  
Exhibit Hall C

2:30-3:30 p.m.  
Adult Guided Conversation Rooms  
2215A and 2215C
Youth Guided Conversation Room 3501EFGH

**Adult Seminars**
- Making the Church Wild 2207
- Making Decisions Together 2208

**Intergenerational Seminar**
- Both Sides of the Wall: The Good Side and the Bad Side 2215B
THE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5 (cont.)

3:45-4:45 p.m. 
**Adult Seminars**
- Come to The Peace Table
- Conjuring Hope in Rural Spaces
- Equipping Families for Faith Formation
- How to Be Wrong
- I Couldn’t Teach Math Because I Boycott Israel
- Remembering the Forgotten War
- Turning Your Church Toward Engaged Mission

**Intergenerational Seminars**
- Beyond Green Growth and Creation Care
- Finding “Home”: How to Find Adults Who “Get” You

4:00-10:30 p.m. 
Trip to Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun

5:00-5:45 p.m. 
Hymn Sing

5:15 p.m. 
MEDA Gathering

Hesston College Alumni and Friends Gathering

*Free Evening*

THURSDAY, JULY 6

8:00-8:45 a.m. 
Hymn Sing

9:00-10:00 a.m. 
**Adult Seminars**
- Attending to the Presence of Trauma in Churches
- Deep Listening, Deep Respect
- DEI: The Missing Link
- Enabling the Church to Do War Tax Redirection
- Living Into Repentance and Transformation
- Marking Adult Transitions: Ritual and Reflection
- Women as Church Leaders: We Did Not Keep Silent!

**Intergenerational Seminars**
- Considering Reparations for African Americans
THURSDAY, JULY 6 (cont.)

**Youth Seminars**

- Acting Out the Parable 2201
- Anabaptist Approaches to Violence in Scripture 2208
- Help! My Phone Is Stuck to My Face 2215B
- Making the Bible User-Friendly 2205
- One Shirt at a Time: Moving Away From Fast Fashion 2215C
- Personal Brand That Is More Than Skin Deep 2215A
- What Are We Doing Here Anyway? 2214

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  Worship: Generational Transformation  
*Grand Ballroom*  
This worship service will include Communion.

12:00-12:45 p.m.  Youth Small Groups  
*2502A, 2502B, 2503A*

12:15-2:15 p.m.  Lunch  
*Exhibit Hall D*
*Exhibits Area Open*
*Recreation Hall Open*

2:30-3:30 p.m.  Adult Guided Conversation Rooms  
*2215A and 2215C*

**Adult Seminars**

- The Church, Migration and Disappeared People 2214
- Conversation Circles for Pastors 2202
- Safeguarding in Christian Institutions 2204

**Youth Seminar**

- Making Space for Your Questions (continues to 5:30pm) 2211

**Adult Seminars**

3:45-4:45 p.m.  

- How to Supervise Your Pastor! 3501EFGH
- Learn to Be Happy With Your Money-Self 2207
- Resistance and Healing: Queer, Decolonial Movements 2203
- Survived: Long-Haul Resilience 2215C
- Tending Healthy Pastor-Congregation Relationships 2208
- Writing Words for Worship 2204

**Intergenerational Seminars**

- Teaching Anabaptism in Mennonite Higher Education 2215B
- Toward the May/June 2024 South African Election 2214
THE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, JULY 6 (cont.)

3:45-4:45 p.m. Youth Seminars
- Acting Out the Parable
- Creating an Intercultural Campus Culture
- Dealing With ANGER: My Story
- God, Gangs and Global Violence
- Making Space for Your Questions (continued from 2:30pm)
- One Shirt at a Time: Moving Away From Fast Fashion
- Quarterback, Class President — but No Leader!

5:15 p.m. Hope for the Future Reunion
- Engaging Climate Change w/ the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative

7:00-8:30 p.m. Worship: Communities of Transformation
Grand Ballroom

8:30-10:30 p.m.
- Exhibits Area Open
- Recreation Hall Open

9:00 p.m.
- Ryan and Friends Comedian/Ventriloquist
- MCC Friends Gathering
- EMU Dessert Reception

FRIDAY, JULY 7

8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Delegate Assembly
Grand Ballroom

9:00 a.m.-12 p.m. Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit
3501EFGH

12:00-2:00 p.m.
- Lunch
- Recreation Hall Open

1:00-5:00 p.m. Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit
3501EFGH

2:00-5:30 p.m. Delegate Assembly
Grand Ballroom

SATURDAY, JULY 8

8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Delegate Assembly
Grand Ballroom
**Monday, July 3**

**Worship**
Be Transformed
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Nelson Okanya
*Grand Ballroom*

Nelson Okanya is currently the Global Missions President for the Center for Serving Leadership in Pittsburgh. He is also the chair of the Global Mission Fellowship, a support network for Anabaptist-related churches and mission groups, facilitated by Mennonite World Conference. Previously, Okanya served as a pastor and the president of Eastern Mennonite Missions. He holds a Master of Divinity from Eastern Mennonite Seminary and a doctorate in intercultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary. He attends James Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

**Exhibits and Recreation**
8:30-10:30 p.m.
Visit the exhibits, or burn some energy and play games in the recreation hall! Exhibits are in 2300 Lobby. Recreation is in Exhibit Hall C.

**AMBS Alumni and Friends Reception**
9:00 p.m.
2104A
Alumni and friends of AMBS are invited to gather for fellowship and a short update — at 9:15 p.m. — of what is happening on campus and in our global programs.

**MC USA Church Planters Reception**
9:00 p.m.
2104B
Whether you are a wild church planter, a traditional planter or somewhere in between, this reception is for you! This informal gathering will provide space for you to talk with church planters and learn about the variety of church plants throughout MC USA. See you there!

**Tuesday, July 4**

**Hymn Sing**
8:00-8:45 a.m.
2215A
Join us for a time of singing hymns together!

**Adult Seminars**
9:00-10:00 a.m.

**Believing and Belonging**
Jeanne Davies, executive director, ADN
2215A
Anabaptists practice believer’s baptism. We believe that every person should make their own choice about baptism and church membership. However, our membership curriculum is often inaccessible to people with intellectual disabilities. When people with intellectual disabilities have a desire to explore the possibility of membership, pastors, teachers and parents scramble to adapt or create a curriculum that is accessible. Come explore the concept of membership and belonging, what we need to know in order to make a choice, how we can know someone’s ability to choose, and what to do when the ability to choose is not clear. As a part of this seminar, we’ll share about ADN's new membership curriculum, Believing and Belonging, which was created with the support of an Innovation Grant from MHS Association. We hope to share some stories of people who have used the curriculum.

**Churches Going Solar**
Jennifer Schrock, leader, MCCN, along with Jon Rudy, who recently shepherded Landisville Mennonite Church, Landisville PA through the process of installing solar panels; and Clyde Schwanke, who did the same with Southern Hills Mennonite Church, Topeka KS.
2215C
Meet representatives from congregations that have installed solar panels, and hear their stories. The workshop will cover the practical and faith-based reasons that churches are making this decision and provide resources for those interested in exploring solar or reducing energy consumption in other ways.
Equipped for Community Development
Leonard Dow, vice president of community and church development, and panel, Everence
2207
Join Leonard Dow and a panel of community development experts to learn more about how you, your church or your organization can effectively impact the community around you. From accessing resources, to building and promoting a vision, to finding partners and volunteers, these community development leaders have experience you can use to deepen your witness and ministry. Bring your questions and ideas to this interactive discussion about how we can all work together to better engage and serve our local communities.

Holding Your Story
Michelle L. Hofer, visual artist, moderator elect for Central Plains Mennonite Conference, leader of the Order of St. Hildegard; Jill Hofer, pastor, House Church of Freeman, Bridgewater, South Dakota
2215B
As the fracturing of our churches, communities and world grows, hurt and harm grow, too. We live in a state of extremes, in which these are becoming a constant state rather than an exception. It is increasingly important that we learn how to tell and listen to the stories around us. During this session, you will gain a new understanding of this important function of community and relationship. You will learn practical skills and gain an appreciation for this important holy work. Understanding, validation and a greater sense of belonging will become evident, as we collectively learn and use these skills.

Interpreting the Text, Interpreting the Context
Lindy Backues, Ph.D, author and associate professor of business and leadership, EMU
2209
The focus of this seminar will be on Robert A. Traina’s inductive Bible study methodology, should it be taken up as a template for teaching social sciences. The workshop will examine the pedagogical practice of discovering conceptual themes in social science research, with five representative academic disciplines briefly surveyed. Thereafter, such a thematic approach will be illustrated by way of Backues’s own experience in social science research and experience in the classroom.

Seeing Power as God Sees It
Dorothy Jean Weaver, author and professor emerita, EMS
2201
This workshop will be an interactive Bible study of Matthew 2:1-23, focusing on questions of power and powerlessness in the real world. The workshop will invite participants to examine the astonishing, upside-down character of power from the God’s-eye view of Matthew’s Gospel and reflect on the significance of this perspective for Christians living in the troubled and violent world of the 21st century. Bring your Bible, and come prepared to participate in the discussion.

Intergenerational Seminars
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Anabaptism at 500
Amy Gingerich, executive director and publisher, and Mitch Stutzman, director of development and partner engagement, MennoMedia
2210
The 500th anniversary of Anabaptism is coming up in 2025. This anniversary gives the church a unique opportunity to celebrate the Spirit calling diverse people together across boundaries of culture and geography and dream about how more people can be invited into and participate in leading and shaping Anabaptism’s future. Come and dream with us about looking back and living forward in faith. We will hear and share stories of our faith — what has led us thus far and what continues to hold us — as we look ahead to 2025.

IMPROVe Your Cultural Competency Skills
Glen Guyton, author and executive director of MC USA, and Can’t Tell Us Nothing Improv Group
3501EFGH
Is your workplace too woke to joke? Let’s hope not! A culturally competent workplace should be fun and relaxed. If everyone worries about being canceled, you have a toxic workplace. Diversity, equity and inclusion are for everyone, but it takes practice, and it means taking risks. This IMPROV workshop aims to create an environment in which all demonstrate critical thinking and analysis skills, through describing, interpreting, verifying and evaluating in a playful, fun, low-risk setting.

Youth Seminars
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Can You Be a Rich Christian?
Lyle Miller and Marlene Kroeker, stewardship consultants, Everence
2203
Money plays an important part in our life’s journey, but what does it mean to manage money as a faithful follower of Jesus? Join Everence stewardship consultants Marlene Kroeker and Lyle Miller to learn four financial fundamentals that will give you 96.82% of what you need to know to be a faithful steward.

Climate Change and Peace
Tammy Alexander, director, and Galen Fitzkee, legislative associate, National Peace & Justice Ministries of MCC
2214
Learn about the ways climate change impacts people around the world in this interactive exercise. Discover how changing rainfall patterns, severe weather, wildfires and other phenomena lead to migration, hunger and conflict, in addition to how communities are changing and adapting to a new reality — and how you can be part of the efforts to call for change!
Fighting With Peace
Jessica Stoltzfus Buller, peace education coordinator, MCC; and Mike Martin, executive director of RAWtools
2211
When conflict comes up in our lives, we often react without thinking much. Conflict is a normal part of life, and learning how to manage difference, conflict or aggression from others is important. Conflict has the ability to rip apart our relationships ... or it can be transformative. This seminar will teach the basic skills of dealing with conflict, including communication skills, problem solving and ideas for stopping violence without harming others. Come, join us and learn to make peace with conflict by practicing these skills!

It’s OK to not be OK!
Sarah Neher, director of faith formation and congregational life, Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, Kansas
2202
Sometimes we feel alone and less than whole. Rather than hiding this feeling, finding connection is key. This seminar is a place to connect, learn a little and try out different practices that ground your faith, body and mind in God’s love.

Rivers in the Desert: Experiences From MVS Tucson
Michaela Esau, Andrea Troyer, Cade Fisher and Jessie Landis, Mennonite Mission Network
2204
The Tucson MVS unit will share about their year of service in the desert and facilitate a discussion on some of the misconceptions about mission, and the transformative power of friendship as the guiding force of service.

Science and Faith
Peter Goerzen, assistant professor of Bible and religion, Bethel College
2208
Why do people often say that faith and science are in conflict? Do they have to be, or what areas of convergence could there be? This seminar will explore different perspectives on the Bible and science, as well as biblical passages describing the study of the natural world as a pathway to glorifying God.

Silence for Dummies Extroverts
Michele Hershberger, author and professor of Bible and youth ministry, Hesston College
2205
For some of us, the thought of silence is terrifying. Ironically, if it is terrifying, that’s a sign that it may be just what we need. Join Michele Hershberger, as she explores the benefits of silence and how to practice it in transformative ways.

Worship
Fear and Failure in Transformation
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Brian Moll
Grand Ballroom
Brian Moll is the pastor of Cincinnati (Ohio) Mennonite Fellowship. Before taking on this role, Moll worked as the executive director of faith-based organizations in New York and San Francisco, California, that addressed issues related to employment difficulties for people with criminal histories, and homelessness. He also founded and led a church in New York. Moll holds a Doctor of Ministry in public theology from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey; a Master of Arts in ministry, leadership and culture from Fresno (California) Pacific University; and a Bachelor of Science in biblical studies from Cincinnati Christian University.

Youth Small Groups
12:00-12:45 p.m.
2502A, 2502B, 2503A — These rooms are open for this purpose, but feel free to meet wherever you wish around the convention center. This is a dedicated time to connect with your own youth group. Hear about what other students are learning in seminars or worship. Share what you’re experiencing and process together.

Exhibits and Recreation
12:15-2:15 p.m.
Visit the exhibits, or burn some energy and play games in the recreation hall! Exhibits are in 2300 Lobby. Recreation is in Exhibit Hall C.

Adult Guided Conversation Rooms
2:30-3:30 p.m.
2215A facilitated by AMBS faculty & 2215C facilitated by EMS faculty.
Worship builds our community. This is an opportunity to gather with other adults to reflect on the worship services in facilitated large groups. Our guided conversation rooms will allow convention-goers to ask questions, reflect and engage in dialogue related to the worship topics of the day.

Youth Guided Conversation Room
2:30-3:30 p.m.
3501EGFH
Facilitated by Jeff Hochstetler and Lesley Francisco McClendon Worship builds our community. This is an opportunity to gather with other youth to reflect on the worship services in facilitated large groups. Our guided conversation room will allow convention-goers to ask questions, reflect and engage in dialogue related to the worship topics of the day.
Servant Leadership on Steroids: Leading in a Post-Christian World
Michele Hershberger, author and professor of Bible and youth ministry, Hesston College
2215B
Many pastors suffer stress and burnout because they’re given many responsibilities but little to no authority. And congregations want a strong vision, until that vision asks them to do something they don’t want to do. Join Michele Hershberger, as she discusses what it means to be an adaptive-challenge leader — a servant leader on steroids!

What Is the KINEO CENTER, and How Can It Help?
Dan White Jr., author and co-founder of Kineo Center
2207
Many pastors today are weary and/or wounded! Not only is pastoring a hard calling, doing it in today’s context brings increased challenges. The KINEO center offers focused initiatives, through learning cohorts and retreats. This seminar, led by KINEO staff, will give you information on center cohorts and retreats, including details on how to participate. MC USA is a founding partner of KINEO center.

Where Two or Three Gather: Dialogue in Divisive Times*
(*Seminar is 2:30-4:45 p.m.)
Ted Lewis, consultant and trainer, Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking at University of Minnesota Duluth
2209
Church communities are challenged by anxious times and polarizing issues. Can Matthew 18 provide wisdom for helping people address micro-harms and conflicts that breed mistrust? Through the lens of restorative practices and biblical narratives, this workshop provides practical skills for both one-on-one conversations and facilitated dialogue for small groups. The power of people telling their own stories and being heard well by others is vital to let “shift happen,” so that people can better co-exist with one another. Are you being called to hold space in your church for hard, but healing, conversations in the heart-zone?

Adult Seminars
3:45-4:45 p.m.

Faith and Finances 101
Lyle Miller, stewardship consultant, Everence, with other Everence consultants
2203
Is it possible to incorporate your values with your decisions about money? Come and hear how Everence is helping individuals, congregations and organizations integrate their faith and their finances. Designed as a conversation, with lots of time for questions, Everence stewardship consultants will provide news and updates for those both familiar and unfamiliar with Everence and its mutual aid mission.

Join the Jubilee: Growing a Repair Network
Katerina Gea, pastor, Wild Church Fresno (California), and organizer of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery
2208
Katerina Gea will share about the “Repair Network,” a new way for congregations and communities to join the Coalition’s work for Indigenous justice. Representatives from Repair Network communities will share stories from their journey of decolonization, such as land acknowledgment art, land return and reparations efforts, and accompaniment of Indigenous peoples protecting land and water. Come and learn how your community can join Jesus’ invitation to Jubilee justice in relationship with Indigenous peoples!

What Do We Do About Kids? Faith Formation Dreaming
Moriah Hurst, nurture and faith development pastor, Park View Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia
2202
How we do faith formation with young people and children may need a shakedown and some rethinking. Old models aren’t working anymore, and were they even doing what we wanted in the past? How do we get to the core of what we want to be teaching and modeling and then dream about new ways of doing this into the future? Come ready to share your ideas and dream with others about how we might be shaping the faith of young people going forward.

What to Expect During a Pastoral Search Process
Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister of ministerial leadership, MC USA
3501EFGH
Pastor transitions are a natural part of congregational life. It’s also an opportunity to reflect on where the congregation has been and where the congregation is headed. And of course, with a transition comes a lot of questions. How does the search process work? How long will it take? What can we expect as a congregation? In this seminar, we will explore these questions together.

Where Two or Three Gather: Dialogue in Divisive Times
(continued from 2:30)
2209
**Intergenerational Seminars**

3:45-4:45 p.m.

**The Anabaptist Community Bible**
Sarah Augustine, author and co-founder of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery; Gerald Mast, professor of communication and forum coordinator, Bluffton University; Amy Gingerich, executive director, and Mitch Stutzman, director of development and partner engagement, MennoMedia

2210
What does it mean to read and study Scripture together, and how do we expect God to show up when we do? Come, hear about the Anabaptist Community Bible, which will feature notes and commentary in the margins from Bible study groups from a wide spectrum of Anabaptist faith communities. Learn more about this exciting project and how Bible study can lead to renewed faith in Jesus, stronger faith communities and a more vibrant witness in the world.

**Creating Relationships and Understanding in Gaza**
Tareq Abuhalima, Youth Vision Society, Gaza; with Bob Atchison, steering committee member, MennoPin; and Dave Janzen, member Fellowship of Hope, Elkhart, Indiana, which partners with the Gaza YMCA

2205
MennoPIN’s Gaza Twinning Initiative encourages congregations to engage in relationships with groups in Gaza through prayer, listening, support, and advocacy to address poverty, violence, and human rights abuses. Manhattan (Kansas) Mennonite Church and Youth Vision Society (YVS) was the first Twinning partnership. Relationships and projects with Tareq Abuhalima of YVS developed into a graduate assistantship at Bluffton University where he co-directs Lion and the Lamb Peace Arts Center. The seminar will share experiences growing up in Gaza under the Israeli blockade, wars and the Twinning relationships with Manhattan Mennonite Church and Fellowship of Hope. Fellowship of Hope twins with Gaza YMCA.

**Healthy Masculinity: On Being a Good Man**
Steve Thomas, author and U.S. director, Mennonite Men

2211
Boys and men are sometimes told, "Be a man." For many males, this means being invulnerable, acting tough and dominating others. Realizing how this toxic masculinity negatively impacts us all, we need other ways of being men. We will explore healthy masculinity by looking at the roles and marks of good men following Jesus. Discover how to live a life that matters and leads to God’s peace as God’s beloved sons. Led by the co-editor of “Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity,” and author of “Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith.”

**Mennonite Disaster Service in the Age of “Nones”**
Terry Zehr, volunteer development coordinator, MDS 2214
While there is an increasing number of people identifying as religiously unaffiliated — marking “none” on the census — many share the Christian value of service. This seminar will explore the ways in which MDS’ “theology of the hammer” provides a place to act across the spectrum of religious conviction to bring people home following a disaster. Practice takes priority over belief, and mission over differences. Can Jesus’ example of service to “the least of these” be a wide invitation to those who no longer participate in traditional church? Participants will consider the ways in which the Spirit is inviting people to serve.

**Youth Seminars**
3:45-4:45 p.m.

**Art for Change: Exploring Your Creativity**
Dr. Joseph A. Manickam, president, and Lisa Longacher, development officer, Hesston College

2215B
Do you want to work for peace and justice? What if you don’t want to or can’t go to a protest or you aren’t interested in speaking in front of a large group? Join Dr. Joseph A. Manickam and Lisa Longacher, as they explore ways for your voice to be heard by using your creativity to produce art and work toward change.

**Called to Be Bad Podcast**
Mariah Martin, podcaster and pastor, Faith Mennonite Church, Goshen IN

2201
What if being "bad" is the best way to live out God’s call on your life? Welcome to “Called to be Bad,” a podcast in which guests reveal a "bad" — strange, non-traditional, taboo — topic that they are passionate about. Examples include: bad words, bad music, tattoos — the topics the church often finds uncomfortable. Come explore what your "bad" topic may teach you about your faith!

**Change Your Mind, Change the World!**
Jessica Stoltzfus Buller, peace education coordinator, and Adam and Sarah Sensamaust, area directors for central and southern Asia, MCC

2215C
How much time do you take to consider opinions that differ from yours? We all have biases that limit our compassion and understanding for those we disagree with. It’s easy to dismiss one another, but developing our curiosity is a foundational practice for living out Christ’s call to peacemaking. Join this workshop to discover tools for engaging across difference, as you hear stories of how MCC is working in the U.S. and abroad to encourage communities to explore our differences, change minds and bring peace to an increasingly polarized world.
Palestine Land Exercise
Anthony Khair, international fellow, and Zachary Murray, legislative associate, National Peace and Justice Ministries of MCC
2204
In this exercise, we bring you the experience of loss, movement and struggle in Palestine. We will walk you through the history of Palestinian displacement in the Middle East and globally. This experiential exercise will lead you through that history to illustrate the Palestinian hope of return and the keys of hope they hold.

Prostitutes More Righteous Than Patriarchs?
Michele Hershberger, author and professor of Bible and youth ministry, Hesston College
2215A
Using Genesis 38 as an example, discover the joy of inductive Bible study! Contexts change, but eternal truth doesn't. Learn how to find God's message for us, even in passages that don't seem to make sense.

What You Do Next Matters
Eric Frey Martin, recruiter and church relations representative, Mennonite Mission Network, with Mennonite college representatives
2207
This seminar will be for high schoolers contemplating what is next for them after graduation. Eric Frey Martin of Mennonite Mission Network, along with representatives from Mennonite colleges, will facilitate a time to talk about the different options youths have to connect their faith and vocation, as they think about the next stage of life. Gap year — plus credit options for college — Service Adventure, the distinctives for each college, the advantages of service with Mission Network — these and more will be considered.

Friends of MDS Reception
5:15 p.m.
2102B
For more than 70 years, when disasters strike, MDS responds. Each year, approximately 6,000 volunteers respond to rebuild homes and restore hope for those impacted by disaster. Our Friends of MDS reception is a time to share your MDS stories, reconnect with dear friends, and hear about current and upcoming volunteer opportunities. This will include brief remarks and a Q&A with Executive Director Kevin King. Light refreshments will be available.

Goshen College Alumni and Friends Reception
5:15 p.m.
2104A
All Goshen College Alumni and Friends are invited to this reception. There will be a short program and a chance to mingle and pick up some Goshen College swag. Don't miss it!

Worship
Healing Transformation
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Iris De León-Hartshorn
Grand Ballroom
Iris de León-Hartshorn is the associate executive director of Operations and the director of Human Resources for MC USA. Prior to her current role, de León-Hartshorn served as the MC USA director of transformative peacemaking, the MC USA director of intercultural ministries, the conference minister of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, and the Mennonite Central Committee director of peace and justice, as well as serving as a member of the Mennonite World Conference (MWC) executive committee. She holds a Master of Arts in conflict transformation and peacebuilding from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She is a member of Portland (Oregon) Mennonite Church.

You will have a chance to come forward to receive a blessing or prayer of healing. As part of the Christian healing tradition, we will be anointing those that come forward with oil. A small amount of oil will be placed on the forehead. If you do not wish to be anointed with oil you are free to say, “No oil please.” We all have times when we need that extra encouragement and words of hope in our lives. We welcome you to come up front after the sermon and allow yourself to be ministered to by our community of faith.

Exhibits and Recreation
8:30-10:30 p.m.
Exhibits are in 2300 Lobby. Recreation is in Exhibit Hall C.

MennoPIN Meet & Greet
9:00 p.m.
2102A
MennoPIN invites you to meet the steering committee and to hear committee member Jonathan Kuttab speak about Israeli apartheid and Christian Zionism, especially the disastrous impact on the lives of Palestinians. Kuttab was born in Palestine, is an international human rights attorney, and is a co-founder of Nonviolence International and Al-Haq, the Palestinian human rights organization that has been falsely labeled by Israel as a terrorist organization. There will also be time to engage with the work of MennoPIN.

Can’t Tell Us Nothing Comedy Improv
9:00 p.m.
3501EFGH
Can’t Tell Us Nothing is an improv comedy group based in Houston, Texas. They are members of the Station Theater Improv community and have been performing together for over seven years. They have performed at numerous improv comedy festivals around the United States and headlined improv comedy shows in New York, New York, and Los Angeles, California. Can’t Tell Us Nothing utilizes audience discussions and opinions to inspire comedic characters and scenes in their fast-paced shows. Come ready for a lot of laughter and audience participation!
An Engaged Culture, Plain and Simple
Nelson Okanya, global missions president, Center for Serving Leadership at the Sagamore Institute
2207
Peter Drucker said, “Culture eats strategy for breakfast.” In fact, culture eats EVERYTHING for breakfast, starting with your capacity to attract, engage, grow and retain great talent, and finishing with the critical results you track in quality, satisfaction and effectiveness. This workshop makes plain what culture is, provides a simple self-diagnostic tool to test its vitality, and outlines the leadership tools and skills required to develop an engaged culture. Workshop elements include: the causal linkage from leadership behavior to success; simple questions that actionably diagnose a culture’s characteristics; a framework for investing in better leadership; interaction; and hands-on practice.

Got Climate Anxiety? Strategies for Hope and Resilience
Sarah Werner, communications coordinator for Central District Conference, pastor of Olentangy Wild Church, and climate justice intern for MC USA
2202
We are bombarded on almost a daily basis with news about the devastating effects of climate change across the world. From wildfires and catastrophic floods to species dying off, paying attention to the plight of our planet can feel overwhelming and keep us from working for justice and restoration. In this seminar, we will talk about the phenomenon of climate anxiety and offer practical tools for living more hopefully in a perilous world. The seminar will include time for sharing with one another and ideas for rituals and practices you can use with your family or congregation to deal with climate anxiety.

Human Resources Basics for Congregations
Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister of ministerial leadership, MC USA
3501 EFGH
What are the expectations when it comes to things like the pastor’s salary, family leave, sabbatical, vacation time, etc.? Come with your questions and your insights. This seminar focuses on resources and best practices for congregations related to pastors’ salaries and benefits.

Practicing Nonviolence in a Time of War
Kathryn Railsback, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action
2215C
During times of war, it is especially difficult to speak out against state-sponsored violence. Fortunately, we have many wonderful models to learn from, including Jesus. This seminar will address questions like: What is nonviolence? How do we practice it? How can we use nonviolence to engage with the powerful forces at work today, which are promoting violence and war-making? How has it been used in the past? How can the principles and practice of non-violence help us nurture peace in ourselves, our communities and our world?

Supersessionism and Biblical Interpretation
Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, associate professor of Hebrew Bible and Bible department chair, AMBS
2203
Supersessionism is the harmful theological claim that the church has replaced Israel as God’s covenant community and the authority of the New Testament “supersedes” that of the Old Testament. This seminar will explore how supersessionism results in shallow and unsatisfying experiences with the Bible, often leading Christians to discount whole swaths of the biblical tradition. We will also investigate various ways that supersessionism among Christians contributes to physical violence and hateful speech against Jews. Finally, we will delve into several methods of reading the whole Bible with integrity, as followers of Jesus today.

Toward a Church in Which Women in Ministry Thrive
Amy Zimbelman, former pastor and current conference minister of Mountain States Mennonite Conference, and Elizabeth Johnson, Duke University Ph.D. candidate, focusing on religion, gender, organizations and mixed-methods research, and member of Raleigh (North Carolina) Mennonite Church
2211
What are the experiences of women serving in leadership in MC USA? Do they feel empowered? Are they mistreated? And can their stories inform us to better create cultures and institutions in which all leaders thrive, regardless of gender? Amy Zimbelman and Elizabeth Johnson have teamed up with MC USA’s Women in Leadership ministry on an 18-month research project to learn about the lives of clergywomen nationwide — the joys and struggles. In this presentation, Zimbelman and Johnson will share the major findings of their one-on-one interviews and nationwide survey.

Women, Men and Money
Rhoda Blough and Lyle Miller, stewardship consultants, Everence
2215A
A dollar bill is neither male nor female, but studies show that women and men have different experiences when it comes to money. Whether you’re married or single, female or male, join Everence stewardship consultants Rhoda Blough and Lyle Miller, as they explore some of these differences, including some of the particular obstacles women often face.
**Intergenerational Seminars**

9:00-10:00 a.m.

**Introduction to LGBTQIA+**

Joanne Gallardo, conference minister, and Clayton Gladish, administrative coordinator, Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Clayton is also pastor of admin. and outreach at Silverwood Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN.

2204

An introduction to LGBTQIA+ terminology, the concept of gender, and recognizing layers of privilege a person has or doesn’t have, based on identity and personhood. There will also be space for respectful questions. This seminar is open to LGBTQIA+ people and their allies.

**Youth Seminars**

9:00-10:00 a.m.

**Fighting With Peace**

Jessica Stoltzfus Buller peace education coordinator, MCC, and Mike Martin, executive director, RAWtools

2205

When conflict comes up in our lives, we often react without thinking much. Conflict is a normal part of life and learning how to manage difference, conflict or aggression from others is important. Conflict has the ability to rip apart our relationships ... or it can be transformative. This seminar will teach basic skills of dealing with conflict, including communication skills, problem solving and ideas for stopping violence without harming others. Come, join us and learn to make peace with conflict by practicing these skills!

**God, Gangs and Global Violence**

Robert Brenneman, professor of criminal justice and sociology, program director of Criminal Justice & Restorative Justice, Goshen College

2210

Gang violence has ripped apart families and communities across Central America, including in communities where Mennonites live and work. Where does this gang violence come from and what can be done about it? Come, hear stories about how and why so many youths are drawn to gangs and learn about the congregations whose active faith has helped gang youths find pathways to peace. Using a storytelling approach, this seminar will introduce you to powerful stories of hope, courage and transformation.

**“Just a Game”: Sport and/as Religion**

Peter Goerzen, assistant professor of Bible & religion, Bethel College

2208

This seminar explores the historical and contemporary connections between sport and religion. Indeed, many observe the religious-like devotion of sports fans and athletes alike. How might we think about sports in light of Christian faith? What are its promises and shadows?

**Quarterback, Class President — but No Leader!**

Rachel Swartzendruber Miller, vice president of advancement, Hesston College

2214

When people hear the word “leadership” they think of the speaker at the front of the room, the most talkative person in the group or their most popular friend. According to Adaptive Leadership Theory, leadership is an activity, not a position, which means anyone can practice the activity of leadership. Join Dr. Rachel Swartzendruber Miller as she explores some key components of this theory and why faith is central to the conversation. Through her personal stories and real-world examples, students will gain ideas for how to increase the activity of leadership in their own lives.

**Transforming Community Through Drama!**

Rachel Jantzi, director of theater, and Michele Hershberger, author and professor of Bible and youth ministry, Hesston College

2201

Explore ways to strengthen our bonds with one another through the theatrical arts. Get your body moving, discover your true self as you put others first and feel your soul start to connect with the divine!

**Women Will Renew: Short Film Premiere, Discussion**

Christy Kauffman, multimedia producer, along with Tammy Alexander, director, and Galen Fitzkee, legislative associate, National Peace and Justice Ministries of MCC

2215B

Enjoy popcorn and join MCC staff for an interactive discussion about a new film, “Women Will Renew.” The short film follows Caroline Pugen and Tariro Cynthia Mutsindikwa, two community leaders who hold a powerful vision of finding solutions to the overlapping challenges of climate change and gender inequity in Mwenezi District, Zimbabwe. Interactive discussion for youth will touch on themes of women’s empowerment, climate change and clean energy solutions. Youth participants will leave the session equipped with tools and language to dialogue and spark action at the intersection of gender equity and climate change.

**Youth and the Contemplative Path**

Elisa Parmer, associate pastor, East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

2209

While many young people are encouraged to be in relationship with God and follow The Way of Jesus, seldom are we equipped with the tools needed to engage in meaningful presence with God. This seminar centers around teaching some contemplative — reflective — practices, which open opportunities to encounter God. Participants will be invited to move about stations and try some different practices to discover what kinds of actions foster significant connection between them and the divine, such as centering prayer, meditation, journaling, doodling and more.
Worship
Mutual Transformation
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Dianne Garcia
Grand Ballroom
Dianne Garcia is the pastor of the Roca de Refugio church in San Antonio, Texas. Before becoming a pastor, she was a camp director, a teacher and teacher coach, and a gardener. She earned a Bachelor of Science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education, both in Boston, Massachusetts. She is currently pursuing a degree to become a licensed counselor.

Youth Small Groups
12:00-12:45 p.m.
2502A, 2502B, 2503A — These rooms are open for this purpose, but feel free to meet wherever you wish around the convention center. This is a dedicated time to connect with your own youth group. Hear about what other students are learning in seminars or worship. Share what you’re experiencing and process together.

Mennonite History Luncheon
12:15 p.m.
2104B
Join us for a time of storytelling, food and meeting friends from across the church who care about Mennonite history. Jim Hershberger, chair of the Shenandoah Mennonite Historians in Virginia, will moderate the luncheon. Caleb Schrock-Hurst, a recent graduate of EMS, will review findings in his master’s thesis about Mennonites and race, as discovered in Herald of Truth, 1864-1897. Schrock-Hurst is the church relations and racial justice leader for Virginia Mennonite Conference. Elwood Yoder, an author and historian from Harrisonburg, Virginia, will tell stories about the history of Virginia Conference’s relation to the Mennonite Church and MC USA. You will have time for table discussion and responses to the presentations. Pre-purchased ticket required.

Exhibits and Recreation
12:15-2:15 p.m.
Visit the exhibits, or burn some energy and play games in the recreation hall! Exhibits are in 2300 Lobby. Recreation is in Exhibit Hall C.

Adult Guided Conversation Rooms
2:30-3:30 p.m.
2215A facilitated by AMBS faculty and 2215C facilitated by EMS faculty
Worship builds our community. This is an opportunity to gather with other adults to reflect on the worship services in facilitated large groups. Our guided conversation rooms will allow convention-goers to ask questions, reflect and engage in dialogue related to the worship topics of the day.

Youth Guided Conversation Room
2:30-3:30 p.m.
3501EFGH
Facilitated by Jeff Hochstetler and Lesley Francisco McClendon
Worship builds our community. This is an opportunity to gather with other youth to reflect on the worship services in facilitated large groups. Our guided conversation room will allow convention-goers to ask questions, reflect and engage in dialogue related to the worship topics of the day.

Adult Seminars
2:30-3:30 p.m.
Making the Church Wild
Janeen Bertsche Johnson, director of campus ministries, alumni director, AMBS
2207
Many people experience God through encountering the beauty and complexity of creation. “Wild Church” is a network of congregations who meet outdoors, using the natural world as their sanctuary. This seminar will introduce the approach of wild churches and their potential to provide a worshipping community for a wide range of people. Then we will experience a version of a wild church worship service.

Making Decisions Together
Michael Danner, associate executive director for Church Vitality and Engagement, MC USA, and executive director, MEA
2208
Making decisions as a group is challenging. Each new perspective adds a new layer of complexity. Yet, as Anabaptist followers of Jesus, we believe that one way God works is by the Spirit through the community of believers. But how do we do that well? This seminar will introduce you to some tools that can help your congregation make decisions together. This seminar is for anyone who has ever said, “There has got to be a better way to make decisions than voting and Robert’s Rules of Order.”
**Intergenerational Seminars**

2:30-3:30 p.m.

**Both Sides of the Wall: The Good Side and the Bad Side**

Abraham Diaz Alonso, immigration programs coordinator, and Anthony Khair, international fellow, National Peace and Justice Ministries of MCC

2215B

Presenters Abraham Diaz Alonso and Anthony Khair bring perspectives from two different continents where border walls play an important role in their lives, work and communities. Abraham Diaz Alonso, a Christian immigrant, living in the United States, who grew up undocumented 10 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border wall, brings the perspective of the ongoing dynamics of U.S.-Mexico policy on border and immigration. Anthony Khair, a Christian Palestinian, who grew — and is still growing up — in the city of Bethlehem, Palestine, where his home stares directly at the border wall that makes the division of Palestine and occupied territory, brings the perspective of what it’s like to live in occupation on the other side of the wall that divides Palestinians from their own homes.

**Adult Seminars**

3:45-4:45 p.m.

**Come to The Peace Table**

Amy Gingerich, executive director, MennoMedia

2205

At The Peace Table, there’s room for all! Enjoy the compelling stories and find inspiration in the beautiful artwork within Shine curriculum’s new story Bible, The Peace Table. We’ll explore ways to share these ancient stories with children and families. Whether you are a grandparent, parent or teacher, you’ll leave with ideas and practices to share with your children, as you gather around The Peace Table.

**Conjuring Hope in Rural Spaces**

Randall Koehler, pastor, Hutterthal Mennonite Church, Freeman, South Dakota, and S. Roy Kaufman, author and retired pastor

2209

In our current political and denominational climate, rural spaces have sometimes been demonized as monolithic fortresses of conservatism, traditionalism and ignorance. Some wonder: What has happened to the rural voices of MC USA and the formational agrarian heritage of Anabaptism? Do those agrarian roots still matter, and how are they speaking into our current experiences? Join retired pastor Roy Kaufman and recently ordained pastor Randall Koehler, both currently living in rural South Dakota, as they share about these questions and possibilities for conjuring hope, as well as invite you to share how you are experiencing hope in your particular space.

**Equipping Families for Faith Formation**

Talashia Keim Yoder, pastor of Christian formation, College Mennonite Church, and theatre director for Bethany Christian High School; and Tami Keim, retired early childhood program director, Hesston College.

2203

This is especially geared for congregational leaders who are hoping to equip and empower families to practice faith at home. Focusing on early childhood, we’ll look briefly at why this is important. Then, we’ll give some practical ideas for ways to inspire, educate, and support parents and caregivers. (see also buildingfaithfamily.com, a website ministry of Mennonite Early Childhood Network)

**How to Be Wrong**

Jon Carlson, moderator-elect, MC USA, pastor, Forest Hills Mennonite Church, Leola, Pennsylvania

2211

One of the central ideas of Christian faith is repentance, or, literally, “to change one’s mind.” Faith presumes that we’re already wrong about all kinds of things. So how do we know when we’re wrong, and what do we do about it? Drawing from Scripture, neuro- and social science, and lived experience, this seminar will explore how we remain faithful in the margin of error.

**I Couldn’t Teach Math Because I Boycott Israel**

Esther Koontz, high school math teacher, Newton (Kansas) High School

2204

In fall 2017, Esther Koontz was asked to sign a loyalty pledge, stating that she would not boycott Israel, in order to get paid for her side job as a math teacher trainer for the state of Kansas. Esther called the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), sued the state of Kansas and won her preliminary injunction, before Kansas changed the law and she lost her legal standing. Hear Esther’s story about how her local Mennonite church first gave her the idea to boycott Israel because of Israel’s unjust treatment of Palestinians and, then, how her church stood by her during the difficult decision to sue and stand up to this First-Amendment-rights violation. Also, view a five-minute film about Esther’s story.
Remembering the Forgotten War
Sue Park-Hur, director of racial/ethnic engagement, MC USA, with Austin Headrick, longtime Korean peninsula peace advocate currently partnering with the American Friends Service Committee.

2210
The Korean War has never officially ended. July 27 will mark 70 years since the signing of the Armistice Agreement that ended the active fighting on the Korean peninsula, the beginning of division within Korea and a relationship with the U.S. based on war-footing. Participants will explore the legacy of the Korean War and the continued militarization of the Korean peninsula. Sue Park-Hur and Austin Headrick will share about peacebuilding work with North Korea and efforts to build relationships across divides. Participants will learn how they can take action in the U.S. and become involved in advocating for engagement and challenging mainstream dehumanizing narratives.

Turning Your Church Toward Engaged Mission
Michael Danner, associate executive director for Church Vitality and Engagement, MC USA, executive director, MEA

3501EFGH
Most existing churches in the U.S. have plateaued and are declining. As Anabaptist followers of Jesus, it’s clear that the world around us could use some good news, rooted in Jesus. How do we participate in God’s shalom-building project in the world, when so much of our time and emotional energy is taken up with the hard realities of a congregation that has lost its vision? This seminar will explore some roadblocks to vital ministry and how to steer around them.

Intergenerational Seminars
3:45-4:45 p.m.

Beyond Green Growth and Creation Care
Sarah Augustine & Sheri Hostetler, co-founders, Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

2215B
Many climate justice initiatives seek to end climate change by use of the same mechanisms that created the climate crisis. Rather than challenging and unpacking the assumptions and values that have brought humanity to the brink of collapse, conventional climate justice strategies focus on technological solutions that require more exploitation of natural resources, including the polluting extraction of materials to build these technologies. During this seminar, Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler will explore decolonization as a primary mechanism for seeking ecological justice, consistent with Indigenous cosmologies and experiences.

Finding “Home”: How to Find Adults Who “Get” You
Michele Hershberger, author and professor of Bible and youth ministry, Hesston College

2214
No matter who you are or where you’re from, the high school years can feel stressful and scary. Why is it so hard? How can I help my friends who feel alone? And what do I do when it seems like no place is safe? Join Michele Hershberger, as she talks about ways to find safe adults and how to be one of those safe adults.

Trip to Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun
4:00-10:30 p.m.
Off-site event. Bus will pick up and drop off at the Kansas City Convention Center. Pre-purchased ticket required.

Hymn Sing
5:00-5:45 p.m.
2215A
Join us for a time of singing hymns together!

MEDA Gathering
5:15 p.m.
2104B
Celebrate entrepreneurship with MEDA! Whether you’ve been a long-time supporter of MEDA or are just learning about the organization, you are warmly welcome to join Mike Miller, Caleb Longenecker-Fox and Carol Eby-Good at a reception to celebrate MEDA’s 70 years of creating business solutions to poverty.

Hesston College Alumni & Friends Gathering
5:15 p.m.
2104A
Alumni, friends of the college, current students and prospective students are invited to join President Joseph A. Manickam and other college representatives for a time of connection and a campus update. Learn more about our four bachelor’s degree programs, how juniors and seniors are integrating on campus, and how the Hesston Experience continues to be transformative.
Hymn Sing
8:00-8:45 a.m.
2215A
Join us for a time of singing hymns together!

**Adult Seminars**

9:00-10:00 a.m.

*Attending to the Presence of Trauma in Churches*

Leah Thomas, assistant professor of pastoral care and director of contextual education, AMBS
2207

We may often hear the term “trauma,” but what exactly is it? How might it be impacting ministry in congregations? Why might it be important to pay attention to the presence of trauma, particularly at this point in history? This seminar will explore the nature of trauma and how it impacts individuals and communities. It will talk about religious manifestations of trauma and suggest some approaches and guidelines to offer trauma-informed care in the congregation.

*Deep Listening, Deep Respect*

Lindy Backues, Ph.D., author and associate professor of business and leadership, EMU
2209

Subtitle: Authentic Friendship As the Basis for Interfaith Understanding — A Case Study Involving a Friendship Between Lindy Backues (Christian) and Achmad Munjid (Muslim)

We take a deep and abiding, humble relationship to be the bedrock of all promising interfaith dialogue. With this seminar, Backues will put forward the necessary contours of his now 15-year friendship with Dr. Munjid, a relationship that has spanned experience both in Indonesia as well as in the United States — mainly in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*DEI: The Missing Link*

Glen Guyton, executive director, MC USA
3501EFGH

Organizations started caring much more about diversity after high-profile lawsuits rocked corporations in the late 1990s and early 2000s, but to what end? Surprisingly, most diversity programs aren’t increasing diversity. While putting forward a great face, organizations are simply doubling down on the same approaches they’ve used since the 1960s. Institutions have relied on diversity training to reduce bias on the job, hiring tests and performance ratings to limit it in recruitment and promotions, and grievance systems to give employees a way to challenge managers; in many cases, these tools can activate bias rather than stamp out bias. Find the missing link to move your organizational efforts toward cultural competency and real change.

*Enabling the Church to Do War Tax Redirection*

Harold A. Penner, lifelong war tax redirector who was instrumental in the renewal of the MC USA Peace Tax Fund; with Chrissy Kirchhoeffer, National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, St. Louis outreach staff
2211

Conscripted daily to pay taxes that underwrite killing and war making, Mennonites are seeking ways to promote active nonviolence, participate in faithful, effective peacemaking and redirect taxable funds away from militarism and toward church-sponsored programs of social uplift. The MC USA Peace Tax Fund provides resources for the peace education of future generations, underwrites MC USA justice programs, such as the emerging Peaceful Options for Training and Careers, or POTC- (formerly Alternatives to Military Enlistment Network, or AMEN), recognizes youth and adults who are actively engaged in resisting war, and encouraging peace, as well as providing resources to support war tax redirectors.

*Living Into Repentance and Transformation*

Randy Spaulding, leadership team of Inclusive Mennonite Pastors, representative for Queer Constituency Council of MC USA, and pastor at Boulder (Colorado) Mennonite Church, and others
2202

What does it mean to be an official LGBTQIA+ welcoming denomination? What does repentance and transformation look like? How may it already be happening among us? How is God at work, and what are the challenges that lie ahead? This seminar invites group sharing, visioning and conversation. Facilitated by queer and ally Mennonites, including leaders of Inclusive Mennonite Pastors and others.

*Marking Adult Transitions: Ritual and Reflection*

Joel Miller, pastor, Columbus (Ohio) Mennonite Church
2203

We undergo many transitions in our lives but have few ways of marking and honoring them in community. This workshop will outline a small-group-based process developed at Columbus Mennonite Church, for adults of all ages, involving reflection and ritual around life transitions, which culminates in a participatory Sunday worship service. It will aim to be both practical, including offering resources for group exercises, discussions and rituals; and conversational, concerning how this might be adapted in different settings.
Women as Church Leaders: We Did Not Keep Silent!
Lois Barrett, retired professor of theology and Anabaptist studies, AMBS; Dorothy Nickel Friesen, retired pastor, former conference minister and former assistant dean at AMBS
2210
Lois Barrett and Dorothy Nickel Friesen will talk about highlights from their new book, “Proclaiming the Good News: Mennonite Women’s Voices 1972-2006,” published by the Institute of Mennonite Studies, which is co-sponsoring this workshop. Hear women’s stories from decades past and strategize ways the church can encourage women’s leadership today.

Intergenerational Seminars
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Considering Reparations for African Americans
Ben Bouwman, pastor, Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN
2204
The past is not behind us but continues to shape our present reality. This seminar will look at — some of — the myriad of ways in which U.S. federal, state and local governments, in collaboration with businesses and private citizens, actively worked to keep wealth in white communities and away from African American communities — and other people of color — from the end of slavery until today. Examining this past offers an opportunity for all to reflect on how we have been shaped by decades of white supremacist policies. We will also look at what reparations are and how we might take reparative actions in our local communities.

Youth Seminars
9:00-10:00 a.m.

Acting Out the Parable
Melissa Friesen, professor of theatre and communication, Bluffton University
2201
Put yourself inside the biblical story during this interactive workshop. We’ll use drama techniques to engage some of Jesus’ parables and explore their meaning for us today. You’ll be invited to use your inquisitive minds and bodies in images and drama — no theatre experience required!

Anabaptist Approaches to Violence in Scripture
Peter Goerzen, assistant professor of Bible and religion, Bethel College
2208
As people called by Jesus to love our enemies and to live as peacemakers, how do we think about the passages in the Bible in which there is violence — even at God’s own command? This seminar looks at several different Anabaptist approaches to this important question in biblical interpretation.

Help! My Phone Is Stuck to My Face
Robert Brenneman, professor of criminal justice and sociology, program director, Criminal Justice & Restorative Justice at Goshen College
2215B
Have you ever wondered why it’s so hard to shut off your phone? Or worse, to live without it for a day? Have you noticed that some of your apps seem like they know you — your likes and dislikes, your BFFs and your worst enemies — almost better than you know yourself? It’s time to stop pointing fingers at people — including ourselves — for supposedly being “addicted” to screens and start recognizing that massive companies and enhanced technologies have been hacking our deepest longings and our connections to one another for their own benefits. Is there anything we can do to fight back? Get unstuck: Learn strategies for recapturing your sense of time, your awareness of space and place, and your ability to connect.

Making the Bible User-Friendly
Michele Hershberger, author and professor of Bible and youth ministry, Hesston College
2205
Subtitle: Without Watering It Down. Many of us know all the stories, but we don’t understand how all those stories fit together to make the Big Story. Join Michele Hershberger, and get some “hooks to hang your hat on,” ways that help the Bible make sense. Be a part of a whirlwind tour of the Bible, in which all the little stories serve a larger purpose.

One Shirt at a Time: Moving Away From Fast Fashion
Marathana Prothro, assistant professor of communication, Bluffton University
2215C
How many T-shirts are in your drawer? What do you know about where they came from? Who made them? What will happen to them once you’re done with them? This self-reflective seminar explores how learning about global supply chains and the fast-fashion industry can inform stewardship practices that change your relationship with your clothes and the people who make them. This seminar will be interactive and invitationul with tips for crafting and maintaining a minimalist wardrobe and will take an honest look at how our faith can literally be worn on our sleeves.

Personal Brand That Is More Than Skin Deep
Rachel Swartzendruber Miller, vice president of advancement, and Grant Myers, vice president of enrollment management, Hesston College
2215A
Join Rachel Swartzendruber Miller and Grant Myers, as they explore how brands are created, cultivated and communicated. This information will help attendees think more intentionally about the personal brands they are building, why faith must be foundational, and why being clear on purpose is vital.
What Are We Doing Here Anyway?
Eric Frey Martin, recruiter and church relations representative, Mennonite Mission Network
2214
After spending any amount of time on the internet, looking through news stories or social media feeds, one can come away with a sense of dread about the trajectory of our world. The threat of climate change, failing systems, growing violence and more can seem overwhelming and lead to a valid questioning of what life is for. In this seminar, we will note the challenges that humanity faces and look at how joining in God’s mission provides us with hope and purpose, even in the midst of those challenges. The aim will not be to diminish the significance of those challenges but to recognize the sense of nihilism and hopelessness that they can foster — often for good reason — and then, to recognize how God’s mission in this world calls us toward action, love and hope.

Worship
Generational Transformation
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Kaleidoscope of Generations: Bishop L. W. Francisco III, Hampton, Virginia; Kylee Weaver, Berlin, Ohio; Amanda Stoltzfus, Lancaster, PA and Eric Massanari, Bellingham, WA

Adult Guided Conversation Rooms
2:30-3:30 p.m.
2215A facilitated by AMBS faculty and 2215C facilitated by EMS faculty
This is an opportunity to gather with other adults to reflect on the worship services in facilitated large groups. Our guided conversation rooms will allow convention-goers to ask questions, reflect and engage in dialogue related to the worship topics of the day.

Youth Guided Conversation Room
2:30-3:30 p.m.
3501EFGH
Facilitated by Jeff Hochstetler and Lesley Francisco McClendon
Worship builds our community. This is an opportunity to gather with other youth to reflect on the worship services in facilitated large groups. Our guided conversation room will allow convention-goers to ask questions, reflect and engage in dialogue related to the worship topics of the day.

Adult Seminars
2:30-3:30 p.m.

The Church, Migration and Disappeared People
Fernando Perez and Rebeca Gonzalez, executive coordinators of the Comunidad de Instituciones Teológicas Anabautistas, working with asylum seekers and families of disappeared persons; and Linda Shelly, regional director for Latin America, Mennonite Mission Network
2214
Participants will hear stories of church responses to migrants in both the U.S. and Latin America, including support for people searching for family members who have disappeared. Time will be given for observations and lessons learned in carrying out the mission of accompaniment and support for migrants in vulnerable situations. This seminar will be given in Spanish, with English translation.

Conversation Circles for Pastors
Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister of ministerial leadership, MC USA, and panel 2202
This collaborative seminar will include sharing from our pastor panel, as well as time for table conversation with the pastors from the panel. Discussed topics will include questions like: “What is vital to your health and wellness as a pastor?” “What is something you wished someone would have told you before you entered congregational ministry?” “How do you craft a worship series?” All are welcome to join, whether you’ve been pastoring for five months or 10 years or more than 20 years.

Youth Small Groups
12:00-12:45 p.m.
2502A, 2502B, 2503A — These rooms are open for this purpose, but feel free to meet wherever you wish around the convention center. This is a dedicated time to connect with your own youth group. Hear about what other students are learning in seminars or worship. Share what you’re experiencing and process together.

Exhibits and Recreation
12:15-2:15 p.m.
Visit the exhibits, or burn some energy and play games in the recreation hall! Exhibits are in 2300 Lobby. Recreation is in Exhibit Hall C.
Safeguarding in Christian Institutions
Wesley Wilder, human resources coordinator and recruiter, MCC
2204
What do we do when grace and protecting those we work and serve with seem to be at odds? How can we ensure we are protecting others without unfairly condemning another member of our community? Christian institutions have historically always struggled with this tension.

Youth Seminars
2:30-5:30 p.m.

Making Space for your Questions (*Seminar is 2:30-5:30 p.m.*)
Michele Hershberger, author and professor of Bible and youth, Hesston College
2211
What does it mean to be a Christian? How can I make sense of my life? What’s really going on in the Bible? Why is the church so important to God? Michele Hershberger invites you to join a conversation that covers these questions — and many others — as we explore God’s story and make it our own. Twenty years ago, Hershberger wrote the book “God’s Story, Our Story,” an introduction to Christian faith from an Anabaptist perspective. But the questions we bring to the biblical text today and how we apply it to our lives have changed. This is a three-hour seminar — ending in time for dinner — designed to capture your questions and ideas around the biblical story, as Herald Press makes plans for a new edition of this book. Your comments in this extended seminar may appear in the book, when published!

Adult Seminars
3:45-4:45 p.m.

How to Supervise Your Pastor!
Michael Danner, associate executive director for church vitality and engagement, MC USA, executive director, MEA 3501EFGH
No matter how your church is structured, it is someone’s — usually a group — job to supervise the pastor. Supervising a pastor well can mean more effective years in ministry, higher levels of performance and less burnout. All this contributes to a thriving and healthy church. There’s only one challenge — they are your pastor. They are one of the people you turn to for pastoral care, spiritual guidance, discipleship, teaching, etc. It can be difficult for volunteer leaders to supervise their pastor well. This seminar will explore the topic of supervising your pastor well from a structural and spiritual perspective. The goal is the flourishing of the pastor and the congregation in ministry together.

Learn to Be Happy With Your Money-Self
Marlene Kroeker and Rhoda Blough, stewardship consultants, Everence
2207
Transformation begins when we first understand ourselves. In this seminar, using Tommy Brown’s book, “The Seven Money Types,” you will learn how you may be naturally geared to handle resources — hospitality, discipline, beauty, connection, endurance, humility or leadership. You will understand the strengths of your resource type, as well as the areas where you can grow. Through this time of conversation and reflection, you may find that you are finally happy with your “money-self.”

Resistance and Healing: Queer, Decolonial Movements
Sarah Augustine, executive director, and Katerina Gea, organizer of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery; Tim Nafziger, Mennonite writer, activist, digital engagement consultant and web developer; Annabeth Roeschley, executive director, Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests
2203
Since the early days of the Anabaptist movement, we have sought to balance challenging unjust institutions with the communal work of healing and liberation. In this workshop, we will look at historic and present examples of how Pink Menno, Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests and the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery navigate this creative tension. Institutions and movements dance together around the need for stability, sustainability and scale. Resistance is almost always part of healing and is critical to changing the conditions that create harm.

Survived: Long-Haul Resilience
Juan Lewis is a COVID-19 survivor and is now a motivational speaker. Juan contracted COVID-19 in 2020 and fought through extensive hospitalizations, before his re-entry into everyday life.
2215C
Resilience is the ability to withstand adversity and bounce back from difficult life events. Being resilient does not mean that people don’t experience stress, emotional upheaval and suffering. Rather, it is an inner trait that helps them adapt to the changing situation and keep moving forward. Hear one COVID-19 long-hauler’s inspiring story of resilience and spiritual transformation.

Tending Healthy Pastor-Congregation Relationships
Doug Luginbill, conference minister, Central District Conference
2208
Healthy and strong relationships between the pastor and lay leadership are essential for vitalized congregations. We will consider several factors and practices that strengthen these relationships, including communication, clarity of decision making, stewarding the mission of the congregation and building trust-centered accountability. We will also consider the roles of Pastor-Congregation Relations Committees and Staff Relations Committees. Pastors’ job descriptions and pastoral reviews will also be discussed.
Violence, mistrust, seeds of discontent and possible unrest. After elections to support the electoral process and handle issues on the role the church plays in South Africa before, during and so many years of being a leading democracy. This session focuses USA — and more often than not, the latter can learn, even after so many years of being a leading democracy. This session focuses on the role the church plays in South Africa before, during and after elections to support the electoral process and handle issues of violence, mistrust, seeds of discontent and possible unrest.

**Intergenerational Seminars**

3:45-4:45 p.m.

**Teaching Anabaptism in Mennonite Higher Education**

Rebecca Stoltzfus, president, Goshen College, and Robert Milliman, vice president for academic affairs/dean of faculty, Bethel College

2215B

At Mennonite higher education schools, we teach and model the way of Jesus but face challenges that include culture wars, the increasing diversity of identities and life experiences of our students, and ideologies that range from biblical fundamentalism to post-modern skepticism of the entire Judeo-Christian tradition. In 2022, Mennonite higher education presidents agreed to provide leadership and resources to facilitate the development of a shared, scalable, uniform approach to teaching Anabaptism for undergraduate students and employees at our colleges and universities. In this session, we will share the vision and our work in progress, engaging participants about what excites them about our work, what is missing and how the church may want to be engaged in this project.

**Toward the May/June 2024 South African Election**

Oscar Siwali, director, Southern African Development and Reconstruction Agency

2214

What is the role of peacebuilders in resolving an electoral community to deliver a peaceful, free, fair, legitimate election? How do church leaders/community mediators in South Africa do this? Are there lessons for the 2024 United States presidential election? There are many lessons between South Africa and the USA — and more often than not, the latter can learn, even after so many years of being a leading democracy. This session focuses on the role the church plays in South Africa before, during and after elections to support the electoral process and handle issues of violence, mistrust, seeds of discontent and possible unrest.

**Youth Seminars**

3:45-4:45 p.m.

**Acting Out the Parable**

Melissa Friesen, professor of theatre and communication, Bluffton University

2205

Put yourself inside the biblical story, during this interactive workshop. We’ll use drama techniques to engage some of Jesus’ parables and explore their meaning for us today. You’ll be invited to use your inquisitive minds and bodies in images and drama — no theatre experience required!

**Creating an Intercultural Campus Culture**

Sue Park-Hur, director of racial/ethnic engagement, MC USA, and panelists Abby Endashaw, Mennonite Central Committee Summer Service National Coordinator; Faith Manickam, University of Kansas School of Medicine student; and Bongiwe Ncube, Goshen College student.

2202

This panel discussion will center the voices and experiences of BIPOC young adults who have attended Christian/Mennonite schools. Come with a posture of deep listening, as the panel discusses questions such as: What does it mean to be BIPOC and Anabaptist? What are other intersectional cultural identities you hold? When did you experience belonging or exclusion on school campus? What do you hope non-BIPOC students and staff would know to help co-create a space of learning in which everyone feels welcomed? What resources are available for BIPOC students to help encourage and empower one another on our campuses?

**Dealing With ANGER: My Story**

Jess Engle, pastor, Hesston (Kansas) Mennonite Church

2201

Jess Engle will share personal stories about his ANGER as a young adult, teacher and father of young children — and now as a middle-aged pastor who was widowed, remarried and lives in a blended family. Is all ANGER bad? Why or why not? This seminar will include reflections and stories about ANGER, how Jess has managed ANGER and some things the Lord has taught him about ANGER. What can you learn about ANGER from this seminar?

**God, Gangs and Global Violence**

Robert Brenneman, professor of criminal justice and sociology, program director of criminal justice and restorative justice, Goshen College

2210

Gang violence has ripped apart families and communities across Central America, including in communities where Mennonites live and work. Where does this gang violence come from and what can be done about it? Come and hear stories about how and why so many youths are drawn to gangs and learn about the congregations whose active faith has helped gang youths find pathways to peace. Using a storytelling approach, this seminar will introduce you to powerful stories of hope, courage and transformation.
Making Space for Your Questions (*Seminar cont. from 2:30)
2211

One Shirt at a Time: Moving Away From Fast Fashion
Marathana Prothro, assistant professor of communication, Bluffton University
2209

How many T-shirts are in your drawer? What do you know about where they came from? Who made them? What will happen to them once you’re done with them? This self-reflective seminar explores how learning about global supply chains and the fast-fashion industry can inform stewardship practices that change your relationship with your clothes and the people who make them. This seminar will be interactive and invitational, with tips for crafting and maintaining a minimalist wardrobe, and will take an honest look at how our faith can literally be worn on our sleeves.

Quarterback, Class President — but No Leader!
Rachel Swartzendruber Miller, vice president of advancement, Hesston College
2215A

When people hear the word “leadership” they think of the speaker at the front of the room, the most talkative person in the group or their most popular friend. According to Adaptive Leadership Theory, leadership is an activity, not a position, which means anyone can practice the activity of leadership. Join Dr. Rachel Swartzendruber Miller as she explores some key components of this theory and why faith is central to the conversation. Through her personal stories and real-world examples, students will gain ideas for how to increase the activity of leadership in their own lives.

Hope for the Future Reunion
5:15 p.m.
2104B

Hope for the Future is an annual gathering of BIPOC leaders from across the country who are connected to MC USA conferences, congregations, agencies, constituency groups, affiliated schools and ministry partners. BIPOC leaders who have attended previous Hope for the Future conferences or plan to attend next year’s conference are welcome to the reception to reconnect.

Engaging Climate Change With the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative
5:15 p.m.
2102A

The ACC invites all those involved or interested in working to address climate change to meet together to share stories of their own engagement with climate change and hear updates on ACC activities. ACC is the new independent organization formed from the former Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions. Light meal options will be available.

Worship
Communities of Transformation
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Jon Carlson

Grand Ballroom
Carlson is the current moderator-elect for MC USA and will step into the role of moderator following the conclusion of the July 7 Delegate Assembly. He has served on MC USA’s Executive Board since 2019 and is on the board of directors for Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Mennonite Schools. Previously, Carlson also served as the assistant moderator for Atlantic Coast Conference. Currently, he serves as the lead pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pennsylvania. Carlson is completing his Master of Divinity form Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, VA.

Exhibits and Recreation
8:30-10:30 p.m.
Exhibits are in the 2300 Lobby. Recreation is in Exhibit Hall C.

Ryan and Friends, Comedian/Ventriloquist
9:00 p.m.
3501EFGH

Ryan Bomgardner is a full-time ventriloquist and comedian. Each year, he performs over 150 shows throughout North America. Bomgardner’s performances range from corporate events, theatres and resorts to churches, cruises, TV appearances and a headlining performance for the Walt Disney Company. Bomgardner’s show has taken him to six continents, all while making people laugh. Laughter is guaranteed for the whole family!

MCC Friends Gathering
9:00 p.m.
2102B

Come, all who have ever volunteered at an MCC Thrift Shop, at a relief sale, when the mobile cannery comes to your area or in any other way. Come, all who have served in an MCC assignment, whether for many years, one year or a few months — whether far away or in your home community. Come, all who have prayed for or supported MCC. Come, if you just want to learn more about MCC! Drop in at the MCC Friends Gathering for refreshments and conversation.

EMU Dessert Reception
9:00 p.m.
2104A

Royals and future Royals, join us for an evening of ice cream, fellowship and prizes! This gathering is open to all EMU alumni — undergraduate, graduate and seminary — current students, parents and friends. We can’t wait to see you there!
Talitha Amadea Aho, author of *In Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis*, has worked with children and youth for many years as a Presbyterian minister in Oakland, California, and is a chaplain at a children’s hospital in the San Francisco Bay Area.

### Facilitator

Abby Endashaw works as the Summer Service National Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee.

### Panelists

- **Sarah Nahar** is a non-violent action trainer, interspiritual theologian and former executive director of Community Peacemaker Teams.
- **Lynn Hur** is a recent graduate of UCLA, where she studied sociology and conducted community-based participatory research in sustainability.
- **Luke Beck Kreider** is assistant professor of Religion and Sustainability at Goshen (Indiana) College.
- **Sibonokuhle Ncube** is the Regional Director for Africa and Europe at Mennonite Mission Network.

### Breakout Sessions

The afternoon features two breakout sessions. Participants will choose from seminars that enable them to hear more from the panelists or other leaders. Topics will include: reading the Bible through the lens of climate change, the Gen Z Energy Challenge, the wild church movement, BIPOC round table, helping youth deal with climate anxiety (for youth sponsors and young adults), the development of the Doctrine of Discovery board game, political advocacy for climate change, climate change in the Global South, intersections between environmental and social issues, spiritual activism, and the Sustainability Alumni Network. In addition to the speakers, breakout sessions will be led by planning team members and consultants: Galen Fitzkee, Harrison Horst, Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Doug Kaufman, Jennifer Schrock, and Sarah Werner.
“We are showing the world that going green is the only way.”

Tariro Cynthia Mutsindikwa
Engineer, Zimbabwe

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Join us as we cross barriers, following Jesus together. Únase a nosotros mientras superamos barreras, siguiendo a Jesús juntos.

**Worship | Adoración**
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- Peace Sunday: Domingo de la Paz
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MC USA’S OFFICIAL WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

June 2017, I was on the transit from Augsburg, rmany, going back to Indonesia. After several urs of waiting for my next departure in Schiphol port, I was told that my flight was canceled, and I uld have to spend one night in Amsterdam, therlands.

This blog is in celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Read more