



October
2015

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Scattered Seeds

Children of the Kingdom Sowing the Word
—Matthew 13



www.centralplainsmc.org

Where do you go for help?

by Shana Peachey Boshart
Conference Minister for Christian Formation

What roles do you have in your congregation? Are you a Sunday School teacher? Youth sponsor? Elder or deacon? Council chair or church treasurer? How do you find what you need to do your job well? What if you have never done this job before and need to know where to begin?

We have your back! Fire up your computer and type in your browser, “www.centralplainsmc.org.” You might be surprised at how much help is there for you!

In this issue of *Scattered Seeds*, we show you what you’ll find on your conference web site that could be of real practical help to you and other leaders in your congregation. On pages 2, 3 and 4, you’ll see web page screenshots taken from www.centralplainsmc.org. These pages give you a small sampling of what you’ll find on your whole conference web site. Words in blue are links, so once you’ve seen the web pages on the pages of this newsletter, be sure to go to the real page and explore the links. And while you’re there, explore all the other pages we didn’t have room to show you here! This web site is an important way your conference staff provides the help and advice you need to do your leadership role.

Besides practical advice for congregational leaders, the conference web site gives you information on conference work too. Find the covenant study, *Being God’s Faithful People*, and the videos you can use to teach it. Download or purchase the discernment study, *Seeking God’s Will Together*, and see the books and videos that go with it. Find curriculum for kids’ clubs, devotional resources for adults, everything you need to start a Shalom Readers program, and much more.

*We seek
to foster a
conference
culture of
biblically-
grounded,
Christ-centered
communities,
sharing God’s
love as we
joyfully follow
Jesus.*



Youth Leaders

Hi! I'm [Shana Peachey Boshart](#), conference minister for Christian formation. On these pages, youth leaders of Central Plains churches will find lots of resources and information to help you teach Sunday School, lead youth group or mentor youth.

Helpful stuff

[Youth Sunday School curriculum](#)

You might be surprised at all the options you have! Click on the heading above for a page of Mennonite youth curriculum options.

[Resource Libraries](#)

[Mini MennoLens](#)

Choosing curriculum? Here's a checklist to help you decide if it is a good one.

[CO Resources](#)

Every congregation should offer youth a study of conscientious objection every two years.

[Youth Delegates](#)

Central Plains congregations are encouraged to send one voting youth delegate to Annual Meeting in addition to their regular delegation.

[Links to other YM web sites](#)

Are you looking for

- ...the regular Mennonite youth curriculum
- ...elective curriculum
- ...video curriculum
- ...summer service projects
- ...books for youth leaders

Are you a

- ...Sunday School teacher
- ...Mentor Coordinator
- ...Youth Sponsor

Can't find what you need? Contact me at shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org.

www.centralplainsmc.org/youth-leaders



www.centralplainsmc.org/co-resources

Resources on Conscientious Objection

As a historic peace church, Mennonites have a long tradition of conscientious objection to military service. Before World War II, leaders of peace churches secured legal exemption from military service for anyone who "by reason of religious training and belief is conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form."

Here are resources for churches to help their youth think through their beliefs on military service and help them prepare for the possibility of a draft. Central Plains Mennonite Conference congregations who would like paper copies of these resources may contact Shana Boshart at shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org.

Think in terms of leading a study on conscientious objection every two years, so that youth are able to study the subject twice during their high school years.

For the Youth

Make a copy of each of the following for each youth.

[Letter to Central Plains Youth](#)
an introduction to the CO File

[How to Create a CO File](#)
easy instructions

[Christian Peacemaker Registration Form](#)
a short version just for CPMC youth; they can type directly into this Word document

[Formulario de Inscripción como Pacificador](#)
the form above in Spanish. Youth fill out the last two pages.

For youth considering enlistment:
[Do You Know Enough to Enlist?](#)

[Tienes Suficiente Información Para Registrarte?](#)

For the Leaders

Lead the 5-session Bible study, [Decide for Peace](#).

The video, [The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It](#), tells stories of conscientious objectors and includes a [CO Handbook](#) and [Guide to the Draft](#). It would go well with the Bible study above.

Below are additional items that will be helpful as you educate youth on conscientious objection.

Registration and Basic Draft Information

[Who is a CO?](#)
an explanation of draft law

[Christian Peacemaker Registration Form](#)
MCC's longer version with commentary

[Mennonite Central Committee](#)
resources on conscientious objection

Center on Conscience and War

[Viviendo la Paz](#)

[Should I register?](#)

[Behind the camouflage: A primer on military enlistment for youth pastors, mentors and counselors](#) is a free online resource that equips pastors, sponsors and mentors to give good counsel, both practical and spiritual, to youth who are considering military enlistment.



www.centralplainsmc.org/elders--deacons

Elders & Deacons

Resources

Training Ministry Teams: A Manual for Elders and Deacons by Anne Stuckey

Across the Fence

This occasional newsletter shares best practices for pastoral ministry from one neighbor pastor to another, "across the fence." [Click here](#) for an introduction and back issues.

Child Safety Policies

Dove's Nest works to empower and equip churches to keep children and youth safe in their homes, neighborhoods, and communities. See their website for information and resources for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Dove's Nest provides resources to help churches write and implement child and youth protection policies. They have a checklist, and sample policies from other Mennonite churches on their website: <http://www.dovesnest.net/policies>

Mennonite Church USA Resources

Click [here](#) for Mennonite Church USA congregation/pastor packets on a range of issues and situations.

Central Plains Conference Documents

[Click here](#) for a list of useful documents.

Church-wide Statements & Resolutions

[Mennonite Church USA statements and resolutions.](#)

For the Search Committee

Click [here](#) for comprehensive information for Search Committees.

Annual Leaders Retreat

Please encourage your pastor to attend [Annual Leaders Retreat](#) and make it possible for him or her to do so by encouraging the congregation to cover registration and travel costs. Pastors, chaplains and other credentialed leaders and their spouses are invited to the Annual Leaders Retreat held each spring at St. Benedict Center near Schuyler, Nebraska. Hosted by the Pastoral Leadership Committee, the retreat includes a balance of input and rest with the goal of renewing the spirit through encouragement, worship and fellowship.

Working with Pastors

Salary Guidelines for Pastors

The Pastoral Leadership Committee recommends that congregations use the [Salary Guidelines](#) formulated each year by Mennonite Church USA. [Find free software here](#) to calculate a salary based on the guidelines.

Samples of Pastor Job Descriptions

[Congregation B](#)

[Congregation C](#)

[Congregation D](#)

Ordination Standards

The Pastoral Leadership Committee adopted a minimum set of [educational/formation standards](#) for persons ordained in Central Plains.

Accountability for Pastors

The conference ministers meet annually with all credentialed pastors to build relationships, strengthen communication, offer encouragement and nurture accountability. [This letter from Tim](#) gives more detail.

Misconduct Policy & Procedure

The Pastoral Leadership Committee of Central Plains Mennonite Conference takes seriously any ethical misconduct on the part of credentialed leaders or any other leaders in the congregation. Mennonite Church USA has developed policies and procedures for dealing with such misconduct, to which Central Plains also subscribes. All allegations of such misconduct should be directed to one of the [Conference Ministers](#) or to the Chair of the Pastoral Leadership Committee.

Copies of the policy and procedure can be found here in [English](#) or downloaded as .pdf files in Spanish below.

[Normas y Procedimientos Índice](#)

[NORMAS y Procedimiento texto](#)

[HACIENDO JUSTICIA](#)



Another web site with resources for you is www.anabaptistfaithformation.org. Your own conference minister, Shana Peachey Boshart, is the chief curator for this web site where you will find resources for forming faith in children, youth and adults both at home and in the congregation. Find this page under the “Adults” tab.

Nurturing faith at home

Daily Bible reading and prayer is the foundation of spiritual growth.

Anabaptist Prayer Book

This book will help you get into the habit of daily prayer. Written by and for Anabaptists, this new daily office organizes prayers into three sections: Call to praise, call to discipleship and call to intercession. The prayers find their inspiration in scripture, and especially the words of Jesus. Two short selections from the Bible are included in each morning and evening prayer. There are two volumes, the first for ordinary time and the second for Advent through Pentecost. [Available in hardcover and as an ebook.](#)

Rejoice! Daily devotional readings

Each day's entry includes a scripture reading, a short inspirational message, and a prayer of response. An additional prayer guide with requests representing Mennonite mission workers, schools and church agencies is included in the back. Published quarterly. [Find it here.](#)

Meditations series

Each book in this series offers prayers, scripture, poems and inspiring words for many of life's transitions: marriage, pregnancy, adoption, giving birth. These heartwarming books span one month, offering wisdom to help Christian readers face the joys and challenges specific to their life situation. [Find them here.](#)

Devotionals and Prayer Books

[Here is a list](#) of Anabaptist prayer books and devotionals.

Advent and Lent devotionals online

Subscribe to daily devotional emails during Advent and Lent. These devotionals follow the texts and themes of the worship materials in Leader magazine. They are written by Goshen College faculty, staff and students. Subscribe during Advent or Lent at www.goshen.edu/devotions.

Leader Transitions

Beginning

Craig Hofer, pastor at Mercy Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, July 1.

Gordon Scoville, transitional pastor at First Mennonite Church, Iowa City, Iowa, August 1.

Seth Miller, pastor of outreach and preaching, Bethesda Mennonite Church in Henderson, Nebraska, August 1.

Joshua Lundberg, associate pastor at Kalona Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa, August 1.

Joel Beachy, pastor at East Union Mennonite Church, Kalona, Iowa, September 1.

David Nickel, pastor at First Mennonite Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, September 1.

Ending

John Yoder-Schrock, interim pastor at Pleasant View Mennonite Church, Mt. Pleasant, IA, September 1.

Leaders Credentialed

Matt Troyer-Miller was ordained at Wood River Mennonite Church, Wood River, Nebraska, July 12.

John N. Murray's credentials were transferred into Central Plains Mennonite Conference from Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. John is the recruitment coordinator for Mennonite Mission Network and lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Shelby Boese's credentials were transferred from Central Plains Mennonite Conference into Southeast Mennonite Conference.



Other pages you'll find at www.centraplainsmc.org

Missional Discipleship Initiative

A program that uses groups of three people to study the Bible, grow in discipleship and invite others to know Christ.

Tuesdays with Dave

Experience the four web conferences Dave Boshart led last winter on how congregations reach out and share Jesus with others.

Shalom Readers

A library reading program in which children read books that are aligned with Jesus' way of peace.

Max Villatoro

Updates and calls to action regarding deported pastor Max Villatoro.

Support for Conflict

An introduction to the Central Plains Conflict Management Support Team and how they can help your congregation prepare for or manage conflict in a way that is consistent with our faith.

Counsel on Variance

Resources for creating settings for Bible study, faithful dialogue, and spiritual discernment in your local congregation.

Here's What's New

Short blog posts with updates about conference events and Ecuador Partnership people.

South Dakota churches host Dove's Nest workshop

Keeping children safe in faith communities

A workshop, *Keeping Children Safe in Faith Communities*, was held at Salem Mennonite Church, Freeman, South Dakota, on September 12, 2015, with Dr. Jeanette Harder from Dove's Nest of Omaha, Nebraska, as facilitator. There were approximately forty people attending, representing six area churches. The first part of the morning began with Dr. Harder explaining why it is so important that children feel safe in our churches and that it is up to the adults to make sure church is safe.

The second half of the morning was a panel discussion with Dr. Harder as moderator, asking prepared questions of four local people representing South Dakota organizations that work with children in a variety of ways. The panelists were Judy DeWit, the counselor at Wellspring Counseling Services in Freeman; Muriel Kaufman, a retired teacher and pastor living in Freeman; Casey Murchel, the coordinator of South Dakota Child Assessment Centers; and Cameron Corey, a special agent with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation with a special interest in domestic violence and sexual assault issues. After the initial questions, the audience had the opportunity to ask their own questions. They were all answered expertly and the workshop attendees learned a lot from them. For the afternoon, Dr. Harder provided training for the curriculum, "Circle of Grace."

The weekend concluded with Dr. Harder as the speaker for the worship services at both Salem Mennonite Church and Salem-Zion Mennonite Church.

This workshop was joint effort of the Salem and Salem-Zion churches. The organizing committee included members of both churches. To arrange a Dove's Nest workshop in your community, contact Kathy Haake at kathy@dovesnest.net or 402-577-0866. - *Lerace Graber, Salem Mennonite Church*

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Please send subscription requests and changes of addresses to office@centralplainsmc.org.

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To receive this newsletter in Spanish, call Shana Peachey Boshart at 319-936-5905. Para recibir este boletín en español, llame a Shana Peachey Boshart al 319-936-5905.

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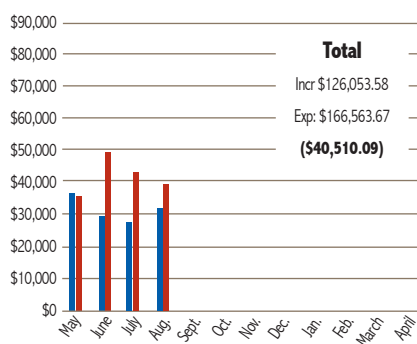
Growing in
holistic witness
to God's
reconciling mission
in the world through
fellowship,
discipleship
and leadership

We are a third of the way (33.3%) through this fiscal year and income is at 25.9% of budget. Expenses are at 34.3% of budget. As a result, we are currently at a deficit. In July and August, income totaled \$59,379.71 and expenses came in at \$81,447.67. This result increases our overall deficit to \$40,510.09. We see God at work in many different ways throughout our conference, and we are thankful for your financial support. —*Stewardship Task Group*

Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Income (blue) vs. Expenses (red)

Fiscal Year 2015/2016



UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference Board will meet October 30-31, 2015 in the Twin Cities, MN.

Central Plains Annual Meeting 2016 will take place June 16-19, 2016, in Des Moines, IA.

Youth Escape 2016 will take place July 15-17, 2016 in central Iowa.

An area conference of



Mennonite
Church
USA