

...but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. —Galatians 6:8b-10

The Sower

a newsletter for Central Plains Mennonite Conference leaders and pastors

November 19, 2014

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

Please forward this newsletter to (or print it for) these congregational leaders:

Pastors, Elders or Deacons, Central Plains Delegates, Church Moderator, Treasurer, Christian Education Chair, Church Librarian, Missions Committee, Worship Committee, Youth Sponsors

For Your Prayers: weekly bulletin announcements

Here are weekly prayer requests for each week between now and the next issue of *The Sower*. Please share them with your congregation by whichever method works best, whether it be in your bulletin, in the pastoral prayer or some other way. *Thank you!*

For Sunday, November 23

Pray that the members of our conference would be continually transformed into the likeness of Christ and thus be a sign of God's healing and hope for the world.

For Sunday, November 30

Pray for wisdom for our conference ministers Tim Detweiler, David Boshart and Shana Peachey Boshart. Pray also for the annual meeting of conference ministers taking place next weekend in San Antonio, Texas.

For Sunday, December 7

Pray for leaders of Mennonite Church USA: Executive Director Ervin Stutzman and his staff as well as the Executive Board. May the Holy Spirit guide them in hope and faith as they lead our church.

For Sunday, December 14

Pray for the pastors of our conference congregations, that they may lead us by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace.

Next month, *The Sower* will be dated **December 17**.

Finance Update

Central Plains budget slid further into the red for the month of October. Income for the month was at \$29,488.04. Expenses for the month came in at \$37,117.24, creating another deficit of \$7,628.57 for the month. This result increases the overall deficit for the fiscal year to \$53,916.43. November and December are traditionally positive months for Central Plains and we would ask that you prayerfully consider your support during this time so we can start to reverse this deficit! We are thankful for the support we have seen thus far. —*Stewardship Task Group*

Staff News

November 16-26 David will go to Ecuador Partnership meetings in Ecuador and Venezuela.

December 3-7 Tim, David and Shana attend the annual conference ministers meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

14 David preaches at Pleasant View Mennonite Church, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Begin Anew: Christian discipleship resource

Are there people in your congregation or community who are new to the Christian faith? Or who have been in the church for a long time and would like to grow in discipleship? *Begin Anew* is a 16-session series of studies to make disciples in small groups and congregations. This discipleship resource is for anyone interested in growing in Christian faith from an Anabaptist perspective, regardless of their background or previous church experience. Available online at www.MennoniteUSA.org.

Mennonite World Conference

Planning to attend Mennonite World Conference July 21-26, 2015, in Harrisburg, Pa.? North American Mennonites, Mennonite Brethren, and Brethren in Christ are encouraged to honor next summer's guests by starting to prepare now. "Most of us probably can't become fluent in Indonesian or Amharic or French between now and July. But we can certainly learn to know more about our sister churches before we're sitting next to their members at next summer's Assembly!" commented Richard Thomas, chair of the National Advisory Council for the event. [Follow this link](#) for a recommended reading list. Also, the latest issue of MWC's *Courier* is now available online.

Resources on same-gender sexuality

Biblical and Theological Resources on Same-Gender Sexuality. The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board and Staff have compiled a list of resources focused on same-gender sexuality for study in small groups and congregations. The list was developed with input from Mennonite church members with diverse perspectives, and seeks to tell stories of the ways people have come to their theological understandings. The list is available online: <http://bit.ly/MCUSAResources>.

Delegates to MC USA Assembly in Kansas City

At the **Mennonite Church USA Convention** in Kansas City, Missouri, June 30 - July 5, 2015, the Delegate Assembly convenes to tend to the business of Mennonite Church USA. Delegates play an important part in shaping the church. They discern goals for the next two years of denominational work, give feedback to the Executive Board and the Mennonite Church USA leaders, and discuss statements and resolutions that guide the overall work of the church. [Find answers here](#) to frequently asked questions about who can be a delegate, how they are chosen, and the work that they do.

MC USA is planning to do an early survey of delegates for Kansas City about the future of the Mennonite Church. **Churches are asked to please identify their delegates as soon after January 1 as possible so they can participate in the survey.**

Please send in your Shalom Readers info

Are you giving children in your congregation an opportunity to read books about the Jesus way of peace? Please send the name of the Shalom Readers leader in your congregations to the regional coordinators. Churches in IA, IL, MN or WI contact Ellen Miller (ellenkmiller@gmail.com) 2131 Grand Blvd. Waterloo, IA 50701. Churches in CO, MT, NE or SD contact Joan Friesen (jfriesen@mainstaycomm.net) Box 682, Henderson, NE 68371.

Join the Corinthian Plan

The Corinthian Plan will have open enrollment this year beginning **November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015**. The Corinthian Plan is the Mennonite Church USA sponsored health coverage plan. MC USA congregations currently not participating in The Corinthian Plan may join during this time by going through the application process. For information on enrolling, contact Denise Henke (Denise.Henke@everence.com) or Duncan Smith (duncans@mennoniteusa.org). Feel free to call (316-281-4255) or email Duncan Smith, TCP Director, with any comments or questions.

Learning opportunities from AMBS

Rural Ministry Seminar: The Mission of a Rural Congregation

AMBS-Kansas Center, in conjunction with Central Plains Mennonite Conference and Western District Conference, will be hosting a Rural Ministry Seminar on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 8 – noon at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston, KS. This seminar is presented by expert S. Roy Kaufman and will explore the unique mission of the church in a rural context. This seminar will include lecture, case studies, discussion groups, and a catered lunch. Cost is \$39 per individual and \$100 per congregation to bring an unlimited number of congregation members. For more information, please see www.ambs.edu/ruralministry.

Rural Ministry Course

AMBS-Kansas Center will be hosting a Rural Ministry Course January 20-24 at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston, KS. This course will be taught by S. Roy Kaufman, author of *Healing God's Earth: Rural Community in the Context of Urban Civilization*. This course will explore preaching and pastoral care in a rural setting, the mission of a rural congregation, and the prophetic calling of rural ministry in the face of some of the systemic issues that arise in a rural context. This one-credit hour course is available for both credit and audit. Early registration is due Nov. 14 for a \$100 discount. More information is available at <http://www.ambs.edu/academics/Interterm-courses.cfm> Or you can contact registrar@ambs.edu to register for the course.

Webinar

Budgeting Basics...and Beyond presented by Beryl Jantzi, Tuesday, Everence Stewardship Education Director, on November 25, 1:00-2:30 p.m. CST. [Register here](#). When was the last time you reviewed how you set up and manage your church budget? There are four basic church budget models: “Zero-based,” “Line item,” “Program,” and “Narrative.” In this webinar we will define each type and identify strengths and weaknesses of each. We will also review the importance of: making sure there is a connection between the mission of the church and the allocation of your giving dollars; recommended proportions between staff salaries, facilities cost, missions giving and church programming; and how church size impacts percentages of the budget identified for each.

Pastors weeks at the Mennonite seminaries

Eastern Mennonite Seminary School for Leadership Training, January 19-21, 2015

A Church for All Generations in an Age of “Nones” What does it mean for the church when 46 million Americans identify themselves as “none of the above” when asked to choose religious affiliation? Come to School for Leadership Training to wrestle with how this growing group will change the face of churches and religion in the United States. Featured speakers are Lauren Winner and Dan Aleshire. See www.emu.edu/seminary/slt to learn more.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Pastors Week, January 26-29, 2015

“Where Culture Blurs Theology: What *is* an Anabaptist Christian?” is the theme for Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Pastors Week. Speakers bring different points of view to how we honor all ethnic heritages that are part of the Mennonite Church. Greg Boyd, Drew Hart, Janet Plenert and Elizabeth Soto Albrecht explore what it means to be an Anabaptist today. Learn more at www.ambs.edu/pastorsweek.

Upcoming Events

Sister Care Seminar will be held April 17 and 18, 2015 in southeast Iowa.

Annual Leader's Retreat will take place April 19-21, 2015, at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE

Central Plains Annual Meeting will take place June 18-21, 2015, in the Twin Cities.

Mennonite Church USA Convention and Delegate Assembly will be held June 30 to July 5, 2015, in Kansas City.

Mennonite World Conference Assembly Gathered will take place July 21-26 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

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

The Sower is published the third Wednesday of each month for Central Plains pastors, delegates, conference leaders and other interested persons. Please include items from this newsletter in your church bulletins and newsletters. Find back issues at www.centralplainsmc.org. Click on Publications.



Editor: Shana Peachey Boshart: shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org

Spanish translation by Steven Rhodes: 319-930-7303

To subscribe or unsubscribe, email office@centralplainsmc.org.

Office: P.O. Box 101, Freeman, SD 57029

Monica Clem, Office Manager: 605-925-4463; office@centralplainsmc.org

Conference Ministers: P.O. Box 352, Kalona, IA 52247

David Boshart: davidboshart@centralplainsmc.org; 319-936-5904

Tim Detweiler: timdetweiler@centralplainsmc.org; 319-458-0224

Shana Boshart: shanaboshart@centralplainsmc.org; 319-936-5905

Hispanic Ministries Coordinator: Ramiro Hernandez rmherns@yahoo.com 319-621-3725

Moderator Nathan Luitjens: moderator@centralplainsmc.org 319- 256-6061

Asst. Moderator Margie Mejia Caraballo: assistantmoderator@centralplainsmc.org 309-235-3011

The mission of Central Plains Mennonite Conference is to create settings for our congregations and partners to grow in holistic witness to God's reconciling mission in the world by developing leadership, encouraging fellowship and promoting lifelong discipleship.