**Workshops at Annual Meeting: June 19 & 20, 2015**

**Friday, June 19 @ 3:00 PM: Several Friday workshops are off-site with transportation or carpooling organized. Most off-site workshops will suggest a nearby restaurant or workshop-related evening meal. Charter bus transportation to workshops 3,4,5,6 is available. Please indicate your interest in riding the bus on your registration sign up.**

**# 1: The Woodland Hills Ministry:** How this ministry grew; How Third Way Mennonite Church emerged from Woodland Hills and why the current interest in Anabaptists and Mennonites. *On-site @ Woodland Hills.*

**# 2: Growing Hope Farm:** 35 miles east in Hastings, MN, grounded in a vision of food equity, organic food production and a learning community in the name of Jesus. Participants will pick and prepare vegetables for delivery to the city where fresh food is scarce. Finish the day with a BBQ and discussion. Children are welcome. Transportation for 8 people but can expand to 20 if participants are willing to carpool. We ask for a donation of $10 to cover food costs for the meal. *Off-site workshop with meal.*

**# 3: The Mennonite Worker:** An urban intentional community committed to the Jesus way of hospitality, simplicity, prayer, peacemaking and resistance. We are deeply influenced by the Catholic Worker movement and located in two community houses. Maximum of 15 participants.  *Off-site workshop with meal and visiting.*

**# 4: Response to Islam/Visit to a Mosque:** Meet at Emmanuel Mennonite Church (725 East 25th Street, Minneapolis) and walk to a local mosque in an African shopping mall. Learn what God is doing among Muslims today. Philip Friesen and John Spaulding. *Off-site workshop with meal in nearby restaurant.*

**# 5: Urban Ventures:** A ministry reclaiming a neighborhood from violence and decay. This community is one of the most diverse in the U.S. with Ecuadorians, Guatemalans, Mexicans, Somalis, African-Americans and Anglos living as neighbors. Observe a community development model that challenges human trafficking, racism and other difficult issues. *Off-site workshop with meal in nearby restaurant.*

**#6: Connexions International & Stadium Village Church:** Located at the University of Minnesota where international students and families find help in English language and make cross-cultural friendships. This ministry makes opportunities for witness by sending back Christian professors and leaders to all parts of the world. Four churches and campus groups share this space. *Off-site workshop with meal in nearby restaurant.*

**#7: The Loss of Turtle Island:** An interactive exploration of the historic relationship between Europeans, including Mennonites in the Central States and the Indigenous nations who inhabit the land we call the USA. Blankets represent the present USA and the distinct cultures and nations today. Participants will represent the First Peoples and be guided through history of contact between Indigenous Peoples and Europeans, treaty-making, colonization and resistance that resulted in what we call the United States. *On-site workshop.*

**# 8: Partnering in Mission in Ecuador and Venezuela:** Hear about new developments as we partner with Mennonite Mission Network and the Colombian Mennonite Church in the northwest region of South America. Learn about ways you can participate in the partnership. Listen to stories of hope about refugees who attended the Mennonite Church in Ecuador and now are re-settled in the U.S. (Repeated on Saturday) *On-site workshop.*

**# 9: Understanding & Responding to Sex Trafficking:** This modern form of slavery is hidden to most of us but a 2012 Minnesota survey found service agencies working with more than 400 victims. The Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center says children as young as seven are vulnerable to the sex trade. This experience will introduce participants to organizations such as *Breaking Free* and others confronting this evil by working with victims, lobbying legislators and raising awareness in churches. Facilitated by Kristi Zabriskie of Faith Mennonite Church. *Off-site workshop at Faith Mennonite Church at 2720 E. 22nd St., Minneapolis.*

**Saturday, June 20 @ 3:30 & 4:45**

**All Saturday workshops are on-site at Woodland Hills Church.**

**\*\*Parents, please note that activities for all pre-K children end at 5 p.m. Activities for children in Kindergarten and older end at 6 p.m.\*\***

**3:30 & 4:45: # 1 (Part One at 3:30 & Part Two at 4:45) “Islam as an Evangelical Challenge to the Church”** by missionary John Spaulding. The resurgence of worldwide Islam challenges followers of Jesus to deeper faithfulness. Can we learn to see Muslims as people God loves and not relate to Islam as a vague menace? What will this require of us? This workshop spans both Saturday sessions and includes presentation and plenty of time for particpants questions and discussion. *Two session workshop.*

**3:30: # 2 The Stones Cry Out: A Mennonite Response:** Wishing you had a better understanding of the political situation in the Holy Land today? Hear the story through the voices of Palestinian Christians in the film *The Stones Cry Out*. Although Christianity was born in Palestine two thousand years ago, many are unaware that Christians still live in the land and play a leading role in the struggle for justice and peace. The film will be followed by discussion and consideration of how Mennonites might respond.

**3:30 #3: Perspectives of Faithfulness:** Led by Terry Shue of Mennonite Church USA. Radical hospitality, pursuit of justice, call to holiness and costly discipleship are all important ways of understanding our desire to follow Jesus. Rather than arguing about what is the right path of faithfulness, we will consider that in God’s wisdom the church has been given all of these streams from which to draw.

**3:30 # 4: A New Partnership on the Horizon?** Rod Hollinger-Jantzen of Africa Inter Mennonite Mission will talk about the possibility of new relationships between AIMM and Central Plains Mennonite Conference. Learn of expanding ministry opportunities and ideas from the Central Plains Outreach and Service Commission.

**3:30 # 5: Introduction to STAR Training:** Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience or STAR has a 13-year reputation of national & international success teaching practical strategies to transform psychological trauma into nonviolent power. STAR director Donna Minter will give an introduction to the 4 1/2 day training so that mental health professionals, nurses, teachers, attorneys, EMS personnel and laypersons may consider taking advantage of STAR training events offered in the future.

**4:45 # 6: Partnering in Mission in Ecuador and Venezuela:** Hear about new developments as we partner with Mennonite Mission Network and the Colombian Mennonite Church in the northwest region of South America. Learn about ways you can participate in the partnership. Listen to stories of hope about refugees who attended the Mennonite Church in Ecuador and now are re-settled in the U.S. (Repeat)

**4:45 # 7: Immigration Reform & The Mennonite Church:** The recent deportation of Pastor Max Villatoro put a Mennonite face on the immigration debate. How does immigration law work and how might Mennonites respond? Why are Congress and the President at odds? Virgil Wiebe and Susan Schmidt attend Emmanuel Mennonite Church. Virgil is an immigration attorney and professor of law and Susan is a licensed social worker with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Bring your questions.

**4:45 # 8: Sustainability Fairs: An Opportunity for Outreach:** Faith Mennonite Church in Minneapolis holds an annual Sustainability Fair by partnering with neighboring churches and organizations to fill their fellowship hall with information, demonstrations and hands-on activities about alternative energy, transportation, gardening and recycling electronics, toys and clothing. This workshop, facilitated by Richard Westby, will explain how to organize the fair if you are considering a similar idea for outreach in your community.

**4:45 # 9: Have Questions? Let’s Talk! (Youth Delegates):** Youth and young adults . . . now that you’ve experienced most of annual meeting—worship, delegate sessions and fellowship—you surely have questions! Join your conference ministers and moderators for a conversation about the conference and the church. Church leaders are eager to hear your thoughts and questions. Facilitated by Shana Peachey Boshart.