

Workshops

2023 CPMC Annual Meeting

Friday –

Ecuador/Venezuela Partnership -- Join as we talk about our partnerships with the Colombian Mennonite Church for the work in Ecuador and Venezuela. We will highlight the interactions over the past year, including the easing of relations between Colombia and Venezuela that have allowed our partners from Colombia to visit the churches of Venezuela and the Anabaptist Encounter that was held in Quito this year in which Mennonites from across the Andean region gathered for worship, workshops and discussion about what an authentic Anabaptist witness looks like in that part of the world. We will highlight the request from Indigenous church leaders in Ecuador for theological education for their professors so they can offer government recognized theology degrees in their seminaries.

Women, Men and Money -- Lyle Miller (Everence) A dollar bill is neither male nor female, but studies show that women and men have different experiences when it comes to money. Whether married or single, female or male, join Lyle & Bonnie Miller as they explore some of these differences, including some of the particular obstacles women often face. Lyle is a Stewardship Consultant with Everence, and Bonnie has been married to him for 36 years.

Anatomy of a Conflict with Critical Intervention Points – Sharon Waltner

Most conflicts can be readily diagrammed. There are usually four integral points to each conflict: the person/group, the problem, the process, and the resulting consequences. This workshop demonstrates how we have opportunities to intervene at each of the four points. Resource sheets, conflict stories, and group input are part of this workshop.

Sharon Waltner serves on the Conflict Management Team of CPMC. She has worked with leadership development and conflict transformation within the Avera Healthcare System for over 20 years. She farms with her husband and daughter and helps assist with triplet granddaughters.

What keeps us safe? – How do we feel safe? Do guns keep us safe? Do border walls keep us safe? Recently Illinois banned assault rifles. Does this make them safer than Iowa or less safe? What laws keep us safe? This workshop looks at both current cultural thought and at the Bible. What laws keep us safe? What does it mean when crossing a river from Illinois to Iowa changes how assault rifles are approached? Not all enforcement officers are on board with the ban. How does Mennonite pacifism and Jesus' love of enemy fit in a fear-filled world? How do followers of Jesus respond? What can we learn from the current state of fear and obsession with safety?

Margie Caraballo and Nick Detweiler-Stoddard will help us look at thoughts around fear and safety.

How did we get to the place where we are? – Phil Friesen

As Americans? As Followers of Jesus? As Mennonites? By what sociological process of experience does God shape community? How do we see God's hand in our experience? What does scripture and history tell us about all of this?

Phil Friesen is a CPMC Partner in Ministry and resides in the Twin cities with his wife, Kim.

Formative Resources for Your Family and Congregation – Christian Formation Committee

Join the Christian Formation Committee on learning how to find and utilize formative resources available to you for your family and congregation on the Central Plains MC website. This workshop will also allow you to help envision how Christian formation can be utilized beyond the classroom and pews.

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Saturday –

What's Your Money Type? Lyle Miller – Everence -- It's been said that "personal finance is more personal than it is finance." Perhaps that's because we have different personality orientations when it comes to interacting with money. Join Everence Stewardship Consultant Lyle Miller to explore "Seven Money Types," each based on a biblical character. Through a brief inventory and times of discussion, we'll consider the strengths and shadow sides of your money type and help you understand and develop your unique God-given approach to money.

Paraphrasing: The Secret to Helpful Conversations – Sharon Waltner

Effective paraphrasing comes from an attitude and a desire to better understand what the other person is saying. Your ability to carefully listen and hear their words, gives respect and dignity to the speaker while helping the listener understand and not misinterpret words. This workshop includes subject content, paraphrasing worksheets, and role play to demonstrate effective paraphrasing.

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Solar panels for Your Church - As we connect with God and creation, we begin to see a bigger picture of what caring for our environment can look like. With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the solar landscape has changed dramatically—especially for nonprofits. Churches can now apply for grants for solar panels. How do churches move toward installing panels? Where do we start to understand? Dick Yoder-Short, longtime solar installer and retired teacher, looks at the why and how of churches moving toward solar.

I Hope It's Good News! Sharing Faith & The E-Word - Many of us enjoy talking with friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. And many of us care deeply about our life-giving faith. Yet when it comes to conversing about faith we find ourselves uncomfortably tongue-tied! Some even experience evangelism doing damage to Christian witness. Is there still a place for sharing about Jesus? Join Nick Detweiler-Stoddard and other members of the Outreach & Service Committee exploring some challenges and best-practices for talking and listening with others. CPMC is committed to sharing God's love with those around us by recovering an authentic vocabulary of faith. We believe the Peaceable Kin-dom of Heaven is very good news for all and want to practice speaking in trustworthy, inviting ways about Jesus' Good News! Come explore with us.

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