

2014 Workshop Offerings - Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Ecuador Partnership: New Pastors, New Churches, New Country? Meet with **Cesar Moya and Patricia Uruena**, Leaders of the Christian Anabaptist Mennonite Church of Ecuador and **Don Kempf**, Ecuador Partnership Co-coordinator. You will learn about the expanding horizons of the work with our partners, the Colombian Mennonite Church and Mennonite Mission Network. **Friday 3:30 to 4:30**

The Loss of Turtle Island Exercise is an interactive exploration of the historic relationship between Europeans, specifically Mennonites in the Central States Region and the Indigenous nations who inhabit the land we now call the USA. Blankets are used to represent the present USA and the distinct cultures and nations on these lands today. Participants will represent the First Peoples and will be guided through the history of contact between Indigenous Peoples and Europeans, treaty-making, colonization and resistance that resulted in the nation we today call the United States. Facilitators are **Erica Littlewolf** of MCC Central States Indigenous Vision Center and **Karin Kaufman Wall** of MCC Central States. **Friday 3:30 to 5:30** **Saturday 4:00 to 6:00 (Repeat of Friday)**

Agrarian Community Formation: S. Roy Kaufman reflects upon the formation of the Israelite agrarian society in the Old Testament and learnings of the formation of present-day rural communities. Participants should prepare to discuss when their community was established, how the land opened for settlement, anyone displaced by and the story of community formation and growth. We'll also discuss health and sustainability of our communities. Roy is the author of *Healing God's Earth: Rural Communities in the Context of Urban Civilization*. **Friday 3:30 to 4:30**

Social Media and the Church: Social media is sometimes called 'the omnipresent storybook' as it seems to be always with us. How should the church approach social media? Are there ways congregations might use these tools in our ministry and missional outreach? Join **Hannah Heinzekehr**, Director of Communications for Mennonite Church USA for this interactive session with examples of how the MC USA Executive Board staff uses social media in day-to-day ministry. There will be plenty of time for discussion. **Friday 3:30 to 4:30**

Making the Most of Your Church Website: More and more people turn to church web pages to check out a church before they attend. In addition, Mennonite Church USA finds their website is one of the most valuable outreach tools, visited by thousands every day. **Hannah Heinzekehr**, Director of Communications for MC USA will explain simple steps to keep your congregation's website up to date and relevant. We'll think about content people like, software or 'themes' to consider using and nuts-and-bolts web design tools. **Saturday 4:00 to 5:00**

Circle of Grace - Successful Implementation Tips for Administrators and Teachers: Join Dove's Nest trainers for a session on how to successfully implement the *Circle of Grace* safe environment curriculum in your congregation. The curriculum is available free of charge to all conference churches and many have already received it. This session will provide practical information for administrators and teachers. Participants will learn how the curriculum is structured and methods for how to teach it. **Friday 3:30 to 4:30**

The Nuts and Bolts of Child and Youth Protection Policies: Has your church invested time and effort to craft a child and youth protection policy? Does the policy now just need some fine-tuning? Or maybe it needs more consistent implementation? This workshop will provide practical steps and tips for children and youth leaders, teachers, and pastors about incorporating your child and youth protection policy into the life of your congregation and its children's and youth programs. **Saturday 4:00 to 5:00**

The Stones Cry Out: Palestinian Christians & the Quest for Peace: The roots of Palestinian Christians go back to the time of Jesus yet they are the 'forgotten faithful' whose story is often lost in discussions of the Middle East and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Through stories of the lives of Palestinian Christians today we will consider the conflict and what is needed for a just peace for both Israel and the Palestinians. Joy Lapp of the Mennonite Palestine Israel Network will lead the workshop along with Gary & Gloria Graber. **Saturday 4:00 to 5:00**

Ask.con(ference): What's Your Question? Ask.con(ference) is the # 1 question answering service that delivers the best answers about the Central Plains Mennonite Conference and real conference leaders – all in one place! For youth and young adults only. **Saturday 4:00 to 5:00**