

Workshops for Central Plains Mennonite Conference Annual Meeting 2016

Friday @ 4:00 p.m.

Partnering in Mission in Ecuador and Venezuela

Don Kempf – Chair of Ecuador Partnership for Central Plains Mennonite Conference

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.

Singing Grace into the World: Baptism, Communion, and the Kingdom of God

Dr. Christopher Montgomery of Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church

God uses physical means to manifest grace in the church and the world. The physical sacred rituals of worship - baptism and communion - are gifts to help us discern and understand the Kingdom of God against the empires of the world.

The Loss of Turtle Island

Erica Littlewolf and Karin Kaufman Wall of Mennonite Central Committee

The Loss of Turtle Island exercise provides an opportunity to interactively explore the historic relationship between Europeans, specifically Mennonites in the Central States region, and the Indigenous nations who inhabit the land we now call the United States of America.

The exercise uses blankets to represent the lands of what is now known as the United States, and the distinct cultures and nations which live on those lands to this day. Participants represent the First Peoples. When the exercise begins and they step onto the blankets, they are taken back in time. With the assistance of a facilitator and narrator, participants are guided through the resistance that resulted in the nation we today call the United States.

Don't let your left hand know that you are building bigger barns, which are the root of all evil...

Lyle Miller is a church relations/charitable services representative with Everence

The Bible regularly speaks of money, though its messages are often misunderstood by pastors and parishioners alike. In the midst of these misunderstandings and our culture's reluctance to talk about money in healthy ways, how do we preach about this important topic? We'll explore ways to joyfully build concepts of stewardship and generosity into a congregation's preaching diet in ways that both challenge and encourage.

The Challenge of Christian Zionism

Alex Awad

Rev. Alex Awad is a Palestinian Christian leader who has a long-standing relationship with Mennonites. He is now retired from his position as professor and dean of students at Bethlehem Bible College. In this workshop, he will begin by telling the history of Christian Zionism, explaining words such as secular and Christian Zionism, millennialism, replacement theology, dispensationalism, covenant and enlargement (fulfillment) theology. Then he will discuss the political and religious challenges of Christian Zionism and conclude by presenting a Biblical alternative to Christian Zionism.

Word & Spirit: Resources for spiritual practices

Christian Formation Committee

“Looking for deeper personal spiritual growth and formation? Seeking tools for leading a Sunday School, Bible Study, or discipleship group? Here is an opportunity to explore several methods for Bible study and prayer intended to connect with covenant practices and to promote lifelong spiritual formation. This workshop is designed around the resources available on the CPMC website under “Word & Spirit,” stirring our strong common belief that the Spirit is active and present in our study of the Word, enabling us to interpret it for our context.”

Connecting with Congolese Mennonites

Kate Widmer

What possibilities exist for greater cooperation and relationship between Central Plains Mennonite Conference and the Mennonite churches of the Democratic Republic of Congo? Kate will seek to answer this question as she shares from her experiences visiting with the three Mennonite Church Conferences in the DRC. She accompanied Rod Hollinger-Janzen, executive director of African Inter-Mennonite Mission, on a trip he was taking this spring to explore the opportunities and possibilities that could exist. Come and hear what God is doing in the Congo and where you and your congregation might get involved.

Saturday @ 4:00 p.m.

God at Work Among the Hmong People

Pastor Pornchai Thosaengsiri of Hmong Mennonite Church of St. Paul.

During the workshop I will share about my life and how God had called me to become a pastor. I will present a slide show/ power point about the ministry that I had in different parts of Asia such as Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. I will share some of the testimony that I've witness and seen as I'm doing God's work among the Hmong people.

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An Overview of the Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity Seminar

Lyle Miller is a church relations/charitable services representative with Everence

Come and learn about a seminar to awaken a spirit of generosity within the congregation. Generosity just doesn't happen it needs to be cultivated. You will be introduced and challenged to consider participating in a future seminar that will help your congregation: understand the landscape of religious giving, appreciate the theological significance of generosity, design a working plan to implement culture change to move toward greater generosity and much more.

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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.

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