

## Seminars for Annual Meeting 2018

Friday, 4 to 5 p.m.

1. “The Gift of the Small Congregation” — Rachel Springer Gerber

*We often believe the croon of the world that “bigger is better.” As small congregations, we often lament our size and our inability to provide comprehensive programming. But what if we flipped the conversation? What would happen if we realized that our small size is not a liability, but the biggest asset of all? This seminar will explore the benefits of faith formation in a small congregation and offer hands-on practical ways of forming authentic faith in a small community.*

2. “AIMM: Walking with Jesus Alongside Mennonite Communities in the DR Congo” — Rod Hollinger-Janzen

*Come to this workshop to learn how you and your congregation can support collaborative work among Congo’s Mennonite churches and AIMM. Learn about how AIMM and the churches are working together to teach literacy, support Congolese missionaries, train farmers in sustainable business agriculture, raise incomes through micro loans, and more.*

3. “Exploring Endowments as a Tool for Congregational Generosity” — Lyle Miller

*Many congregations have established endowments as a way to creatively incorporate generosity in their church. Hear the stories of Central Plains and other congregations as they have explored this visionary tool. Everence Stewardship Consultant Lyle Miller will introduce endowments, the many ways they can be structured, and how they can help you live out God’s mission in your church and community.*

4. “Engaging Stories of Covenant Practices” — Christian Formation Committee

*This workshop will feature stories of experiments with the covenant practices in our churches and communities. Table groups will engage in further conversation around our own experiences. We will listen to each other and the Holy Spirit as we share our dreams and ideas for spiritual formation.*

5. “Disaster 101: Preparing for and Responding to Disaster” — Becky Gochnauer

*Learn how to be prepared to respond to a natural disaster for yourself personally, for your congregation, for the community and how to partner with Mennonite Disaster Service.*

6. “Good News in God’s Country: Rural Mission and Evangelism” — Brad Roth

*In some people’s minds, rural towns are sleepy and spent, relics fast disappearing as the kids move away to the cities and suburbs. However, the reality is more complex. Many rural communities—especially near vibrant cities and gorgeous natural amenities—are growing. And regardless of whether a community is growing, plateaued, or shrinking, all people need the good news of Jesus. Join the conversation and discover how rural congregations can reach out! Brad Roth serves as the pastor of the West Zion Mennonite Church in Moundridge, Kansas. He blogs on encountering God in the everyday at [DoxologyProject.com](http://DoxologyProject.com). His book, *God’s Country: Faith, Hope, and the Future of the Rural Church*, was published by Herald Press in 2017.*

7. “Meet Your Conference Leaders” (for youth delegates)

*Youth and young adults ... now that you’ve begun to experience 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.*

Saturday, 4 to 5 p.m.

1. "Faith Formation Q&A" — Rachel Gerber

*Bring your questions, comments, and dreams to share space with Rachel Gerber, keynote speaker, as she hosts a question-and-answer session about taking a holistic approach to faith formation in the congregation.*

2. "Practicing Peacemaking in Venezuela and Ecuador" — Dave Boshart and Don Kempf

*Learn how the Colombian Mennonite Church, Mennonite Mission Network, and Central Plains Mennonite Conference partner together with our sisters and brothers in Venezuela and Ecuador to extend God's kingdom of peace.*

3. "Fasting and Prayer" — Ramiro & Martha Hernandez

*Fasting and prayer are key spiritual practices in covenant. What can we expect from fasting? How can our experience as communities that pray and fast together draw us closer to God and one another? How can these practices help to open us to God's transforming power in our lives?*

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6. "Elders/Deacons & Pastors Partnering Together for the Spiritual Wellbeing of the Congregation" — Tim Detweiler

*Article 15 of Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective states that "the church calls, trains, and appoints gifted men and women to a variety of leadership ministries on its behalf. These may include such offices as pastor, deacon, and elder" (pg. 59). In this seminar, we will look at the role of elders/deacons and pastor and how they partner together to share the ministry load, work together as a ministry team, and care and support each other for the spiritual wellbeing of the congregation.*