

May/June 2011

Spring Delegates Approve New Conference Structure

On the morning of March 5, 2011, 89 delegates from 22 congregations drove through Big Valley to Maple Grove Mennonite Church, in Belleville, PA, for the Allegheny Mennonite Conference spring delegate session. On the way, they were impressed by beautiful farms and buggies with white, black, or yellow tops.

After a light breakfast, Pastor Alan Kauffman welcomed the delegates with a reading from John 20:19-23. Maple Grove is reading this passage every Sunday for an entire year, trusting God to continually reveal fresh truth. Each week, a different member shares how God has been speaking to him or her through these verses. This practice, called "Dwelling in the Word," springs from the Anabaptist belief that scripture is most fully understood when the entire congregation works together to understand it. Alan concluded his devotion by reading the passage again and inviting delegates to discuss it. Jane Yoder and Deb Durst led singing.

Enos Tice started business by calling roll, reading the minutes of the fall delegate meeting, and inviting delegates to the summer conference assembly at Laurelville Retreat Center on August 5-7, 2011. The nominating committee presented a ballot for various conference positions and introduced the nominees. Most of these positions (results in box on page 2) will be discontinued in the new conference structure, but Coordinating Council will use those elected to fill newly created positions..

Conference Moderator John Bender introduced a proposed conference structure, the main topic of the day. Moderator-Elect J. Lorne Peachey began discussion by noting changes to the previous proposal in response to delegate feedback at the November session.

The plan now incorporates a full-time Conference Minister and a half-time Youth Minister. Most conference committees and commissions would be replaced by a Leadership Council. Congregations would be encouraged (but not required) to meet and work together in regions. Conference News and other mailings would be sent electronically. (For more specific information, see the Conference Documents page of our web site: www.amc-mcusa.org).

A panel consisting of John Bender, Interim Conference Minister Donna Mast, Youth Minister Joy Cotchen, and Treasurer Ken Litwiller answered questions about the proposed structure—first from Lorne and then from the delegates.

After a lengthy discussion, the delegates approved the new structure as proposed. Coordinating Council will later prepare constitutional amendments for the summer assembly, when delegates will have an opportunity to make the changes official. The new structure will be evaluated after a two-year trial.

Ken Litwiller presented a 2011-2012 budget for the new structure, which the delegates approved. They also affirmed Joy Cotchen for another three-year term as Conference Youth Minister.

Several announcements followed: 1) Coordinating Council has appointed a search committee for a full-time conference minister to fill the newly-defined role created by the new structure. 2) John Bender, J. Lorne Peachey and Carol Benner-Chaffinch will represent our



Above: Maple Grove Pastor Alan Kauffman welcomed the delegates to the spring session with a meditation on John 20:19-23.



Spring Delegate Session (continued)



A panel of four conference leaders (above) entertained questions from delegates as the gathered group discerned the matter of re-structuring.



Karen Howard addresses delegates during the morning session.



conference at the national Mennonite Convention in Pittsburgh on July 4-9. Donna Mast will serve as co-chaplain for the event. Anyone attending a Mennonite church is encouraged to register, even if for only a day. 3) The Mennonite Central Committee Tri-State Relief Sale

on July 15-16 will take place in a newly completed building on the Garrett County Fairgrounds. Volunteers and auction items are needed. 4) The Allegheny Conference Youth Cabinet will lead worship at the summer assembly. Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Ervin Stutzman will speak. 5) Missional Leader Lawrence Brenneman would like to visit congregations to explain a new six-step missional plan.

The meeting ended with praise for God's good work among us. A congregation of Bhutanese refugees, recently from Nepal but now living in Pittsburgh, is experiencing rapid growth and would like to join our conference. Pastor Sandeep Thomas has been building a relationship with them. Hyattsville Mennonite Church is developing relationships with immigrants from Congo and Rwanda. Because of their experience, they have special

interest in reconciliation and peace. Grace Fellowship has an exciting women's listening group. Political tensions in the wider community of Scottsdale, PA subsided after the local ministerium pleaded for a peaceful way. The Junior High Retreat had unusually high registration, and our pastors had a great retreat in February.

—Brent Siegrist, Glade

VOTING RESULTS:

CLC - Karen Howard
Faith, Life, and Procedures - Conrad Mast
Finance and Stewardship - Wade Dorsey
Leadership Commission - Marilyn Bender
Missions and Service Comm - TJ Tennenfoss
Nominating Comm. - Jane Rittenhouse
Nurture and Education - Miriam Ramer

New Leadership Council - Voting Members:

Moderator
Moderator-Elect
Treasurer
Regional Representatives (1/region)
Representative to CLC
Youth Cabinet Representative
Non-Voting Members:
Conference Minister
Minister of Youth and Children
Missional Leader

Attendance:

Delegates	89
Delegates-at-Lg	0
Church Members	3
Visitors	0
Total present	92

Congregations present: 22

Photo credits: p.1: Conrad Mast, p.2 top: Conrad Mast;; p.2 btm: Carolyn Tice; p.3, Joy Cotchen; p.4: courtesy of MC-USA; p.6: Schrock family; p.7: courtesy of Allison Eanes; p.8: Emily Spory

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Allegheny Youth Raise Funds for Hunger



“For the last 30 hours youth from Springs, Pinto, Gortner, University, Kaufman, Scottdale, Oak Dale, Keyser First Baptist and Salisbury Church of the Brethren participated in service projects, enjoyed worship sessions, played games, and even had to go out and find our drinking water and carry it back to the church.”

This quote, read by Abigail Cable (Kaufman), started off our youth-led worship service at Springs Mennonite Church on Sunday, February 20, 2011. This service would conclude our fasting time, ending in a “Break Fast” meal, accomplishing our 30-Hour Famine. The 30-Hour Famine is a national event connected to the World Vision organization. For 30 hours, youth groups all over the country fast while engaging in activities that help participants become more aware of others who are hungry and raising money for World Vision’s organization. At Springs Mennonite Church, our time fulfilled those purposes.

We started off the weekend with our usual get-to-know you games and then had the task of going out to search for our own water which would refresh us during our fasting time. It was a cold day and the water was heavy, but we made it back to the church! That evening, we had our first worship session with music lead by the Allegheny Conference Youth Cabinet members and a message from Spring’s pastor, Casey Rohrer. We then were divided into groups for service projects. Some of us stayed behind to help with the blood drive and other projects around the Springs church, while others took a road trip to the nearby nursing home. At the nursing home we painted fingernails, sang songs, led activities, and heard wonderful stories. Upon returning, we had some free time to hang out and play some basketball. Later, we planned our Sunday morning worship time to be shared with the wider Springs congregation. We concluded the evening with our final wor-

ship session with speaker Kevin Dodge from Glade Mennonite. Our devotions in the evening included a candle lighting ceremony, a silent and humbling reminder that this difficult fasting event is small compared to the plight of many who have inadequate quantities of food every day.

Sunday morning dawned sunny and beautiful and we were eager to share worship time with the Springs Church. Abigail Cable (Kaufman) opened the service and Karl Maust (Springs) led us all in prayer. Each and every of the thirty plus youth in attendance during the famine had a part of the service. Some shared their weekend fasting experiences, some were ushers, others participated in the children’s time, skits, and others led the worship service. Those leading music included meaningful songs such as *Come Thou Fount, Hakuna Wakaita, and Hungry*. It was a powerful and thoughtful time as video clips were shown about famine and peoples affected by chronic hunger. Our fundraising and prayers went towards a great cause and we were able to raise \$6,475.35. This was a powerful weekend for all who participated and we are resolved to take action on behalf of thousands of children who suffer each day from hunger. We refuse to sit here while more than one billion people go hungry every day. We experienced hunger to help those who are hungry.

—Alyssa Cable, Kaufman

Opposite, fasting youth look for a weekend water source for themselves. Since they had to find water sources and then haul heavy containers back, it helped them to relate to a daily urgent need faced by many in the world.



Above, Teagan Powers and Angela Dietzel visit with nursing home residents and even paint their fingernails, much to their enjoyment.

Below Karl Maust, Alyssa Cable, Brody Thomas, and Grace Weaver sing hymns for nursing home residents.



ALLEGHENY MENNONITE CONFERENCE 136th ANNUAL MEETING

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, August 5-7, 2011

Theme: *Investing in Hope* (John 20:19-23)

Friday, August 5

- 3:00-6:00 Check-in and Registration (in front of the small dining hall)
5:00 *LIGHT MEAL SERVED*
(**not** included in meal packages)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Peace be with you!

- 7:00 Welcome Address and Announcements
Worship/Singing/Offering
Message – *Ervin Stutzman*
Closing
8:30 Snack



Ervin R. Stutzman is Executive Director for Mennonite Church USA. Before taking on this role in January 2010, he served for nearly 12 years as Dean and Professor of Church Ministries at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, Va. He has also served the Mennonite Church in the roles of pastor, district overseer, missions administrator, conference moderator and, from 2001 to 2003, as moderator for Mennonite Church USA.

Ervin graduated with a bachelor's degree from Cincinnati (Ohio) Christian University. He holds master's degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Eastern Mennonite Seminary. He received his Ph.D. from Temple University.

Ervin is a preacher, teacher and writer. His Herald Press publications include *Being God's People*, a study for new believers, *Creating Communities of the Kingdom* (co-authored with David Shenk), *Welcome!*, a book encouraging the church to welcome new members, *Tobias of the Amish*, a story of his father's life and community, and *Emma, A Widow Among the Amish*, the story of his mother.

Married to Bonita Haldeman of Manheim, Pa., they currently live in Harrisonburg, Va., and are members of Park View Mennonite Church, where Ervin regularly teaches a men's Bible study. They are parents to three adult children: Emma, Daniel, and Benjamin.

Part of Ervin's Life Purpose Statement reads: In response to God's love expressed in Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, I purpose to follow after God with all my heart ... so that God may be glorified in my life at all times and in every way.

Saturday, August 6

- 7:15-8:15 Open cash continental breakfast bar

CONFERENCE SESSION

- 8:30 Spiritual time
Moderator's address – John Bender
Int. Conference Minister Report – Donna Mast
Executive Board Report – Linford King
Mennonite Mission Network – John Powell

10:30 BRUNCH

- 11:15 Reporting
Finance and Stewardship Comm. – Ken Litwiller
Restructuring
Other Reporting
12:45 Conference Reporting Sessions End
Seminars
2:05-3:00 Seminars
3:00 Free time for recreation, fellowship and relaxation

5:00 DINNER

ORDER OF WORSHIP

I am sending you

- 7:00 Announcements
Worship/Singing/Offering
Message- *Ervin Stutzman*
Closing

- 8:30 Snack
9:15 Special entertainment

Sunday, August 7

- 8:00 *BREAKFAST (included in meal packaging)*

ORDER OF WORSHIP *Receive the Holy Spirit*

- 9:00 Prelude
Worship/Singing/Offering
Message- *Ervin Stutzman*
Children join for Closing Worship
11:30 Benediction
12:00 LUNCH

May you go in peace and may God bless you and your travels.

Next year's annual conference will be August 3-5, 2012

ALLEGHENY MENNONITE CONFERENCE: REGISTRATION FORM
136th ANNUAL MEETING – AUGUST 5-7, 2011

NAME: _____ CONGREGATION/AGENCY: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____
 (NO phone reservations, please note: the conference office will close at noon Wed., Aug. 3rd until after this event)

List **everyone's name (for NAMETAG purposes)** and the ages of children (*for better planning of children's activities*)

Name of those attending	Children's ages	Name of those attending	Children's ages
1.		4.	
2.		5.	
3.		6.	

YOUTH REGISTRATION (completed grade 9 - grade 12) (staying in the Lodge, remember to bring your own linens)

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____
 Total Cost \$85.00 (which includes meals, lodging, and conference fee) Total youth \$ _____

CONFERENCE FEE

Whether registering for all or any part of conference: the fee is \$6.00 per person and \$3.00 per child ages 3-11

Number of adults _____ x \$6.00 = _____

Number of children (ages 3-11) _____ x \$3.00 = _____

Total Conference Fee \$ _____

LODGING (The rooms/sites are charged with one/two persons per room per night: *for each additional adult it will be \$ 10 per person per night*. Children up to age 11, lodging is free)

Rates per night are: Solarhouse/Guesthouse \$ 99 Cottage room \$75 (Linens are not provided for the cottages)

Camp Site with hookups (please designate which hookups are needed) \$25.00 (water ___/electric ___/sewer ___)

Camping site with only water or no hookups \$15.00 (water ___ no hookup ___)

Indicate lodging preference _____

Check which night/nights you will be staying: Friday _____ Saturday _____

Lodging requests will be on a first come first serve basis

of nights _____ X rate _____ = Total Lodging \$ _____

MEALS must be PRE-REGISTERED for by JULY 19 (Children 2 and under are free)

Meal Packages (Saturday brunch through Sunday noon- does NOT included Friday evening)

	# of people	cost	total
3-11 years	_____ x	\$18.00	_____
12-yrs-adult	_____ x	\$36.00	_____

Total Cost of Packages \$ _____

Individual meals

MEALS: 3-11 YRS. 12-ADULTS

(not included in pkg.) Fri Supper _____

Sat. Brunch _____

Sat. Supper _____

Sun. Breakfast _____

Sun. Lunch _____

MAIL TO:
 Allegheny Mennonite Conference
 PO Box 12
 Somerset, PA 15501
 Or email as a PDF to: office@amc-mcusa.org

Individual meals are \$10.25 per adult and \$5.00 per child per meal with the exception of Sunday Breakfast which is \$7.50 per adult/\$3.75 per child
 All meals must be paid upon registration or upon check-in
ALL MEALS NEED TO BE REGISTERED BY JULY 19 with no refunds

TOTALS	Conference Fee	Youth	Lodging/ Camp Site	Meals	Grand Total	Deposit (please pay at least 1/4 of total)	Balance Due

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED OR DATED BY JULY 19TH. Any registrations postmarked after July 19th will be charged a \$ 15 (per person) or \$ 30 (per family) late fee with no meals available!

Tressler Celebrates New Leadership Team



Newly commissioned Tressler youth pastor, Joel Schrock, pictured with his wife, Laura, and son, Jonathan.

Tressler Mennonite Church joyfully commissioned Joel Schrock as a member of the ministry team on February 27th, 2011. Pastor Lowell Bechtel challenged us to give our all to God's Kingdom in his inspiring message, "Chained to the

Chariot," based on historical allusions of the "triumphal procession of Christ" described in II Corinthians 2:12-17.

Clinton Yoder, interim pastor for the past two years and leader of the process of selecting and calling a new leadership team, then led the commissioning charge for Joel and prayer for Joel and his wife, Laura. We were also

honored to have Donna Mast, Interim Conference Minister, join us for this service of transition.

Joel and Laura have been youth directors at Tressler, and plan to continue in this role. Lowell Bechtel has been ministering for 26 years as of June, beginning as an assistant to Millard Benner. He has been lead pastor for 20 years, and will be decreasing his time, focusing his responsibilities on administration, visitation and advisory roles, and preaching as needed. Matt Deputy began as assistant pastor approximately five years ago, and now becomes lead pastor. Joel is entering a two year "minister-in-training" phase, testing the call and his new role with the potential path toward licensing, as God leads.

Tressler appreciates the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Allegheny Conference for unity and grace as we grow through these changes; as we seek to discover and embrace God's vision for our congregation in our community and world.

—Carol Benner-Chaffinch, Tressler

Nurture & Education: Making the Connections

Every day, I am the only adult in a room full of ten year olds. Although I am considered to be the one "in charge" and *much* older and wiser, I am definitely outnumbered! Why would I choose to spend my days like this? Quite simply, it is a ministry, the one that I was called to do and one that I love. As an important part of this ministry, I help my students make connections... connections between their world and God's world, all in an effort to show that these are one and the same. But in reality, I am not going to connect my students to God if I can't connect to my students. And, so...here I sit, on a Saturday afternoon, reading the current best-selling book "Diary of a Wimpy Kid." I was not expecting to enjoy it, but confess that I find myself chuckling at some of the childish humor within the story. Also, I find myself gaining insight to the world of my students. Attending their games and concerts, listening to their music, or just listen-



ing to their stories are all ways to relate to their world. Building relationships as we connect to their world is important, even crucial, to have an effective ministry. In 1 Corinthians 9: 22b, Paul said, "...I have become all things to all people, that I might by all

means save some." In fact, God sent His only Son to live with us and among us for the same reason. I find great comfort in knowing that He understands first-hand what it feels like to live life here on Earth. My prayers do not fall on deaf ears. He is not patronizing me when He tells me He understands. You see, God has connected with me and with you in order that we might come to Him. As Jesus' hands and feet, let us take time to reflect on what that means. As we minister and witness to these children and youth, let us remember to connect to their world and understand their world, so that we can guide them to a world that includes their Savior Jesus Christ.

—Marsha Carr, Carpenter Park

College Students Visit Spain and Morocco ♦ ♦ ♦



Just for “kicks,” Moroccan host family of Allison Eanes dressed her in one of their traditional and ornate bridal “kaftans” as a way to educate her about their culture.

In September 2010, I left Eastern Mennonite University with 20 other students on a 3-month cross-cultural trip to Spain and Morocco. It was my first time leaving the country and my thoughts were a mix of excitement, apprehension and fear of the unknown. For the 6 weeks, our group lived with host families in Granada, Spain, followed by the vibrant Seville, which were both part of the last-standing kingdom of the Muslim empire from the 15th Century. Remnants of that kingdom were still evident in both places, from the old Muslim baths and neighborhoods to the beautiful Alhambra Palace that overlooked Granada. Our group visited the Alhambra three times, and each time I was amazed at the intricate details of the structure: fountains and reflecting pools that were used at one time to dazzle visitors to the palace, Arabic inscriptions on the walls that repeated the phrase, “Only Allah is victorious,” and amazing domes that sparkled in the sunlight. The Muslim culture of that time, chiefly from North Africa, brought many technological advances to Spain and contributed to shaping Spanish culture. Today, unfortunately, North African Muslim immigrants, particularly Moroccans, are heavily discriminated against. The two cultures still keep very separate from one another. As we visited other towns in southern Spain during our stay, I had a strong admiration for the beautiful architecture and its historical significance.

Upon arriving in Morocco in mid-October, I was overwhelmed with their hospitality and welcome from every home and business. We spent a week in the peaceful and enchanting Chefchaouen, a small town located in the Rif Mountains of Northern Morocco. We then moved on to the bustling city of Fez, where we lived with host families for the next five weeks. I have never been in a culture where I was so incredibly different, yet my host family took me in as if I was one of them. We had no language in common, but I was taking Moroccan Arabic classes with the rest of the students at a language institute, so we slowly picked up words, and we even found ways to communicate without language. Somehow we managed to have conversations, share jokes, and tell each other about our lives. Hospitality radiated from every home and shop that I entered: I sipped mint tea and chatted with shopkeepers and was provided with lavish meals in homes of neighbors.

Another important aspect of my time in Morocco was learning about Islam and discovering how much I, as a Christian, had in common with the Moroccan Muslim people. Each religion considers love for one’s neighbor and love for God central tenets. Islam, in its purest form, is also a religion of peace, despite the way that it has been portrayed by much of the American media. Both religions value hospitality, compassion for the poor, and community.

I left Morocco with a mind more open to people of other backgrounds, religions, and cultures. My hope and resolve was to treat others with the same love and hospitality which I was shown in Morocco.

—Allison Eanes, Scottsdale

ACNews
1001 Arthur Ave.
Scottsdale, PA 15683
ph. (724) 887-0273
e-mail: sendamcnews@gmail.com

Allegheny Mennonite Conference Office
PO Box 12, Somerset, PA 15501
ph. (814) 443-2007 fax (814) 445-3418
e-mail: office@amc-mcusa.org
www.amc-mcusa.org

Conference Calendar ▼

May 7

Big Valley Bike/Hike for Tri-State Relief Sale
9am - 12 noon at
Maple Grove, Belleville

May 13-15

Camporee, ages 8-12
Pine Springs Camp,
Jennerstown

May 15

Tri-State Music Fundraiser
Kaufman MC, 7pm

May 23-26

Minister’s Spring Seminar,
Laurelville
Speaker: Doug Miller

June 19-24

Explorers Camp, ages 8-10
Laurelville

June 26-July 1

Navigators Camp, ages 10-12
Laurelville

July 10-15

Seekers Camp, ages 12-14
Laurelville

July 17-19

Mini Camp, ages 6-8
Laurelville

July 24-29

Disciples Camp, ages 14-17
Laurelville

July 15-16

Tri-State Relief Sale
McHenry, MD

July 31-August 5

Adventure Camp, ages 14-17
Laurelville

August 5-7

Annual AMC Conference
Laurelville

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to *Allegheny Conference News*, 1001 Arthur Ave., Scottdale, PA 15683

Tri-State Relief Sale, Festival & Auction, July 15 & 16



Kaufman members Dan Hunsberger (l), Bob Miller (r) and children show off their new penny power container, called the Penny "Powered" Vehicle, created completely from recycled parts. See this and other creative Penny Power containers at July's Tri-State Relief Sale in McHenry, MD.

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

God endowed us with a great imagination, an imagination that we can utilize to follow his commandments to help the less fortunate.

Young and young-at-heart are working together in our congregations to help others

through TriState Relief Sale's Penny Power project and by creating items for the auction. At Kaufman MC, Davidsville, a challenge was issued for teams to create a variety of Penny Power containers (all recycled parts) to be used to collect small change at the church prior to the event and to be used during the sale July 15 and 16. Creative items included

Menno Mouse, Penny the Mennonite Mannequin, Cloth Money Bag, Coin Cane, Coffee Pot Catcher, Penny Power Coin Flinger, Penny "Powered" Vehicle, and Feed the Pastors Collection Box. Funds raised through this project will help to give "a gift of lunch" to Vietnam school children.

At Springs MC, the Junior Youth Fellowship is hosting a Duck Regatta on the Caselman River to raise funds to build a playhouse to be sold at the auction. They will build the playhouse under the direction of youth leaders and contractor Jesse and Karen Maust. Perhaps this should be a challenge to us to imagine how we can use our talents, whether volunteering or in creation, to enable Mennonite Central Committee to use the funds wisely throughout the United States and the world.

We invite you to attend and view these items firsthand. Also, an evening of musical entertainment will be presented at Kaufman MC on Sunday May 15 at 7:00 P.M. to support MCC.

For further information and to preview items, go to www.tristatesale.org or call 814-

Tri-State Relief Sale Schedule of Events Free Parking and Admission

Friday July 15, 2011

4:30 PM Food Booths Open
Market Place and music performances
Preview Quilts & Auction Items

5:30-8:30 Silent Auction

Saturday July 16, 2011

7:30 AM Gates open with Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
8:30 Market Place - bakery, crafts, plants, books
9:00 Classic Car Cruise-In
Children's Activities Begin
10:00 -3:30 Auction - Quilts, Art, Furniture, Vacations
11:00 Noon Children's Auction
11:30 Chicken Barbecue