



Allegheny Mennonite Conference

A conference of Mennonite Church USA



AMC NEWS

DECEMBER 2014-FEBRUARY 2015

PENN STATE CAMPUS MINISTRY AN EXCITING JOURNEY

This past fall, University Mennonite Church, in State College, PA, embarked on an exciting journey. After several years of discerning a call to student ministry at Penn State, the congregation brought Pastor Ben Wideman on board to launch the [3rd Way Collective](#).

Wideman was licensed by Allegheny Mennonite Conference and installed as the Anabaptist campus pastor at University Mennonite on October 26. Conference pastor Donna Mast participated in the service, and John Stoltzfus, conference youth minister for Eastern District and Franconia Conferences and youth pastor at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, delivered the morning message.



As a new organization on campus, 3rd Way Collective aims to serve as a bridge for faith-based organizations and those that focus on a specific peace and justice issue. “We’re excited by the students, faculty, and staff who have reached out and the many ways they are joining with us to tackle these challenging topics,” Wideman says.

3rd Way Collective is off to a busy start. So far, activities have included an interfaith peace meditation and prayer service, a weekly peace/justice/faith conversation group, community service projects, and other informal gatherings for students to engage—on campus, in downtown coffee shops, and beyond State College. Over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, Wideman and Penn State students joined with four other campus organizations to lead a service and learning trip to Washington, D.C., which focused on racial issues, gentrification, and homelessness. Wideman has also launched a weekly podcast called “Peace Signs,” which gives five-minute glimpses into the peace, justice, and faith perspectives of members of the Penn State community.



On March 20, 3rd Way Collective will host The RawTools PeaceMaker Tour, an effort to raise awareness and encourage dialogue around the issue of gun violence. Held at the State College Presbyterian Church, the event will feature a blacksmith transforming a gun into a garden implement (referencing “beating swords into plowshares” – Isaiah 2:4) outside the church, while inside the sanctuary—as the blacksmith demonstration is video streamed live—individuals who have been affected by gun violence will share their experiences. State College’s mayor and police chief, as well as several campus organizations, have expressed support for the event. Author

and activist Shane Claiborne will be the keynote speaker. Also speaking will be Terri Roberts, mother of Charles Carl Roberts, the shooter in the 2006 Nickel Mines Amish school shootings. Learn more about RAWtools and the PeaceMaker tour at <https://www.facebook.com/events/851931974870476/permalink/854153867981620/>



A graduate of Eastern Mennonite University and Fuller Theological Seminary, Wideman sees 3rd Way Collective as an avenue for cultivating peace, justice, and faith at Penn State. “College is an opportunity for students to dig into their faith journey and to discover what lies at the core of what they believe,” Wideman says. “Through this campus ministry, I hope to create spaces for students to engage real-life issues, wrestle with the teachings of Jesus, develop meaningful friendships, and explore what it might mean to take seriously a call toward peace and justice.”

University Mennonite Church invites prayers for 3rd Way Collective as the ministry grows. “I’m grateful to be part of a church family that understands that the Kingdom of God is happening beyond its walls,”

Penny Power 2015 to Aid South Sudan

The TriState Relief Sale is coming and July 17 & 18, 2015 will be here before you know it. Begin to prepare now by collecting your pennies and other change for Penny Power. The project for Penny Power in 2015 is aiding refugees from South Sudan as they have fled their war-torn country.

New resources, including stories, pictures, map, posters and coin bank posters are available to be downloaded on our web site www.tristatesale.org on the Penny Power and Resources pages. If you are unable to download and would like information mailed, please contact 814-445-6945.

We are working on a goal of \$20,000 for 2015 –spare change can make a difference!



Tri State Spring Work Day to be April 18

Saturday, April 18, will be the spring workday at Springs Mennonite Church at Springs, PA, to prepare items to be sold at the TriState Relief Sale, July 17 & 18. Other items will be made to send to where needed most through Mennonite Central Committee.

Please come at your convenience between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM and bring a covered dish for lunch. Table setting and drink provided. There will be opportunities for quilters, comforter knotting and relief kit bag sewing. Bring along a friend, join in the fellowship, learn about MCC and share your talents whether you quilt, knot, or sew.

For more information or questions, contact Darlene Miller at [301-895-5557](tel:301-895-5557)



PLAN NOW FOR THE BIG VALLEY BIKE, HIKE, AND CYCLE EVENT ON MAY 2

Not only will there be riding for bicyclists and walking for hikers but also a 70 mile route for motorcyclists to enjoy the gorgeous Big Valley in Belleville, PA. Gather your pledges and join us! Persons with a donation or pledges of at least \$25 will be entered in a drawing to receive gift cards from local vendors to take place at 9:00 a.m. All funds raised will be sent to Mennonite Central Committee through TriState Relief Sale.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Maple Grove Mennonite Church, 115 Maple Grove Rd., Belleville. The event will end at noon. Distances: Bikers 33 miles or 16.5 miles; Hikers 6.25miles or 4.5 miles (shorter or longer distances available for hikes & bikers); Motorcyclists 70 miles.

Download the sponsor form and information from www.tristatesale.org or contact JoAnn Byler at [717-437-1336](tel:717-437-1336) or jbyler@embargmail.com For questions regarding the motorcycle ride,

Spring Learning Opportunities In Pittsburgh

Since 1983, Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) has provided resources for conflicted churches, in addition to training judicatory leaders and pastors in principles grounded in family systems theory useful for managing self in the midst of anxious churches, while addressing conflict in transforming ways.

This spring LMPC will be in Pittsburgh, leading two training events for church leaders. The first will be on **March 20-21, 2015**, at Pittsburgh Mennonite Church. This occasion will be for a **Healthy Congregations** workshop, which uses family systems theory for teaching healthy functioning in churches in face of anxiety and negative, reactive forces. **Church Discount Coupons** are available on the website, www.LMPeaceCenter.org, to facilitate groups from the same congregation to attend together.

The second event will be the **Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders** (MSTI), a five-day institute of hands-on training, providing mediation training for clergy and church leaders. It is ideal for training members of a judicatory mediation team and other leaders who work with committees, candidates for ministry, and churches. This MSTI will be during the week of **May 11-15, 2015**, also at Pittsburgh Mennonite Church.

Information is also available regarding **Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process**, which provides nine days of training that can be taken as a follow-up to the MSTI, or, taken without prior training.

All brochures with further information and registration forms can be downloaded from www.LMPeaceCenter.org

Students Recognized at Goshen College

Unique Opportunity Offered for Graduate Students in Healthcare



Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) is offering scholarship funding for Anabaptist students to learn and serve in cross-cultural mission/service settings in developing countries.

In the past, SET was a program for medical students. With Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship, it has been expanded! We suggest that you think of dental students, Masters in Nursing students, physical therapy students, and Masters in Social Work students for starters and then be further attuned to any other students in healthcare-related fields at the masters or doctoral level.

Deadline for 2015-16 academic year is May 15, 2015. For details and application form, see <http://mennohealth.org/SET>, email info@mennohealth.org, or call 1-888-406-3643.

The following students were recently recognized for academic excellence on the fall semester Dean's List at Goshen College.

- Grace Weaver, a junior English major from Harrisonburg, VA, who is from Scottdale Mennonite Church.
- Brian Charles, a junior Sociology major from State College, PA, who attends University Mennonite Church.
- Cecilia Lapp Stoltzfus, a junior Interdisciplinary major from Mount Rainier, MD, who attends Hyattsville Mennonite Church.

The Dean's List includes students earning at least a 3.75 GPA, while completing at least 12 hours of course work for a letter grade. Only grades from the designated semester are included in the Dean's List selection process.

Initiated in the fall of 1999, the Dean's List celebrates the achievement of Goshen College students who have met high academic standards and can motivate students preparing for graduate studies, said Anita Stalter, Goshen's academic dean and vice president for academic affairs.



GOSHEN
COLLEGE

Allegheny Student Named to Bluffton Dean's List

BLUFFTON, Ohio—Samuel Stucky, a Bluffton University senior from Pittsburgh Mennonite Church, has been named to the Bluffton dean's list for the fall 2014 semester.



Students with a GPA of 3.6 or higher are eligible for the dean's list. With a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75 based on 20 semester hours, Stucky received distinction for continued high achievement.

Seminary Invites Visitors to Explore Study

All Allegheny Mennonite Conference news releases are now being posted online at www.alleghenymennoniteconference.org. Since many in our congregations do not have access to the internet, these articles will periodically be compiled in a printable format. If you have questions or concerns please contact the conference office or news editor.

Elkhart, Ind. (AMBS) – Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary will host two Seminary Preview Days this spring for people wishing to explore study. March 27 and April 24

are visit days with opportunities to meet faculty and students and to sit in on classes, a chapel service and community gatherings. Admissions staff are available to answer questions about study both on campus and at a distance, and about financial aid.

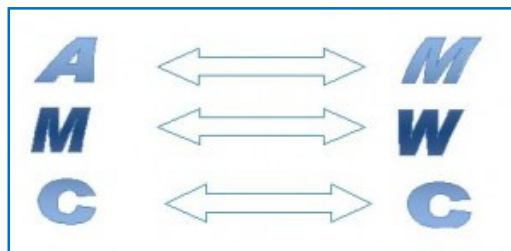


People interested in attending should register at www.ams.edu/visitAMBS. AMBS also welcomes visitors at any time if these dates are not convenient. Contact the admissions department to schedule a visit: admissions@ams.edu or 800.964.2627.

AMC HAS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT TO WORLD CONFERENCE

Everyone is urged to take advantage of this rare opportunity to attend Mennonite World Conference and host Anabaptists from 103 church conferences from July 21-July 26 in Harrisburg, PA.

However, even if you are not able to register and attend this week of worship and inspiration, there are several ways in which you can participate and assist others in attending.



- **On Sunday afternoon July 26, 2015, volunteers are needed** for the ‘tear-down crew’ after the Mennonite World Conference Pennsylvania 2015 Assembly Gathered in Harrisburg, PA. Up to 50 volunteers are needed to take down displays and chairs in the assembly hall. This volunteer opportunity is not part of volunteer registration on the MWC website. If interested in the ‘tear-down crew’, please contact Joyce Hall, jeh21@comcast.net, 814-231-1447. Sign-up will also be possible at the AMC Spring Faith and Life Gathering delegate session.
- **AMC will help support two conference young adults to attend the Global Youth Summit** before the MWC Assembly Gathered. The [Global Youth Summit](#) is a meeting of young Anabaptists ages 18 and older from the entire world. Young people will come together for three days before the Assembly Gathered. These three days are a time of listening to God together, to share information and experiences, to listen to each other’s struggles in the different continents and countries, to bless each other and be blessed and to enrich the faith of all. An offering will be taken at the Spring Faith and Life Gathering delegate session on March 7th at Springs Mennonite Church.
- **As a part of Assembly Scattered, MWC attenders are welcome to attend the Tri-State Relief Sale on July 17 & 18, 2015** before the Assembly Gathered! Overnight accommodations are available in an economical setting at Garrett College, McHenry, Maryland. The cost will be about \$30.00/person/night. At this rate you will need to provide your own sheets, pillow and towels. The college is about 1 mile from the sale location. Reservations and payments must be sent to Doug Berg by June 1. Those interested in the accommodations, please contact Doug at dougberg@zoominternet.net
- **Join the Prayer Network** as preparations are made for this assembly. The prayer focus for February is "Visas." Persons from 44 countries need individualized letters of invitation to apply for a visitor's visa for the Mennonite World Conference in Harrisburg, PA. Before letters are issued, each name and birth date must be in the database, fees must be paid, and a scanned passport reviewed. People from all walks of life from many different geographic locations hope to come to Harrisburg in July. Robert and Judy Zimmerman Herr are giving leadership to the Visa Task Force.

The vision is for participants attending the Assembly to fully engage and participate in the complete Assembly experience. Registration information is available at <https://www.mwc-cmm.org/pennsylvania-2015>. If space allows, part-time attendance will become an option after April 2015. Please check the website for updates.

César García, General Secretary of MWC, from Colombia, reflected recently about the idea of “walking with God”[Theme of Assembly Gathered]: “I like the idea of understanding the Christian life as a way of living that’s under construction, a process that isn’t static or finished. I really believe that our conversations at PA 2015 will transform us because we’ll be discovering together the implications of following Christ in our home communities.”

Allegheny Mennonite Conference Contact Information: PO Box 12 Somerset, PA 15501 Phone: 814-443-2007
Fax: 814-445-3418 Office Email: office@alleghenymennoniteconference.org
Conference Minister—Donna Mast--Email:donnam@alleghenymennoniteconference.org
Youth Minister—Joy Cotchen—Email:joyc@alleghenymennoniteconference.org
News and Information Editor--Evie Christner--Email:eviec@alleghenymennoniteconference.org