

## Goshen College Report to Allegheny Mennonite Conference, August 2014

### **President opens year with message on Compassionate Peacemaking**

Welcoming 828 undergraduates from more than 32 states and 36 countries, Goshen College President James E. Brenneman opened the 2013-14 school year by encouraging students to take up the challenge of being compassionate peacemakers in all aspects of life. Understanding that peace is the manifestation of human compassion, Dr. Brenneman encouraged the gathered community to extend that compassion to all aspects of life. "I hope that at ... GC our understanding of the meaning of the core value, Compassionate Peacemaking, will be as deep and wide and fully human and wonderfully Divine as life itself is. And I hope that a spirit of compassionate peacemaking generously pervades even our attempts at defining its meaning."

### **Conference Connections**

Goshen has been enhanced by the contributions and involvements of Allegheny Mennonite Conference students. This year Brody Thomas (Springs Mennonite) was one of eight students chosen to be a part of the Parables Worship Ensemble. Throughout the year Parables presented their program "Where the River Will Never Run Dry" in over 20 worship settings. Congregations expressed significant appreciation for the meaningful and insightful worship facilitated by these Goshen College students. Allegheny Mennonite Conference nurtures and supports 5 students from 3 congregations currently at Goshen College. Those churches generously pledged \$9250 in congregational student aid for the past academic year. The Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

### **Campus ministries theme**

The Campus Ministries theme this year was "Sowing Compassion, Side by Side." Seven Worship Assistants along with twelve Ministry Leaders and countless other Goshen College students provided leadership as we explored, in a variety of ways, what it means to sow compassion in the context of a community. During the first chapel of the year students reflected on how they hoped to sow compassion this year. Intentions included "Invite people over for meals," "I will show compassion by being more open minded and standing up for those with unpopular opinions," "smiling at strangers," "being a friend to those who need it," "compassion through simply loving and listening," "sowing compassion through music," "encouraging and praying for those around me," "learn more about myself through relationships with others and God," and "truly act for peace in relation to SOA and Syria." These are just a few of the hundreds of hopes that were articulated – and lived out - this year at Goshen College.



For more information, contact Gwen Gustafson-Zook, Minister of Worship and Church Relations. Call (574) 535-7563 or e-mail [churchrelations@goshen.edu](mailto:churchrelations@goshen.edu).