



## Greetings to Allegheny Mennonite Conference in the name of Jesus Christ!

For many years, I've regularly recorded in a journal the things for which I am grateful to God. This practice shapes my thinking and attitudes about the world around me.

My heart wells with gratitude as I marvel at the countless ways in which I've seen God at work across Mennonite Church USA as I have worked with the national staff. In 2013, these included:

- The enthusiastic embrace across our church of the 12 Scriptures Project and Western District Conference's Year of the Bible initiative.
- The 85+ new fellowships/church plants in Mennonite Church USA over the last five years.
- The commitments and re-commitments to faith made by hundreds of youth and adults during worship together at our biennial convention in Phoenix in July.
- Learning trips to the Arizona-Mexico border during Phoenix 2013, where more than 300 Mennonites learned about the history and current realities of immigration in the United States through BorderLinks.
- The special offerings at Phoenix 2013 that raised more than \$40,000 for the DREAMer Fund (which offers grants to help young undocumented Mennonites apply for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program) and for the development of the new *Shine* Sunday school curriculum by MennoMedia.
- Revisions to our churchwide statement on immigration, and new statements signaling commitments to environmental justice and protecting and nurturing children and youth.
- The Women in Leadership Project, which provides resources and makes space for conversation about women's experiences in the church.
- The Mennonite Church USA Archives, which celebrate our rich Anabaptist history.
- Congregations across the country committed to undoing racism and growing in intercultural awareness and understanding.
- Connections made and new friendships forged during gatherings throughout the year, such as meetings of area conferences, the Constituency Leaders Council, Mennonite leaders of color, conference ministers, and convention.
- Relationships built with people from other denominations and communities across the country.
- The ministries of our churchwide agencies: mission, stewardship, education, health services and publishing.
- The ministries of our 21 area conferences and 900+ congregations, and of the 100,000+ Mennonites who are responding to God's call on their lives each day in their local communities.

**Your financial support is a crucial part of the partnership we share.** In the fiscal year that ended in July 2013, **your conference gave \$72,248 to the ministries** of the offices and churchwide agencies of Mennonite Church USA in the following ways:

1. through congregational offerings, which are forwarded directly or through your conference office;
2. through your conference office;
3. directly to a denominational office or agency.

*Unless designated otherwise, checks made out to "Mennonite Church USA" are divided according to the following formula: 66% to Mennonite Mission Network, 15% to Executive Board/Staff, 14% to Mennonite Education Agency, 3% to MennoMedia, and 2% to Racial/Ethnic Constituency Groups.*

I am grateful for the generosity of people like you who share your gifts with the broader church—through prayer, good counsel, volunteer work and financial support—making possible these ministries and more.

I invite your continued contributions to help Mennonite Church USA advance the goals outlined in the Purposeful Plan for 2013 through 2015:

[www.mennoniteusa.org/purposeful-plan](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/purposeful-plan).

Thank you for your conference's commitment to the partnership we share in the gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless your conference abundantly.

In Christ,

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