

Report to Allegheny Mennonite Conference

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

—Romans 12:4-5

Because we belong to each other, we celebrate the work of individuals, families, congregations and conferences who together form the body of believers that is Mennonite Church USA. Here are a few examples of ways we collaborate with each other:



Begin Anew: Christian Discipleship Seminars is a 16-session series of studies to make disciples in small groups and congregations. Based on the idea that Christianity is a combination of believing, belonging, becoming and behaving, the course is for anyone interested in growing in Christian faith from an Anabaptist perspective. *Begin Anew* is written by Palmer Becker and is a joint project of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada.



Radical Hospitality: Responding to the issue of immigration. This free Bible study unpacks questions such as, "What are the basic facts about U.S. immigration? Who are the people involved? What does the Bible have to say to us as Christians about immigration? What role might we fill as Anabaptists within this age-old challenge?" The core curriculum is based on five videos (each 15–20 min.) and an accompanying Resource Guide.



KC2015: June 30–July 5, 2015: On the way! *En el camino* (Luke 24). Mennonite Church USA's biennial conventions are places where people's lives are transformed and faith is renewed. Convention offers opportunities for networking and fellowship, learning and inspiration, and space for conversations about issues the church is facing. Representatives to the Delegate Assembly play an important role in churchwide decision-making.



Pastoral placements. It's not unusual for the Leadership Development office to receive an inquiry each day from pastors looking for assignments. The office maintains a national list that conference ministers use as they work with congregational search committees, as well as an online list of available pastoral positions. Staff members are always energized when a good pastor-congregation match is found.



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Returning veterans. The violence of war can destroy lives even after combat ceases. Some Mennonite congregations are responding to veterans with understanding and compassion as they seek healing for their emotional and spiritual wounds. The **Peace and Justice Support Network** (a partnership of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Mission Network) is working with Mennonite Central Committee U.S. to support these efforts by providing a monthly newsletter and developing a six-week Sunday school curriculum and a congregational training on relating to veterans.



Israel-Palestine learning tours. More than 30 Mennonite leaders have participated in learning tours to Israel-Palestine through the "Come and See" fund that was established by Mennonite Church USA, Everence, Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. in response to **Kairos Palestine**, an appeal from Palestinian Christians. Our goal is to help 100 leaders participate in the next five years so that we can be more faithful and effective witnesses to Jesus' desire for peace in this region. Groups meet with Palestinians and Israelis; Christians, Jews and Muslims; and refugees, businessmen, pastors and farmers to gain a deeper understanding of the issues.



Women in Leadership Project. In February 2014, nearly 200 women gathered for a conference in Leesburg, Va., titled *All You Need is Love: Honoring the diversity of women's voices in theology* and hosted by the **Women in Leadership Project** of Mennonite Church USA. Participants wrestled together with what it means for a Christian community to hold together the tensions and complexities of pain, suffering, anger and injustice.