

INTERGENERATIONAL SEMINARS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

BEING AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN IN A SUPERFICIAL CHURCH

Bob Rosa
2102A

To be an authentic Christian is to live the way Jesus called us to live. Yet even in the church, due to a variety of issues we live superficial Christian lives and in the long run sabotage kingdom efforts.

EXPLORING CREATIVE PRACTICES IN CONTEMPLATION

Joanna Pinkerton
2505B

Artist Joanna Pinkerton invites you to experience hands on creative prayer practices. She will also provide practical advice on how to incorporate these ideas into personal devotions or in small groups.

IS "MISSION" A FOUR LETTER WORD?

Jamie Ross
2502AB

The word "mission" stirs up all kinds of images, both positive and negative. Opinions on mission can vary between viewing it as integral to the life of the church to an old-school notion for another age ... No matter what we associate with the "m-word," any discussion quickly gets at the heart of what we understand the church to be all about in our world today. This seminar is interactive and intergenerational.

KANSAS CITY AND AMERICA'S MOST CONSEQUENTIAL BORDER

Diane Eickhoff, Aaron Barnhart
2201

This conference is being held in a region that was once the most divided and tumultuous region in the United States. First-class museums in the Kansas City metro area include the National World War I Museum, the Arabia Steamboat Museum, the Shawnee Indian Mission, the Jesse James Farm, the Truman Library and Home, the Negro Baseball Museum, the Nelson -Atkins Museum of Art, Union Station, and nearby, the National Brown v. Board of Education in Topeka, a truly outstanding interpretation of discrimination and education in the United States. The presenters have written a unique travel guide (The Big Divide) that explores the history of this region through its historic sites and battlefields. This workshop will show how change and growth can be facilitated through understanding history.

NOT IN ANYONE'S BACKYARD: THE ETHICS AND POLITICS OF WHERE OUR GARBAGE GOES

Malinda Berry
2104A

Our commitment to creation care blossoms like God's reign when we expand our vision to include environmental justice. This workshop introduces participants to the environmental justice movement and provides them with resources for connecting with activists in their home communities.

SPEAKER TALKBACK: MICHELLE ARMSTER

Michelle Armster
2209

Join speaker Michelle Armster for an opportunity to talk in a smaller setting. Time will be given for questions from the audience.

UNDER ONE ROOF: EXPERIENCING & CELEBRATING DIVERSITY "FAMILY-STYLE"

Kristen and John Marble
2102B

Christian families have overwhelmingly responded to Biblical commands to care for the orphans, often adopting children from all four corners of the world, changing the face of the American church in most communities. Drawing on their experience of raising three biological and seven adopted children from Ukraine/Moldova, Russia/Tajikistan and Haiti, John and Kristen (and kids!) will share stories of challenge and celebration, faith formation and insights from their journey, and offer practical advice to church leaders, friends and families for successfully negotiating adoption, diversity and multiculturalism.

THURSDAY, JULY 2 | 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

DARE TO DREAM: A PATHWAY TO COLLEGE FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Paul Neufeld Weaver; Luz Varela
2204

This seminar will address the challenges faced by the many young people who are unable to attend college because of their immigration status. Bluffton University's Dare to Dream Scholarship for undocumented students will be discussed.

MONASTICISM AND NEOMASTICISM: CONTEMPORARY COMMUNITY ROOTED IN CLASSIC ANTIQUITY

Erica Lea
2209

Community life is core to Mennonite & Anabaptist traditions. Neomonasticism is a revival movement of monasticism that focuses on community life & social justice. This seminar will explore connections between ancient origins of Christian monastic practices with St. Benedict, St Anthony, & other key figures, then discuss contemporary neomonastic & communal living practices & communities. Participants will have opportunities to share their experiences, as well as brainstorm ways to increase connected community in their own contexts as they continue "on the way" of Christian discipleship.

POETRY SAVED MY LIFE: GETTING TO GOD THROUGH ART

Hillary Kobernick
2102B

When you're stressed, how do you cope? This workshop is about transforming your pain into poetry, beginning with the Psalms and then diving into contemporary spoken word poetry. Writing prompts will be led by pastor and spoken word poet Hillary Kobernick, who's been to the National Poetry Slam four times and featured on Button Poetry. Engage the spirituality in writing and have an opportunity to share your own poems.



SITTING UNDER THEIR OWN VINES: AN ANABAPTIST BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

Iris Spekmann (the Netherlands); Katerina Friesen
2201

An international panel of young theologians will respond to the Doctrine of Discovery, known as the "Law of Christendom." They will share various Biblical and theological approaches from their points of view as Mennonite pastors, scholars and activists. They will also invite participants to join them in theological reflection, solidarity and work for justice to dismantle the Doctrine and its continued impacts today.

THE STORY OF MY PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Alex Awad
2203

Rev. Awad was born and raised in Jerusalem. His formative years were marked by the death of his father, who was killed in 1948 during crossfire between the Israeli and Jordanian armies. After the remaining family became refugees, his mother was faced with the task of raising seven children. She worked as a nurse to single-handedly support the family. Alex reflects that the silver lining in this tragedy was his mother's revived commitment to Christ. As a result, Alex says, he was practically 'raised in the church.' Alex and his siblings have become prominent leaders in the evangelical Palestinian community.

THURSDAY, JULY 2 | 3:20 P.M. - 4:20 P.M.

IN THE NEWS AND IN OUR PRAYERS

Mennonite Central Committee Staff
2102B

Here's a chance to engage a world or national issue that is new or whose visibility has grown since convention seminars were assigned. Come for input from and discussion facilitated by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) staff. For topic information, visit MCC's exhibit.

THURSDAY, JULY 2 | 4:40 P.M. - 5:40 P.M.

STARTING WITH THE BASICS: LANGUAGE, SEX AND GENDER

Carol Wise
2505B

What is the difference sex and gender? What does it mean to have a sexual orientation? Is that the same as having a gender identity? How are they related? What does it mean to "come out?" or to be queer? What do the letters lgbtq mean? This workshop will unpack some of the complex terms and concepts related to human sexuality, and hopefully empower participants to have a more informed and respectful conversation.

SATURDAY, JULY 4 | 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

BIBLICAL VIOLENCE AND PEACEMAKING





Peter Goerzen
2505B

With so much violence in the Bible, how does Jesus' call to love our enemies make sense? What does it say about who God is? If the Bible shows violence as an option, might I need to use violence to defend my loved ones? This seminar explores several Anabaptist perspectives on violence and peacemaking in the Bible from both contemporary and early Anabaptist writings.

JOURNEYING THROUGH STUDENT LOAN DEBT TOGETHER

Cara Rufenacht and Charity Grimes
2105

This seminar will share inspiration and logistics behind a community-based student loan reduction effort in Pittsburgh. A group of young adults developed a model for sharing the financial burden of student loan debt through pooling financial resources and disbursing the shared funds amongst members. This practice of community-driven stewardship could be applied to many different situations.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: USING YOUR GIFTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Ethan Eshbach
2104A

We are called by God to help "the least of our brothers and sisters" (Matt. 25:40). In this seminar, you will learn how you can use your God-given talents, expertise and knowledge to change the world through economic development. Find out what steps you can take to enrich communities and strengthen lives through an innovative approach to poverty reduction.

THE RURAL CHURCH: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ON THE FARM

Will Ortman
2102B

Will Ortman will lead a discussion on economic and farming opportunities in his area of South Dakota and what he and others in his community have been doing to promote ag and encourage young people to return home.

SATURDAY, JULY 4 | 3:20 P.M. - 4:20 P.M.

REWILDING THE WAY

Todd Wynward, Peg Bartlett, Nico Wynward-Bartlett
2502AB

How do we free ourselves from the American Way—of overconsumption, status-seeking, and fossil-fuel addiction—to join the Jesus Way? Come hear two wilderness educators and their teenage son share experiences of rewilding public education, high desert homesteading, watershed discipleship, creative co-housing, and reinventing the American Way, starting with their own lives.

