

KC2015 LEARNING EXPERIENCES

| JULY 3 | 1:30–3:15 P.M.

ACTIVE COMPASSION: JOURNEYING WITH THOSE SUFFERING FROM TRAUMA (PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Rebecca Slough, Patricia Plude

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral Founders Hall

Participants will learn and practice how to establish graced, safe space; how to sensitively witness, accompany or guide incremental movement toward healing; how to attend to the challenging emotional energies elicited by trauma (including sexual abuse); and how to craft or improvise ritual responses appropriate for lament, confession, release and hope. This learning experience is presented as part of a series of seminars offered by the Mennonite Church USA discernment group on sexual abuse and John Howard Yoder.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIVES OF CERTAIN MARTYRS

Lonnie Buerge

2501A

Dramatic meditation on the lives of selected martyrs over several centuries. It will be presented by one actor, accompanied by saxophone, poetry and scripture.

APOSTLES, RISK-TAKERS AND PIONEERS: LEADERSHIP CAPACITIES FOR GROWING PEACE CHURCHES

Alan and Deb Hirsch

2104B

God wants to unleash a movement of new Jesus-centered communities to bring God's shalom to a broken world and hurting people. This requires leaders with imagination and entrepreneurial gifts who are not bonded to the status quo. Mennonite Church USA wants to commit to risk takers and future travelers. How can congregations, area conferences and our national fellowship develop systems of calling and equipping for this kind of witness and mission?

BAFA BAFA

Katie Chaffinch, Rachel Gerber, John Murray

2104A

Join us for this interactive game to increase cultural sensitivity.

BASICS OF FILMMAKING: HOW TO DO/CREATE EFFECTIVE VIDEOS

Wayne Larson
2205

These days many people are using video in sermons, youth ministries and other church functions. A professional director/producer/videographer, who has engaged in international work involving video production for more than 30 years, including teaching media production courses, will give attendees a basic understanding of how to plan, visualize and implement a film project. Though not required for attendance, participants are encouraged to bring a device that can record video (such as video camera, mobile phone, ipad, digital camera) and participate in practical exercises during the learning experience.

COMPASSION AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: TENDING THE PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL SOUL

Jean Lengacher, Annie Lengacher Browning
2505B

Living compassionately is a spiritual practice and more than a process of ethical reflection. As God's people, we are called to respond to challenges and conflicts with a spirit of love and compassion. This seminar, situated in Jesus' gospel model of compassion, will look at several faith practices that can expand our capacity to think, speak, listen and respond with compassion to one another and to our world.

CONTRA DANCING

Terry Rouse
Rec Hall

Contra dancing is a community type of dance that originated in New England and has spread all over the United States. It is a community dance because you dance not only with a partner, but also with a larger group of people. It shares many dance moves with square dancing but is danced in a different formation and is more aerobic. We will begin each lesson with a class so no experience is necessary. You also do not need to come with a partner.

COTTON PATCH GOSPEL: MUSICAL THEATER AS SERVICE

Phil and Pam Kaufmann
2505A

This musical has its origins in the vernacular version of Matthew's Gospel, authored by Koinonia Farms founder Clarence Jordan. Actor playwright Tom Key further developed the story of "Joe Davidson and Mary Hagler" raising a most miraculous human. Those Bible stories come alive in a 20th century, Georgia setting. Using video recording of Harry Chapin's lyrics and music, Phil Kaufmann presents a one-man version of the show. Since 2011 Phil has performed the show more than 100 times, with all proceeds (over \$120,000) donated to organizations fighting hunger. See a new way to raise funds for your local food pantry.

DON'T FOLLOW YOUR GUT WITH THE RACIAL DIVIDE: FOLLOWING JESUS, POST-FERGUSON

Drew Hart

2103A

This session will explore how Christians have been socialized to think about racism from the perspective of the majority and in dominant culturally patterned mindsets. Unfortunately, the result is that the Church is often looking back at our last 400 years with a sense of shame because of its accommodation to racialized violence and oppression, while seeming bound to repeat the cycle. This session will create space for us to collectively wrestle with varying ways of seeing what's going on. Can we move together towards a more Jesus-shaped way of life that is faithful and resists racism?

DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION: USING THEATER TECHNIQUES TO CHALLENGE RACISM

Melissa Friesen

2202

In this participatory workshop, we playfully explore the challenge of becoming antiracist through theater games and activities. No theater experience needed; simply bring your willingness to creatively engage this important topic with body, mind, and spirit.

EMBARK: NAVIGATING YOUR RETIREMENT EXPERIENCE

Tyson Miller, Del Hershberger, Andrea Unzicker

2105

Retirement looks different for everyone, depending on one's values, resources and priorities. This interactive learning experience will engage people considering retirement in seeing how their choices and circumstances may play out and how to be prepared.

EXPERIENCING JESUS' WAYS OF VALUING WOMEN: BIBLE STUDY LED BY LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN

Alix Lozano, Ángela Opimí, Olga Piedrasanta

2206

Participate with a team of Latin American women theologians in studying John 4:1-42, the story of Jesus and the Samaritan women. This is one of the Bible studies used in the Mennonite Women USA Sister Care program, which has had a big impact in Latin America. In a participatory manner, leaders will share their contextual adaptations. This learning experience will be presented in Spanish with translation to English.

GROWING UP LATINA/O AND MENNONITE: CORITOS, CULTURE AND IDENTITY

Felipe Hinojosa

2102B

This learning experience will showcase the stories of Latinas and Latinos who grew up in the Mennonite Church between the 1970s and 2000s. These are young people who grew up laughing at the church's idiosyncrasies, lived through endless church conferences and sang way too many Coritos, forged lifelong friendships with other Mennonite youth, and grew up navigating the blessings and contradictions of growing up Latina/o and Mennonite. Note: This session will be conducted mostly in English, mixed in with some Spanish, and will probably be more in Spanglish by the time we're done.

IF IT WAS ME: FAMILY COMEDY

Barbara Nelson and company
2215B

Who says Christians can't have fun? "If It Was Me" is a hip and hilarious family comedy show that takes its audiences on a wild ride through the Scriptures as Lou, the smoothest dude in the church, tells how he thinks some of our favorite Bible stories "wouldn't went down if he'd been in them." The perfect show to bring people together for a good time.

A JOYFUL NOISE

Leo Hartshorn
Lobby 2300

Cofounded and led by Leo Hartshorn, A Joyful Noise is an interactive program of Drumming for Peace. It teaches principles of peace (i.e., cooperation, team building, respect for diverse races and cultures, listening, and building unity) through a variety of drumming/learning exercises by playing plastic five-gallon buckets with drum sticks. No drumming or musical skill is required. The exercises start very simply and move toward more complex rhythm exercises. A Joyful Noise is a fun, joyful learning experience.

LAMENTING SEXUAL ABUSE IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

Peter and Katherine Goerzen
2102A

The culture of secrecy surrounding sexual abuse compounds and intensifies the suffering of victims and survivors. Providing a public space in worship to lament sexual abuse breaks these cycles, raises lament before God, and opens awareness. Presenters lead a version of a lament service with discussion and resources to follow.

THE LOSS OF TURTLE ISLAND (PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Karin Kaufman Wall, Erica Littlewolf
1501B

The Loss of Turtle Island is a participatory learning experience that depicts the historic relationship between European settlers – specifically Mennonites – and the Indigenous nations of the land we now call the United States of America.

MENNONITE MARTIAL ARTS: THE USE OF ASSERTIVE FORCE IN NONVIOLENCE

Tim Peebles, Steve Thomas, Marlene Kroeker
2501D

Engage another kind of MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) that mixes martial arts with conflict transformation to make peace with interpersonal violence. Led by Mennonite martial artists, participants in this physically interactive experience will learn ways of using assertive, nonviolent force to resist physical and sexual assault.

A PALESTINIAN CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

Alex Awad
2201

Christian Zionism is the default mode in much of American evangelicalism and on Christian radio in the United States. What is this teaching and what are its origins? How does it relate to God's reconciling mission in the world and God's desire for shalom for all people? How do we understand Biblical writings on land, the temple and God's chosen people? The Rev. Alex Awad, a prominent Palestinian evangelical and professor at Bethlehem Bible College, will share from his studies, experience and faith.

PRAYING BEYOND WORDS

Laura Amstutz
2204

Words are only one of the ways we can communicate with God and allow God to speak to us. During this experience we will explore ways to pray alone and in groups that involve all five senses and various learning styles.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES THAT SUSTAIN PEACEMAKING

Jason Boone and others
2103B

Experiential seminar that introduces and guides participants through a variety of contemplative spiritual practices including Centering Prayer, Welcoming Prayer and others. Possibly including a half hour video chat with Fr. Richard Rohr.

THE STONES CRY OUT: THE STORY OF THE PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS

Rod Stafford
2103C

The story of Palestinian Christians has often gone unheard. This film tells of our brothers and sisters who live in the ancient land of Christ and who live amidst the headlines of today.

| JULY 3 | 1:30–5:30 p.m.

THE ANABAPTIST GAME

Michele Hershberger
2215A

Learn about Anabaptist history and have fun at the same time. Join Michele Hershberger for the Anabaptist game. After hearing the story of the early Anabaptists of the 1500s (a group of Christians who defied the state church in order to follow their convictions) you will form groups and explore the convention center trying to find eight "safe houses." There is a drama about the Anabaptists in each house. You won't know where these "houses" are located, but "Anabaptist fugitives" will help you figure out where to go. You will need to be on the lookout for soldiers, who may try to capture you and send you to the state church magistrate, who will question your faith and perhaps even send you to the dungeon. It's a rousing two hours of fun, trying to find secret places, escaping soldiers, experiencing a scary "dungeon," and learning a lot about Christians who sought to follow Jesus completely, even to the point of torture and death.

THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP

Jeremy Kauffman, Bethany Nussbaum, Lee Schmucker
2504A

High school students will be exposed to principles of excellent leadership through an Anabaptist faith lens. Using the DiSC profile and other proven leadership principles, participants will have the opportunity to better understand their style of leadership as well as others' styles which compliment them on a team. This interactive time of learning will provide practical handles for growing the leadership gifts God has given the Church.



LISTENING FOR GRACE

Ted & Co.
2501BC

This new play by Ted Swartz is a funny, powerful, poignant performance which gives voice to our fears and hopes when a faith community engages in questions around same sex relationships. A father's journey, a church's struggle, and a search for commonality.

Following the play, join us for a special talkback session with Ted and Western District Conference leaders as they share about the genesis of this important play.

ORGAN RECITAL AT RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH (PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Rosi Penner Kaufman
Rainbow Mennonite Church

In 2008, the Rainbow congregation moved a pipe organ built in 1869 from a church in Troy, New York to Kansas City, Kansas. This historic instrument is unique. Musicians from Rainbow will tell the tale of intrigue that brought the organ to Kansas and present a mini-recital. Transportation to the church will be provided for those preregistered. Limited to 25 participants.

| JULY 3 | 1:30–6:00 P.M.

WATERSHED DISCIPLESHIP IN KANSAS CITY: FLOATING THE KANSAS RIVER

Friends of the Kaw
Off-site

What does Watershed Discipleship look like in a city where two rivers — the Kaw (Kansas River) and the Missouri — meet? This half-day (4.5 hour) active learning opportunity provides a way to get outside and explore Kansas City by canoe or kayak. Along the way connect with local grassroots organizations and conservation groups working with issues related to water in the city. Learn more about what it means to care for God's creation in the Kansas River watershed, the largest prairie watershed in the world. A \$50 fee applies, and includes transportation shuttle from convention center, program fees and boat rental. All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. Preregistration required. To register, email janiebk@mennoniteusa.org.

| JULY 3 | 3:45–5:30 p.m.

ARTFUL RESPONSE: VISUAL THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE

Malinda Berry
2105

Using a variety of pioneering approaches, this workshop introduces participants to a way of reading and engaging Scripture that uses the visual arts to deepen our reading and prayer with the Bible.

BAFA BAFA

Katie Chaffinch, Rachel Gerber, John Murray

2104A

Join us for this interactive game to increase cultural sensitivity.

THE CHALLENGE FOR THE MENNONITE CHURCH AFTER FERGUSON

Drew Hart, Chantelle Todman-Moore, Nes Espinosa, moderator Tyler Tully

2103A

A panel of urban Anabaptists will lead a broader discussion, each coming from a unique perspective on what it means (or should mean) to be an historic peace Church amidst racial violence and oppression in our society. Conversation will be wide-ranging, exploring panelist's thoughts on the significance of the protests in Ferguson, the crisis of so many black and brown youth being violated or killed while unarmed (along with other forms of racism impacting poor neighborhoods), and re-imagining how the Mennonite Church ought to seek out being a visible manifestation of God's Kingdom in such a time as this.

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CREATING SAFE SPACES IN OUR CHURCHES, HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

Jeanette Harder, Nancy Kauffmann

2505B

In 2013, Mennonite Church USA passed a resolution encouraging churches to protect and nurture our children and youth. This intergenerational learning experience will encourage attendees to think about their own and their church's commitments to be safe places for everyone. Discussion and activities will enable participants to learn from one another and to hear about creative ways other churches work to create safe spaces that not only FEEL safe, but actually ARE safe for everyone. Participants will also learn how the church can be empowered to work toward our homes and communities being safe places as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL SPIRITUALITY

Sarah Augustine

2201

Native American spirituality and creation care — the story of the dancing Tewa girl.

FAIR FOOD AND FARM WORKER JUSTICE

John Wierwille, Kimberly Hunter, Andrew Toney, Coalition of Immokalee Workers

2103C

Southeast Mennonite Conference Task Force on Farm Worker Justice along with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers will share with interactive skits and discussion about the efforts of farm workers and their allies in pursuit of justice in the fields. We will learn how we as a church can work alongside farmworkers to ensure dignity and respect for every person who makes the food on our plates possible.

HEALING FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE BY CHURCH LEADERS

Carolyn Heggen and friends

2205

Sexual abuse causes great emotional and spiritual harm to the victim. Those close to the victim, those called to deal with the fallout, and the entire church are also injured. This seminar will explore ways the church can assist in the healing of victims and work toward prevention.

IMAGINING NEW FUTURES FOR ANABAPTIST ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WORLD

Alan and Deb Hirsch

2104B

Educator and philosopher Ivan Illich said, "Neither revolution nor reformation can ultimately change a society, rather you must tell a new powerful tale." Alan Hirsch believes that the story that will unlock all potential invested in God's people is found in seeing the church through the lens of movement. Ironically all our greatest moments in Christian history have happened when the church once again realized that Jesus intended us to be this way. He never intended for us to become an institution but that we should always be moving into our own future. Explore the ancient idea of church as missional movement in this paradigm-shifting workshop.

JONAS: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF AN AMISHMAN

Maynard Knepp

2203

Maynard Knepp presents a one-man show about the life of a fictional Amishman named Jonas Bontrager.

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MASS INCARCERATION: HOW DOES IT IMPACT JESUS' CALL TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER?

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Anton Flores, Isaac Villegas

2103B

You'll hear from those involved in this struggle and learn about opportunities to engage systemic issues of justice when it comes to mass incarceration — including detention of individuals and families who are immigrants as well as issues of related to those reentering our communities.

MENNONITE MARTIAL ARTS: THE USE OF ASSERTIVE FORCE IN NONVIOLENCE

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Engage another kind of MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) that mixes martial arts with conflict transformation to make peace with interpersonal violence. Led by Mennonite martial artists, participants in this physically interactive experience will learn ways of using assertive, nonviolent force to resist physical and sexual assault.

MOVING CONGREGATIONS IN A MISSIONAL/INCARNATIONAL DIRECTION

Eric Miller, Brad Brisco, Howard Wagler

2206

God has always been a missionary/sending God who sent Jesus to show us the best possible way to live. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you," and with those words, commissioned us to be sending people, who understand our missionary role to the local community and to un-reached people groups. This track will focus on strategies and stories to help each person in every congregation see themselves as missionaries where they live, work, and play.

MUSICAL VISIONS: THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD AND CREATION CELEBRATION

Vada Snider, Karen Loucks, Duane Graham

2501A

Fill your senses and refresh your spirit with these two short multimedia programs celebrating nature. Come for one or both. At 3:45 p.m. we'll present "This is My Father's World," a meditative 40-minute program of flute and piano music based on nature themes. Photos of natural wonders from Kansas to Morocco, humorous drawings by Jesse Graber, and art by Bob Regier.

At 4:45 we'll present "Creation Celebration," a 40-minute program of flute and piano music, including "On Eagle's Wings," "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," and Kent Kennan's "Night Soliloquy." Spectacular photographs, from prairie wildflowers to NASA galaxy images.

READING THE BIBLE IN YOUR OWN CULTURAL CONTEXT: THE TOBA \ QOM STORY

José Oyanguren, Alfonsina Finger
2204

Study the Bible together with José Oyanguren and Alfonsina Finger, Argentine workers with the Toba Qom churches. While using methodology typical of Bible studies with indigenous people, they will also share stories and insights from Toba Qom Christians. This learning experience will be in Spanish with translation to English.

SING A NEW SONG: WORSHIP MUSIC COMPOSITION (PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED)

James Krabill
2502AB

James Krabill will lead people in a mini composition experience. You'll be invited to use a Scripture passage to compose your own song. Bring instruments along, and come prepared to share your unique composition.

TRAUMA-INFORMED MENNONITES

Elaine Zook Barge
2102B

The need for trauma-informed Mennonites is important in today's world as individuals and communities impacted by violence, conflict and trauma often look to the church as a resource. It is also important as we deal with internal divisions and conflicts within the church. Trauma affects how we think, feel and behave; unhealed trauma often leads to more wounds and violence as victims act out against others or become self-destructive. This workshop addresses the impact of trauma on the body, brain, beliefs and behavior of individuals and communities and introduces tools and processes for addressing trauma and breaking cycles of violence. Trauma-informed individuals and organizations will be more confident and better prepared to respond to needs in their communities as well as to their own.

YOU CAN PREACH!

Jess Engle
2215B

Let's talk about bad preaching. What makes a good message? Jess Engle loves to tell good stories and started preaching as a young adult when he was an elementary school teacher. Jess strongly believes that boring preaching is WRONG. Jess offers a regular "preaching class" in his congregation and loves having youth and young adults try preaching. Learn how to add appropriate personal stories, test your motives about what you want to preach about, and let God speak to you through the Scripture text. This interactive seminar will get you started on a sermon so bring a Scripture text.