

MennoCon21 Seminars in Cincinnati

May 7, 2021

Adult Seminars are for open to all interested persons; Youth Seminars are designed specifically for youth.

Youth Seminar	Clair Hochstetler and other members of Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship	Ask Us Anything: A health professions career roundtable	Participants interested or involved in health careers are invited to share their experience and explorations, with an emphasis on how faith may guide vocational discernment in the healing professions.
Youth Seminar	Talia Miller, Laura Miller, Samantha Shank	Becoming an Effective Bystander: Sexual Assault Intervention & Prevention	Student educators from Goshen College's Prevention Intervention Network (PIN) will introduce what it means to be a prosocial bystander who is able to intervene in a range of instances related to sexual assault and misconduct. They will discuss the concepts related to sexual violence, with the goal of equipping participants with an understanding of how they can intervene before, during, and after an incident in order to create healthy and survivor supportive communities.
Youth Seminar	Rustin Nyce, head coach, track & field, Goshen College	Being a Competitive Athlete AND Mennonite	Find out how athletics can be a conduit to share Mennonite history and values as we consider the ways we win, compete and lose. We'll discuss how strength and power can be perceived as positive attributes for Mennonite athletes.
Youth Seminar	Reta Halteman Finger, author, <i>Creating a Scene in Corinth</i>	Bible Study: Creating a Meal Scene in Corinth	Group Bible study can be both fun and a deep learning experience. The Apostle Paul planted several house churches in the city of Corinth, then left to do further mission work. Later, he heard about their church fights--even at meals when they celebrated the Lord's Supper. We will role-play different views about eating together after hearing 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. What can we learn about getting along when we don't agree? For audiences of any age.
Youth Seminar	Lyle Miller and Mitch Stutzman, stewardship consultants, Everence	Can I Be a Rich Christian?	Whether you're getting your first job or heading off to college, what does being a Christian have to do with managing money? And how do you make choices about how best to save, spend, and share while following Jesus? Learn the Four Financial Fundamentals that are 94.32 percent of the keys to success when it comes to managing money.
Youth Seminar	Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer, Mennonite Mission Network workers	Changing the Narrative: Climate What?	"Fear not!" the angels still say. Come hear stories about indigenous youth leading the way with creative solutions in the Ecuadorian rain forest. The Cofán in the village of Zábalo live off the land and take conservation into their own hands. Human impact on the climate has changed the current upon which the economy, human rights and the natural world rides, creating opportunities for collective action and community empowerment. Join a conversation with Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer, who serve in Ecuador with Mennonite Mission Network, and hear how ordinary people like you are changing the world.
Youth Seminar	John Sharp, author, retired professor and father of M.J.	Daring to make peace: The M.J. Sharp Story	Is peace more than theology? More than history? For centuries, we have sharpened "our" peace theology and honed our storytelling of Anabaptist martyrs. Have we put our theology into practice? Have the stories of history motivated us to active peacemaking? He felt called to build peace in dangerous places, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he was abducted and shot on 12 March 2017. What can we learn from his life, service, and death?
Youth Seminar	Marathana Prothro, assistant professor, Bluffton University	Designing Your Life in Complicated Times	Scripture tells us "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed," but sometimes it's hard NOT to conform to the path you think you should go on to make your family, church, friends, and community proud. The right electives. The right clubs. The right GPA. The right college. The right major. The pressure to "stay on the right path" is immense for youth, and isn't necessarily helpful in empowering you to truly follow Christ and make a difference in the world. Come explore 'design thinking' as a way to discover, embrace, and pursue the many ways you might continually be transformed as you join God's work in the world.

Youth Seminar	Michele Hershberger, author and Bible teacher, Hesston College	Dying to live: Being young and changing the world	Some adults dismiss youth because they're too young or too inexperienced. Others fear that if youth hear how much discipleship might cost, it will scare them away. But what if that's wrong thinking? What if many of us are dying to have something we love so much we'd die for it? What if it's true that if we don't have anything we'd die for, then maybe we don't really have anything to live for? What if Jesus is dying to change the world--through us?
Youth Seminar	Robert Brenneman, professor, Goshen College	Friendship and Community in the Digital Age	This seminar will examine some of the threats to community, mental health and friendship posed by the proliferation of screens and the media competition for our attention. COVID has further weakened our "social muscles" after months of avoiding contact with those outside our bubble. We'll consider the threats we face—both physical and social—and how we will "re-build" our social muscles as individuals and communities.
Youth Seminar	Eric Frey Martin, recruiter and church relations, Mennonite Mission Network	I Fight Authority, Authority Always Wins	Many authority figures that we were brought up to respect—police, pastors, political leaders—sometimes turn out to be untrustworthy. Furthermore, as we dig into history, our economic systems, the lands that we live on, even laws we must obey are fraught with injustices and often based on systems of white supremacy, classism, and nationalism. What do we do with all of that? How do people of faith interact with the authorities in our lives, especially the ones that seem to be carrying out injustice? When we look how Jesus approached power, authority, and injustice in his own life, we can find hope and guidance.
Youth Seminar	Jonathan Brenneman and friends	IMPROV: Walking in a Palestinian's Shoes	If you like improv, or just enjoy watching others do improv, join us for this simulation to see what happens when two teenagers—one Palestinian, one Israeli—are caught in the same act of throwing stones at a vehicle. We'll take some time after the simulation to debrief and talk about ways that youth and their leaders can be advocates to address the situation in Palestine and Israel.
Youth Seminar	Jes Stoltzfus Buller and Krista Dutt, program coordinators, Mennonite Central Committee	Jesus, Violence and Peace	We might all agree that Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, but we don't necessarily agree on what that means. Can we engage in protest? Have guns? How do we decide if or when to call the police? What if we remain silent while others are harmed? Jesus offers multiple lessons on peacemaking that can be applied to our lives in practical ways. Bring your own ideas and beliefs about violence and nonviolence to this session where we will dive into what it means to be peacemakers through interactive conversation.
Youth Seminar	Gerald J. Mast, professor, Bluffton University	Living like the Lilies: Three Paths to a Simpler Life	Mennonite youth today face a complex world profoundly altered by industrial and digital technologies that impact the way we organize, plan, and connect our lives. This workshop offers practical guidance for following Jesus' call to live like the lilies (Matt. 6:28), with less worry about tomorrow and more delight in the present. Youth will be challenged to simplify their relationship to space, time, and communication to align their lives with God's peaceable and joyful design for the cosmos.
Youth Seminar	Jes Stoltzfus Buller and Krista Dutt, program coordinators, Mennonite Central Committee	Making Peace with Conflict	When faced with difficult conflicts or aggression, how shall we respond? Conflict is a normal part of life and learning how to manage difference, or aggression from others, is important. Conflict has the ability to rip apart communities and relationships...or it can be transformative. This seminar will teach basic skills of dealing with conflict, including communication skills, problem solving and ideas for stopping violence without harming others. Come join us and learn to make peace with conflict by practicing these skills!
Youth Seminar	Saulo Padilla and Jes Stoltzfus Buller, program coordinators,	People on the move: What would you choose?	Get up! Feel what it's like to be a person on the move. This interactive learning experience will help you develop a practical understanding of immigration issues through an exercise that will move you around the room and illustrate the consequences of your choices—using real-world examples.

	Mennonite Central Committee		
Youth Seminar	Michele Hershberger, author and Bible teacher, Hesston College	Put your body into it: using theater to practice peace-building	Have you ever looked back on a situation and said, "Wow, I wish I would have done something to stop that bully," or "Why didn't I respond to that racist comment?" It takes practice to train our minds, mouths and bodies to speak out against injustice, to stand in solidarity when people are getting hurt. Join Michele Hershberger and actors in an interactive Forum theater experience. You will get to be part of improv theater, learning and practicing a technique that can train you to respond in the moment.
Youth Seminar	Rachel Swartzendruber Miller, VP for Admissions, Hesston College	Quarterback, Class Clown, and Homecoming Queen -- but who's the leader?	So many assume that being a leader requires a position, status, or popularity. In reality, none of these are ingredients of true leadership. Come learn a new definition of leadership through stories and examples, one that flips the term "leadership position" on its head. Similar to how Jesus showed us an "upside-down Kingdom," we can offer the world an upside down way of leading. This kind of leadership is something you can do, anytime, anywhere.
Youth Seminar	Eric Frey Martin, recruiter and church relations, Mennonite Mission Network	Shaping Our Stories; Sharing Our Stories	During this seminar we will look at how we tell stories, not just the verbal ones that we tell our friends, but the narratives we are shaping around who we are and how we want to project ourselves to others. We will take a look at how these stories that we are telling and projecting shape who we are becoming and how our stories can impact others. We will look at sharing our stories as a way of sharing God with others.
Youth Seminar	Brian Martin Burkholder, campus pastor, Eastern Mennonite University	So, What is Your Spirituality Type?	Perhaps we're not accustomed to sharing our spirituality type while relating to one another in the church, but much of our critique of church or worship styles certainly reflects it! Would you like to better understand yourself as a spiritual being - maybe freeing yourself to more fully express yourself spiritually? How might knowing more about several spirituality types nurture understanding, compassion and curiosity across our differences? Let's explore together!
Youth Seminar	Drew Strait, assistant professor of NT, AMBS	The Bible and Christian Nationalism	In this seminar youth will grapple with the challenges patriotism and Christian nationalism present to discipleship in Anabaptist perspective. Through personal stories and engagement with biblical texts, the seminar empowers youth to become an alternative global community of love, peace and justice that bears witness to Christ's peaceable kingdom by embracing human difference rather than fearing it.
Youth Seminar	Rachel Swartzendruber Miller, VP for Admissions, Hesston College	The struggle is real: A tool for navigating life's difficult challenges	No matter your age, life can get messy, tough, and at times seemingly more than we can handle. Expand your tools for navigating life's challenging situations by attending this seminar and learning the Peer Consultation Process. Students and youth sponsors will gain awareness of the specific steps of Peer Consultation, as well as observe one in action -- step by step with an opportunity to speak into the process. This will give you, a group of friends, your youth group or your family a new option for navigating those messy moments of life.
Youth Seminar	Michele Hershberger, author and Bible teacher, Hesston College	Trevor Noah visits Sunday School	Explore how to use secular books and movie clips as a way to open our eyes to injustice. Trevor Noah, host of The Daily Show, won't be hosting this seminar, but he may show up in other ways, to talk about his life, his faith and what it was like to live in post-Apartheid South Africa. His story, combined with the teachings of Jesus, can be an open door to our own racism and how to move toward being more anti-racist.
Youth Seminar	Marathana Prothro, assistant professor, Bluffton University	Use ancient wisdom to stop destructive communication	From broken relationships to deep political and theological divides, destructive communication pervades much of our experience today. Drawing from ancient wisdom and contemporary psychology, this seminar provides youth a practical way to recognize these patterns of communication and offers a path to healing and hope in their personal relationships.

Youth Seminar	Eric Frey Martin and reps from Mennonite colleges	What You do Next Matters	This seminar will be for high schoolers contemplating what is next for them after graduation. We will talk about the different options youth have to connect their faith and vocation. For example, what are the advantages of a “gap year” and what could you do in that year? Our aim is to set up an inviting space where youth can hear about the many possibilities available to them through Mennonite programs and schools after high school.
Youth Seminar	Susannah Larry, assistant professor of biblical studies, AMBS	When \$#@! Happens: What the Bible Says about Pain, Trauma, and Us	Life can be really tough...and reading the Bible is no picnic, either! In this seminar, youth participants will look at how scripture deals with some of the toughest aspects of life. We'll focus on three key themes of family conflict, identity, and loss through studying 1 Samuel 20 and Judges 11.
Youth Seminar	Jes Stoltzfus Buller and Krista Dutt, program coordinators, Mennonite Central Committee	You Got Booked	You Got Booked is an interactive tool developed by MCC that allows people to dive into the experience of mass incarceration in the United States. Come, learn and get a taste of what issues are involved in mass incarceration.
Adult Seminar	J. Tyler Klassen, photographer with MA in Christian Formation	Contemplative Photography: Seeing as a way to a greater awareness of God	Contemplative photography is a spiritual practice that uses photography as a tool to allow God to guide us to greater understanding of God's presence in how we experience our world. Through practices framed by photography, we will explore how God can lead us to greater visual sensitivity and awareness of our world. God's presence and leading are with us day by day, moment to moment. Contemplative photography is one practice of listening that may help us to be better attuned to God's voice.
Adult Seminar	Jonathan Kuttab, devoted Mennonite and Palestinian Christian Human Rights attorney	A Conversation on Palestine with Jonathan Kuttab	Hear firsthand stories and analysis on the latest in Palestine including the plight of Palestinian Christians, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and what your Mennonite Church can do about it.
Adult Seminar	Breanna J. Nickel, fellow in religion at Augustana College teaching and Goshen College graduate	Adapting the Meaning of a Mennonite College Education	This seminar explores the meaning of denominational-based college education. It includes stories of church-college relations in the last century, but the main subject is the recent approach of U.S. Mennonite colleges. Questions include: 1) how has "Mennonite education" changed over time? 2) how do colleges embody a denominational identity? 3) what makes a beneficial church/college relationship? and 4) how will college missions keep changing in light of increasingly non-Mennonite student bodies?
Adult Seminar	D.J. Mitchell, author and founder of Healing Refuge Fellowship	Addiction: What the Church Should Know	This session will help participants move their understanding of addiction beyond the conventional models of morality (choice) and biology (disease). Over time, the person's drug of choice provides identity, purpose, structure for life, and morality—characteristics of a religion. The problem of addiction is complex, and includes this religious component too often overlooked by professionals. With better understanding of the problem, the Church is uniquely positioned to help those who suffer.
Adult Seminar	Parents and their lgbtq+ children	Always My Child/Forever My Parent	Learning that your child is lgbtq+ may or may not be a surprise, but will still have a profound impact upon a family. Studies show that accepting families provide an essential foundation for the long term wellbeing of that child, as well as the family itself. This session will feature parents and their lgbtq+ children as they reflect together upon the multitude of ways that coming out impacted their relationship with each other, extended family, their church and their spiritual identities.

Adult Seminar	Jason Kauffman, MC USA archives director, and Jean Kilheffer Hess, Lancaster Historical Society executive director	Anabaptist History Today Storytelling Workshop	Join the cocreators of Anabaptist History Today and discover how storytelling can enrich our lives together and leave a legacy for future generations. Participants for this interactive maker's session will learn more about the project and create a story for the community-built archive. Leaders will provide art supplies and question prompts to guide participants as they reflect on the connection between their Anabaptist faith and lived experiences during the remarkable events of the last year.
Adult Seminar	Steve Thomas, executive director, Mennonite Men	Be a (Good) Man: Characteristics of Healthy Masculinity	Boys and men sometimes hear "Be a man." But what does this mean? Through the interactive "man box" exercise, we will compare the traits of dominant masculinity with healthy masculinity from an Anabaptist Christian perspective. Come learn what God's Spirit is forming us to be as men following Jesus. Led by the Director of Mennonite Men, co-editor of <i>Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity</i> , and co-author of the new book <i>Strong, Loving, and Wise: Joining Conversations for Men</i> .
Adult Seminar	Jerrell Ross Richer, professor of economics, Goshen College	Becoming Carbon Positive	We live in an interconnected world, one where the actions we take affect people all over the globe. How can those of us living in the industrialized nations of the Global North become pro-active when it comes to climate change? Environmental economics students at Goshen College are developing mechanisms to do just this. Equip yourself to become carbon positive by learning how to onset greenhouse gas emissions and take better care of God's creation.
Adult Seminar	John Kampen, professor of Jewish history and NT, Methodist Theological School	Biblical Interpretation and Antisemitism	The antisemitic impulse of Christian theology has been well documented. For Anabaptist Mennonites, reading the Bible is a central theological activity. The study of the Bible has been influenced by this same antisemitic impulse. In this seminar we will explore how Mennonite reading of the Bible has been subject to these influences and some of the particular ways in which it is expressed in our own heritage. We will make some suggestions about how to begin to address this issue.
Adult Seminar	Ryan Ahlgrim, pastor of First Mennonite Church of Richmond	Can the Church Be Prophetic and Nonpartisan?	During these times of hyper-partisanship in our country, congregations are finding it difficult to be politically nonpartisan. Can the church speak boldly to our society's political, economic, environmental, and social problems without aligning itself to a partisan agenda or identity? Should the church remain nonpartisan?
Adult Seminar	Michele Hershberger, author and Bible teacher, Hesston College	Church is not a building (and your pastor's not the only minister)	A hidden gift of COVID-19 is the rediscovery of some biblical truths: church is not a building, we can and do gather at other times than 10 am on Sunday mornings AND all of us are missionaries. Rediscovering these truths can help create new life into our congregations; it can be a conversion experience. But how do we help people get there? Join Hesston College CALL leaders as they give guidelines that open the door to this conversion.
Adult Seminar	Beryl Jantzi, stewardship education, Everence	Congregational Financial Resources	Tending the financial viability of your congregation is a key pastoral and lay leader responsibility. Learn about a variety of resources available to support your church and individual members with finances and stewardship.
Adult Seminar	Jennifer Schrock and Katie Isaac, MCCN and CSCS	Congregations Caring for Creation: Starting Points	The scope of environmental damage feels overwhelming. What do churches have to offer and where do they start? Katie Isaac, a former research fellow with the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, spent a year listening to a wide range of congregations and designing a series of plans to guide them. Katie and Jennifer Schrock of Mennonite Creation Care Network will introduce you to these resources, and others as well.

Adult Seminar	John Sharp, author, retired professor and father of M.J.	Daring to make peace: The M.J. Sharp Story	Is peace more than theology? More than history? For centuries, we have sharpened "our" peace theology and honed our storytelling of Anabaptist martyrs. Have we put our theology into practice? Have the stories of history motivated us to active peacemaking? He felt called to build peace in dangerous places, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he was abducted and shot on 12 March 2017. What can we learn from his life, service, and death?
Adult Seminar	Jeanne Davies, executive director, Anabaptist Disabilities Network	Disabilities and Mutual Care	Individuals and families with disabilities carry some additional burdens in life. Well-meaning people remind them to "take care of themselves." Instead of taking care of ourselves, how might we shoulder burdens and share joys together based on the Anabaptist practice of mutual care?
Adult Seminar	Mike Martin, executive director, RAWtools	Disabling Gun Violence - The RAWtools Network	This seminar equips individuals and churches with creative approaches to reducing gun violence in their community. From unwanted firearms to firearms still in their evidence box, RAWtools creates garden tools from disabled firearms across the country with the help of over 50 nationwide volunteers. The tools and art help heal from the trauma of gun violence. Attendees will know how to integrate prophetic and transformative practices to engage their community in conversation and practice.
Adult Seminar	Mike Sherrill, executive director, Mennonite Mission Network	Future Driven Partnership: Pursuing God's call at Mennonite Mission Network	Mission Network is responding to the present and innovating for the future. We exist to equip and empower the church to be a holistic witness to Jesus Christ across the street and around the world. "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline" (2 Tim 1:7). This truth draws us toward inclusion and partnership as we put God's love into action for people of all cultures. We are all pilgrims on a sacred journey. Let's discover together God's urgent call on each of us and our church.
Adult Seminar	Bonita Bontrager Schrock, LCSW and chief clinical officer at Oaklawn Psychiatric Center	How ACEs Affect Youth and How You Can Respond	Youth leaders know that youth bring a variety of difficult experiences with them into youth group activities and discussions (and we are all aware that they bring more than we even know about). They have histories of living in homes or communities with abuse, violence, drug use, mental illness, death and more. This seminar will give a brief explanation of the research about the effects of specific adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on youth and then talk about ways in which leaders can respond to bring the healing waters of our faith to their experience.
Adult Seminar	Mitch Stutzman, stewardship consultant, Everence	How much is enough?	Do I have enough...to feel secure...to support my family...to retire...to be generous? These are the questions that we think about as we shop, check our account balances, or meet with the financial professionals in our life. It is a difficult question to ask and an even more difficult question to answer. This highly interactive workshop will be spent exploring together the idea of finding enough in our daily walk.
Adult Seminar	Mark Regier and Stella Tai, stewardship investing, Everence	How your financial decisions can create social change	Bringing about social change requires more than just passion for a cause—it requires the ability to integrate the desired change into the way our world works. Economics have become the new focus for many who seek to increase justice and peace in our world. The financial tools you use every day can be part of that change and impact the future. Join us for an interactive exploration of the many ways we can make a difference for others today, while managing our financial resources for the future.
Adult Seminar	Lori Guenther Reesor, author, <i>Growing a Generous Church</i>	Jesus talks about money; your church can too!	Giving is a spiritual discipline like prayer, a Christian practice that connects us to God and to each other. How does a congregation encourage generosity? Full of Bible teaching and practical suggestions, this seminar offers hope for congregations who are scared to talk about money.

Adult Seminar	Lawrence Matthews and other directors of financial aid at Mennonite Colleges	Mennonite Higher Education is Affordable	Too often, students and parents rule out Mennonite Higher Education because of the sticker price and/or an often automatic assumption that it is less expensive to attend a public university in your home state. This session, led by and with input from directors of financial aid at our Mennonite colleges and universities, is intended for parents of junior high and high school students, youth leaders, and church members who serve on college/church scholarship committees.
Adult Seminar	John Kampen, professor of Jewish history and NT, Methodist Theological School	Mennonites in the Ukraine: "Self-Defense" and Antisemitism	My grandfather was a local leader of the <i>Selbstschutz</i> in the Russian Ukraine in 1920. Trained by the German army, these were groups of Mennonites who mobilized to protect their communities against local violence. This experience reinforced an identification as German that led to an ongoing acceptance of antisemitic attitudes and propaganda. This seminar will discuss the responsibilities that legacy leaves with us as we confront antisemitism today.
Adult Seminar	Sharon Norton (host), with Jonathan and Sarah Nahar, and Julie Brown	Move towards peace through nonviolent direct action	Following Jesus means seeking God's Kingdom and righteousness. But we can't use violence to do it. It takes deep love, creativity, and faithfulness to commit to seeking change nonviolently. Nonviolent direct action is a strategic response to violence, oppression, and injustice that uses tactics that don't depend on the threat of violence to achieve justice. Seminar participants will get a taste for how to directly seek change in their communities using tactics that carefully consider timing, context, and public perception.
Adult Seminar	Edith Yoder, Bridge of Hope National Chief Executive Officer	Neighboring: How Churches can End Family Homelessness	Family homelessness intersects with housing, racial and gender inequity and a lack of social supports. How can churches neighbor homeless families? Families who are homeless have often exhausted their support networks and can benefit from added support and advocacy. In this life-changing opportunity called "Neighboring," the church answers the call to provide support networks to help families build strong and resilient lives for themselves and their children. Neighboring helps the body of Christ to demonstrate God's love and goodness in new ways that honor our calling to love others.
Adult Seminar	Jill Hofer & Michelle L Hofer	Out of The Pit of Despair	God graciously offers refuge and renewal amidst the trauma and depression often experienced following spiritual abuse. This session, led by individuals who are themselves spiritual abuse survivors, offers insights and spiritual practices for journeying with God on this path of long-suffering and slow recovery. Note: The information shared in this seminar is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice, diagnosis or treatment of abuse, trauma or depression.
Adult Seminar	Christy Harrison, Peter Sensenig, Nehemiah Chigoji and Sharon Norton	Peacemaking in Africa with Muslims and Christians	Hear stories of peacemaking through sports, midwifery and day to day interaction between Muslims and Christians
Adult Seminar	Steve Thomas, executive director, Mennonite Men	Plant Trees to Slow Climate Change and Restore God's Earth	Find out what you can do to slow climate change by participating in the Mennonite Men 'JoinTrees' campaign to plant one million trees. Learn about trees in God's design for creation and how you can participate in this campaign to help restore the earth. Led by Steve Thomas, certified arborist and Director of Mennonite Men.
Adult Seminar	Tim Penner, former board chair, and Bethany Nussbaum, senior development officer, MEDA	Poverty, Spirituality and Work	Addressing poverty is complex and many organizations tackle different aspects. We need to recognize the spiritual aspect of poverty and appreciate how we can alleviate poverty and contribute to helping restore the image of God in people living in poverty. Dignified work and business success can be key to accomplishing this while at the same time being a holy calling. COVID-19 has been a confounding factor and we will share examples of how firms have stepped up to the challenge.

Adult Seminar	Pastors of Welcoming Congregations	Practical Steps to a Welcoming Congregation	Welcoming LGBTQ+ people fully into the life of a congregation often has a transforming impact upon the congregation's ministry and life. This is an opportunity to learn some very practical steps to help lead your congregation towards a more welcoming posture. Pastors from welcoming congregations will offer insights about successful welcoming processes, including unexpected barriers and surprises, as well as opportunities for new ministry outreach and growth.
Adult Seminar	Dr. Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, assistant professor of religion, Bluffton University	Pursuing Happiness: A Wisdom Conversation	What does it mean to live a good life in the face of human mortality, political instability, and theological doubt? This is an ancient and global question. Old Testament wisdom literature speaks to such questions, exploring topics related to purpose, community, finances, and embodiment. How can our daily decisions be motivated by seeking divine presence and will? How can our relationships with one another offer us the strength, humor, and accountability we need to persevere? How can our relationship with money serve as a diagnostic tool to better understand our persistent anxieties? And how can we look to our own bodies and the natural world and find wisdom there? This seminar will explore wisdom traditions with a special emphasis on the tri-fold tradition in the biblical canon: Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes.
Adult Seminar	Jennifer Schrock, executive director, Mennonite Creation Care Network	Reading the Bible through the Lens of Climate Change	You may think the Bible has nothing to say about climate change because this is a modern problem. But what if we ask, "Was there ever a time when biblical people could see disaster coming but felt powerless to stop it?" Suddenly, the whole book is about climate change. Find hope and nourishing spiritual roots for an uncertain future.
Adult Seminar	Gerald J. Mast, professor, Bluffton University	Reading the Bible, Hearing God's Word	As the "essential book of the church" (Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, Article 4), the Bible is both a collection of ancient texts that offers a cross-cultural encounter with a strange world and the source of God's Word that speaks with current relevance to our own world. This workshop focuses on how Mennonite Church USA congregations cross the distance between the absent world of the Bible and the present voice of God through a variety of church performance practices, such as sermons, public reading of scripture, and group Bible studies. Participants will be invited to discuss how the Bible is used as a performance script for hearing God's Word in their own congregational settings.
Adult Seminar	Glen Guyton, author and Mennonite Church USA Executive Director	ReAwakened: How Your Congregation Can Spark Lasting Change	Does your church have gummed-up gears? Or are you activated for ministry? Are you relevant in the community in which you serve? More and more people are moving away from the church—not because they lack faith in God, but because the church is no longer relevant to their lives. The church, not God, is the problem. Glen Guyton presents on his eight keys to unlocking the power of relevance in your ministry, from his new book <i>Reawakened</i> . Come explore these keys and learn practical suggestions to help churches.
Adult Seminar	Susannah Larry, assistant professor of biblical studies, AMBS	Reclaiming the Bible with Survivors of Sexualized Violence	For many survivors of sexualized violence, the Bible has been a source of pain. However, the Living Word of Scripture also offers the possibility of healing and hope as we reclaim its sacred words for all of God's people. This seminar will give participants the opportunity to consider traumatic Scripture passages and possibilities for community-based interpretation that empower survivors and those who walk alongside them in ministry.
Adult Seminar	Marlene Kroeker, Everence stewardship consultant, and Cyneatha Millsaps,	Reimagining our Economic Relationships	In this seminar we will look at our economic relationships in light of our faith. Most often conversations about money have to do with how we handle it, do we spend too much, save too little, have too much, or not have enough. This seminar will focus on the relationships we have with others through our finances. Through biblical study and conversation, we will consider and re-imagine our economic relationships.

	Mennonite Women Executive Director		
Adult Seminar	Leonard Dow, VP, and Stella Tai, manager, Everence	Seeking Economic Justice in Communities of Color	Advancing economic racial justice and equity requires an honest assessment of historic discriminatory practices while developing strategies to help address what has been lost. Racist practices like redlining, predatory lending, and housing discrimination have led to a massive loss of generational wealth for people of color. Restoring hope and economic opportunity to these communities is possible—and is our collective responsibility. Discover some of the innovative efforts underway, seeking to address past injustice and promote equity and inclusion. Bring your own stories to share.
Adult Seminar	Cyneatha Millsaps, pastor and Mennonite Women Executive Director	Sisterhood Decalogue: 10 Women of 10 Decades Talk about the 10 Commandments	This Bible study exemplifies how a diverse sisterhood of Anabaptist women can offer rich inspiration for living by weaving their stories into the greater biblical narrative. Composed of 13 lessons, the study focuses on the Ten Commandments.
Adult Seminar	Tony Brown, artist in residence, Hesston College	Songs and Stories of Peace, Hope and Justice	Using songs and stories from his international travels, Tony Brown illustrates how song and story are powerful tools for bringing people together. Using pictures from his travels, he emphasizes the oneness of the human family and encourages all of us to be promoters of peace and justice wherever we live. This emotionally riveting program engages the audience, inviting them to sing on some selections.
Adult Seminar	Suzanne Ehst, professor of education, Goshen College	Teaching Tools for Church Contexts	Wish you could become a better teacher in your church? This seminar will describe various instructional strategies that could be adapted for any age group and is designed to equip those who do not have formal teacher training but teach in church contexts like Sunday school, Bible school, or camp. Specific topics will include 1) ways to facilitate discussion to promote balanced participation and active listening; 2) structures for interpreting and responding to text; 3) learning strategies that involve the body and movement for all ages; 4) the value of “backward design,” or developing your plan in light of your desired outcome.
Adult Seminar	Drew Strait, assistant professor of NT, AMBS	The Bible and Christian Nationalism	This seminar profiles Christian nationalism and patriotism and offers a biblical response in Anabaptist perspective. In conversation with texts from the Old and New Testaments, we will discuss the significance of the political metaphor of idolatry in ancient Jewish and Christian communities. Special attention will be given to how rulers, ethnic reasoning, militarized state power, and financial economies could become idolatrous in the mind of the worshiper. After this, the seminar will pivot to how contemporary Christian congregations can faithfully negotiate Christian nationalism, leverage state power for the common good, and resist the systems of domination that Christian nationalism amplifies.
Adult Seminar	Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi and Joel Gaines, Mennonite High School administrators	The Messy Struggle of Anti-Racism	Mennonite Education, centered in Jesus, embraces the dignity of each person created in the image of God. God-given diversity among people and cultures is embraced. Students are taught that the world is bigger than their communities and are given the tools needed to see diversity as a rich blessing to be sought out and learned from. Not all differences among people are God-given gifts. In a context of racial injustice and inequity, an Anabaptist education should enable students to practice shalom through global awareness, cultural sensitivity, anti-racism, and compassionate living.

Adult Seminar	Joseph Manickam, president, Hesston College	The Multicultural Future of the Mennonite Church	The MC USA of today is not the church it was 18 years ago at its re-birth, let alone 30 years ago in its former forms. And neither is the global marketplace. As multi-directional travel around the world continues to increase, and the sharing of ideas and values are being communicated further and further from their points of origin, new voices in leadership are reshaping the identity of the MCUSA. This seminar will examine Hesston College as a case study of a 113-year-old Mennonite educational institution led by Dr. Joseph A. Manickam, an immigrant president raised outside the Mennonite church. Dr. Manickam will examine key themes such as faith, identity, culture and race toward developing an understanding of the multicultural future of Mennonite Church USA.
Adult Seminar	Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer, Mennonite Mission Network workers	Two Way Mission	Many of us have had eye-opening experiences living in other countries or relating to people in contexts different from our own. How can we integrate what we have learned from one setting into another? Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer migrate between the Global South and Global North each year, being in the Ecuadorian rain forest with indigenous people and doing life in Goshen, Indiana. Learn how our diverse experiences in varied contexts can help us see, hear and live with authenticity wherever we may be.
Adult Seminar	Jennifer Davis Sensenig, lead pastor, Community Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va.	What's the Story? Narrative Lectionary--Sunday & Everyday	"I didn't grow up in the church, so I don't really know the whole biblical story." "I grew up in the church and I know some Bible stories and have favorite verses, but how does it all hang together?" This seminar for preachers, worship leaders and Christian formation leaders (for all ages) will introduce participants to the Narrative Lectionary--an alternative to the Revised Common Lectionary--which aims to tell the whole BIG STORY of scripture every year.
Adult Seminar	Nancy Kauffmann and/or Carol Knieriem, Dove's Nest	Who Should Know What When? Talking about Abuse in Church	At some point, most churches will experience an abuse situation in which either the victim(s) or offender are a part of the community. Responding appropriately, openly, and in victim-centered ways can be daunting. The primary struggle for leaders often involves how to communicate about the situation to the faith community and respond to concerns. Come hear practical input and encouragement from Dove's Nest staff and pastors who have consulted with churches during these situations.
Adult Seminar	Jeanne Davies, executive director, Anabaptist Disabilities Network	Worship for All	Instead of trying to adjust worship services to include people with disabilities, why not plan with them in mind from the beginning? Let's talk about worship based on universal design, worship that includes all people in planning, leading, and worshipping together.