

## Detailed Schedule - Wed, July 9

Room	Title	Description	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Audience	Track
<b>10:15 AM</b>						
Auditorium I	Looking at Scripture Through the Lens of Land	The location of the biblical story matters. They always refer to others stories that have taken place on the land before. In this interactive seminar, we'll look at gospel stories and their locations, and listen for what deeper meanings might be present in the story, given their locations.	Amy Yoder McGloughlin		Youth	Mind
Auditorium II	Re-imagining Peacemaking through Poetry	Activism is more than marching and writing letters. The arts have been an integral part of key revolutions as a way of storytelling that engages both hearts and minds. When the Israel-Gaza conflict escalated in October 2023, spoken word poet and social worker J.E. Misz began writing weekly poems reflecting on the conflict as a spiritual exercise of wrestling with the realities of violence in the Middle East. In this seminar, you will hear some of this poetry performed, learn of the power of poetry and the arts to promote peacemaking, and engage in exercises to write your own reflective and resistance poetry.	J.E. Misz		Youth	Heart
Auditorium III	Making Friends with Missional	Being missional seems like a big commitment. I mean, you have to travel to another country, quit your job, and make sure everything you do is about Jesus, right? What if we told you that isn't what being missional means. What if being missional is more tangible than you ever thought possible? Michele Hershberger and Rylee Weishaupt will explore what it really means to be missional, how biblical being missional is, and provide strategies to help you be missional in your own community.	Michele Hershberger		Credentialed Leaders	Heart
Auditorium IV	Would Jesus Go to College?	This seminar will be devoted to exploring the question of whether Jesus would go to college. To answer this question, this seminar will begin by exploring some relevant parts of Jesus's own teaching. From there, seminar participants will have the opportunity to consider possible motivations for attending college and how those motivations align (or not!) with Jesus's teachings. Finally, the seminar will explore some of the challenges and opportunities that today's aspiring college students should consider when making decisions about college.	Melanie Howard		Youth	Mind
Augusta	A Study Bible 500 Years in the Making	The Anabaptist movement was sparked by a group of young people gathering to explore Scripture and ask new questions about its relevance for their day. Over the past 500 years, the Bible has continued to sustain and renew Anabaptist faith communities. Rooted in this tradition, the newly-issued Anabaptist Community Bible invites us to read Scripture together, with fresh eyes, as a living text that continues to transform our lives. This interactive workshop will introduce the Anabaptist Community Bible and invite us to fresh engagement with Scripture. Participants will gain new ideas for integrating artwork, essays, and devotional suggestions into congregational worship and Sunday school.	John D. Roth		Adult	Spirit
Blue Ashe	Stories from International Alumni	Drawing on interviews with Bluffton College and University alumni who came to Bluffton from different parts of the world, this seminar explores how Mennonite higher education has shaped and been shaped by the lives of international students.	Paul Neufeld Weaver		Intergenerational	Heart

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Grandover East	The Promise & Challenge of Restorative Justice	Restorative justice is a transformative approach to addressing both harm and conflict. Practices are rooted in community and accountability rather than alienation and punishment. Join us to explore the principles and values as well restorative practices that can strengthen us. Together we'll talk about both the strengths and the challenges as we discuss real-world applications.	Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz	Michelle E. Armster	Adult	Mind
Grandover West	Climate Resilience: The Future of Local Ministry	Climate change is reshaping the context of local church ministry, increasing community needs through challenges like food insecurity, water access, violence during heatwaves, displacement, housing crises, and power outages. This seminar will help participants recognize local climate impacts, explore tools for understanding disaster risks, and learn how to use building-scale climate models. Attendees will leave with practical strategies their church can use to support the community during climate disruptions, along with a holistic understanding of how to faithfully respond to these emerging challenges.	Josh Richardson		Adult	Heart
Pebble Beach	Imagining a World Beyond Green Growth	Many climate solutions rely on the same systems that caused the crisis—technological fixes that demand further resource extraction. Instead of pursuing “green growth,” we must reimagine climate justice through decolonized systems rooted in ecological balance and Indigenous wisdom. In this seminar, Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler build on their 2023 book, “So We and Our Children May Live,” by engaging Indigenous thought leaders in a conversation about what truly sustainable systems look like. Together, we’ll explore how following Jesus calls us to confront the climate crisis through deep listening, justice and imagination.	Sarah Augustine	Sheri Hostetler	Intergenerational	Heart
Sandpiper	Dementia and Congregational Care	Faith strengthens us as we cope with challenges, providing support and a sense of self. How can we help members of our congregations with dementia stay engaged and connected to their faith? How can we support their caregivers? Many times, we want to offer support, but we do not know where to start. This seminar will help you understand basics of dementia and learn how to reach out. It will offer communication tips and practical ways to stay connected. When we include our members with dementia and their families, the whole congregation benefits.	Heddie Sumner, RN, BSN		Adult	Heart
Tidewater	The Secret Sauce	Join Comedian Mike Goodwin for this interactive workshop that will assist you in discovering how you can effectively partner with laughter to enliven and captivate your audience. Let him be your guide as you learn how to think like a comedian and transform an ordinary speech, training or presentation to something extraordinary.	Mike Goodwin		Intergenerational	Mind
<b>11:15 AM</b>						
Auditorium I	What is the Church, and Why Does It Matter?	This seminar will explore an Anabaptist theological understanding of the purpose and mission of the local congregation, including a discussion on the church's importance as a means of transformation in the world.	Michael Danner		Adult	Mind

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Auditorium II	Arms 2 Art: Collage-Making with Recycled Gun Cases	This seminar seeks to encourage participants to reimagine discarded materials, specifically old gun cases, as tools for artistic expression. By creatively repurposing these objects, the workshop will promote themes of nonviolence, peacebuilding and environmental stewardship, providing a hands-on experience that combines art, faith, and advocacy.	Lisa Longacher		Youth	Heart
Auditorium III	Shutting up to Hear God: The Why and How of Silence	You could almost call this seminar Silence for Dummies (extroverts). Why are the disciplines of silence and solitude so important in today's world? And how do you start? Join extroverts Rylee Weishaupt and Michele Hershberger as they share their experience with a 20-hour retreat that featured silence and interacting with nature. They'll also explore how to do silence in the middle of an ordinary day.	Michele Hershberger		Youth	Spirit
Augusta	Facilitation Skills for Leaders	We believe that God speaks through the gathered community. How can conversations be structured in a way that the process itself pro-actively builds peace by allowing each voice to be heard? In this workshop, participants will take away at least four new ideas to try when facilitating large or small group discussions.	Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi		Intergenerational	Body
Blue Ashe	Our Whole Lives (OWL) : Human Sexuality Curriculum	Are you looking for resources to provide meaningful sexuality education in your congregation? Join us for this seminar in which we introduce participants to "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) and invite folks to join our network of congregations sharing their "Anabaptized" OWL materials and collaborating on an Anabaptist-Mennonite companion for OWL. OWL is a secular lifespan sexuality education curriculum created by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association, who encourage faith-based groups to create curriculum supplements that reflect their particular theological grounding and denominational context.	Phil Yoder	Georgia Metz	Adult	Mind
Grandover East	Deconstructing Patriarchy through the Power Cube	We will use the Power Cube framework to analyze how patriarchy operates across different forms, spaces, and levels of power.	Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz	Abby Endashaw & Sue Park-Hur	Adult	Heart
Grandover West	Co-Creation with our Immigrant Neighbors	Learn about how our church, Roca de Refugio, frames our work with immigrants, how we have built our program, and what we have accomplished. We will also share about how we are approaching our service and advocacy work in a time when immigrants are being attacked and dehumanized. We will provide time for questions and discussion as we navigate these difficult times together and wonder about how we can all better support our new neighbors.	Dianne Garcia		Intergenerational	Heart
Heritage	Cozying Up to Conflict	Conflict is natural, inevitable, and impartial—often feeling wild, threatening and polarizing. In churches shaped by values like nonviolence, pacifism, and gelassenheit (yieldedness), conflict can leave us disillusioned. This seminar explores common church conflicts, typical reactions, and approaches that foster understanding and hope. While conflicts may not fully resolve, they can be managed—personally and structurally—so the church can continue its mission. Participants will learn four typical responses to conflict, six common areas where it arises, and four concepts to help faith communities navigate it, along with additional resources that can help us cozy up to conflict.	Doug Luginbill		Adult	Body

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Pebble Beach	Mindsight: Compassionate Pastoral Attention	Pastoral ministry requires consistent presence. As pastors, we sometimes feel burned out and overwhelmed, and we lose touch with the compassion and empathy that are essential for pastoral ministry. If we have lost awareness of ourselves in God's presence, we cannot be present to others. This seminar introduces pastors and lay leaders to signs of losing our capacity for mindsight and skills to refocus our attention. First, we focus on our inner experience, then on our interactions with other people, and finally on the integration of our full self with compassionate presence to others.	Sarah Bixler		Credentialed Leaders	Mind
Sandpiper	Trauma-Informed Congregations	<p>The work of community mental health transformation is complex and requires partnership with Anabaptist faith communities by increasing their knowledge and understanding of:</p> <p>Impact of trauma on individuals, groups, and communities</p> <p>Acknowledging the vast scope of adverse experiences common to persons today in our congregations</p> <p>Bringing the wisdom of our anabaptist faith community to build resilience.</p> <p>Relationships are key to healing from trauma.</p> <p>Creating brave spaces in our spiritual practices that foster empowerment, voice and choice.</p>	Laurel Neufeld Weaver MSW LISW-S		Intergenerational	Heart
Tidewater	Peacemaking With Muslims through Art	This seminar explores how Christians can work for peace by engaging in interfaith projects with their Muslim neighbors, starting with art. Mel Lehman, director of Common Humanity and deacon at Manhattan Mennonite Fellowship, will interview two Iraqi-born artists, Shahad Adnan Amdeen and Khalid Alaani, about how their journeys and creative work break down barriers between faith communities. Participants will view artwork and hear stories of cross-cultural friendship, then be invited to imagine ways to collaborate locally, through art, cooking, music, volunteering and more, to foster mutual understanding and solidarity with Muslim neighbors.	Mel Lehman	Shahad Adnan Amdeen	Adult	Heart
<b>Lunch Break - 12:15 - 2:15 PM (Imperial Ballroom, Overflow in Guilford Ballroom &amp; Joseph's Restaurant)</b>						
<b>2:30 PM</b>						
Auditorium I	A King for Our Times	Much of what we know about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr—comes from his famous speeches, particularly the “I Have A Dream” address at the March on Washington and his emphasis on service. This popular narrow depiction erases King’s radicalism and his contemporary relevance for global society. Studying the historical King and his words offers us a King for our times—“a modern conversation partner” that can help us chart a better future.	Dr. Lerone Martin		Intergenerational	Heart

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Auditorium II	Sparking Peace- New Children's Book - Herald Press	From Teresa Kim Pecinovsky and Hannah Rose Martin, "Sparking Peace" is a book that explores the impact of gun violence on our communities from the perspective of a child. Written in a way that allows caretakers to find the language appropriate to address the issue of gun violence in their own way, "Sparking Peace" is a starting place for these conversations. We'll explore some of these approaches and also hear about actual stories that inspired the book from actual RAWtools events where guns were transformed into garden tools.	Hannah Rose Martin	Mike Martin	Intergenerational	Heart
Auditorium III	Broad Spectrum Peacemaking	Casa Grande is a Mennonite Mission Network ministry partner in Benin. Begun as an orphanage funded by Spanish Mennonites, it has grown to include a regional school supported by Mission Network, a farm seeded by donations from German Mennonites, and a for-profit recycling program funded by European grants. Casa Grande addresses justice issues across the life cycle of its community and hopes to offer job training and mentorship for new entrepreneurial ventures. Casa Grande partners with the Evangelical Communications Training Center for Africa (CEFCA) to teach leadership and communication. Discover how these global Mennonite projects live out the gospel in their contexts.	Bienvenu Kadja	Germain Coulibaly	Adult	Heart
Auditorium IV	Sports as a Spiritual Discipline	This seminar is for high school athletes who spend time and energy—physical, relational, and emotional—in their commitment to their sport (s). Is it also possible to leverage aspects of being an athlete for spiritual growth? This seminar explores how to use the lessons learned in athletic training and competition to grow in your faith. This seminar is relevant for those who play sports for fun and connection and/or those who are highly competitive.	Michael Danner		Youth	Spirit
Augusta	Don't Read like Columbus: Decolonizing the Bible	From political campaigns to Christian college classrooms, the Bible has been used to support positions as varied as opposition to abortion to the relevance of John 4 in teaching health sciences. Yet, while this ancient book continues to offer wisdom to modern readers, do such applications of its text represent the most ethical or faithful ways of reading? Many Christians today would decry the abusive use of colonial power against powerless populations, but what if those same Christians have demonstrated similar tendencies in their interpretation of the Bible?	Melanie Howard		Adult	Mind
Blue Ashe	The Resiliency Resolution	Let's face it—life can be tough. In this empowering seminar, Summer Owens shows students how to shift their mindset with two simple words: So what. Through "The Resiliency Resolution," students will explore how to face challenges head-on and win with whatever cards they're dealt. With practical tools for building confidence, embracing their strengths and focusing on solutions over problems, students will learn how to lead with courage and turn obstacles into opportunities.	Summer Owens		Youth	Heart

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Grandover East	7 Things to Unveil about Revelation	The book of Revelation is one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible, yet it has a deep influence on our society today. We latch onto the fear, but miss the hope of this book. We fixate on the gore, but miss the nonviolence. Join Rylee Weishaupt and Michele Hershberger as they unveil seven key theological points of Revelation that you may not have thought of before.	Michele Hershberger		Youth	Mind
Grandover West	War Tax Resistance as Public Witness	As pacifists and conscientious objectors, Mennonites have a long history of saying no to war and militarism. Our tax money is now a key way we support war. In a time when the military needs our money even more than our bodies, how can Mennonites claim war tax resistance as a vehicle for public peace action beyond individuals who choose to withhold and redirect their taxes? Join Mennonite Action and H.A. Penner (long time war tax redirector) to discuss how the history of Mennonite war tax resistance positions us for a national organizing effort, as we seek to disrupt the U.S. war machine.	Jay Bergen	H.A. Penner	Adult	Heart
Heritage	Entertaining Angels: Asylum Seeker Hospitality	Join us for an inspiring workshop showcasing radical hospitality in action as fellow Mennonites share their experiences welcoming asylum seekers and other vulnerable immigrants into their homes and communities. Hear powerful stories from Casa Alterna, Reservoir Hill House of Peace, and families living out our call to follow Jesus through compassion and inclusivity. Gain practical tools and resources to implement hospitality for vulnerable immigrants in your church community. Together, we'll reflect on scripture reminding us that entertaining strangers is vital to our faith journey.	Anton Flores-Maisonet	Ruth Keidel Clemens	Adult	Heart
Pebble Beach	What Can We Do? Stories of climate action	Congregations of MC USA care about our planet's well-being and are taking climate action! Come hear stories from four congregations who have worked to heal our climate through actions like: improving the energy efficiency of their facilities; shifting to renewable energy like solar; restoring native habitats that support greater biodiversity; working to repair relationships with Indigenous neighbors; and engaging in climate advocacy. Learn how your congregation can find support for renewable energy projects through MC USA's Pam De Young Net Zero energy grant. Leave with a plan for the next step toward climate action in your congregation!	Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz	Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler	Intergenerational	Heart
Sandpiper	Pastor finances: The now and not yet	Every pastor hopes to approach their finances with a focus on good stewardship now and as they look to the future. We'll explore tools to help pastors work at organizing their personal financial cash flow and discuss questions about retirement, housing allowances and how to be as charitable as you want to be, both now and into the future.	Kent Miller		Credentialed Leaders	Body

3:30 PM

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Auditorium I	Find the joy: A generosity journey	"God loves a joyful giver," but what should we do when the joy is a little hard to come by? We save and manage our money and try to be good stewards, but we often fail to get real about how we feel about it all. What happens when we are giving more out of obligation? Where is the joy in it? This seminar will review Scripture and provide examples and ideas about how you might unlock the joy within your generosity. Join us and FIND THE JOY!	Rachel Swartzendruber Miller	Youth	Spirit
Auditorium II	Getting to Know the Prevention & Accountability Resource	This seminar is an orientation to the new Prevention & Accountability Resource, the abuse prevention and accountability resource for MC USA. This newly released resource provides resources for abuse prevention, pastoral ethics, definitions of abuse, and the process for responding to ministerial misconduct complaints. This seminar will introduce the resource and the new misconduct response structure for MC USA congregations and conferences.	Michael Danner	Adult	Mind
Auditorium III	"What are we doing here anyway??"	Spend any time online, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed by climate change, systemic failure, and rising violence. This seminar acknowledges the real challenges facing our world and the sense of hopelessness they can bring. But it also offers a path forward. Together, we'll explore how joining in God's mission can ground us in purpose, action, and love—even in the midst of uncertainty. Without minimizing the weight of the world's struggles, we'll ask how faith invites us to respond with courage and hope.	Eric Frey Martin	Youth	Heart
Auditorium IV	GunsToGardens-Gun Disposal & Transformation How To	Do you know how hard it is to get rid of an unwanted firearm? Do you want to get rid of a gun that you inherited, but not resell it? RAWtools' Guns to Gardens program helps churches become a community space to safely dispose of firearms and to connect folks to alternative means of conflict resolution and resources. We can address the U.S. gun violence epidemic by moving beyond advocacy and legislative outreach to create safe and supportive places for those in our churches and communities who have been affected by gun violence.	Mike Martin	Intergenerational	Heart
Blue Ashe	The Resiliency Resolution	Let's face it—life can be tough. In this empowering seminar, Summer Owens shows students how to shift their mindset with two simple words: So what. Through "The Resiliency Resolution," students will explore how to face challenges head-on and win with whatever cards they're dealt. With practical tools for building confidence, embracing their strengths and focusing on solutions over problems, students will learn how to lead with courage and turn obstacles into opportunities.	Summer Owens	Youth	Heart

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Grandover East	Imagining an Economy of LIFE	Communities all over the world are connected through a global economy that depends on extraction of fossil fuels and minerals to support constant growth. This economic model is pushing our planet beyond its own capacities to regulate and repair damage. Climate change is one symptom of this problem. What does it mean to live in right relationship with Creation? Could it mean shifting AWAY from an extractive economy TO a living economy that is rooted in dignity, repair and transformation of our relations with all forms of life? Anabaptists have a long history of nonconformity, simplicity and rootedness with the land. We take seriously Jesus' teachings in the sermon on the mount, including, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). How might Anabaptist theology and values support us in imagining and embodying an economy of LIFE? What can we learn from Indigenous thought-leaders' perspectives on what might comprise ecologically successful systems? In this 90 minute session, joining the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Church USA in a guided dialogue on this topic. Come to listen to each other's perspectives, identify common Anabaptist values, and explore alternatives that are life-giving and sustainable for our shared home.	Kirstin DeMello	Sheri Hostetler	Adult	Heart
Grandover West	What does reconciliation look like?	This seminar introduces a reconciliation approach developed by Mennonite Central Committee partners, including the Great Lakes Initiative (East Africa), Northeast Asia Reconciliation Institute, and Americas Initiative for Transformation and Reconciliation. Rooted in Paul's call to a "ministry of reconciliation," this method engages simple yet powerful questions – such as "What is going on?" and "What does hope look like?" – through a "word made flesh" lens that is Biblical, contextual and practical. Through shared reflection, lament and pilgrimage, participants explore how these practices create space for transformation. Learn from Christian leaders working for healing across deep divides in diverse global contexts.	Anne Marie Stoner-Eby	Nina Balmaceda	Adult	Mind
Heritage	Repentance and Transformation: A Resolution Update	The MC USA Resolution for Repentance and Transformation was approved by MC USA delegates in 2022. What has happened since then? What steps has the church taken to address the commitments expressed in the resolution? What are the challenges that remain? Churchwide resolutions give direction for faithfulness. Our denomination has officially affirmed LGBTQIA persons as beloved by God. How are we faithfully embodying, in word and action, a theology that honors LGBTQIA people and queer relationships? Facilitators include leaders and representatives with the Queer Leadership Coalition, Inclusive Pastors, and the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests.	Randy Spaulding		Credentialed Leaders	Heart



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Pebble Beach	Do something: disaster response as holy space	Natural disasters are happening at an increasing rate. As we face this reality, regardless of your stage in life or circumstances, Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) offers opportunities for "faith expressing itself in love" (Galations 5.6b). Through MDS, you can work on behalf of disaster survivors to bring them home, to help make them whole. Come to this seminar to learn how you can join with others in the good, joyful and holy work of rebuilding hope!	Lawrence Matthews	Terry Zehr	Intergenerational	Heart
Sandpiper	Resilient Roots: Nurturing a Faith That Lasts	Children of all ages have spiritual lives and a growing awareness and understanding of God. How can we best walk alongside them as their faith grows and matures, both at church and at home? What in our Anabaptist tradition informs how we nurture faith in children? In this workshop, we will share what we are learning from research about faith formation of children and youth and will provide opportunities for participants to share and exchange ideas. Whether you are a teacher, parent, pastor or grandparent, you'll leave with ideas and resources to share with the children and youth in your life.	Joyce Peachey Lind		Adult	Mind

# Detailed Schedule - Thurs, July 10

Room	Title	Description	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Audience	Track
10:15 AM						
Auditorium I	Following Jesus When Things Fall Apart	Drawing on biblical wisdom, Anabaptist witnesses and life experience, this seminar will invite participants to reflect on, analyze and respond to societal, institutional or personal instability.	Alex Sider		Credentialed Leaders	Body
Auditorium II	Big Mission, Bigger God	Religious identity is shifting—fast. As more people in the U.S. identify as “nones,” traditional frameworks often feel unfit for a globalized world where rigid boundaries can clash with lived experience. This seminar invites honest reflection on the confusion many carry but fear to name, and calls us to reimagine life in light of the Gospel—not as cultural warfare, but as liberating love. “Big Mission, Bigger God” explores opportunities share the Good News in a changing world by recovering our Anabaptist heritage as followers of Jesus, who have always had to operate outside of and against the forces and wake of Christendom.	Trey Ferguson		Adult	Mind
Auditorium III	What TO DO about Gun Violence	This seminar explores how youth can respond to gun violence through the transformative work of RAWtools and the vision of “Swords to Plowshares.” Rather than focusing on policy advocacy, we’ll highlight hands-on ways young people are making change—by forging guns into garden tools, starting awareness clubs, teaching safe storage, and more. Through creativity and action, youth are powerfully reminding their communities that firearms are the leading cause of death for those under 18—and it doesn’t have to be this way. Come learn how your voice, skills and passions can help reimagine peace.	Mike Martin		Youth	Heart
Augusta	Anabaptism at 500: Where are we? Where are we heading?	During the past 30 years, the Mennonite Church in North America has undergone profound transformations. The hopeful promise of new ways to collaborate and grow that surrounded the merger of the General Conference and the (Old) Mennonite Church in 2002 have not materialized. The composition and shape of MC USA is clearly changing. But the convictions that gave rise to the Anabaptist movement are still very much alive. Join this workshop for a reflection on the current state of the Mennonite Church – and a conversation about the nature of the church and the future of the Anabaptist Vision.	John D. Roth		Adult	Mind
Blue Ashe	"What You do Next Matters"	This seminar is for high schoolers discerning what’s next after graduation. Together with reps from Mennonite colleges and Mennonite Mission Network, we’ll explore how faith and vocation can shape your next steps—whether through college, a gap year or Service Adventure. We’ll talk about the value of a gap year, how to earn college credit for service, and what makes each Mennonite college unique. You’ll also have the chance to meet one-on-one with representatives to ask questions and explore options. Come discover the many pathways available through MC USA programs and institutions as you imagine your future.	Eric Frey Martin	Representatives from Mennonite Colleges and Universities	Youth	Body

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Grandover East	What's Your Thing? How to Talk About Yourself Without Feeling Weird	Networking is a word that often gets thrown around as something that you "should" do in order to find internships, volunteer, and employment opportunities, but it can also feel intimidating to know where to start. At its best, networking is about finding authentic ways to build new connections, and about telling the story of what drives you and gives you energy. Join Madalyn and Hannah, both mid-career leaders for nonprofit organizations, who have had to navigate a wide variety of career and professional development spaces, to gain some tips to help you feel more confident when sharing your own story.	Hannah Heinzekehr	Madalyn Metzger	Youth	Mind
Grandover West	Embodied Faith: Finding Belonging in Our Bodies	We are sacred, embodied beings—fragile, yet deeply connected to God, creation and each other. While early Christians saw body and soul as deeply intertwined, modern churches often view the body with suspicion. This workshop explores biblical themes of embodiment, the incarnation of Jesus, and the sacredness of all bodies, including those with disabilities. We'll reflect on how disconnection from our bodies harms our spiritual lives and communities, and how embracing embodiment can deepen our faith. Designed to support MC USA's 2022 Accessibility Resolution, this workshop offers tools for honoring and including people of all abilities in the Body of Christ.	Sarah Werner		Youth	Heart
Heritage	Gelassenheit: A Way of Loving Release	Gelassenheit, a 16th-century Anabaptist term, described a heart posture of "yieldedness" to God within community. This seminar explores its roots in early Anabaptism and German mysticism, while also naming its distortion through moralistic pietism and abusive power. Through dialogue and contemplative practice, we'll reimagine Gelassenheit as a liberative spiritual path—one of loving release and just, authentic relationship. What do we need to be released from—and into—to live more faithfully in community and the world? Join us for a time of learning, reflection, and practice.	Eric Massanari		Adult	Spirit
Pebble Beach	Our Bodies, Our Selves	This is an opportunity to create an open, intergenerational dialogue where women of all ages can share their experiences, challenges and wisdom related to our bodies/image/strengths. We will host a fishbowl activity with an inner circle of speakers and an outer circle of listeners, with participants rotating in and out regularly. This will be similar to the activity during the women's summit on day one of convention.	Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz	Daniela Lazaro-Manalo & Katerina Gea	Adult	Heart
Sandpiper	Rites of Passage for Boys - Anabaptist Approaches?	Rites of passage? What's that? How might Anabaptists design, lead and participate in rites of passage for boys? Join Mennonite Men for an interactive session about boys' rites of passage, male initiation and following Jesus. First, pastor and board member Phil Schmidt and co-directors Steve Thomas and Jon Zirkle will reflect on their rites of passage experiences as adult men, supporting boys and fathering. Next, participants break into smaller groups to discuss various topics related to rites of passage, then share highlights with the larger group. Lastly, results will be shared from an online survey about Anabaptist rites of passage.	Phil Schmidt	Jon Zirkle	Intergenerational	Mind

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Tidewater	Afrocentric Anabaptists	White North American missionaries are often linked to colonialism's harm—but that's not the whole story. Today, 36% of global Anabaptists are African, with the movement growing fastest in Africa, Asia, and South America. This workshop, centered on the Afrocentric Anabaptists documentary project, shares the voices of Africans, African Americans, and Afro-Latinos in the Mennonite church. Through their stories of pain, joy, and cultural richness, we'll explore the complex legacy of mission and the vibrant gifts shaping Anabaptism today. Participants will gain insight into building cross-cultural relationships rooted in mutual respect and shared faith.	WIL LAVEIST, PhD		Intergenerational	Heart
<b>11:15 AM</b>						
Auditorium I	Can you be a rich Christian?	Money plays an important part in our life's journey, but what does it mean to manage money as a follower of Jesus? Learn about four financial fundamentals that help us consider why and how we should talk about money and explore tools that help us integrate our faith with our decisions about money.	Lyle Miller	Franco Salvatori	Youth	Heart
Auditorium II	Socially Smart: Exercising Wisdom in a Digital World	We live much of our lives online—and that's not inherently good or bad. But as digital citizens and followers of Jesus, we're called to engage the internet "as wisely as snakes and as innocently as doves" (Matthew 10: 16). In this seminar, pastor and public theologian Trey Ferguson invites us to consider how to navigate online spaces with both purpose and caution. We'll explore topics like internet safety, healthy boundaries, digital authenticity, and how to cultivate ethics that reflect the love and peace of Jesus in our digital lives. Let's imagine a better internet together.	Trey Ferguson		Youth	Mind
Auditorium III	Staying in the Conversation	Join the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery (CDDoD) and Mennonite Men for storytelling about challenging yet fruitful conversations and relationship building between both organizations, while also acknowledging power dynamics across gender, race and settler-Indigenous identities. This session will explore lessons learned, inner resources needed, and ways to practice compassion, curiosity and courage when conversations stir difficult emotions. After a panel discussion with Sarah Augustine, Steve Thomas and Jon Zirkle, attendees will meet in small groups to explore exercises from CDDoD's Fundamentals Training Manual. We hope to offer resources, inspire the journey of following Jesus and promote repair.	Sarah Augustine	Steve Thomas	Intergenerational	Heart

## Detailed Schedule - Thurs, July 10

Augusta	Signs of the Times: Reflections on Nationalism	In March 2025, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Social Concerns co-sponsored, "Signs of the Times: Interdisciplinary Responses to Religious Nationalism" (for more information, please see <a href="https://socialconcerns.nd.edu/cst2025/">https://socialconcerns.nd.edu/cst2025/</a> ). Several of the conference organizers and attendees have deep Mennonite connections; two are professors at AMBS. Through this seminar, we hope to keep the conversation going. Come hear reflections from the conference and learn about an affinity group for MC USA pastors and leaders to discern appropriate and faithful next steps as our congregations negotiate and nonviolently resist Christian nationalism's threats to democracy and the church's public witness.	Sean Swanson		Adult	Mind
Blue Ashe	Raising Children to be Good Digital Citizens	People who follow societal trends are concerned about the risks posed by social media and online interactions with children and youth. How can we raise children to be good digital citizens? How can we empower them to be savvy critical thinkers.	Ross Erb		Adult	Mind
Grandover East	Peaceful Options for Training & Careers-POTC	Are you or someone you know thinking about military enlistment but worried about it at the same time? How about exploring alternative career options for education scholarships/grants, apprenticeships or service opportunities? POTC can provide counselors to talk to about specific areas of interest. Come and learn about this innovative new web-based program and how you can help your high school friends find meaningful alternatives to military enlistment. A project of MC USA and MCC.	Titus Peachey	Melissa Atchison	Intergenerational	Heart
Heritage	Mission Committee of Today	A session about re-imagining how mission committees benefit today's work of mission, ways to move from colonialism to partnering, and how to reinvigorate mission committees for today's changing landscape.	Alex Mace	Eric Frey Martin	Credentialed Leaders	Body
Pinehurst	How to Supervise a Pastor Well	Supervising your pastor well takes wisdom and care. Get it right, and a church can create the conditions for a long and successful pastoral tenure. Effective supervision creates a context for healthy ministry - that is what this seminar will explore. Participants will come away with practical tools for supervising a pastor well.	Michael Danner		Adult	Body
Sandpiper	Contemplative Anabaptists in Future Christianity	Karl Rahner wrote, "The Christian of the future will be a mystic, or ... will not exist at all." But future Christians, like the early Anabaptists, will also have lost social-political power and prestige. Christianity will offer both authentic inner life and an alternative to material and hierarchical power, Anabaptist countercultural discipleship framed and empowered by contemplative spirituality. We will reflect on what seems hopeful or challenging about this vision. Where are there seeds of active discipleship and contemplative surrender in ourselves and our congregations? How can we build communities of prayer and action, inner grounding and countercultural living?	David Rensberger		Adult	Mind
Tidewater	Finding Peace in the Old Testament	This seminar will examine Old Testament texts that can be used to support a peace theology. Participants should bring a Bible and be prepared to take notes if they want to retain the information.	Wilma Bailey		Adult	Mind

**2:30 PM**

## Detailed Schedule - Thurs, July 10

Auditorium I	Restitutio divina: Embodied biblical reflection	Developed by theologian Leah Thomas (AMBS) and biblical scholar Stephanie Day Powell (EMU), restitutio divina is an embodied practice of biblical reflection that blends lectio divina, visio divina, Somatic Experiencing, and Inner Relationship Focusing. This contemplative workshop invites participants to engage Scripture and art through sensation, emotion, and image, creating space for healing and deeper connection with the sacred. Come experience a dynamic, restorative encounter with God's Word through your whole self—mind, body, and spirit.	Leah Thomas	Stephanie Day Powell	Adult	Spirit
Auditorium II	Gen Alpha & the new conscientious objection	Anabaptists have refused to participate in the military for 500 years. How are we passing along this legacy of conscientious objection to our youth? This workshop will encourage adult participants to think critically about messages Gen Alpha (born 2010-present) are already receiving about participation in the military; provide skills for teaching about our peace church tradition and Christian pacifism with middle and high school students; and empower participants to reach out to those in their communities who are most vulnerable to military recruitment with a message of peace.	Georgia Metz		Adult	Mind
Auditorium IV	Seen and known: Faith, identity, and belonging	Straddling multiple cultures and identities can feel like living in a wilderness – never fully belonging to one place or another. This workshop explores the challenges of navigating different worlds and the exhaustion of constantly translating between them. Through the story of Hagar in Genesis 16, participants will reflect on what it means to be truly seen and known by the God who sees, even when the world struggles to define them.	Madalyn Metzger		Youth	Heart
Blue Ashe	Nurturing Pastoral Solidarity	Pastoring is a demanding and multifaceted role that requires a balance of spiritual, emotional and practical responsibilities. This workshop will explore the critical need for a supportive community of Anabaptist clergy and envision the potential of an association of Anabaptist clergy. By fostering meaningful connections, providing essential resources and advocating for the well-being of pastors, we aim to strengthen the church and empower its leaders.	Rev. Celeste Kennel-Shank		Credentialed Leaders	Body
Grandover East	Eco-Anabaptism at 499: The Gospel of All Creatures	Learn about early Anabaptist mystics Hans Hut and his 1526 teaching "the gospel of all creatures." This is an inspirational source for Anabaptist ecological theology today, a way of seeing God at work in the wider creation. This early teaching from the first 50 years of Anabaptism re-emerged 30 years ago. We will spend some time outside in the pool area, encountering this good news of God redeeming creation, and conclude with time to reflect and journal the good news we find among the creatures.	Douglas Day Kaufman		Adult	Mind

## Detailed Schedule - Thurs, July 10

Grandover West	Praying with LEGOs: Taizé for All Ages	Taizé services are known for their meditative songs and candle lighting. At First Mennonite Church Bluffton, we do all of that and more. At our Taizé services, we pray in ways that invite engagement of all ages: communal murals; LEGO building; and other artistic endeavors. During this seminar, we will show you some of the practices that have successfully engaged ALL ages and have created truly meaningful moments in our community. Then, we will create and implement a Taizé prayer service together . Come if you want to learn, create, share ideas, or simply want to participate in a Taizé service.	Phil Yoder	Jeff Boehr	Intergenerational	Spirit
Heritage	Rebooting Nonconformity for the 21st Century	We will begin by reexamining Romans 12:1-2, a central text for Anabaptists. We'll look at the meaning of "spiritual worship," the renewing of the mind, discernment and "good, acceptable and perfect." We'll consider the relationship between nonconformity and transformation. Then, in small discussion groups (formed generationally, depending on who is present), we'll ask how nonconformity might look in today's context. How are our own lives conformed, nonconformed or transformed? Who do we know of that seems authentically nonconformed? Is nonconformity an endpoint or a process? Is it uniform for everyone or throughout one's life? Are there rules for being nonconformed?	David Rensberger		Intergenerational	Heart
Pebble Beach	You Got Booked: A Look at Mass Incarceration	This session immerses participants in You Got Booked, an experiential exercise exploring racial disparities in the U.S. criminal legal system. By engaging in key moments within the system, participants will see how intersections - such as money bail, the school-to-prison pipeline, housing, and employment - contribute to mass incarceration, particularly for marginalized communities. Participants will reflect on these injustices and Jesus' call to peace and justice. In this double session seminar, we will introduce mass incarceration and its racial disparities, facilitate You Got Booked with participants and engage in group reflection on faith and justice.	Daniela Lázaro-Manalo	Nathan Toews	Youth	Heart
Pinehurst	Mennonite Congregations: Welcoming the Peacemakers	In a world yearning for peace and justice, Mennonite churches have a unique opportunity to lead. This hands-on workshop offers practical tools to deepen community engagement, revitalize peacemaking efforts, and foster radical hospitality. Together, we'll explore how to build authentic relationships with neighbors, rediscover the heart of Mennonite peacemaking, and create inclusive spaces that embrace diversity and offer a practice of common good. Participants will leave with at least three concrete next steps to enhance their church's mission and impact. Come ready to imagine what's possible – and to act.	Matt Pritchard		Adult	Heart
Tidewater	How To Navigate When Abuse has been Exposed	When a congregation has received a report of abuse committed by a member/attender/leader, the experience traumatizes, and often undermines and divides the faith community. How can a congregation navigate in a way that pulls the faith community together to bring justice, integrity of response, safety and healing to all involved.	Nancy Kauffmann		Adult	Body

**3:30 PM**

## Detailed Schedule - Thurs, July 10

Auditorium I	A Year of Serving: A Panel Discussion on MVS	What does it look like to do MVS and Service Adventure? Hear from Our Service Adventure Leaders and MVS participants as they share their experiences through Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure and Mennonite Voluntary Service programs.	Alex Mace		Youth	Heart
Auditorium III	Archiving 101	This workshop from MC USA Archives Coordinator Olivia Krall will provide practical resources for preserving BIPOC congregational histories. Krall will introduce archival principles, and participants will learn how to manage congregational records in a hands-on demonstration. While this workshop is tailored to congregations, attendees will find much of the information applicable for managing personal and family records. BIPOC congregational leaders will receive a free kit of archival supplies courtesy of the Showalter Foundation.	Olivia Krall		Intergenerational	Mind
Auditorium IV	Stories from a Mennonite Social Movement	This year, Mennonites have been more organized, vocal and visible in solidarity with Gaza than any other Christian denomination in North America. Mennonites, including high school students and college students, have planned demonstrations and organized and participated in nonviolent civil disobedience – all while advocating for a free Palestine and liberation for all God's children. This workshop introduces Mennonite Action, a new movement that has activated thousands of Mennonites across the U.S. and Canada. Discover why youth are at the center of our movement and how we can reimagine our stand as Mennonites, using our collective voice to demand change.	Nick Martin	Reah Clymer	Youth	Heart
Augusta	Learning to Stump Your Pastor: Why Doubt Matters	In this seminar, we'll talk about what asking questions means as a Christian, and why doubt can actually be an important part of being Christian. More importantly, you'll learn about some of the big questions that pastors dread answering, as well as responses to further stump them! Why are there bad things in the world? Is the apocalypse real? Are people really going to hell? Why do we care what the Bible says? Which denomination is actually right? Please note: There will be absolutely no "right" answers offered at this seminar.	Eli Reimer		Youth	Mind
Grandover East	Planting Seeds of Peace: New Mennonite Churches	This workshop is designed to connect, equip and inspire individuals passionate about starting new Mennonite communities that embody the values of peacemaking, justice and inclusion. Participants will gain practical tools to launch vibrant and sustainable communities that resonate with the needs and aspirations of their local context and connect with others doing similar work.	Matt Pritchard	Leaders of Emerging Communities in Central District Conference	Adult	Heart
Grandover West	Reading the Bible As If Our Lives Depend on It	Have you given up on reading the Bible because it no longer seems relevant? Do you want a saner, livelier and life-giving relationship with the Christian sacred text? Come and experience Confessional Bible Study, the keystone of the Orienting With the Word program of the Faith Formation Collaborative at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. This training and practice program is offered to small groups within Mennonite congregations across the country. Find out how your congregation can be involved.	Naomi Wenger		Adult	Spirit



## Detailed Schedule - Thurs, July 10

Heritage	Find the joy: A generosity journey	"God loves a joyful giver," but what should we do when the joy is a little hard to come by? We save and manage our money and try to be good stewards, but we often fail to get real about how we feel about it all. What happens when we are giving more out of obligation? Where is the joy in it? This seminar will review Scripture and provide examples and ideas about how you might unlock the joy within your generosity. Join us and FIND THE JOY!	Rachel Swartzendruber Miller		Intergenerational	Spirit
Tidewater	Prophetic voice in the face of a authoritarianism	Shawn and Jonny both joined the Mennonite church because of our stance against war—Gaza and Iraq, respectively. The Mennonite church is set to prophetically confront authoritarianism. Our voice can not only disrupt the tide of fascism, it can also open doors for people, disillusioned Christians and otherwise, to join us. Jonny and Shawn share their stories about how Mennonite theology attracted to Mennonite churches. Is our commitment to peace and justice a path for evangelism, too? Do you have more stories to share like this?	Jonny Rashid	Shawn Wu	Adult	Mind

# Detailed Schedule - Fri, July 11

Room	Title	Description	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Audience	Track
10:15 AM						
Auditorium I	Formation Through Following	There is a paradox to following Jesus: We must be properly formed to follow, and only following properly forms us. That is, as we model our spirituality after Jesus himself, the Holy Spirit will form in us (individually and communally) a character that naturally and immediately follows Christ's call. With this premise, we will focus on developing a posture of surrender through stillness, silence and solitude. Further, we will discuss specific practices, available to everyone, that will enhance our journeys with Jesus: Centering prayer, Examen, "breath prayers," the Lord's Prayer, and dwelling in scripture (lectio divina).	Steve Griffin		Intergenerational	Spirit
Auditorium II	White Christian Nationalism and Christian Zionism	This seminar, sponsored by AMBS and Mennonite Action, explores the often-overlooked relationship between white Christian nationalism and Christian Zionism, intertwining theologies of power that reinforce each other. However, the ongoing genocide in Gaza raises fresh questions about ways that Christian Zionism is radicalizing Americans into support for violent extremism at home and abroad. After unpacking this history and defining key terms, we will interrogate the ways the Bible's end times theology is being wielded to legitimize violence against Palestinians. The seminar will conclude with suggestions for how MC USA congregations can nonviolently challenge this biblical authoritarianism and violent extremism.	Jonathan Brenneman	Drew Strait	Adult	Heart
Auditorium III	Churches making a difference in the Middle East	Many know the challenges of war and violence in the Middle East—but fewer know about the faithful work of local churches. For over 75 years, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has partnered with churches across the region committed to being salt and light in their communities. In this seminar, MCC Area Directors for Europe and the Middle East will share stories from partners in Palestine and Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Learn how Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant Christians — though often a minority — are putting their faith into action and offering a hopeful witness in the midst of deep challenge.	Anne Marie Stoner-Eby	Scott Stoner-Eby	Adult	Heart
Blue Ashe	What is an Anabaptist Christian? Refreshed	Do you attend a Mennonite church but wonder what it means to be Mennonite? Have you heard the word "Anabaptist" but wonder what it means? This seminar will shed light on these questions by sharing perspectives from Palmer Becker's influential booklet, "What is an Anabaptist Christian?", and from Anabaptist Christians from Africa, Asia and Latin America – where the majority of Christians live today.	Joe Sawatzky		Youth	Mind
Grandover East	Nurturing Accessible Children's Ministry	Join Bonnie and Lyle Miller, field associate and board member for Anabaptist Disabilities Network, to learn more about creating inclusive children's ministry for families of children with disabilities or neurodivergence. In this interactive workshop, topics of discussion will include: Congregational Vision and Proactive Welcome, Relating to Families, Community Care and Education, and more.	Bonnie Miller	Lyle Miller	Adult	Heart

## Detailed Schedule - Fri, July 11

Grandover West	Embodied Faith: Finding Belonging in Our Bodies	<p>We are sacred, embodied beings—fragile, yet deeply connected to God, creation and each other. While early Christians saw body and soul as deeply intertwined, modern churches often view the body with suspicion. This workshop explores biblical themes of embodiment, the incarnation of Jesus, and the sacredness of all bodies, including those with disabilities. We'll reflect on how disconnection from our bodies harms our spiritual lives and communities, and how embracing embodiment can deepen our faith. Designed to support MC USA's 2022 Accessibility Resolution, this workshop offers tools for honoring and including people of all abilities in the Body of Christ.</p> <p>Audience: Youth</p>	Sarah Werner		Youth	Heart
Track: Heart Track						
Heritage	Forming Faith in Young Adults	<p>As Goshen College's student body grows in racial, ethnic and religious diversity, leaders are renewing our approach to faith formation—rooted in Jesus, shaped by Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, and welcoming to people of various faith backgrounds or none at all. This seminar, led by the president, campus pastor and student ministry leaders, will share how the Spirit is moving on campus and invite participants into reflection and dialogue. What must we release, and what can we embrace anew? Grounded in recent research on faith formation and diversity, we'll explore practices that connect us across generations to follow Jesus and love as God loves.</p>	Rebecca Stoltzfus	Jen Shenk	Intergenerational	Mind
Pebble Beach	Belonging & Security: Sharing Faith with Children	<p>In 1976, theologian John Westerhoff published the book, "Will Our Children Have Faith?" For 50 years, pastors, congregations, families and researchers have continued to ask this question. As U.S. church attendance declines and young people show less interest in organized religion, the question feels even more urgent. This workshop explores connections between key factors that impact faith transmission, emphasizing new research findings from Eastern Mennonite University's Conectere program about the importance of relational security. Participants will reflect on networks of belonging in their congregations that support children growing in faith and align with the core Mennonite community values.</p>	Sarah Bixler		Adult	Mind
Sandpiper	Drawing Hope for the Korean Peninsula	<p>Did you know the Korean War never officially ended, leaving Korea divided for 72 years? For over two decades, youth have exchanged drawings and letters of peace across borders. In this seminar, learn about Korea's history and current realities, and view art from youth in North Korea, South Korea, Japan, and the U.S. Then, create your own self-portrait and message of peace to North Korean youth. No art experience needed—just your vision for peace. Selected drawings may be featured in the Drawing Hope art exhibit at the United Nations!</p>	Sue Park-Hur		Adult	Heart

## Detailed Schedule - Fri, July 11

Tidewater	Queering Our Anabaptist Archives	How might we tend to the complex histories of LGBTQIA+ people in the church? How can queer and trans histories guide us toward healing, repair and justice? This seminar explores these questions through the nearly 50-year archive of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC). Presenters Annabeth Roeschley and Xaris A. Martínez will share stories, photos and insights from BMC's archival process, highlighting its relevance for historians, archivists, LGBTQIA+ people and faith communities. Come learn how engaging this living archive is both a spiritual and political practice – and imagine new possibilities for repair and inclusion in the church today.	Annabeth Roeschley	Xaris A. Martínez	Intergenerational	Heart
<b>11:15 AM</b>						
Auditorium I	The Bible: One Story, One Hour	Most, if not all, of us know all the major Bible stories, but do we know how they relate to each other? Are we sure about their chronological order? And what do we do with the weird stories that don't quite seem to fit? Listen in as Rylee Weishaupt, a student at Hesston College, recites her Salvation History story from creation to her own story. Hear the story as one big Story of God moving in the world.	Rylee Weishaupt		Youth	Mind
Auditorium II	Practicing Penitential Faith with Menno Simons	In recent years, the Anabaptist vision of discipleship, community and peace has both increased in popularity and attracted significant criticism for its focus on ethics over orthodoxy, for its spiritual poverty, and for its exceptionalism. This seminar offers a correction of the Anabaptist Vision by recovering the penitential piety of Menno Simons, whose teachings were largely excluded from the Anabaptist Vision. During the seminar, participants will explore ways to renew the routine confession of sin in the life of the church and of discipleship, through such practices as daily prayer, liturgical confession and spiritual autobiography.	Gerald J. Mast		Intergenerational	Mind
Auditorium III	The transformative power of young adult service	Rooted in alternative service during wartime, Mennonite young adult service shaped generations from the 1940s to the 1990s. Though conscription has faded, service remains a powerful, transformative experience. In this seminar, Anne Marie and Scott Stoner-Eby (MCC Area Directors for Europe and the Middle East), along with alumni of MCC's Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program, will share stories and insights into what young adult service looks like today — where it's happening, what's being accomplished, and how it continues to shape lives and communities around the world. Come be inspired by a vision of service that still matters.	Anne Marie Stoner-Eby	Scott Stoner-Eby	Youth	Mind
Auditorium IV	Why the Bible Matters for Challenging Christian Nationalism	The Bible is a shared sacred text for both critics and adherents of Christian nationalism – an uncomfortable reality for Christians challenging its misuse. With 55% of weekly Bible readers identifying as Christian nationalist adherents or sympathizers (Public Religion Research Institute), it's clear that certain interpretations are radicalizing Americans. This seminar explores how the Bible is weaponized to justify power, conspiracy and nationalism, particularly around figures like Donald Trump. We'll then consider how Anabaptists can reclaim public biblical interpretation for the common good, including the work of peace building, countering extremist narratives and correcting power worship.	Drew Strait		Youth	Mind

## Detailed Schedule - Fri, July 11

Augusta	Palestinian justice and resisting antisemitism	Anti-semitism is a serious and increasing problem in the U.S. today, as are concerns that criticism of the state of Israel is antisemitic. We seek to disrupt that false dichotomy. We want to confront how we might be guilty of antisemitism, as well as offer a path about how one can oppose both antisemitism and the genocide in Gaza.	Jonny Rashid	Erica Lea-Simka	Adult	Heart
Grandover East	Networking and Visioning for immigrant hospitality	This gathering invites those offering hospitality to asylum seekers and other vulnerable immigrants, or those interested in exploring this vital work to gather in World Café-style. Share ideas, exchange experiences, and brainstorm innovative strategies to support newcomers in our communities. All are welcome to engage in this important conversation, whether deeply involved or just starting. Let's strengthen our networks and inspire one another as we follow Jesus in our call to love and serve the stranger!	Anton Flores-Maisonet	Ruth Keidel Clemens	Adult	Heart
Grandover West	Hispanic student servingness, equity, and belonging	During the last 20 years Goshen College has journeyed closely with the Latino community. The relationships built with parents, students and clergy have brought new opportunities to create a college-going culture. This intentional engagement has led Goshen College to become a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI). A shifting religious demography, with growing numbers of Latino Catholic students is also part of the story. How do these and other complexities have an impact on the college? What does Hispanic student servingness look like? Come learn about culturally sustaining practices that lead to a sense of belonging and inclusion for Latino students.	Gilberto Perez Jr.	Rocio Diaz	Intergenerational	Heart
Heritage	Empowering Children and Youth to Be Safe	How can we teach children and youth how to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual and sexual boundaries; recognize when boundary violations are about to occur; and demonstrate how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated. The Circle of Grace Curriculum can be a tool.	Samuel Voth Schrag	Anna Groff	Adult	Body
Pebble Beach	Prophetic Peacemaking: Community Mediation in SA	As followers of Jesus, we're called to be peacemakers in a world torn apart by conflict. But what does this look like in practice? Join us for an interactive workshop showcasing the innovative community mediation work of the Southern Africa Development and Reconstruction Agency (SADRA). Learn how SADRA's prophetic approach to multistakeholder peacebuilding is transforming communities and inspiring a new generation of peacemakers.	Sibonokuhle Ncube	Oscar Siwali	Adult	Heart
Tidewater	Necessary conversations: Let's talk about money	A dollar bill is neither male nor female, old nor young, but studies have identified generational, gender and other tendencies that can contribute to each of us having different experiences when it comes to money. In this session, we will look at some data about these and other patterns, consider why and how we should talk about money and explore tools that help us integrate our faith with our decisions about money, no matter our age and stage of life.	Lyle Miller	Rachel Swartzendruber Miller	Intergenerational	Mind

**2:30 PM**

## Detailed Schedule - Fri, July 11

Auditorium I	Y'all's Body is a Temple	Can we accept imperfection? If you sometimes wonder if you are a constant disappointment, or will never be good enough, you are in good company. The apostle Paul rejects the claim that certain bodies are better than other bodies and even goes so far as to claim that imperfect bodies are God's chosen dwelling place.	Katie Misz	Billy Funk	Youth	Heart
Auditorium II	Seeing Power As God Sees It	This workshop will be an interactive Bible study working with Matthew 2: 1-23 and focusing on questions of power and powerlessness in the real world. The workshop will invite participants to examine the astonishing, upside-down character of power from the God's-eye view of Matthew's Gospel and to reflect on the significance of this perspective for Christians living in the troubled and violent world of the 21st century. Bring your Bible and come prepared to participate in the discussion.	Dorothy Jean Weaver		Adult	Heart
Auditorium III	Adjusting the Heat in Tough Conversations	This seminar integrates adaptive leadership practices and conflict transformation skills to empower leaders navigating tough, important conversations. Communities can constructively meet regular challenges and even conflicts when they receive support to keep them operating within the "productive zone of disequilibrium." Focusing our attention through the metaphor of heat, we will explore practices for raising and lowering the temperature in order to keep tough conversations moving forward.	Jacob Alan Cook		Adult	Body
Auditorium IV	Why the Bible Matters for Challenging Christian Nationalism	The Bible is a shared sacred text for both critics and adherents of Christian nationalism – an uncomfortable reality for Christians challenging its misuse. With 55% of weekly Bible readers identifying as Christian nationalist adherents or sympathizers (Public Religion Research Institute), it's clear that certain interpretations are radicalizing Americans. This seminar explores how the Bible is weaponized to justify power, conspiracy and nationalism, particularly around figures like Donald Trump. We'll then consider how Anabaptists can reclaim public biblical interpretation for the common good, including the work of peace building, countering extremist narratives and correcting power worship.	Drew Strait		Youth	Mind
Augusta	Small pockets, big responsibilities	How do we talk with kids about money? It's possible to instill in children a spirit of generosity and allow them to learn how to earn, save, give and spend wisely. As they acquire new skills, they can better manage their possessions and learn to use available tools and resources responsibly. By fostering these habits early on, we empower the next generation with essential skills for lifelong financial wellness. Kids are welcome at this intergenerational seminar!	Emily Miller		Intergenerational	Mind

## Detailed Schedule - Fri, July 11

Blue Ashe	Welcoming the Stranger at the Border and Beyond	How are Anabaptists answering Jesus' call to welcome the stranger? What else can we do to care for people on the move? Presenters Abraham Diaz Alonso and Galen Fitzkee will discuss the ongoing efforts of Mennonite Central Committee, community-based organizations, and churches supporting migrating and displaced people at the U.S.-Mexico border and beyond. Through first-hand stories and practical examples, this seminar will delve into the realities of migration and highlight the ways accompaniment manifests in different contexts. Participants will gain insights into systemic challenges, Christ-centered responses and opportunities to make a difference in their own communities.	Galen Fitzkee	Abraham Diaz Alonso	Youth	Heart
Grandover East	Is The Church a Safe Space for All?	The Church should be one of the safest places from any kind of abuse for all. But even with the best intentions and commitments by congregations, it often has fallen short and not protected or has revictimized individuals. This seminar will look at 13 common mistakes committed by congregations and help us to think though practices that give life.	Nancy Kauffmann		Adult	Body
Grandover West	Harmful Effects of Christian Zionism on the Church	In this seminar, we will discuss the rise of Christian Zionism from its humble beginnings to its powerful political and moral impact on Christians in North America and all over the world. Stories will be told about Palestinian Christians confronting Christian Zionism. The seminar will also provide a biblical alternative to Christian Zionism.	Alex Elias Awad		Adult	Heart
Pebble Beach	Seen, Known, and Called: Faith and Identity	What does it mean to belong when your identity doesn't fit neatly into a single culture or community? Facilitated by Madalyn Metzger, Everence® Chief Marketing Officer, this panel brings together multiracial, cross-ethnic, and diasporic voices—Joanne Gallardo (Indiana-Michigan Conference Minister), X. Marisa Smucker (Mennonite Mission Network Executive Director), and Sarah Nahar (Nonviolent Action Trainer). Through personal storytelling, they will reflect on navigating multiple cultural worlds, the impact of internalized racialization, and the search for true community. Together, we'll explore how the church can be a place where people of complex identities are fully seen, known, and called by God.	Madalyn Metzger		Intergenerational	Heart
Tidewater	Join Trees for Environmental Justice	Want to engage in environmental justice and climate action? If so, participate in JoinTrees, a Mennonite campaign to plant one million trees by 2030 to promote environmental justice for God's shalom. Trees not only sequester carbon, cool the planet and slow climate change, but also support vulnerable populations. This seminar will explore: the vital role of trees in God's creation, our large-scale afforestation and agroforestry projects, and practical steps for planting trees around homes, churches and businesses. By participating, we heed God's call to serve and protect the Earth (Genesis 2:15), addressing climate change and supporting vulnerable communities.	Steve Thomas		Intergenerational	Heart

**3:30 PM**

## Detailed Schedule - Fri, July 11

Auditorium III	N.O.T.I.C.E. ~ When boundaries are challenged	In this seminar, we'll explore questions such as: What does God have to say about each of us and loving who we are? What is your Circle of Grace and how can you use it to maintain a safe environment for yourself? How does God help us know when our boundaries are not being respected and honored? And how might we respond? What are some key behaviors to look for when our boundaries are violated/challenged? And how might I seek help in unsafe situations?	Ben Graber		Youth	Mind
Auditorium IV	Mennonites & Grassroots Organizing	What is grassroots organizing, and how is it different from activism? In this interactive workshop, we'll examine how groups of people get themselves organized into collective vehicles capable of winning change and shaping history. We'll look at examples of faith-based and congregational-level organizing, from the Civil Rights Movement to Mennonite Action. We'll wrestle with tensions between love and power, faithfulness and effectiveness, and more, asking what it would mean to heed Civil Rights leader Vincent Harding's call for the Mennonite Church to be a "front light" (not a "rear light") in the social justice struggles of our time.	Sarah Nahar	Jonathan Smucker	Youth	Heart
Blue Ashe	Our Faith, Our Hospitality: Welcoming Immigrants	In this seminar, participants will explore how Anabaptist values of peace, justice and hospitality intersect with the call to support migrants and displaced people. Presenter Abraham Diaz Alonso, a Christian immigrant, shares his journey and insights from his work with community organizations. Through storytelling, theological reflection and interactive activities, attendees will understand the challenges undocumented immigrants face, reflect on how Anabaptist faith informs a compassionate response and learn practical skills for allyship, such as creating safe spaces and advocating for immigrant rights. Join us to actively support immigrants and embody Christ's love in your community.	Abraham Diaz Alonso		Adult	Heart
Grandover East	Raising our voices through climate advocacy	What does Anabaptist climate advocacy look like today, and why does it matter? The global climate crisis requires collective action alongside personal commitments to simple living. To rise to this moment, Anabaptists can lean on a history of speaking truth to power. In this session, Anabaptist Climate Collaborative and Mennonite Central Committee will unpack today's climate policy landscape and share strategies for collective engagement that align with faith and values. Participants will develop talking points on a critical climate issue and raise their voice directly to policymakers through email/phone, and leave feeling more equipped as Anabaptist advocates.	Douglas Kaufman	Kirstin De Mello	Intergenerational	Heart
Grandover West	Navigating The Health Coverage World	Gone are the days of simple doctor visits and straightforward health care. Today's system is more complex – figuring out what care you need, understanding insurance, and managing bills can feel overwhelming. This seminar will explore the challenges of navigating health care and offer practical tips to help you make the system work for your well-being. Leaders in policy and medicine will share insights into current coverage issues in a rapidly changing landscape. Bring your stories – good, bad, and ugly – as we learn together how to advocate for ourselves and others in today's health care environment.	Duncan Smith		Adult	Body



# Detailed Schedule - Fri, July 11

Heritage	How to be an Askable Adult for Youth	One of the best ways to help ensure the safety of our children is to be an 'askable adult,' someone to whom youth would feel comfortable coming to with their questions or problems.	Ross Erb	Adult	Heart
Pebble Beach	A Faithful Response to Palestine and Israel	Many Mennonites feel a call to action to respond to the violence and wars in Gaza and Israel but lack information and understanding to faithfully witness. Jonathan Kuttab, a Palestinian Mennonite, international Human Rights lawyer, will inspire an Anabaptist response providing information on apartheid systems, human rights violations and South African genocide accusations. Author of "Beyond the Two-State Solution," Kuttaab will explore the response of the Mennonite Church to Gaza and Israel and suggest a prophetic vision for peace and justice for both Israelis and Palestinians.	Jonathan Kuttab	Adult	Heart
Sandpiper	Finding Ourselves in God's Story	Join author Michele Hershberger as she introduces Finding Ourselves in God's Story, the new catechism from Herald Press. Hear her passion for making God's story come alive through the biblical narrative as well as contemporary conversations guided by the Spirit. Talk about how preparation for baptism can move beyond rote recitation of biblical truths to interacting with The Truth-Jesus. Discuss ways to make faith exploration more meaningful. This seminar will include a book signing.	Michele Hershberger	Intergenerational	Mind
Tidewater	Why Mennonites Can't Dance; Trauma to Liberation	This seminar will explore the multi-generational inherited trauma for Mennonites of European descent through co-creating a shared analysis of historical trauma, culture and intersections of oppression and by introducing and working with an embodied trauma-healing tool. The tool was developed out of decades of intersectional anti-racist organizing and is intended to be used to support people in identifying and navigating some of the blocks that show up when engaged in multicultural multiracial social justice movements.	Amanda K Gross	Adult	Heart