



## Hesston Mennonite Church

A community of God's people, seeking and following the way of Christ, experiencing and sharing the good news of healing and hope.

### *Mennonite World Conference*

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) is a worldwide organization connecting Anabaptist groups together for shared vision and connection. **On Sunday March 19, Arli Klassen, Coordinator of Regional Relationships, will be with us in worship to share about MWC.**

MWC represents the majority of the global family of Christian churches rooted in the 16th century Radical Reformation in Europe, particularly in the Anabaptist movement. MWC membership in 2015 included one international association and 102 Mennonite and Brethren in Christ national churches from 56 countries, with around 1.4 million baptized believers in close to 10,000 congregations. About 81% of baptized believers in MWC member churches are African, Asian or Latin American, and 19% are located in Europe and North America.

MWC is called to be a communion (Koinonia) of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service, and witness. They exist to be a global community of faith in the Anabaptist-tradition, facilitate relationships between Anabaptist-related churches worldwide, and relate to other Christian world communions and organizations.

Every six years there are assemblies of Anabaptists from around the world. In 2015 the assembly was held in Pennsylvania and in 2021 the gathering will take place in Indonesia. MWC has a presence around the world and actively connects with people of all ages. You can find more information about the ministries of this global Anabaptist community at [mwc-cmm.org](http://mwc-cmm.org).

### *HMC Library Book Reviews*

***From here to the Pinnacles***—This is a narrative account of a little Mennonite girl growing up in the Ukraine, whose family comes to America in time to escape the Russian revolution, and whose ambitions to acquire an education are realized in spite of many physical, financial and religious handicaps. One of the neighboring villages in the Ukraine where Elizabeth lived was the Alexandertal, in the Molotschna colony. Anyone interested in Mennonite History will love this book, written by Elizabeth Schroeter who lived the story. This book was last checked June 1972.

***In Peril on the Sea***—A true story of the freighter SS Lashaway off the coast of S. America bound for the U. S. The ship was attached by a German U boat and sank. Nineteen people, two missionary families, crowded onto a raft and survive the next 20 days. A wonderful story of survival. Forty years later a reunion of the author, (who was 11 years old at time of the incident), and some members of the German crew, plus an amazing act of forgiveness.

### *Elder Minutes*

**March 2, 2017**

After Jay Unruh opened our meeting with words of welcome, Gordon Scoville, our Intentional Interim Pastor, prayed acknowledging God's presence with us.

Devotions had been prepared by Renae Allison, based on Matt. 11:28-29. The book *Setting the Agenda*, edited by Edgar Stoesz and Rick Stiffney, mentions a statue of Jesus, at Johns Hopkins Hospital. The statue may be used for being present in the moment, for touching it, for deflecting from busyness and concerns. This also occurs in African culture where Americans are seen as "dizzy", running around. A beneficial alternative is to at times to retreat from our daily routine.

The minutes from Elders Meeting of February 16, 2017 were approved as written.

During our time of pastors' reports, Gordon commented in two areas, personal and interim ministry. He has felt supported by the Church in the process of getting settled, after moving from Montana. There have been many tasks to gain information and insight. He has found willingness to participate in those he has met. Also the Ash Wednesday evening service was meaningful and well-planned by Clayton and Amy.

Amy's report included information on the fullness of her recent schedule. There is ongoing interest in Wednesday evening activities. Amy presented a letter written by Congregational Chairperson Megan Smith's reflection on the visioning process. The elders are invited to respond.

Clayton reported that Senior High Snow Camp at Rocky Mountain Camp, in Colorado, was a good time. There were teens from 6 different churches traveling together on a bus. Clayton continues the Kansas Leadership Center training, learning new, beneficial ways of doing things.

Amy and Clayton reported on pastoral care needs. Jay Unruh closed our meeting with prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Kaufman, Secretary for Elders*

### *Did You Know???*

- **Look out for that fence!** The childcare center will no longer be using our playground. Instead, they have moved the fence around the grassy area west of the Education Wing.
- **SHINE MCC NIGHT—Wednesday, March 29.** The congregation is invited to attend. Come for supper at 6:00pm and there will be activities for everyone!

## Council Minutes

March 9, 2017

### Refugee Resettlement update: Del Hershberger

There may be no more new refugees allowed into the US in the next 120 days if executive order goes through. We may not have any refugees coming into Wichita for the next 6 months. City officials reflect the refugees have been received well in Hesston. Families have felt very welcomed and have given good feedback about living and working in Hesston.

**Review of February minutes:** accepted February minutes.

### Facilities Commission Report: Gary Boese

- Proposed Work Day update: Discussion was continued and plans are to wait until fall, around the 10 yr anniversary of the dedication of our building.
- Basement update- Preferred Builders projects mid to end of April for finishing their portion of the basement. Basement should be done for use by Bible school time and South Central conference.

### Education Commission Report: Rachel Yoder

- VBS: We will host 3-4<sup>th</sup> grade the week of Memorial day, so it will be a 4 day week of Bible School. Susan Lamb and Katelyn Boese will be directing Bible school this year.
- Hesston Childcare Move: Moving Saturday 3/13 into our space in the Sunday school wing. Classrooms on the west side will be used.
- Discussion was had regarding some feedback about scholarships for students attending Mennonite and Other than Mennonite colleges.
- Partner w/ a College student project- Jen Smalley wonders if this ministry should be placed under a commission for the longevity of the ministry.

### Outreach Commission Report- LaMar Bender

Sometime this fall, commission plans to have meetings to facilitate understanding of the various ministries that outreach supports- such as MCC, Care Portal, etc.

**Fellowship and Service Commission Report-** Vicki Hoffman  
Ice machine unreliable in kitchen- looking at buying a new one.

### Worship Commission Report- Mitch Stutzman

March 19th, will be a joint worship service with Whitestone. Arli Klassen (Mennonite World Conference) will be preaching.

### Council Discernment

- Mitch and Ken have offered to attend MCUSA convention as delegates this summer.
- Visioning process summary was shared with elders last week and they were affirming. Summary will be placed in boxes in the near future.
- Pastoral Search Update- Phil Diller. Slowing down, put not stopping process to help incorporate Gordon's findings into pastoral search process. A visual showing the search process should be put up in the foyer soon.

**Adjourn.** Next meeting: Thursday, April 13 at 7pm

*Recorder, Jen Smalley*

## Mennonite Mission Network News

Do you enjoy mentoring young adults and living in community? Service Adventure is looking for leaders for our Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Jackson, Mississippi units. The two-year term begins late July. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Susan Nisly [SusanN@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:SusanN@MennoniteMission.net) or visit us at [www.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.MennoniteMission.net).

## Dorcas Circle



Thursday, March 30, 2017

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Project:** Homeless Shelter Needs

**Meal:** Potluck

**Offering:** Harvey County Safehope

*Dorcas Circle meets the first Thursday of each month. Come all or part of the day. We invite you to come chat, encourage each other, sing, work, pray and eat together.*

## Upcoming Events

**Mar 21 Hesston College Andover Organ Concert, 7:00p.m.,**  
HMC sanctuary, reception to follow.

**Mar 25 Hesston Community Child Care Annual Pig Roast & Family Fun Night, 5:00-7:00 p.m.** Whitestone Mennonite Church. Teachers will have some fun activities for children. A delicious roast pork supper with all the trimmings will be served. Cost is a donation at the door. Money will be used to add or redesign our south playground.

**Mar 26 Bethel College Concert Choir Home Concert,**  
7:00p.m., Memorial Hall.

## Everence - March Webinars

**Basics of investing:** Tuesday, March 21 (2 or 8 p.m. EDT) In this webinar, we'll discuss how investing can help you meet your financial goals, go over different types of investments and help you determine your appropriate level of risk. We'll also cover how to get started and address your questions. Presented by Dennis LeFevre\*, CFP®, Trust and Financial Advisor.

**Narrative budgeting: Making numbers come alive:** Thurs, March 23 (2 or 8 p.m. EDT) In this webinar, designed for pastors and church leaders, we'll discuss how a church budget can go beyond numbers to present an inspiring vision of the living spirit working in your church. You'll see how a story approach to your budget meeting can inspire and engage your congregation in ways you haven't thought of before. Presented by Steve Bustos, Everence Stewardship Consultant.

Registration: 800-222-5054 or [melissa.short@everence.com](mailto:melissa.short@everence.com).

## Mennonite Central Committee News

**According to the United Nations, the world is facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the second world war.** More than 20 million people across Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and northeast Nigeria are facing or are at risk of famine. MCC is working in the area to provide emergency food assistance and increase its response to the crisis. Because of serious conflicts and concerns for safe, unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance, this process is slow and challenging. To donate to MCC's relief fund, which supports MCC's response to this disaster and others, visit [mcc.org/learn/what/relief](http://mcc.org/learn/what/relief), call 1-888-563-4676 or send a check to MCC's Akron Office.

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