



Jumping for Joy

By John Stoesz
Camp Mennoscah Executive Director

Anticipation for the summer youth camps is building at Camp Mennoscah. The new bath houses are going up and will be ready. Hallelujah! Catalogs and posters have been sent to churches and families. Summer staff, program directors, worship people, counselors, nurses, kitchen help and other volunteers are getting ready. All we need now are the campers!

This summer hundreds of young people will experience nature through riverplay and nature hikes. They will encounter God through song and at campfire. Being away from cellphones, computers and television screens, they will get in touch with the image of God within them. Through swimming, crafts and hayrides they will renew old friendships and make new friends.

We expect it will be a great summer! Here is the schedule:

June 7-13 Junior High I	July 5-9 PreJunior II	July 19-25 Junior II
June 14-18 PreJunior I	July 9-11 First Camp	July 25-26 Family Camp
June 21-27 Junior I	July 12-18 Junior High II	July 26-31 Senior High

Campers can now register for summer youth camps using our BRAND NEW online registration and payment options. Please click on the link on our website – www.campmennoscah.org. This is our first year trying this online, so there might be some glitches along the way. Please bear with us. Of course, you can still do this the “old-fashioned” way and mail in your registration.

Roberts Serves as Interim Resource Librarian

“I’ve always loved to read!” remarked Jeanette Roberts, Interim Resource Librarian at the Conference Resource Library. “Don’t tell Mom, but as a child, I’d hide to get a few more pages read before I had to get back to chores.” It’s no wonder, then, that Roberts became a teacher/librarian and continues to read materials of all types.

Currently, Roberts teaches technology and media classes for the Newton schools at St. Mary Catholic School. She has taught library, English, drama, debate and speech in other districts as well, including Moundridge, Goessel, Canton and Haysville.

“Marlene Bogard developed an exceptional conference collection with resources for pastors and other church leaders, families and teachers. There’s no way to fill Marlene’s shoes, but it’s a joy to work at the Resource Library. I’m at the library on Thursday from 8-5. Let us know what you need by calling 316-283-6300 or emailing crlib@mennowdc.org anytime.”

Roberts lives in North Newton with her husband, Chet Roberts, and attends Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, Kan.

 Western District Conference is a regional grouping of Mennonite Church USA congregations located in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Western District Conference

PO Box 306, 2517 N Main, North Newton, KS 67117



316-283-6300

wdc@mennowdc.org

www.mennowdc.org

Coming Events

April 11
WDC Reference Council
Hope Menn. Church, Wichita KS

June 12-13
Anabaptist Faith
Formation—Growing
in Christ Launch
Bethel College, North Newton KS

June 30 –July 5
Mennonite Church USA
Convention
Kansas City KS

Oct. 30-31
WDC Annual Assembly
Bethel College, North Newton KS

WDC Garden

Stories from Western District Conference
April/May 2015



WDC Speaks Out For Life

by Clarence Rempel

Peter Goerzen, speaking on behalf of the Western District Conference (WDC), called for the end of the death penalty at a news conference in the capitol rotunda in Topeka, Kansas, on February 10. He and Kansas church leaders from the Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, and Lutheran churches spoke in support of Rep. Steven Becker’s House Bill 2129 which would replace the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. It gives the legislature the opportunity to protect society without killing.



Becker (pictured speaking at left) is a member of Buhler Mennonite Church. Peter is the chair of the WDC End the Death Penalty Task Force and serves as Campus Pastor and Director of Church Relations for Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.

House Bill 2129 would end the death penalty in Kansas. For information about supporting House Bill 2129, check out the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty at www.ksabolition.org. The first step for HB 2129 will be a hearing in a House Committee. Mennonite churches around the state are organizing letter writing drives, writing letters to the

editor of their local papers, and contacting their state legislators in support of HB 2129. Now is the time to add your voice!

Excerpts from Peter’s Presentation



Today “we acknowledge the deep grief of families of murder victims...hold them in our prayers; and commit ourselves to walk with them” (2001 Mennonite Church USA Resolution).

“From our Anabaptist origins in the sixteenth century, Mennonites have believed that God is love, that God was incarnate in Jesus Christ, and that Jesus’ teaching example witnessed against the killing of human life. Our spiritual ancestors were persecuted for their opposition to killing” (2009 WDC Resolution).

“Killing people because killing people is wrong” skews morality toward revenge and contributes to a culture of vengeance and death. It does not honor the conviction that all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore within God’s sovereign purposes and ability to redeem. Public policy must not stand in the way of that possibility.”

(Read Peter’s whole presentation at:
<http://mennowdc.org/committees-task-forces/>)

Anabaptist Faith Formation launch June 12-13

Learn, Grow, Serve, Repeat

Western District Conference is sponsoring an Anabaptist Faith Formation launch June 12-13 on the Bethel College campus in North Newton, Kan. The launch will include times for worship and four breakout sessions, where 14 different workshops will be offered. See the schedule on the next page.

Modeled on the Year of the Bible launch in 2013, this event will kick off a focus on faith formation in Western District Conference congregations. “Faith formation,” says Katherine Goerzen, chair of the planning committee, “is an integral part of the church’s calling to equip the saints for the work of ministry. We hope this launch will provide practical, meaningful ways for congregations to build on the good faith formation already taking place.”

Cost for the event is only \$20 per person or \$100 per congregation (you can bring an unlimited number of participants), if you register by May 29. After that, the cost is \$30 per person, \$110 per congregation. No registrations will be taken after June 5.

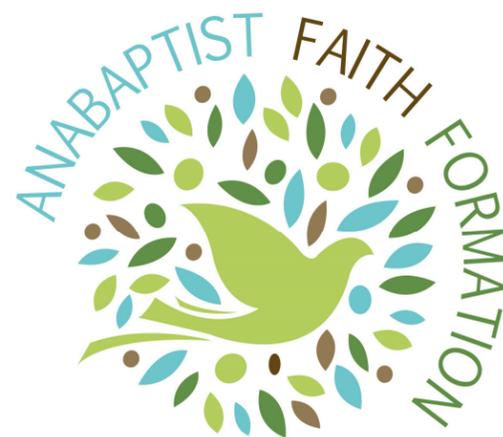
Register at: <http://mennowdc.org/anabaptist-faith-formation-launch/>
For more information, contact Katherine Goerzen, Katherine@complete.org



Andy Brubacher Kaethler has been involved in Christian formation for nearly 20 years in conference, congregational and camp settings. Before coming to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind., in 2003, he was minister of youth ministries for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. At AMBS, he launched !Explore, a program that encourages youth to consider various forms of Christian ministry, including pastoral ministry, and that makes significant connections between the seminary and the Mennonite denominations in fostering a culture of call. In addition, Andy teaches in areas of theology, philosophy and culture.



Rachel Miller Jacobs has a love for the church that leads her into many forms of ministry. She was the resources coordinator for *Leader*, a magazine of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA. For six years she was pastor of Christian formation for a local congregation. She currently serves as a spiritual director and leads retreats and workshops for groups, including congregations, pastors and youth. Her sermon on Friday evening, June 12, is titled “A Quiet Pentecost: Faith Formation for Ordinary Sundays.”



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

2:00 pm Intro, worship, table activity

2:45 Break

3:00 Andy Brubacher Kaethler

3:45 Introduction to breakout sessions

4:00 Breakout 1 (35 minutes)

4:45 Breakout 2 (35 minutes)

5:30 Supper

7:00 Worship

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

8:00 am Coffee by Mojo’s

8:30 Morning praise

9:00 Breakout 3 (35 minutes)

9:40 Break with Mojo’s

10:15 Breakout 4 (35 minutes)

11:00 Introduction to the website and next steps discussion led by Shana Peachey Boshart and Rachel Gerber

COST

By May 29: \$20 per person
or \$100 per congregation (unlimited)
After May 29: \$30 or \$110

No registrations accepted after June 5.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- **Karen Andres:** “What does Group Spiritual Formation have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Andy Brubacher Kaethler:** “What does Technology and Social Media have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Gerry Epp and Annali Murray:** “What does a Labyrinth have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Rachel S. Gerber:** “What do Youth and Young Adults have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Peter Goerzen:** “What does the Bible have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Mary Herr:** “What does Silence have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Jim Jantzen:** “What does the Work Week and Daily Life have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Eric Massanari:** “What does Aging in the Spirit have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **MennoMedia and Jennie Wintermote:** “Resources for Faith Formation”
- **Rachel Miller Jacobs:** “What does Teaching Preparation have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Shana Peachey Boshart:** “What do Children and Families have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Laverle Schrag:** “What do the Arts have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **WDC Music and Worship Task Force:** “What does Music have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”
- **Beth and Alan Claassen Thrush:** “What does Justice have to do with Anabaptist Faith Formation?”