May 2018

Connecting with Agnes and Ray Hacker

Inside this issue:

Daga

Agnes and Ray are contentedly settled in their lovely cottage on the edge of the wetlands at Landis Homes. They moved there at the end of 2016, after fifty years in their home in East Petersburg.

They came to AMC because they were drawn to the strong Anabaptist emphasis and their many friends here. When their home church. Bethel Mennonite in Lancaster, closed in 2005, they looked for another church, and became active at Neffsville before coming to AMC.

Ray and Agnes were on the committee to decide next steps when Bethel closed. After looking at options and price, they sold

Akron Mennonite Church

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the church building to the Ethiopian Mennonite group supported by Landisville district for half of its assessed price. MDS and MCC were recipients of Bethel's disbursements.

Agnes was a young girl when her family were charter members to start the Bethel congregation in 1945. They were in the group with William and Lucille Snyder. Agnes was in an early baptism group in the new congregation. She remembers well her baptism in the Santee Chapel on the campus of Lancaster Theological Seminary, where the group was meeting in the beginning. She was wearing a pretty white dress and water from the minister's huge hands ran over it.

Bethel Mennonite is also where Ray and Agnes met at an Eastern District gathering when she was a nursing student and Ray was an officer in the young people's union. They married in 1958 at Bethel Mennonite, right after Agnes graduated from nursing school.

Agnes and Ray were active in this church when they returned to the county from Elkhart, holding various positions of leadership. Ray was a deacon, chair of the board, and taught Sunday school. In later years, Ray wrote the history of Bethel Mennonite.

Ray has been a scholar of Mennonite history most of his life. Interested in history from an early age, Ray earned a degree in library science from Kutztown State Teachers College and accepted a librarian position at Morrisville High School.

He then chose to serve I-W in a mental hospital near Detroit, Michigan. During these two years, Ray worked evenings at the University of Michigan and took classes during the day. By the time his service was finished, Ray had earned a Master's degree in fine arts in library science.

Ray returned home to a library job in Pennsburg High School before accepting a position on the staff at West Chester State College. Agnes was employed at Chester County Hospital.

Ray and Agnes learned of an opening for librarian at Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. They moved to Elkhart, and Ray took that position. Agnes was a nurse at Elkhart Hospital.

Ray served on the book selection committee and learned that the seminary received most of the books, and the Goshen College got only what was needed. Harold Bender was secretary. It was during a meeting in Chicago that Harold Bender became ill and died in the hospital. Ray recalls that Orie Miller made the trip by train to be at Bender's funeral.



May 2018

When Ray and Agnes moved back to Lancaster County, Ray joined the faculty at Millersville State College until his retirement in 1994. During these years, Ray became interim library director for three years until a new director was secured.

Beyond his job at the college, Ray served on the boards of Parish Resource Center, the Lancaster County Council of Churches, and of Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust. Ray was instrumental in combing the libraries of Franconia Conference and the Eastern District to form Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania. It was organized with Ray as the first president and John Ruth, vice president.

Ray recalls going to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1972 with John Lapp and three Amish men for the hearing of Wisconsin vs Yoder. Led by Chief Justice Warren Burger, this addressed the issue of Amish dismissing their children from school earlier than state requirements. The court ruled in favor of the Amish, giving them the right to have their own schools or to withdraw from public schools after eighth grade.

Ray found fulfilling work in his retirement. For twenty years he and Agnes led tours for Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville. Ray did the up-front research and found places that were of interest to his tour groups. They traveled nine states and two provinces in Canada, and locally from Philadelphia to Altoona.

Ray led one final round of tours in 2015 when Mennonite World Conference met in Harrisburg. He visited Amish barns with his friend Sam Stoltzfus as guide. Sam is on the board of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society with John Weber and Steve Nolt. The other tour was of the Old Order Mennonites.

Ray attended several Mennonite world conferences beginning with Karlsruhe, Germany in 1972, as well as Calcutta and Winnipeg, Their entire family went to the Strasburg, France, conference.

Agnes and Ray traveled extensively with their four children in the 1970s, from Florida to Maine and eastern Canada. Beyond camper travels, they flew to England and Scotland, an unforgettable trip for all.

Ray grew up in Bucks County with his parents Pearl and Albert Hacker. He attended a two room school in Milford Square, and graduated from Quakertown High School. He has three brothers and three sisters, all still living.

In his growing-up years, Ray attended and became a member at West Swamp Mennonite Church. This is the church where Jim Amstutz would become pastor. Other members included Jon Clemens and Kristen Sims.

Agnes Rosenfeld is the eighth of nine children, born to Henry and Anna Neustadter Rosenfeld at St. Joseph's Hospital in Lancaster. She was always considered the youngest, since a sister died as an infant. The Rosenfeld family lived briefly on Milton Hershey farms. The next opportunity took them to Manheim Township, and then moving

Pray For One Another					
<i>James 5:16</i> The purpose of "Pray For One Another" is to help us be aware of and pray for members of AMC who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in Sunday morning worship services on a regular basis. Scripture admonishes us to pray. It is one of the joys of the Christian life and part of what makes us community. The names of people listed change from time to time. If you know of someone you would like to be included with those named here, please be in touch with the church office.					
Charlotte Biris	Irma Bowman	Al Claassen	Flo Harnish		
Carolyn & John Horst	Paul Martin	Philip Rutt	Amela & Randy Puljek-Shank		

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on to buy their first farm in the village of Chiques. They attended Salunga Mennonite Sunday school where Agnes was in the cradle roll class. Mrs. Neff was her teacher, and when Agnes moved to Landis Homes, she found Mrs. Neff's son John to be her neighbor.

Agnes has early memories of family life on the farm with Grandmother Elizabeth who lived with them in her own quarters. They enjoyed many activities with extended family, including butchering events.

Beginning in a one room school in Salunga, Agnes graduated with Donegal High School's first class in 1955.

Agnes thought she would go to Elizabethtown College to study education and teach. However, she found herself at Lancaster General Hospital School of Nursing. She graduated in 1958 and worked in nursing for fifteen years at Chester Country Hospital, Elkhart General, and then Lancaster General Hospital.

Fulfilling her earlier plans, Agnes went to Millersville State College and earned a BS in Education in 1976. She taught first grade in Manheim Central School District until she retired in 1999.

Retirement gives Agnes time to read, travel, garden, and do crafts. She and Ray enjoy family time at their cottage on Martha's Vineyard, having built many memories there with four children and now four grandchildren.

Agnes and Ray look back at their family history and the long road it was for their grandparents to come to this country. Agnes's family arrived through Ellis Island in 1923. Her mother's family left Siberia, traveling across Russia to get to Germany.

MCC was instrumental in resettling the Russian refugee in many areas of exodus from Russia, including these families. Agnes feels profound gratitude to Orie Miller who led her family's exodus, to the Miller family back in Akron, who carried on without Orie while he helped refugees.

The Rosenfelds left Russia under severe conditions. They did not have legal papers; they stepped out on faith. Arriving at the coast of the Black Sea, they arrived in Georgia, finding other Mennonites, who arrived from the Crimea. Difficulty with the police detained them until eventually they had permission to enter Turkey. They bartered their belongings to survive.

During this time, Orie Miller and his staff were finding sponsors and permits for them to enter the United States. Leaving Constantinople, these refugees crossed the Mediterranean Sea to France on the English Channel. They set off from Cherbourg and, after weeks at sea, arrived in New York.

They reflect with amazement on the life of their forefathers and their good life here now.

~Priscilla Ziegler

Scenes from AMC Women's Retreat









Pastor's Perspective

Coffee and Conversations (formerly known as Landis Homes residents' gathering) is a time to connect with the Akron Mennonite community and me. On the second (in Kirkview Lounge at Landis Homes) and third (in Hybrid #1 Community Room at Landis Homes) Wednesday of each month from 10-11:30am, all are welcome to meet with me and others who are gathered, to talk, laugh and be together. The format is informal, come-and-go, drop-in as you like. Coffee and mini-muffins are provided. During this time, I continue to

learn your stories and share my own as we enact our faith together. Sometimes I provide a question or topic for discussion and other times it is what arises among the group. This is a time for me to learn about significant happenings in your life. These gatherings are not limited to Landis Homes residents but open to anyone in the Akron Mennonite congregation. (I am working on a similar gathering at Garden Spot Village with more information at a later time.)

I also continue to be available for individual meetings. Just call the church office to arrange a time to meet.

~ Rachel Nolt

A SAFE CHURCH TRAINING SESSION for anyone who currently works with children or has clearances to work with children will be held next Saturday, May 5 at Akron Mennonite Church. It will begin at 8:15am with refreshments, and the training will be held from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Come prepared to be equipped to work with children and youth in today's day and age, and review AMC's current Safe Church policy that our ministry team has been working hard on all year. Other churches in our Safe Church cluster will be joining this valuable session led by the Safe Church consultant Deb Helt and others. Please let the church office know if you can attend.

WORSHIP COUNCIL: On April 22, J.W. Sprunger gave AMC an invitation to prayerfully consider joining a recently formed experimental worship council. When Pastor Rachel initially asked several people to join, this is what she wrote, *I am hoping to gather a small group of people to serve with me as a worship council on behalf of the congregation. Our current church structure does not* include a place to think about larger worship questions such as: How often do we serve communion? Are children included in

communion? What is our worship style? Are we a multi-voice congregation? I would also like input into the preaching diet of our congregation. This is an experiment so I don't know if this would be an ongoing group, or if it would transition into something different in the future. So right now I envision a monthly meeting for about 4 months. I am asking you to prayerfully consider this opportunity to share your gifts with the congregation. Please contact Rachel Nolt (rnolt@akronmench.org or 717-859-1488), J.W. Sprunger (jwsprunger@gmail.com or 724-309-2731), or Charity Shenk (charity.shenk@gmail.com or 717-201-8748) by May 13 if you are interested in learning more.





MYF Happenings







The MYF played a rousing game of "Clue" during their lock-in April 20-21. Pictured is Mataya Chap as suspect Sammn Burglar.

Supper club for the month or March was held The home of the Hoffman Family, who hosted a "Baby Shower" for our advisor Family, Nick, Jessie and Abby Buckwalter. The youth decorated baby onesies and a "big sister" Tshirt for Abby with shirt paints. We shared a blessing over the family and new baby as well as pizza, punch and cupcakes. Their baby is due May 30th.



Looking Ahead

May 6	Dessert fundraiser/Fellowship Meal		
May 19	Girls' Tea Party at Karen King's		
May 20	Second Hour guest speaker Lesley Huff		
June 10	Senior Recognition Sunday Parent Meeting for DOOR		
June 17-23	DOOR project in Denver, CO		
June 24	DOOR reflections during worship		
	LookING AHEAD		

Alzheimer's Prayer

Dear Lord:

Please grant my visitors tolerance of my confusion, forgiveness for my irrationality, and strength to walk with me into the mist of memory my world has become.

Please help them take my hand and stay awhile, even though I seem unaware of their presence.



Help them to know how their strength and loving care will drift softly into the days to come, just when I need it most.

Let them know that, when I don't recognize them, I will ask them to keep their hearts free of sorrow for me – for my sorrow, when it comes, only lasts for a moment and then it is gone.

And finally, Lord, please let them know how very much their visits mean, how, even through this relentless mystery, I can feel their love.

Amen.

This poem was found by a family member on the wall in a nursing home. Author unknown.

Submitted by Marilyn Langeman



No Longer Alone Ministries is planning an event and you are invited:

What: Movie: "Mind/Game: The Unquiet Mind of Chamique Holdsclaw."

When: Thursday, May 10, 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Where: Wolfe Auditorium, Brethren Village

Why: To educate about mental illness

Mind/Game: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw, a one-hour

documentary film, tells the story of one superstar athlete's experience with mental illness. As unique as Chamique's journey is, it reflects the challenges faced by millions of people and families dealing with similar issues.

A **FREEWILL OFFERING** will be received to support the mission of NLAM.

Please **register** on line (link below) or call the NLAM office at 717-390-4891

http://www.nlam.org/events/freemovie/



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May 2018

Diamond Street Beat

By Kim Bell May 2018

"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." - Edwin Way Teale.

May is here and brings with it hints of summer to come. (Or at least we hope it will! It's been a cold few months!) May is a busy month here at Diamond Street. We celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. We wrap up classroom projects and start preparing for the end of the school year. We play outside as much as possible and we enjoy the blooming flowers and active wildlife around our playground. We hope you all enjoy the lovely May weather as well. We also would like to thank everyone for their help leading up to and during our annual Friendship Concert on April 18th. This year we added a silent auction of over 40 donated items to the festivities, and it was a big success! We are so grateful to everyone who donated items, bid on items, and volunteered that night! Thank you so much.











Lisa Rickabaugh Lead Teacher - Warblers

Lisa, who has an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Pennsylvania College of Technology, started working at Diamond Street in 2015. She began as an assistant teacher in the Warbler room, and is now the Warbler room lead teacher. Lisa teaches the infants, who range in age from 6 weeks to 13 months. She creates and implements individualized lesson plans that help each baby develop to their full potential.

Lisa is originally from Williamsport but moved to this area three years ago. She currently lives in Ephrata with her husband of 2 1/2 years, and her toddler, Conner. Two cats round out their household. Lisa enjoys spending time with family, reading, and listening to music. Her favorite part of working at DSECC is being able to work with the families and help their children grow.

Our babies are lucky to have such a dedicated, patient, and caring teacher. We thank her for all of her hard work and for all she does for the littlest of our children.

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The Peace Action Network of Lancaster, Interchurch Peace Witness, Lancaster Against Pipelines and 1040 for Peace invite you to

An Evening with Kathy Kelly

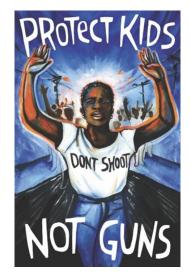
--Co-coordinator of *Voices for Creative Nonviolence* --Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times --One of the founding members of *Voices in the Wilderness* --Traveled to Iraq twenty-six times --Renowned story-teller as an American peace activist, pacifist and author

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 beginning at 7 p.m.

Community Mennonite Church of Lancaster 328 West Orange Street, Lancaster, PA 17603



KATHY KELLY



NO ARMS, NO ARMIES!

Supporting youth calling for an end to weapon assaults around the world, Kathy will connect the excess of guns and indiscriminate shootings in the U.S. with U.S. wars and international weapon proliferation. Embracing creative nonviolence, Kathy will highlight her experiences of living with those afflicted by wars drawing particular attention to U.S. involvement in the war against Yemen.

Music by Voices for Peace

\$10 donation per person requested to sustain the work of Voices for Creative Nonviolence; no one turned away for lack of funds. Checks made payable to VFCN are not tax-deductible.

Contact 717-271-8180 or <u>penner@dejazzd.com</u> for more information.

May (and beyond) at AMC & in the Community

May Upcoming Events

May	1	Lunch Bunch @ Oregon Dairy @ 11:30 am
	2	Library Committee meets @ 6:00 pm
	3	Men's Breakfast @ Udder Choice @ 7:00 am;
		Nick Buckwalter, presenter
	5	AMC hosts Safe Church training
		8:15 am—12:30 pm
	6	Fellowship Meal following 2nd hour classes
	6	Share-A-Life hike in Lititz Linear Park
		following Fellowship Meal
	9	Landis Homes residents' gathering
		10:00—11:30 am; Kirkview Lounge
	9	Connect! meal, flag football game, and
		Ice cream social 6:00—7:30 pm
	10	Garden Spot Village residents' gathering
		11:30 am—2:00 pm; Concord Room
	10	AMC Council meets @ 7:00 pm
	15	AMC Women's Brown Bag Luncheon
		11:00 am—1:00 pm @ Dottie Nolt's home
	16	Landis Homes residents' gathering
		10:00—11:30 am; Hybrid #1 Comm. Rm.
	20	Adult choir and tone chimes rehearsal
		8:00 am; share in 9:00 am service
	28	F.L.I.P. end of year celebration at
		Refreshing Mountain Camp 9 am—12 pm

Lectio Divina meets each Tuesday at 7:30 am, and the Congregational Prayer Group meets each Thursday at 12:30 pm. Both meetings are in Rachel's office.

Summer VBS at Akron Church of the Brethren

Where:Akron Church of the Brethren613 Main St., Akron

Phone: 717-859-2156

When: Sun., June 24—Thurs., June 28, 2018

Time: 6:00—8:15 pm

Ages: 4 years old (by Sept. 30) through 7th grade

Register on the Akron Church of the Brethren website (http://www.akronpacob.org/children/) or fill out the form (available from Karyn Nancarvis)

Questions? Call the ACOB office between 10 am and 2 pm at 717-859-2156 or call, text, or email Nelsa at 609-703-5559 / miminelsa@yahoo.com

Register by May 15 and get a free T-shirt!

SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 26-27 ACC Fall Assembly @ AMC

AMC Women's Brown Bag Luncheon

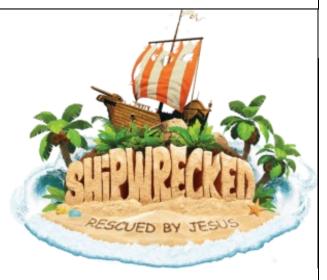
Tuesday, May 15, 2018

WELCOME!!!



Our next brown bag lunch is scheduled for May 15, 2018 at the home of Dottie Nolt. Dottie will provide water and hospitality, and we each bring our own food. We gather from 11 am until 1 pm. Come for the whole time or you may come on your lunch break or whatever segment of time fits your schedule.

More information and directions will follow soon.



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You are invited to attend Ridgeview Mennonite Church on Sunday, May 20 at 2:00pm to hear stories of service from Omar Lapp and John Hostetler. Omar and John served in post-WWII Europe in PAX and MCC respectively. The event will be moderated by Ken Sensenig, Assistant Executive Director of MCC East Coast. Questions: June Landis 717-917-0430 phone/text.

The Lancaster Chamber Singers 40th Anniversary Celebration Concert will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2018 at Lancaster Church of the Brethren at 3:00 pm. Tickets are available for \$10 in advance (through LancasterChamberSingers.org) or for \$15 at the door. The concert will feature W.A. Mozart's"Coronation Mass" accompanied by chamber orchestra and organ, music by Latvian composer Eriks Esenvalds, popular American composer Dan Forrest, and to note the 100th birthday of Leonard Bernstein, arrangements of "Somewhere," from "West Side Story", and "Make our Garden Grow" from "Candide".



Mennonite Disaster Service is an exciting and growing faith-based disaster response agency. We are seeking qualified candidates with multi-cultural experience to apply for the following positions: Coordinator for Weekly Volunteers (Lititz, PA) and Program Administrative Assistant (Lititz, PA). Spanish language is an asset. Go to mds.mennonite.net/who-we-are/employment/#jobs for more information.

ACC Youth Fundraiser: Join us at Oregon Dairy on Tuesday May 8. to help raise money for the Fall Youth Retreat at Refreshing Mountain. Dine in the restaurant from 3-8 p.m. and show the Facebook post, bring a flyer, or mention the ACC Youth Committee and Oregon Dairy will donate 20% of your bill toward the retreat.

ACC's Chatter, Chow, & Cheerful Service: Women from 9-99 are encouraged to join together in fellowship, MCC work and a light lunch on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at MCC's Material Resource Center in Ephrata.

Bring a pint of chicken corn noodle soup, a bowl, spoon, and mug.





cators, and other healthcare workers and families for a weekend of worship, inspiration, learning, networking, and fellowship. The theme this year is "Stories of Healing." For more information and registration, visit www.mennohealth.org/gathering/, call 1-888-406-3643, or email

French Student Hosting Oppor-

tunity—July and/or August 2018

Are you eager connect with another culture? Would you enjoy showing hospitality to international students on a short-term visit to the Lancaster area? If so, please consider hosting a pair of French youths for a few weeks this summer!

We need individuals, couples, and families to host French students (ages 14-17) as they study English and learn about American culture. Two groups are coming: the first group's session is July 14 - August 2, and a second group will be here from August 5 - August 24. The programs are directed by Jeff and Ellyn Nolt and sponsored by American Home Life International (a Christian organization based in Lancaster,

If you are interested, here's what you should know: Hosts receive an up-front stipend of \$440 per 3-week session. In addition, we ask hosts to accommodate two students per home, provide 3 meals a day, and arrange transportation to and from weekday ESL classes. The classes take place at Blossom Hill Mennonite Church (333 Delp Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601).

Want to learn more? Please contact Jeff at 717-224-3695 or jeffn@amhomelife.org.

From Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society:

info@mennohealth.org.

Lancaster City Bike Tour—Take a relaxed bicycle tour circling the city of Lancaster with the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society on Saturday, May 5. Learn about the historic neighborhoods from long term residents, including former mayor Janice Stork and historian David Brenner, well as the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania. Tickets cost \$30, \$20 for students, and can be purchased at <u>lmhs.org</u> or by calling (717) 393-9745. The deadline for registration is Saturday, April 28

William Penn's Holy Experiment: Field Trip to Berks County—Join the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society for a tour of the Olev Valley that explores the diverse cultural milieu created by Penn's approach on Saturday. May 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration costs \$100 for Society members and \$115 for nonmembers; registration is due by April 24. The tour includes lunch at the White Horse Inn at Historic Morlatten.

May Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Тие	Wed	Thu	Fri	Saт
		1 Vernon Glick Linda Good	2 John Martin Matthew Nancarvis Sharon Yoder	3 Dawn Nolt	4	5
6	7 Amber Brubaker	8 Rich Crockett Anna Martin	9	10 Theo Zook	11 Violet Chap Merle Gingerich Linda Helmus Maggie Weaver Don Ziegler	12
13	14 Pat Martin	15	16 John Hoffman	17 Mary Ann Sarker	18	19 Theresa Martin
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Daniel Burkholder Ginny Hartman
27	28 Lisa Neufeld Terry Wible	29	30 Nick Buckwalter	31 Rick Haller		

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Akron Mennonite Church

1311 Diamond Street Akron, PA 17501 P: (717) 859-1488 E: <u>amc@akronmench.org</u>

www.akronmench.org

- ◊ Worship @ 9:00 am
- ◊ Coffee/Tea Fellowship from 10:15-10:40 am
- ◊ Christian Education & Discipleship Hour from
 - 10:40-11:40 am

Staff

Rachel Nolt Pastor rnolt@akronmench.org

Karyn Nancarvis Interim Director of Children & Youth Ministries <u>knancarvis@akronmench.org</u>

> Melody Rupley Director of Equipping Ministries <u>mrupley@akronmench.org</u>

Patricia Martin Minister of Music and Worship <u>pmartin@akronmench.org</u>

Rebecca Pereverzoff Administrator <u>rpereverzoff@akronmench.org</u> <u>amc@akronmench.org</u>



Contact Updates

The 2018 Directory is in process. Thanks for your patience!

AMC Vision Statement

Akron Mennonite Church will be fully engaged in God's mission in a broken world as we are called, equipped and sent by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ in life. Shaped by the gifts and vision of our members, we will keep Christ and church at the center of our lives as we reach out to neighbors near and far and witness to the world around us through an Anabaptist-Mennonite expression of faith.

Statement on Human Sexuality

We are a community of believers seeking to respond with God's love to all people. We celebrate the strength of our unity in the midst of our diversity of experiences, perspectives and understanding of Scripture. We seek to be a community of grace and reconciliation and so welcome into membership all who confess faith in Jesus Christ, including those in same-gender covenant relationships. We are committed to engaging in God's mission in a broken world through an Anabaptist-Mennonite faith perspective.