

Events & Announcements | May 18, 2011

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

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From Bethany Christian Schools:

Bethany Christian Schools will be accepting Indiana School Choice Vouchers for next school year. Bethany will host informational meetings regarding School Choice options, vouchers and additional tuition assistance on Sat., June 4, 10 – 11 a.m., and on Tues., June 7, 7 – 8 p.m. To learn more or to register for an informational meeting visit www.bethanycs.net/schoolchoice. –Denise Risser, administrative assistant, Bethany Christian Schools

Making Marriage the Church's Business workshop at AMBS May 25. This event at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary on Wed., May 25, will examine how preaching, teaching and congregational practices can support marriage covenants in intentional, ongoing ways. It will look at how pastors and congregations can avoid waiting to talk about marriage until troubles emerge and instead take the initiative to help grow healthy marriages. This daylong workshop will pay special attention to theological reflection on the issues, appropriate pastoral behaviors, effects on congregational dynamics and related available resources.

The presenter is Irma Fast Dueck, Th.D., assistant professor of practical theology at Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she has taught since 1991. She holds a Doctor of Theology degree from Victoria University at the University of Toronto (Ontario), and a Master of Divinity from the University of Winnipeg. She is a frequent speaker and lecturer and is currently working on a book manuscript about Mennonite worship and ethics. For more information or to register go to www.ambs.edu/programs-institutes/clc/workshops/marriage.

MEA/MSC interactive webinars (see attachment). Mennonite Education Agency (MEA) and Mennonite Schools Council (MSC) are pleased to sponsor a series of interactive webinars on themes from the recently published book, *Teaching that Transforms: Why Anabaptist-Mennonite Education Matters* (January 2011, Herald Press). The author, John D. Roth, Goshen College history professor, invites "an open, vigorous and honest conversation about the Anabaptist-Mennonite witness in North America" in his book and during the upcoming webinars.

The series of three webinars will take place on Tuesdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m. (Eastern Time), beginning May 24. There is no cost to participate. Everyone is welcome although registration is required five days before the day of the webinar. Go to www.MennoniteEducation.org/WEBINAR to register for the series or for particular webinars.

During the first webinar, "Framing the challenges: The currents in which we are swimming," Roth will speak about the public debate surrounding education, provide very brief histories of Western education and Mennonite education, and then focus on the variety of challenges faced by Mennonite educational institutions. The May 31 webinar, "Addressing the challenges: Theological resources," will focus on the Mennonite/Anabaptist identity and the significance of the Incarnation for Mennonites/Anabaptists. Roth will conclude by sharing his hopes for the future of Mennonite education during the final June 7 webinar, "Leading with courage." –Veva Mumaw, MEA event coordinator & staff associate

Application deadline for Mennonite Voluntary Service is June 1! MVS is a way for young adults ages 20+ to serve God and others while living and working in a community. For more information about MVS, visit www.Service.MennoniteMission.net or e-mail JIIS@MennoniteMission.net.

AMBS summer open house July 18. The Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary summer open house event for people to experience a taste of seminary life is Monday, July 18. Please encourage someone you know with gifts for ministry to visit the seminary in Elkhart, Ind. More information and an invitation to send on to someone else are at www.ambs.edu/open-house.

Upcoming workshops from the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations): *Essentials of Church Finance Part 2* with Vonna Laue will be held Wednesday, Sept, 21, 2011, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Covenant United Methodist Church, 10001 Coldwater Road, Fort Wayne, Ind. Vonna Laue, co-author of *Essential Guide to Church Finances* and partner with the accounting firm Capin Crouse, will

lead participants through workshops covering topics of congregational accounting practices including financial reporting, communicating with boards and committees and performance measurements. Although congregational leaders are encouraged to attend both parts of the workshop, Part 1 is not a prerequisite for Part 2. The workshop content from spring to fall is interrelated, but not required. The cost is \$30 a person (or \$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more). The fee includes lunch and a copy of Laue's book, *Essential Guide to Church Finances*. For more information or to register go to www.centerforcongregations.org/events.

A Place of Welcome: Meeting and Connecting Newcomers in the Congregation with Gary McIntosh will be held Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Eastern Time), at Emmanuel Community Church, 12222 W. Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne, Ind. This very practical workshop offers sound advice on assessing and improving the ways in which your congregation attracts people, welcomes them, follows up and brings them into the church family. In this workshop, each participant interacts with recent research on why guests stay in a congregation; learns fresh ideas for connecting visitors to the congregation and develops strategies for welcoming and keeping newcomers beyond the first visit. The cost is \$30 a person (or \$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more). Included are lunch and a copy of McIntosh's book *Beyond the First Visit*. For more information or to register go to www.centerforcongregations.org/events.

Events & Announcements serves to connect the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference. It is published every two weeks. To submit items for publication please mail to imoffice@im.mennonite.net.

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