

Events & Announcements | Aug. 17, 2011

Connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

- *Dedication and open house at Benton Mennonite Aug. 21*
- *Mennonite Church USA seeks full-time convention planning coordinator*
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- *ADNet poster contest winners named*
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Dedication and open house at Benton Mennonite Aug. 21. Benton Mennonite Church, 15350 C.R. 44, Goshen, invites the community to celebrate the completion of our building renovation. On Sunday, Aug. 21, we will have a 2 p.m. dedication service and 3 – 5 p.m. open house. The renovations, completed by DJ Construction and members of the congregation, included adding an ADA lift for three levels, an ADA-compliant restroom, an expanded foyer, renovated sanctuary and an upgraded HVAC system for the sanctuary. We are thankful for God's faithfulness throughout this process and invite those interested in celebrating this expansion of our welcome. –*Doug Kaufman, co-pastor, Benton Mennonite*

Mennonite Church USA seeks a full-time Convention Planning Coordinator to be a part of its Convention Planning team. Responsibilities include coordinating events and activities related to the biennial Mennonite Church USA Convention. The ideal candidate will possess strong interpersonal communication skills and work well within a team. She or he will be detail oriented and possess a good understanding of Mennonite Church USA's mission, social media, communication and marketing skills. Events planning experience is a plus. Fluency in Spanish is highly desired. A bachelor's degree in communication, marketing, Bible, social science or a related field is required. The position requires considerable travel. For more information visit www.mennoniteusa.org/Home/Jobs.

Anabaptist Communicators' conference in Harrisonburg Oct. 28-29. Anabaptist Communicators invite you to attend its fall conference in Harrisonburg, Va., Friday and Saturday, Oct. 28-29, 2011. The conference title is "Anabaptism in a Visual Age." The plenary speaker is Jerry Holsopple, visual and communication arts professor at Eastern Mennonite University.

While some of the programming is still in the planning stages, several break-out sessions are planned, as are off-campus visits. Ted Swartz will present his newly released book during the conference. Ken J. Nafziger, EMU music professor, will serve as worship leader.

Anabaptist Communicators includes over 100 members in the United States and Canada representing over 20 church agencies. Members include writers, editors, photographers, graphic artists, web designers, retirement home staff members and freelance writers. The conference is open to anyone interested in communication as it connects to the Anabaptist faith traditions. Persons attending do not need to be members of the organization. For more information go to www.anabaptistcomm.org.

ADNet poster contest winners named. The unique contributions of people with disabilities were the subjects of prize-winning posters created by Indiana-Michigan Conference youth for a disabilities poster contest sponsored by Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet) in July.

Earning first place, the poster by Abby Graber, from Assembly Mennonite, featured the caption "I Just Have Different Abilities" as a frame for hands spelling out "Deaf" in the manual alphabet, an eye next to dots spelling out "Blind" and a wheelchair and prosthetic limb next to the word "handicapped." Also submitting a winning poster was Madeline Gerig, also from Assembly. Madeline created a poster with the message, "You are beautiful," above a family of ducks. One of the ducklings dances on unusually long legs and wears glasses.

Conference minister Dan Miller kicked off the event by submitting the first entry in the contest. Quoting from a recent movie about autism self-advocate Temple Grandin, Dan's poster declares, "People with a disability are different, not less."

Posters in the contest addressed themes of disability inclusion, advocacy, or etiquette. Artists submitted posters online and at the Pittsburgh 2011 gathering of Mennonite Church USA, July 4-8. Hailey Hagen of Telford, Pa. was grand prize winner. Other winning posters were submitted by youth from Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, Colorado and West Virginia. A slideshow of their artwork is online at www.adnetonline.org/posters.

Organized in 2003, ADNet is a national inter-Mennonite advocacy ministry committed to supporting families and equipping the church for inclusive communities. Contact Program Director Christine Guth, 877-214-9838, for more information, or visit www.adnetonline.org.

Upcoming workshop from the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations):

A Place of Welcome: Meeting and Welcoming Newcomers in the Congregation with Gary McIntosh will be held Thursday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) at Emmanuel Community Church, 12222 West Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Friday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Central Time) at Liberty Bible Church, 824 N. Calumet Ave., Chesterton, Ind. Gary McIntosh invites leaders to take a look at their congregations through the eyes of a first-time guest. How do visitors see your congregation? How were they welcomed and greeted? <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=953087> 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. <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=953091> McIntosh is president of the Church Growth Network and professor of Christian Ministry and Leadership at Talbot School of Theology at Biola University. The cost is \$30 a person (or \$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more). Lunch and a copy of McIntosh's book *Beyond the First Visit* are included. **[Click here for more information or to register.](#)**

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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