

Annual Sessions 2019 Seminars

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So that you may discern (Rule of Life)	Naomi Wenger	The Hermitage
Giving and Receiving Feedback	Rachel Miller Jacobs	AMBS
Preparing Your Congregation for a Natural Disaster	Kevin King	MDS
Finding Joy in Leadership:	Karen Lehman	MHS
Amigo Centre Outing- Nature Center		Amigo
FRIDAY AFTERNOON SEMINARS		
Spiritual Practices for Peacemakers	Karla Minter	MMN
Generosity doesn't just happen, you must cultivate it!	Steve Bustos	Everence
Church Safety	Ben Bouwman	
Singing for Creation	Janeen Bertsche Johnson	AMBS
Amigo Centre Outing-Pontoon Ride		Amigo
SATURDAY MORNING SEMINARS		
Pathways of Encountering God	Janeen Bertsche Johnson	AMBS
How to move from crunching numbers to inspiring vision	Marlene Kroeker	Everence
Improving Accessibility at Church w/ Best Practices for Everyone	Peter Graber	ADNet
Theology isn't just for Pastors	Veva Mumaw	EMS
Amigo Centre Outing- Nature Hike		Amigo

FRIDAY MORNING SEMINARS

So that you may discern: Keeping a Rule of Life: THE HERMITAGE COMMUNITY

Presenters: Naomi Wenger and June Mears Driedger of The Hermitage Community
 Discernment is the process of listening for God’s will and acting on it. But how does one cultivate the skills and tools necessary for deep listening? This kind of listening requires persistent practice. Developing and keeping a rule is an excellent way of keeping your discerning spirit alive. But a rule need not be difficult. Rather, it is like a trellis on which your growth is trained so that the flowers and fruit of your life are accessible to you and useful to others. Find out how you can develop and keep a rule of life.

Naomi Wenger, Hermitage

Giving and receiving feedback

Human beings receive feedback all the time: feedback from our bodies, feedback from our emotions, and feedback from the world around us. We also provide feedback through the choices we make, the people we connect to, and the work that we do. While giving and receiving feedback are part of ordinary life, they are also key components of spiritual maturity and leadership. In this workshop we’ll explore

several varieties of feedback, learn about barriers to receiving feedback well, and grow our capacity to both give and especially receive feedback skillfully, maturely, and with an eye toward the transforming power of God's own Holy Spirit within and around us.

Rachel Miller Jacobs
Assistant Professor of Congregational Formation, AMBS

Preparing Your Congregation for a Natural Disaster: MDS

The only thing more difficult than planning for a disaster is explaining why we did not plan. Learn how you can be a catalyst in your congregation to prepare and reach out in ministry when the storm does happen. As part of the community, congregations have the opportunity and responsibility to respond to disaster. The deep human needs and psychological scars left after a disaster require care beyond the restoration of physical needs. Putting lives back together after a disaster requires care, hope and love. A time of crisis is often the best time for Christians to demonstrate the reality of God's healing grace through caring and sharing. Through videos, PowerPoint, handouts, and stories – attendees will be inspired to be prepared.

Kevin King, MDS

Finding Joy in Leadership: MHS

This session will provide an overview of key leadership qualities and leadership tools for persons serving in congregational, conference or other organizational roles. Passion and joy come from a belief that leadership as a calling, no matter where you serve. Participants will hear insights on how an organization can develop an engaged and high performing leadership team through a thoughtful hiring, mentoring and training process in order to ensure ongoing succession planning for the organization. The session will be interactive with participant engagement. Participants will enjoy an interactive learning experience that will provide practical tools, skills, habits to take home and put into practice.

Karen E. Lehman, President/CEO, MHS

Amigo Centre Outing

10 am Friday - Amigo Nature Center - join us as we check out the "critters" inside Amigo's Nature Center and enjoy observing the wildlife through the large one-way window. We'll see how many different birds we can identify and listen to their beautiful songs. There are also games and books, a collection of rocks and animal specimens to enjoy as well.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Spiritual Practices for Peacemakers: MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK

As a spiritual director and experienced retreat leader, I can provide a contemplative prayer experience for leaders who are seeking the heart of God in their call to ministry. This seminar includes four contemplative prayers that foster greater awareness of God's presence in our lives, a greater capacity for spiritual discernment, greater compassion for self and others, and immersion in God's word which slowly transforms us into a person who sees with the heart of Christ. Contemplative prayer also prepares persons in the dominant culture, for growing awareness of white privilege and the work of anti-racism, including our images of God and Jesus.

Karla Minter, MMN

Generosity doesn't just happen, you must cultivate it!: EVERENCE

Description: The days of people giving to the church because that is what you do- are basically over. Giving patterns are changing. People are changing. The church is changing. The vision and mission of the church are still attractive and engaging; but we need new ways of unleashing (inspiring) generosity in the church. Come and learn about a tool that can help your congregation cultivate generosity in a fresh and imaginative/original/innovative way.

Steve Bustos, Everence

Church Safety

With the reality of powerful weapons available to the American people, and news of shootings in schools, businesses, and churches, many places of worship around the country are pondering how they might respond to keep those in their churches safe. As a people committed to peace, what does an Anabaptist/Mennonite response to active shooters look like? How do we understand security and safety? This seminar is intended to be a place to ponder these questions together. While there may be some input, most of the time will be geared towards discussion.

Ben Bouwman, Walnut Hill

Singing for Creation

Our hymnals have a healthy number of songs about creation, and many new resources have been written that address concerns about the environment and climate change. Come to sing both new and old songs that express our faith convictions about caring for God's good earth.

Janeen Bertsche Johnson, AMBS

Amigo Centre Outing

1:30 pm Friday - Pontoon Ride - join our Executive Director, Matt Ropp, on a peaceful ride around Perrin and Little Chapin Lakes. Bring along your binoculars and/or camera - as you are sure to be delighted by the variety of wildlife that you will see. You may also want to bring a hat, sunglasses and wear sunscreen!

SATURDAY MORNING SEMINARS

Pathways of Encountering God

Based on Gary Thomas' book "Sacred Pathways: Discover Your Soul's Path to God," we will explore nine different ways Christians encounter God: through thinking, contemplation, emotions, senses, nature, rituals, simplicity, caring for others, and seeking justice. For each of the pathways, we will explore helpful tools and practices for continued growth. We will also ask how congregations and schools can provide meaningful opportunities for people with a variety of approaches.

Janeen Bertsche Johnson, AMBS

How to Move From Crunching Numbers to Inspiring Vision: EVERENCE

Description: "I wanted to be part of our musical program because music is the universal language...If I can give something back to God and the church for all I have been given, then I am hopeful that I may grow as a person as well as grow closer to our Lord. Thank you for the opportunity to express myself." David B.

You generally don't get responses like this from most church budget meetings, but it is possible. In this interactive session, pastors and leaders will learn how to use the Narrative budgeting model which utilizes vision and story-telling as well as numbers to compel parishioners to deeper engagement and greater generosity.

Marlene Kroeker, Everence

Improving Accessibility at Church with Best Practices for Everyone: ADNET

What Is Accessibility and Who needs it at Church? Learn Best Practices for the Big Screen in worship, best practices for Scripture Readers, Worship Leaders, Song Leaders, Preachers, Sunday School classes, etc. Get the latest info about Hearing Aids and new assisted listening devices. Learn about using the Supportive Care model in real church life, Mental Health and Mental Illness disabilities educational tools, and Resources available at the ADN website and elsewhere. Handouts provided to take home and share at your church.

Peter Graber, ADNet

Theology isn't just for pastors: EMS

Theological education isn't just for the pastor. This workshop will explore ways that theological understanding and education can help a congregation thrive.

The essential question that is being asked is, "How do members in a congregation continue to grow in their understanding of God?" To do this, we will explore where our earliest understanding of God came from. Discussion will also challenge us to think about how we continue to grow in our theological

understanding. We will conclude by exploring options at the colleges and seminary to continue theological education in these settings (this isn't just a plug for EMU). If time allows we will challenge each other in thinking about structuring theological education in our congregations.

Veva Muma, EMS

Amigo Centre Outing

8:30 am Saturday - Amigo Nature Hike - join us on a hike through the beautiful trails that Amigo has developed over the years, including a delightful walk through the marsh on our boardwalk. Learn a bit of history along the way as well as enjoy a variety of birds and wildlife.