

Report to Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference - May 2024

Helping Mennonite Church USA fulfill its educational mission

2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The selection sub-committee for the MEA Scholarship for BIPOC Students is granting 13 scholarships totaling \$28,000 to students from:

- **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary** (Elkhart, Ind.);
- **Bethel College** (North Newton, Kan.);
- **Bluffton (Ohio) University**;
- **Eastern Mennonite University** (Harrisonburg, Va.);
- **Goshen (Ind.) College**.

Names of the recipients and award information will be shared at a later date once all the scholarships have been affirmed. You can learn more about this scholarship at

[http://www.Mennonite Education.org/schools/mea-scholarship-for-bipoc-students](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/schools/mea-scholarship-for-bipoc-students). If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, you can do so at <https://www.mennoniteeducation.org/> and click on the Donate tab.

MEET THE MEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



We welcomed new members to the Board last summer. From top left: **Nathan Alleman**, continuing as Board

Chair; **Rose Bender Cook**, Secretary; **Jessica Clopton-Robinson**, Treasurer and Chair of the Audit Committee; **Erick Martinez**; (from bottom left) **Judy Mullet**, Vice-Chair; and **Conrad Swartzentruber**, Dock Mennonite Academy Superintendent, ex officio as the Chair of the Mennonite Schools Council (preK – grade 12 schools). We are excited about new energy and fresh perspectives. We began a time of strategic planning at our Fall 2023 meeting and are continuing this work in 2024.

UPDATES FROM HISPANIC MINISTRIES

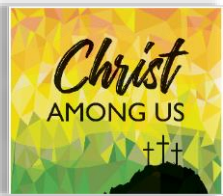


MEA's Hispanic Ministries Director **Marco Güete** and Associate Director **Violeta Ajquejay Suastegui** are busy

with a new season of IBA and SeBAH! Read on for highlights.

- **IBA** (Instituto Bíblico Anabautista) provides biblical training for Hispanic church leaders in MC USA, through study centers in local Mennonite congregations, led by trained tutors. There are 13 study centers, with a **new center at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.**, in partnership with Prairie Street Mennonite Church. IBA is also expanding beyond physical centers with **one hybrid center** and **one online center**. There is even a group in Central America engaging IBA online! 2024 will bring more changes that will expand the reach of IBA. As Marco says, **"The Hispanic Mennonite church is growing. We want these congregations to have well-trained disciples of Jesus to lead them."**
- **SeBAH** – Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano: A new group of **15 students** has started the Spring 2024 SeBAH course "Spirituality and Christian Discipleship." We're projecting that 6 students will graduate with a SeBAH Certificate in Pastoral Ministry in August on the campus of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)!
- In partnership with MEA Hispanic Ministries, AMBS now offers a **graduate certificate in theological studies taught completely in Spanish**. It is the first of its kind in any Anabaptist seminary in the US! MEA's donors help make this program affordable, and thus, accessible to MC USA student leaders. MEA Hispanic Ministries provides administrative, language, and tech support to the MC USA student leaders in this program.

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME



MEA published the Advent 2023 and Lent 2024 at Home worship guides for congregations, individuals, and families of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. The guides were available for free download in English and Spanish from the MEA website. The At-Home series is designed to be an accompaniment through the days and weeks of Advent and Lent

with scriptures, prayers, worship rituals, activities, and contextual information. It is intended for all ages and life stages to deepen the experience of the seasons. **Talashia Keim Yoder** from Goshen, Ind., is the writer, and **Erin Ramer** from Parnell, Iowa, is the artist and designer. **Ubaldo Rodriguez**, Philippines, is the translator, and MEA staff **Michael Danner** and **Jolene VonGunten**, are co-editors. The At Home series is the most downloaded resource of all Mennonite Church USA materials.

Whether at home or in the classroom, MEA is committed to equipping teachers and parents as they impact children and young people.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY MERGER

Bluffton University recently announced its intention to merge with the University of Findlay in Ohio. You can find more information about this merger at <https://www.findlayblufftonfuture.com/>. MEA is committed to promoting Anabaptist values in education and strengthening the relationships between Mennonite schools and Mennonite Church USA. If you have questions or concerns, please contact <https://www.findlayblufftonfuture.com/contact-us/> or email MEA at info@MennoniteEducation.org.

MEA SUPPORTS PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

MEA Board member Jessica Clopton-Robinson will serve on the Hesston College Search Committee, and staff Michael Danner and Jolene VonGunten

will provide support to the committee. Please pray for the search committee as they discern future leadership for the college.



SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATORS

MEA is supporting the **Mennonite Public Educators group**, which was formed after two public school teachers visited the MEA booth at MennoCon23 last summer. These teachers named some of the unique challenges Mennonites face in public education: what to do about the Pledge of Allegiance, how to respond to wars and violence, and how to (whether to) be a peace witness. This moment of MennoCon serendipity led to a series of virtual gatherings for conversation, support, and learning. MEA is helping to promote the group and broaden its reach. We have heard strong affirmation and want to explore how MEA can expand our support for the many Mennonites who work in public school settings. The next virtual meeting is **July 25 at 7pm Eastern**. Participation is free but registration is required. **Contact info@MennoniteEducation.org for more information.**

2023-24 ENROLLMENT REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

MEA produces the Enrollment Report annually to create a snapshot of enrollment trends across all schools that partner with MEA: from early childhood programs through graduate schools and seminaries. The data include the total number of students enrolled in the institutions, the number of Mennonite and non-Mennonite students enrolled, racial/ethnic diversity, breakdown by grade and degree level, and other demographics. Based on headcount in the fall of 2023, **Mennonite schools are impacting the lives of 8,971 students**. To view the 23-24 report and previous reports, visit <http://www.mennoniteeducation.org/about-us/>.

On behalf of the staff and board of directors, thank you for supporting Anabaptist Mennonite education.

Grace & peace,

Michael Danner
Executive Director