



2019 Annual Assembly Gathering

Join us for our conference's premier training event for lay leaders and pastors. The assembly will be a wonderful time of worship, encouragement, fellowship, and decision making for the conference.

July 19-20, 2019 at Pleasant View Mennonite Church in Hydro, OK

We will be led by Pleasant View in worship and spend time learning and processing about the ways our congregations have their own unique realities and circumstances yet reflect and vision how we are "Better Together." We will hear teaching in sessions by Pastors from Pleasant View; Rod Schmucker, Pastor of Hope for the Broken Church; and Jim Ostlund, pastor at Journey@McPherson.

Delegates will gather to hear about exciting new developments in SCC and share in the work of giving guidance to conference leaders as they carry out the conference mission and vision.

Children and youth of all ages are invited to grow and learn together at free children's activities throughout the gathering.

Information is continually updated on our website and Registration is open now! Go to sccmenno.org for all the details!

Pulpit Exchange

Last year SCC began a new program to connect congregations and pastors and facilitate networking of individuals across the conference. All conference congregations are being encouraged to participate in the 2019 exchange.

Not only does a pulpit exchange give a chance to hear from and meet friends from around the conference, it also allows host congregations to articulate their vision and mission in order to share that with the visiting leaders.

This year's exchange will be very flexible. Possible format suggestions include hosting a question and answer time either during a Sunday School hour or over a shared meal. Pastors are also encouraged to take along a group of congregational leaders when they travel for the exchange. A possible theme scripture and topic will also be suggested for those who desire that guidance. This theme can also be set aside by leaders who wish to focus on another one. Schedules and dates are also flexible and congregations are encouraged to discuss with their partner church whether they plan to exchange on one Sunday or two different days.

To opt in for the Pulpit Exchange 2019 fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/pulpitexchange2019>



SCC Pulpit Supply List

SCC heard from many congregations and pastors that having a compiled list of possible speakers from around the conference would be helpful.

We have created a list of persons who are willing to speak including their contact information and any specific topics of interest. The file is now available on our website sccmenno.org.

Find us on Social Media!



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Special Conference in Central Kansas



The Mennonite Creation Care Network and the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions have collaborated to bring one of several regional workshops to our area. From April 8-10 at Camp Mennoscah, several speakers will address "Who Cares about Climate Change?: Pastoral Responses to Denial and Despair." The registration fee, which covers meals and lodging, is \$225. However, because of the availability of a grant, Anabaptist pastors can attend at no cost.

Denial and despair help us manage feelings of guilt and helplessness in the face of climate change. How does the Gospel of Jesus Christ give us hope? This workshop is designed to:

- Connect** caring for creation, caring for people and living out God's vision for our world
- Engage** in peer-to-peer exchanges with fellow pastors
- Listen** for God's guidance in the natural world
- Renew** your sense of purpose and hope

Speaker and event organizer is Doug Kaufman from Goshen, Indiana who is active with both sponsoring organizations. Others are Christy Miller Hessed from Hesston; Rachel Myslivy from Hutchinson; and worship leader Jennifer Schrock who is affiliated with the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College. Registration is available at <https://mennocreationcare.org/pastoral-retreats/>.

Pastor/Congregation News

- > Kenzie Intemann, pastor of Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church in Harper, KS, and his wife Mallory welcomed into the world Silas Jon on January 11.
- > Kurt Horst, lead pastor of Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston, has announced his retirement effective June 30 after 9 years of ministry. Kurt also serves as Regional Conference Ministry for two South Central Conference congregations.
- > Mike Hiebert concluded his pastoral assignment at Inman (KS) Mennonite Church on January 31. Nick Ladd began as interim pastor at Inman Mennonite Church on March 1. Nick also teaches classes in the Bible and Ministry Department of Hesston College.
- > Hesston Mennonite Church has called Jess Engle as Pastor of Worship. Outreach and Administration effective on or about August 1. He is concluding his pastoral work in northwest Ohio.
- > Regional Conference Minister Clarence Rempel, and his wife Amanda, spent about 4 weeks in Zambia, where a daughter and family are living.
- > Omot Aganya, church planter in Kansas City, Missouri, will be featured as a storyteller on the theme of Peace and Reconciliation on July 4 at the Mennonite Church USA biennial convention in Kansas City.
- > John Thomas, part-time preaching/teaching pastor at Mt. Pisgah Mennonite Church in Leonard, Missouri, has concluded his ministry there.
- > Eden Life Church in Kansas City, MO, was the happy recipient on March 26 of a grant of \$30,000 from Mennonite Men's JoinHands project. Such grants are intended to assist emerging congregations in paying for their first permanent meeting place. Omot and Hannah Aganya are the church planters.

DO YOU KNOW?

By Joyce Zuercher; Conference Resource Advocate

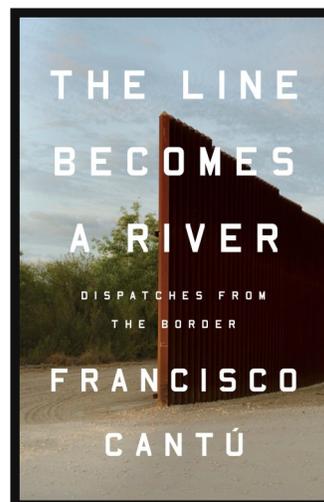
As we all continue to be aware, immigration remains a concern in our world. Thanks to Marion Bontrager, another book about immigration came to my attention—*The Line Becomes a River*, by Francisco Cantú. Although not from our own press, I found it to be a good companion to last month's book. The two books are similar in organization, moving between the author's personal experiences and historical and geographical background information.

Cantú is bi-racial, the son of a Mexican American mother who raised him when the marriage with his white American father dissolved. For much of his childhood they lived on several southwestern national parks where his mother was a park ranger.

In his early twenties, in spite of the concerns of his mother, he interrupted his academic career for the rigorous training to join the border patrol. He gives us a great description of the training, his companions in the service, his experiences as he began working, and the southwestern border and its history and environment.

As time went by, he started experiencing emotional problems, and gradually realized how callous people become who are expected to constantly see, and cause, disappointment, pain, and suffering. That was not who he wanted to be, so he left the border patrol to return to academia.

In the transition, he became close to some illegal immigrants who had left families behind, which gave him the unique perspective that he shares.



Mennonite Church USA Biennial Convention

Information has gone to all member congregations about registering for the convention coming up on July 2-6 in Kansas City, Missouri. As a reminder, all congregations are eligible to name one delegate for each 100 members, or fraction.

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In addition, through a program called StepUp, each congregation can appoint a youth as a voting delegate in addition to those chosen according to the formula. A clarification is that a youth thus appointed would not be eligible to register for the youth convention, given the expectation that he or she would participate in the 13.25 hours of delegate assembly time.

All of the organized worship times this year will be joint between adults and youth, with a panel of inspiring and challenging speakers already in place. One of those is Dustin Galyon, head men's basketball coach at Hesston College, who is one of the most sought after motivational speakers for youth groups and others.

Executive Committee Activity

The conference Executive Committee has met three times since the last newsletter was published. Major agenda discussion includes the following items:

- > Received updates from the Strategic Planning Committee which is giving attention to organizational and staffing needs for our conference to continue and expand its missional activity.
- > Approved the continuation of sponsorship of the Hesston College Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Program's annual weekend conference.
- > Received information about, and promoted participation in, a second grant from the Lilly Endowment via Everence, which is available to pastors to help reduce personal debt, but limited to those who did not benefit from the first such grant.
- > Gave attention to the process of identifying themes and speakers for the annual assembly, to be hosted by Pleasant View Mennonite Church near Hydro, Oklahoma, July 19-20 (see separate article).
- > Developed a plan to promote pastors' participation in a workshop on the topic, "Who Cares about Climate Change: Pastoral Responses to Denial and Despair." It is scheduled on April 8-10 at Camp Mennoscah, with free registration, including meals and lodging, for active pastors.
- > Finalized a Pulpit Fill List, including the names of persons who are available to serve as pulpit supply for congregations needing that service when their pastors are absent.
- > Held conversations with leaders from south Texas churches, organized as UCIM, in an effort to increase and improve communications geared toward strengthening and encouraging their leadership through stronger partnership collaboration. This will include a representative of UCIM as an active participant in future Executive Committee meetings.
- > Reviewed the current budget process and took initial steps to make it more interactive and geared toward expanding our services and resources in support of pastors and congregations.
- > Noted the opportunity for SCC to name three conference delegates to the Mennonite Church USA biennial convention in Kansas City, July 2-6.
- > Received a communication from Myrna Cherry, confirming the formal discontinuation of the Mennonite Women organization, and including her resignation as a member of the Executive Committee.
- > Received reports of the work of the Regional Conference Ministers, including items of interest and concern arising from the RCMs' monthly group meetings.
- > Received an invitation to name a representative to the Prairie View Mental Health Center's board of directors.
- > Heard a report from committee members' participation in the Mennonite Church USA Constituency Leaders Council meeting held in March in Hesston.
- > Set the next meeting for April 15.

2019 Calendar

May

21 North Region
Pastor Peer
Greensburg,
KS

June

29 The Walking
Roots Band
Concert
Whitestone
Menn. Church
Hesston, KS

July

2-6 MC USA
Biennial
Convention
Kansas City,
MO

19-20 SCC Annual
Assembly
Pleasant View
Menn. Church
Hydro, OK

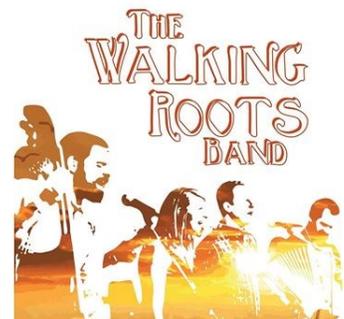
October

16-19 CLC
Phoenix, AZ

Whitestone to Host Summer Concert

Virginia based group, The Walking Roots Band, has included a concert in Hesston in their Great Midwest Tour sponsored by Everence this summer. **ALL are invited to the FREE concert on Saturday June 29, 2019 at 7:00 pm at Whitestone Mennonite Church.** A free will offering will be taken to help the band cover tour costs.

The band is doing a one week Midwest tour before MennoCon19, where Seth Crissman, along with multiple other band members will be helping to lead the combined Youth and Adult worship. Many group members, including Seth, also led youth music at convention in Orlando in 2017.



The mission of South Central Conference is to produce healthy missional congregations by resourcing, connecting and empowering them to be Christ in the world.