

MARCH 2015

Central District Conference sending seven young adults to Global Youth Summit

Seven young people will be attending the Global Youth Summit, thanks to grants through Central District Conference.

The CDC board of directors met in February to award a \$500 grant to each of seven applicants to help them attend the Global Youth Summit at Messiah College from July 17 through 19, just prior to the Mennonite World Conference Assembly. The summit is described as “an oasis for young leaders of the church.” This year, the theme of the event is “Called to Share: My Gifts, Our Gifts.”

The grant specifications also require the grantees to attend the CDC Annual Meeting this summer and to share about their experiences with others in CDC.

The seven recipients of the CDC Global Youth Summit grant are:

ALISON BROOKINS

I'm a first-year Masters of Divinity student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., living the dream of theological education. I am fond of writing, deep thought, British comedy, growing and fermenting things, and taking photos of cats, among other less important things. At AMBS, I am involved with the Intercultural Competency and Undoing Racism team, and helped found a



group to walk alongside queer folk in the Mennonite church. Ultimately, I do what I can to join in the muddling about as we seek a more sacred world for all of us.

SHELBY BURGE

I recently graduated from Goshen College with a Bachelor's Degree in biology and am currently enjoying work as a veterinary technician at a local animal clinic while I pursue a second degree in dental hygiene. I have a lifelong love of horses and spend most of my free time with my beloved mare, Cashmier. I am also an avid artist, writer, and athlete, and I look forward to coaching youth soccer every spring. One of my most important personal goals is to always keep an optimistic disposition!



AARON JOHNSON

Aaron Johnson was born in Wichita, Kan., in 1995, to Barry and Janeen Bertsche Johnson, but his family soon moved to Goshen, Ind., where he grew up with his older sister, Hannah. Barry is a math teacher with Elkhart Community Schools and Janeen is the campus pastor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Aaron attended Goshen High



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CDC Credentialing and Pastoral Changes

On February 22 **Silverwood Mennonite, Goshen, Ind.**, had a farewell service for **Ron Guengerich**, who retired as pastor on February 28. Following a fellowship meal, the congregation "roasted" Ron and Ruth with lighthearted and occasionally tearful stories and memories. Ron continues as president of the CDC Board until June 2015.



SunJu Moon, a member of **Hively Avenue Mennonite, Elkhart, Ind.**, and graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, was licensed toward ordination for her ministry in South Korea on March 13. CDC partnered with the Korean Anabaptist Fellowship (KAF) in the service of licensing which took place at the Christian school where SunJu serves as chaplain. SunJu is the first Korean Mennonite woman minister in the South Korea and in the Korean Anabaptist Fellowship.



Dianne Schmidt was licensed toward ordination at **Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora, Ohio**, and installed as co-pastor on March 15. She will serve along with her husband Dennis, who continues. Dianne is currently a part-time student at AMBS, along with her daughter Julia Schmidt.

In considering the request for licensing, there were numerous email exchanges with the leaders of KAF and MC Canada's Witness that has mission workers in Korea. The Ministerial Committee followed the normal protocols except that SunJu's interview was conducted via video conference call. It has been a blessing to partner with our Anabaptist brothers and sisters in Korea. SaeJin Lee, also a member of Hively Avenue Mennonite, provided valuable assistance as the partnership developed.

CDC Global Youth Summit recipients, *cont. from page 1*

School, and is currently a music education major at Bluffton University. He attends 8th Street Mennonite Church - where he was baptized in 2013 - when he is home, but is also currently the choir director at Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora, Ohio. Aaron has attended every Mennonite Church USA Conference since he was born, and enjoys being too busy for his own good for fun.

SAEJIN LEE

SaeJin Lee is a member of Hively Avenue Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana, where



she has been active since immigrating with her family to the United States from South Korea in 2002. SaeJin graduated from Goshen College (Goshen, Ind.) in 2011, studying fine arts; music; and Bible, religion and philosophy. She serves as the Visuals Editor for Anabaptist Witness, a global Anabaptist

and Mennonite missions journal, co-published by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Mennonite Mission Network, and Mennonite Church Canada Witness.

SaeJin is passionate about the intersection between Christian spirituality and the arts, and is currently preparing for a masters program in Fine Arts. SaeJin was a member of Jesus Village Church in South Korea before moving to the U.S., and is delighted to worship and fellowship with old and new global Anabaptist and Mennonite friends at the 2015 Mennonite World Conference and Global Youth Summit in Pennsylvania.

ANGELO LUIS

I was born in the Philippines and immigrated to Chicago when I was a little boy with my five brothers and sisters. I worked and stud-



ied around Chicago. During college, I studied abroad in Australia and Jamaica teaching music to children. After college, I worked with elderly who had dementia for several years. I decided to attend Candler School of Theology in Atlanta to pursue a Masters of Divinity. Fortunately, Berea Mennonite Church offered a room during my first year of studies. At Berea, I worked with lambs, sheep, and children as part of my ministry. I am currently the Sunday school teacher at Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship. Soon, I will be studying at Methodist Theological University in Seoul, South Korea for a semester. My hobbies are reading, singing, dancing, smiling and making people laugh.

EMILY NYCE

Greetings from Harrisonburg, Va.! My name is Emily Nyce, and before marrying six months ago, I was Emily Hodges. So if you are trying to play the Mennonite game, my maiden name will tell you that I am not Mennonite



by birth. In fact, I grew up in Richmond, Va., and was oblivious of Mennonites until eventually finding my way to Eastern Mennonite University. However, since entering the community and learning of the history and thought, I have quickly found a home in Anabaptist perspectives and circles!

In 2014, I graduated from EMU with a "Religious and Intercultural Studies" major. Also, this is the third year I have worked as coordinator of youth and children's ministries at Shalom Mennonite Congregation. The last several "Mennonite" years of my life have been a time of stretching, growing and ultimate blessing! I am especially thrilled to finally take part in the annual Central District Conference and the unique Global Youth Summit through your support. I cannot express my gratitude enough, and look forward to meeting you this summer!

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MARA WEAVER

I am originally from Bloomington, Ill., and I am a member of the Mennonite Church of Normal. I graduated from Goshen College in 2013 with a major in history and secondary education and a minor in Spanish. After finishing at Goshen College, I spent the summer working with John D. Roth and the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism, during which I had the chance to work on various projects, including a gathering of Lutherans and Anabaptists pursuing continued reconciliation efforts and training for field participants in the Global Anabaptist Profile, a quantitative



and qualitative study of the many faces of Anabaptism in our global church community today.

I then moved to Mexico City, where I spent a year living and working at Casa de los Amigos, a Quaker guest house and community center for peace and international understanding that focuses its hospitality efforts on work with immigrants and refugees as well as local economic justice and alternative economic models, through Mennonite Central Committee's Serving and Learning Together (SALT) program.

In the fall of 2014, I moved back to Goshen and began work as a paralegal with the National Immigrant Justice Center, a non-profit based out of Chicago that offers legal services to low-income individuals seeking immigration relief. Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart is my second church home.

Helping immigrants attend MWC

Mennonite World Conference has invited area conferences to help with registration costs for recent immigrants who would like to attend MWC Assembly, but are not able to pay the full cost.

The full registration cost is \$575, which includes meals. MWC will subsidize \$150 of this cost, and will help attendees find lodging in homes for only \$25/night. MWC is inviting conferences to offer \$150, so that the registration cost for the person attending is only \$275.

Because CDC does not have many primarily immigrant congregations, CDC is inviting congregations to consider whether there are such congregations in their area, even if they are not part of CDC.

If a CDC congregation is able to work with an immigrant congregation to help send some of their community to MWC Assembly, paying at least \$50 per person to help them with that, CDC will pay \$100 per registrant. Contact the Central District Conference office at office@mcusacdc.org or call 800.662.2264 if you wish to participate.

Mark your calendars
NOW
for the

2015 CDC ANNUAL MEETING

June 11-13, 2015
AMBS, Elkhart, Ind.

Life-giving venom

a Lenten devotional by Dan Halterman,
as shared through Columbus Mennonite Church's
devotional series on Friday, March 13, 2015

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” John 3: 14-15

Ohio's largest viper, the timber rattlesnake, is endangered and rare. Several years ago rumors suggested the Division of Wildlife was stocking rattlesnakes in southeastern counties by placing them in balloons, filling the balloons with air, and dropping them from planes. Who wants the job??

Israel / Palestine is home to the Palestine viper, which may be the “venomous snakes” in Numbers 21:6. It grows to more than four feet and is the leading cause of snakebite in its range. When threatened, it lifts its head and hisses, probably a very successful strategy to encourage people to give it space. You can see one safely at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo.

Due to such history and stories, fear of snakes is common and myths about snakes abound. The small creek in my childhood home backyard periodically had a bit of foam at the banks that our neighbor wisely explained was “snake breath.”

The few potentially truly dangerous snakes give all of snakesdom a bad name, and many people will kill any snake. Nearly all human snake bites are accidental – a snake wouldn't waste energy or valuable ven-

om attacking something too large to eat. The “business end” of a venomous snake is the head, specifically the mouth and the venom the fangs can inject. It is the same venom that, collected by “milking” captive snakes and injected into laboratory horses or sheep, forms “antivenom” that counteracts the effects of snakebite in humans. Pure venom can kill; altered venom can preserve life.

What came out of the mouth of Jesus threatened the status quo and was considered dangerous enough to the Jewish leaders to warrant plotting the rabbi's death. His words so threatened the Jewish leaders that they collaborated with the Roman occupation forces to eliminate the man and the poison he was spreading. His words that seemed life-giving to some seemed deadly to others. Jesus understood that the Law was no longer giving life to the people; his attempts to clarify the meaning and purpose of the Law was seen as breaking the Law, making him a criminal worthy of crucifixion.

Camp Friedenswald's Summer Schedule

June 8-13 High School Camp (grades 9-12)

June 15-17 Primary Camp (grades 1-2)

June 15-20 Junior High Camp (grades 7-8)

June 22-27 Pre-junior Camp (grades 3-4)

June 29-July 4 Junior Camp (grades 5-6)

July 6-10 Family Furlough

July 13-17 Family Retreat

Gathering maple sap with Paoli Mennonite Fellowship



On Sunday, March 8, several people from Paoli Mennonite Fellowship in Paoli, Ind., collected



525 GALLONS

of maple sap

(more than two tons)

to cook down to

11-12 GALLONS

of maple syrup.



CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORTER
Volume 59, Number 2, March 2015

Editors: Marlys Weaver-Stoesz

E-mail: marlys.weaver@gmail.com

The Reporter is published six times a year. It is the official organ of communication among the churches of Central District Conference of the Mennonite Church USA. It is distributed free to CDC congregations through the CDC spending plan.

Central District Office:

Lois Johns Kaufmann, conference minister

Emma Hartman, administrator

1015 Division St., Goshen, IN 46528

Toll-free: 800-662-2264

Phone: 574-534-1485

Fax: 574-534-8654

E-mail: office@mcusacdc.org

Web address: www.centraldistrict.mennonite.net