



2018 Report to Central District Conference

Dr. Jane Wood Named President-Elect

For just the tenth time in its 119-year history, Bluffton University's Board of Trustees has named a new president, announcing that **Dr. Jane Wood** will be Bluffton's next president beginning July 1, 2018.

"Dr. Wood has demonstrated success in achieving enrollment growth at several institutions by leading academic program innovation, strategic planning, alignment and visioning processes that moved those institutions forward, along with proven success in building relationships for public and private partnerships to broaden the school's reach," said **Kent Yoder**, chairperson of the Bluffton University Board of Trustees.

"She is a committed Christian with leadership experience at both Catholic and Protestant institutions and a passion for social justice. We are excited that she was drawn to Bluffton for its mission, history and faith tradition."

Spiritual Life Week

Using Micah 7:8b, "Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light," Bluffton University students explored themes of failure and growth during Spiritual Life Week. **Rev. Matthew Yoder of Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora, Ohio**, led many of the events.

Book Collaboration

A book release celebration for "Education with the Grain of the Universe: A Peaceable Vision for the Future of Mennonite Schools, Colleges, and Universities" took place in Musselman Library. Edited by **Dr. J. Denny Weaver**, professor emeritus of religion at Bluffton, the book features how 18 contributors, including several Bluffton faculty members, shape philosophies of Mennonite higher education as they explore intersections of educational theories and practices with Anabaptism, Mennonite thought and peacemaking.

SIMPLY INNOVATE | THE CAMPAIGN FOR BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY

A five-year campaign is underway to move Bluffton into the future. Simply Innovate, the Campaign for Bluffton University, includes a \$26 million comprehensive goal. Construction is underway on the Moyer Nature Center, an early manifestation of the campaign, located in the Bluffton University Nature Preserve. The building's environmental science focus will complement the campaign's signature project, the Austin E. Knowlton Science Center, which is scheduled to open on the main campus in 2020. www.bluffton.edu/giving

Thank you!

Bluffton University currently enrolls **14 students from Central District Conference churches**. Church Matching Scholarship support is \$37,528 for 2017-18.

CDC representatives on Bluffton's Board of Trustees include **Heather Reichenbach, Eighth Street Mennonite Church**, Goshen, Ind.; **Kerry Strayer, Columbus Mennonite Church**, Columbus, Ohio; and **Kent Yoder, Silverwood Mennonite Church**, Goshen, Ind.

#BeaversAll

Andrew Renner, a math major from Cairo, Ohio, is following in his father's footsteps at Bluffton. The sophomore basketball player shares not only an alma mater with his father but also a coach. **Christopher Renner '94** played for Bluffton's head coach, Guy Neal, all four years of college. **The Renners are members of Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora, Ohio.**

Read more about Andrew and other Bluffton students, faculty and staff at www.bluffton.edu/beaversall

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