



buzz

MennoCon21

Bring the Peace!

Mennonite Church USA's Biennial Convention theme was "Bring the Peace!", one of the three points of the Journey Forward process. The many meanings of peace – personal peace, interpersonal peace, extending peace to others, and the centrality of Jesus in making peace were the focus of the worship sessions. Looking at peace and reconciliation in situations of oppression, using one's finances to effect social change, working for climate change, teaching children self-understanding, and learning self-understanding in polarized conversations were all addressed in the seminars available to virtual attendees.

Running through all of these presentations was the focus on reconciliation with God, others and ourselves and the importance of Jesus at the center of everything.

Here are two prophetic voices I heard:

Meghan Larissa Good:

"Proclamation of Jesus that skips out on the work of reconciliation loses its purpose; but reconciliation work that gives up on the proclamation of Jesus, loses its very ground."

"True reconciliation involves true healing of mind and body and spirit of every person who's involved in that encounter. [We] don't have that power in [us], but with an active connection with Jesus Christ, we can be channels of a power beyond us . . . we have tried it so little, we don't know there's a difference . . . There is more! There is more available!"

See **Peace** on p. 4

MennoCon Cincinnati reflections

Several of the worship services at MennoCon21 were very good (considering it was all virtual so there wasn't the sensory experience that convention worship usually is). But the highlight for me was the sermon by Jon Carlson, lead pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania. This sermon, in a worship service themed "Trust the peace," focused on trust, the resurrection of Christ, and love. Separately I have heard messages on these themes before, but I don't think I have ever heard them linked together so powerfully. This was one of the best articulations I recall of an Anabaptist basis for nonviolence. The countercultural nature of the message of Jesus is not merely acknowledged but forthrightly declared. And lest we Mennonites relax, believing that the problem is only with other people "out there" who don't fully "get it," Carlson challenges us on how difficult we too find it to live by trust as fully and radically as God intends.

If you would like a very good content summary with some of Carlson's more memorable quotes, see Paul Schrag's article in Anabaptist World (<https://anabaptistworld.org/trust-me-love-comes-first-pastor-tells-mennocon21/>) Or you should later be able to watch the sermon video through the Mennonite Church USA website. Carlson's clear communication and delivery style makes this a sermon I highly recommend taking in.

—Neil Amstutz, WMC Pastoral Delegate to MCUSA

Finances

Waterford PPP Loan Forgiveness and Allocation of Operating Surplus

Hello Waterford. I hope this communication finds you well. The Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) and Facilities and Finance Ministry Team (FFMT) would like to bring you up to speed on the status of our operating surplus from the prior fiscal year ended 4/30/2021, including the status of federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness. The application for PPP loan forgiveness was approved in early June. Praise God! Upon forgiveness of the PPP loan, PPP funding was included in the Operating Fund in the prior year's budget to cover payroll, as required by PPP rules.

After including the PPP funding in our Operating Fund, the total surplus for FYE 4/30/2021 is just over \$95,000. The surplus from the prior year represents the amount that the Either Fund giving exceeded the expenses that were incurred. In other words, all designated giving (both designated Operating and MEF fund giving) was used for its designated purpose. The Either Fund giving then covered the difference in each fund and exceeded the remaining expenses for the year which created a surplus. Final totals (approximately) were \$850,000 of revenue (giving + PPP funding), and \$755,000 of expenses, hence a \$95,000 surplus.

FFMT recommended that of the \$95,000 surplus, 72% be allocated to the Operating Fund and 28% allocated to the MEF fund based on their equivalent shares of the 4/30/2021 budget. This represents approximately \$68,000 of the surplus being allocated to the Operating Fund and \$27,000 to the MEF fund. Of the \$68,000 allocated to the Operating Fund, FFMT also recommended that \$24,000 be allocated to undesignated surplus and \$44,000 be allocated to mission & service needs outside of the congregation.

Given the financial resources that God blessed Waterford with in an incredibly challenging year,

FFMT feels like we are called to be generous with our excess. We have tasked the Mission & Service Ministry Team (MSMT) with identifying local and global needs that could be supported with this additional mission & service funding. MLC and FFMT welcome your suggestions for local and global missions & service projects/needs. Please direct those suggestions for consideration to [Denise Diener](mailto:denisediener@yahoo.com) (denisediener@yahoo.com) as chair of MSMT.

In terms of where WMC stands in its overall financial position, after allocating \$24,000 to undesignated surplus, the cumulative undesignated surplus as of 4/30/2021 was \$62,000 which is close to the FFMT recommended level of 10% of our annual budget. In addition to the undesignated surplus, WMC has numerous other designated surplus funds that have been saved from prior years to cover building repairs, family life expenses, among other things. MLC and FFMT rejoice in the strong financial position God has blessed WMC with. We also rejoice in the generosity of WMC members and how that generosity touches many lives both in the WMC community and beyond.

—[Andrew Hartzler](#), Treasurer

Ministry Leadership Council is excited to share that Marty Lehman has accepted the invitation to serve as our congregational coach! Check next week's Buzz for more about Marty and how we will be welcoming her into this roll.

Community Life

MYF Camping Trip

The weekend of July 2-5, eight high school students and eight sponsors went camping in the Manistee National Forest in Michigan, . . .



They began their days eating hearty breakfasts and savoring fresh campfire coffee.

. . .with a stop on the way up at Silver Lake Sand Dunes.



Daytime activities included canoeing, hiking in the forest, playing disc golf, and cooking meals over a fire.

Mission

From the Prairie View Support Committee

With school beginning in early August the SOS (Supporting our Schools) Committee is again becoming active. School is appearing to be more normal (at least at this time) for the coming year, and we are asking Waterford members to become more active in our support of Prairie View. These are some ways you can do that.

1. Underwear in sizes 6-8 boys and girls is always needed. It should be new or very clean.
2. Inexpensive sweatpants in sizes 4-10 for girls and boys. They should have an elastic waist and can be gently used or new. The Depot, garage sales, Goodwill, Salvation Army and closets are good sources for these.
3. Facial tissues for the classrooms.
4. Help with food:
 - a. We are providing breakfast for 65 people on Friday, August 6. Food should be dropped off at Prairie View by 7:30 a.m. or in the case of fruit salads the day before by 4:00. We need six 9x13 pans of the Breakfast Bake at the bottom of page 191 in the Waterford 50th Anniversary cookbook. We also need six of Belle's Fruit Salad on page 168 in the same cookbook. Pans and bowls will be cleaned and left in the church kitchen after the event unless the owner makes other arrangements. Please let Len Harms (lenharms@comcast.net or 574-238-5918) know by Sunday, August 1, if you can help with this project. Reminders closer to the date will be sent to people who volunteer to help.
 - b. We will also be providing mid-winter snacks for the staff in February. More will be announced about that later.

—Len Harms, Jane Otto, and Fancheon Resler; Prairie View Support Team

MennoCon21

Peace (cont. from p. 1)

Glen Guyton:

"To be transformed, we need to reject fear, reject the sinful nature, worldly disputes and false purity, and have faith that God is big enough."

"Don't be mad the church has changed, be glad it has endured."

As we move through the next biennium, the theme will be "Be Transformed," the third leg of our Journey Forward.

As delegates to MC USA virtual convention, we had access to worship services, Bible Study sessions and more seminars than we could normally attend as delegates, with only one 2½ hour delegate session at the very end. It was basic business, with no resolutions discussed or passed. There will be an in-person delegate meeting in Kansas City in May of 2022 to discuss the membership guidelines and process several resolutions that have been presented to the Constituency Leaders Council in the past two years.

—Janet Shoemaker, WMC Delegate to MCUSA

Income Opportunity

We have decided to downsize and buy a tiny house on wheels. We are looking for a place to park the house and live for the next several years. If you have a property that would allow for our little house with possible access to utilities, and would be interested in some rental income, please contact Chris and Lori Judson at 574-606-8420 or lorijudson@gmail.com

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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be sent to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

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