

# *The FMC Vine*

First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana

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*Editor: Alexandra Bidner*

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**July 2017**

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## **Fatherhood** by Pete Shungu

Being a father- can't imagine anything greater  
For my two wonderful girls, I give thanks to the Creator  
Mother God, Mother Earth, and Mother Melissa  
I just gotta play my part, cuz I wouldn't wanna miss a  
Moment of your journeys, seeing you grow  
Got me expressing the way I truly feel through my flow  
1 wife, 2 daughters, 3 women, 4ever  
So blessed to be surrounded by these women that I never  
Will take for granted, we're nurturing these seeds we planted  
Not knowing where their growing's gonna lead them on this planet  
But knowing that I'll be that rock, sure as my name is Peter  
Pete, Daddy, Papi, my life made sweeter  
Through your existence, and as I reflect  
I promise to be a model of love and respect  
In the way I treat your mama, in the way I treat you  
And if I ever fail, please feel free to  
Check me on my male privilege, I'm not perfect  
But I wanna be the best man I can, cuz you're worth it  
I wanna teach you, so many lessons to impart  
Let me start- by saying I love you both with all of my heart  
And as I teach, let me not lose touch  
With the fact that as you grow, you'll also teach me so much  
So I promise to learn what makes you each tick  
Hoping you grow close with each other like me and Uncle Nick  
But whoever each of you grows to be  
Know your two biggest fans will always be your mama and me  
We promise to love you both for who you are  
Not trying to set some kind of unattainable bar  
Not trying to live vicariously through you  
Just wanna help you each let your true self shine through  
Shine being the operative word-- shine bright  
And illuminate the world with your light



Malia and Naima, gifts from the skies  
See my reflection when I look into your beautiful eyes  
See, I been doing a lot of reflecting lately  
Cuz the state of the world right now pains me greatly  
But whenever I feel like I'm struggling to cope  
I look over at my daughters and it fills me with hope  
I see you growing up to share your powerful wisdom

I see you growing up and challenging isms  
I see you growing up and breaking glass ceilings  
I see you growing up and bringing much needed healing  
I see you growing up and beginning to discover  
That the gifts you possess are best employed when you share them with others  
Women of color, I see you spreading love and compassion  
While you each discover your passions  
I'm gonna share my love of music, gonna share my love of sports  
Whatever passions you develop, you'll have my support  
Running around with Malia brings me joy  
In the backyard at Grandpa's house like when I was a boy  
They say time flies, and its true  
Before I know it, Naima will be running too  
Running through obstacles, life puts in your way  
I'll help you brush off the dirt and know it'll be ok  
Our little April Shower and our September's Child  
Malia and Naima, you make me smile

### **Formal Evaluation of Pastor Debra is Complete**

Thank you to all from FMC who provided feedback to Pastor Debra regarding her ministry! We received 60 survey responses. The majority (over 60%) of the responses came from congregants over age 60, while only 13% came from those under the age of 40. Over half of the respondents (n=35) had attended FMC for at least 16 years, while 19% (n=11) had attended 5 years or less.

The results show strong affirmation of Pastor Deborah's work at FMC across her many areas of ministry, with particular appreciation expressed for her work in pastoral care, spiritual direction, the young adult ministry, worship planning, and music. Respondents enthusiastically affirmed Pastor Debra's interpersonal skills, responsiveness to people's needs, sincere caring, and her friendly and hopeful spirit. She was described as accepting, a good listener, and as one who "embraces newcomers and regulars." She was praised for her "ability to connect with a variety of people, to listen deeply and compassionately, and to provide insights into situations." She was commended for her creativity and flexibility, as well as for "encouraging involvement in FMC among a wide range of people."

Several respondents expressed appreciation for Pastor Debra's sermons, which were described as full of "insight and honesty." Preaching was identified as a potential growth area by some respondents, with several noting that Pastor Debra's skills in this area have already improved and will likely continue to develop over time. When asked if there are additional areas in which Pastor Debra should become more involved, no clear pattern emerged, and instead several respondents cautioned that she could become over-stretched in her part-time role as Associate Pastor.

Overall, the following comment nicely sums up the congregation's feedback regarding Pastor Debra and her ministry:

*"Deb's graciousness, positive outlook, sense of humor, and ability to really listen to and respond to congregants are all wonderful gifts that enhance her ministry. We are very lucky to have her!"*

Pastor Debra expressed gratitude for the evaluation process and to all who provided feedback. She noted that the specific examples given were very helpful, and comments about her strengths and growth areas resonated with her. She expressed gratefulness for the congregation's ongoing support for her in this ministry role.

- Pastoral Support Committee (Sarah Lubienski, Sheryl Dyck, & Jon Welty-Peachey)

## Reflections from the Central District Conference Annual Meeting

June 22-24, 2017 – Bluffton, Ohio



*First Mennonite Church belongs to two regional conferences of Mennonite Church USA: Illinois Mennonite Conference and Central District Conference (CDC). The 2017 CDC meeting was attended by Rebecca Bare, Mary Krick, Randy Nelson, Marcia Nelson, Janet Liechty, Phil Martens, and Pastor Michael. Here are some of our impressions:*

by Mary Krick...

“Abounding in Love... Abiding in Grace” was the theme of this year's Central District Conference 2017 annual meeting held on the campus of Bluffton University in Bluffton, OH. Right from registration I felt a friendly, well-organized atmosphere. The first day was designed to give plenty of time to talk with old friends and meet new ones. Opportunities to talk with others and hear what is happening in their faith communities continued. But it wasn't all visiting.

There were three worship services centered around John 14:27-31, John 15:1-9, and John 15:9-17. These services included lots of wonderful singing and children's stories. The call to worship, which was repeated, was powerful and gave time to focus. The sermons were presented as conversations between two or three people.

The delegate sessions were efficient and included enough explanation to understand the work that had been ongoing. We listened, and we learned. A number of churches told their stories which gave voice and face to people. We also heard reports from the treasurer, the Missional Church Committee, the Ministerial Committee, the Listening Committee, MCUSA, and MCC Great Lakes. I especially liked being assigned to a table for the meetings. These tables became a "small group" for the conference.

We heard much gratitude for Doug Luginbill's first year as Conference Minister, especially as his term began as the Conference was facing a review this past year.

It became clear that CDC is a vibrant conference. Becoming a member of CDC takes more than a year as potential church members and the conference learn about each other. Open Table Fellowship had completed the membership process and was welcomed as a new member by a unanimous vote. Three other churches are in the midst of this process and look forward to becoming members next year. Representatives from the Allegheny Conference were visiting to explore the possibility of a number of their congregations joining with CDC in a regional membership.

Looking back, it is quite amazing that so much was shared and accomplished together in such a short time. It helped tremendously to have been given a large binder report book when we checked in that included background information, financial reports, committee reports, reports from related institutions, and reference materials for this year. And there was still time to tour Bluffton University's beautiful campus, see the RAWtools demonstration and visit the art display in the Visual Arts Center.

I am grateful for the opportunity to attend CDC and for the privilege of conversation while riding over with Rebecca Bare. It was wonderful to experience God's love and grace through this Conference community.

## CDC reflections continued

by Randy Nelson...

Worship is a big part of CDC with a service on each of the three days of the conference. It is obvious that the conveners take it very seriously. I found the worship to be less fulfilling than last year but there were some good moments. The highlight for me was Krista Dutt's sermon on Thursday evening relating some of her experiences in gun violence prevention working with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Chicago. The background during the service was a live screening of a RAWtools blacksmith working outside the auditorium creating a garden tool from a gun. She gave examples of simple expressions of care and concern that helped to make some Chicago street corners at least temporary havens. There were several very good groups that provided a wide range of music that enriched every worship service. Our last two services were held in Yoder Recital Hall. It is very beautiful space that also enhanced the music.

For each session, you are assigned a table with about 8 people that you sit with throughout the conference. This is good strategy for getting to know in some depth a few of the attendees. During each session there is a time for table sharing with prompts from the conference leadership. We were also asked to provide written input back to the conference about selected topics.

One topic for which our response was requested was the presentation by our featured speaker Drew Hart. He is the author of the book *Trouble I've Seen* that some at FMC read last month. He said that the definition of racism as "personal prejudice" helps to protect those who operate either consciously or unconsciously with a racial bias because it is difficult to prove and easy to deny. A more productive way of looking at racism is "a racialized system that organizes our society". The biggest problem is not the overt racists in our society but the white supremacy that is an integral part of how our society is organized. For most of us, our acceptance of the dominant culture comes naturally but this puts many people at a distinct disadvantage. As the church, our task is to make sure that our Christian principals take precedence over the dominant culture of white supremacy in which we live.

CDC continues to grow. That is both good news and bad news. The bad news is that many of these congregations are being pushed out of other conferences. The good news is CDC will benefit from having these congregations. It is a two year process to join the conference. Open Table Mennonite Fellowship, a new congregation in Goshen, applied for membership last year and was accepted this year. There were three congregations that applied for membership this year. Berea Mennonite Church from Atlanta, GA is coming from Southeast Mennonite Conference. They have some very interesting ministries that you can read about on their website (<http://www.bereamennonitechurch.org/>). Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship and Raleigh Church, both in North Carolina, are coming from the Virginia Mennonite Conference.

This is second CDC annual meeting that I have attended. For me, they have been good experiences and I would encourage others to attend when possible.

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## CDC reflections continued

by Marcia Nelson on Mennonite Women USA...

Quaint was what came to mind last year when I registered for my first CDC Annual Meeting and needed to indicate my choice for dinner, among them: Mennonite Women or Mennonite Men. Visions of worshipping on separate sides of an aisle came to mind. But this year I knew better. Mennonite Women Central District are part of a vibrant Mennonite Women USA (<https://mennonitewomenusa.org>). Although I am new to the group, I find with this group of women the support, empowerment, and friendship that I have found with other women's groups throughout my life.

This year's gathering was celebratory as it is the 100th anniversary of a distinct Mennonite women's group. Groups begun for mission and service have evolved to also include Sistercare, support of women in leadership, support for international women, publications and resource-sharing. Back to the dinner... our space in Bluffton's Marbeck Center was well decorated for a party with polka-dot balloons, party hats, whistles, etc. I appreciated this opportunity for beauty seized with joy. Janet Liechty helped plan the dinner as she serves as First Vice President. At the dinner President Deb Martens welcomed us and Wendy Chappel-Dick led us in singing from a songlist that she had put together for the January Women's March: songs for walking and dancing, calming and distracting, for when we get angry, for standing around. Marlene Bogard, Executive Director, was our speaker and she took the opportunity to share with us stories from the newly published *Circles of Sisterhood: A History of Mission, Service, and Fellowship in Mennonite Women's Organizations* (by Anita Hooley Yoder, 2017, Herald Press) which gave name and face to Mennonite women who have built our past.

I look forward to the next opportunity to be with Central District Mennonite Women at the Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald, September 15 - 17. Talk to any FMC woman who has been there for an enthusiastic endorsement.

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## CDC reflections continued

by Rebecca Bare on Resonate, MCUSA's new hymnal project:

I always enjoy returning to my alma mater, Bluffton University. It is a beautiful campus. While I was there this past June for the CDC meeting, I visited the CDC archives, which have moved to a larger space since I worked there. I also revisited the outdoor sculptures at the Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center.

Other people are telling you about other parts of the weekend. I am going to focus on Resonate. This is the name of the new hymnal project (although the new hymnal itself may have a different name). Just a note: *Hymnal: a Worship Book* has been highly influential ecumenically.

The new hymnal is scheduled for publication in 2020. The 13-member committee, who hail from both the U.S. and Canada, are hard at work collecting song requests. The current hymnal collection boasts about 900 songs and worship material. The new hymnal will contain about half of these, plus new ones. The committee is receiving around 100 pieces of new material per month.

A survey is currently open at <http://www.heraldpress.com/MennoniteWorshipAndSongCollection/> or [www.mennomedia.org/resonate](http://www.mennomedia.org/resonate). The survey includes not only suggestions for new songs, but also your opinion of what songs from the current hymnals should be included. There is even a spot for what songs should not appear in the new hymnal. The survey will be open until the end of 2017.

Here are some highlights that show the complexity of the project:

- As stated above, there are 100 new pieces per month plus the 900 current pieces to go through.
- There are over 20 languages in the U.S. How do we represent all of these cultures?
- The distance between committee members. Although this is easier with the Internet.
- A system of decision-making needs to be determined.
- Even in our small group of 50 people, there were varying opinions about inclusion of specific songs.

The new hymnal will contain additional features such as projections and an app edition for research and planning worship services. They also want to include visual arts in the new hymnal. An accompaniment book will be published concurrently.

What people in the congregations can do:

- Pray for wisdom
- Submit original content (both songwriters and composers)
- Donate at <http://hymnalproject606.com/>

Churches are asked to send in a record of what has been sung over the years during worship.

Finally, October 22 has been set aside as a “Great Day of Singing”. There is a new sampler booklet that is downloadable at MennoMedia, which may be used on this Sunday. This booklet is called “Resonate: Join the Everlasting Song.”



### ***Update from the Property & Finance Committee***

Our committee has had a busy several months. We would first like to thank all who came out for the spring work day. Many tasks were accomplished including installing the window air conditioners, cleaning the gutters, repairing broken fence pickets and much raking and cleanup work around the church grounds. The workday crew was joined by the peace gardeners who put down mulch along with many other spring chores.

The committee would also like to call attention to the two new drinking fountains that replaced the old units in the upstairs foyer and fellowship hall. Both had been out of service for far too long. The foyer unit would have required a significant effort to repair and, while the fellowship unit was repairable we felt that it too was getting close to the end of its life. The new units are less obtrusive and allow for wheelchair access not possible with the old ones. If you bring a water bottle to church, the upstairs fountain features a glass filler spout for easier glass and bottle filling.

Finally, the committee has considered the call from Phil at the annual meeting to deal with our boiler. We have been relying on Phil exclusively for many years to service and repair our present unit after past difficulty finding a professional technician able to service our make of boiler. In the process of soliciting bids for replacing the boiler we identified two companies able to service the units and indeed called on one to replace a leaking relief valve this spring. Given that we are now confident that the current boiler is serviceable, we decided to forgo immediate replacement as it is otherwise quite efficient if a bit temperamental.

The committee has also been examining our options for improvements to the air conditioning systems for the offices, library and sanctuary. The current sanctuary unit and the window units we use in the other locations are all aging and not as efficient as current technology would enable. In addition, the refrigerant used for the sanctuary air conditioning will not be produced after 2020 making refrigerant replacement after this date increasingly expensive. We have made an initial recommendation to council regarding air conditioning replacement and are currently looking at the costs and economic and environmental benefits of such a move. We hope to be able to produce a more detailed recommendation for the congregation later in the year.



## Hello from the Kompaore's

Hello Folks at FMC-Urbana!

I seem to have a number of Facebook friends from First Mennonite, so I am happy to keep updated on what some of you are doing. I just wanted to take these few minutes to thank you at FMC for your generous annual gifts of the last few years, in spite of the fact that I have not made it to Urbana lately. My father's health in the last few years kept my priorities in Ontario. Maybe next time? Or maybe someone would like to come this way and pay us a visit?

Just to give you a little report of our gifts in the past year: Last year in 2016 we received all totaled about 27K through CTEN before deductions: 9966.84 went for expenses, and ministry gifts, such as helping out several translation projects at ANTBA, and 11,224.63 was my net salary after deductions. This year at our six month mark, I have received so far about 14K: 3,789.88 for expenses, and 7,252.18 net in salary. I do sometimes get small honorariums and usually my expenses are covered for the services I provide. So that helps out as well as some personal investments. So I am so thankful that the Lord provides in one way or another.

Today I just came back from convocation ceremonies of the Bible School of Daniel's denomination where I taught Biblical Geography, the Pentateuch, and History of the Church. It was quite a celebration with graduates bringing their families, taking pictures, songs, and exhortation. I admire those students who in addition to managing families and working full time, they are at night class three hours x 3 nights a week for an entire school year. So I can imagine the sense of accomplishment at the end of their program. Some will go on to be pastors. Others will serve their church in numerous other ways. Many of

them are women. A few have come from Muslim backgrounds. Most of all they have gained good knowledge of the Bible and Christian living and will continue to reach out to others for Christ.

One bit of news that may interest you: I am going to India in July! An Indian Christian ministry also has several translation projects in some Indian minority languages (and lower caste) languages in southern India – of the Dravidian language family – unrelated to Hindi and other Indo-European languages. In the area where I am going, Telugu is the major language. Since they have begun the Old Testament, they have asked me to come and help check the translation. My first trip will be a short two weeks, as an exploratory trip, July 14-28. One exciting thing is that the flight from Ouaga to Mumbai is almost direct, with just a short stop in Addis Ababa – just 12 hours. Of course it takes me another day to get to my destination. Usha Zehr is aware that I am coming, but I don't know yet if we will see each other since she is in a different part of India. The wife of the Indian director is Mennonite from Ohio.

Please give my warm greetings to all. Thank you for continuing to pray for our ministry. We have our challenges and our joys, but always feel privileged to serve Him where he sends us.

Blessings and Joy,  
Anne G and Daniel Kompaore

*P.S. Recently Steve Wiebe-Johnson at the Africa desk at Mennonite Mission Network informed me that donors can send us gifts through them. He assured me that the percentage that they would take off would be 5% or less. CTEN takes off 10% of donations. If this could interest you, you can donate on-line via their website. Look for our names, and donate under our names, or send a check to Mennonite Mission Network designating the gift for Daniel and Anne Kompaore.*



This recipe is from the kitchen of our own Evelyn Good. She was talking about Runza as a regional food of Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas and I asked her for her recipe. She let me know that there are even Runza fast food restaurants in those areas. Typically, Runza is a yeast dough bread pocket with a filling consisting of beef, pork, cabbage or sauerkraut with onions and seasonings. They are baked in various shapes such as a half-moon, rectangle, round (bun), square, or triangle.

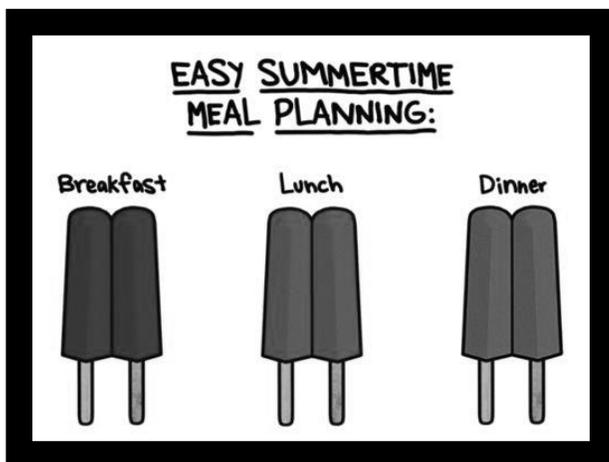
Evelyn's recipe is a faster version but, in my opinion, is a delicious option! The crescent rolls, cheese, and hamburger become healthful when combined with the cabbage and onion so no worries there... And, yes, I have Evelyn's blessing to share this recipe with you!

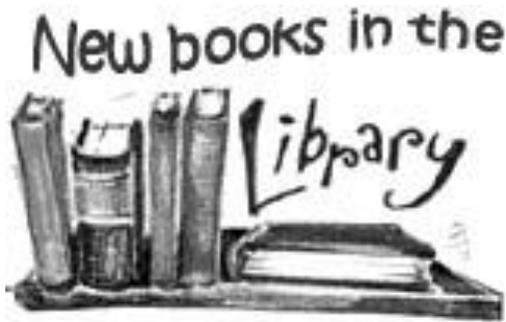
### Runza Casserole

- 2 tubes crescent rolls
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 lb hamburger
- 4 cups chopped cabbage
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup shredded cheddar cheese
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped onion

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brown the hamburger and drain the fat. Add the cabbage and onion and simmer about 10 minutes and drain. Add the soup. Pat one tube of the crescent rolls in the bottom of a 9" x 13" pan. Pour the prepared mixture into this pan on top of the layer of crescent rolls. Sprinkle both cheeses over the meat mixture. Unroll the other tube of crescent rolls and place on top. Bake about 35-40 minutes until browned.

Evelyn sometimes uses more cabbage and more cheddar than mozzarella, so do feel free to make this to your own taste.





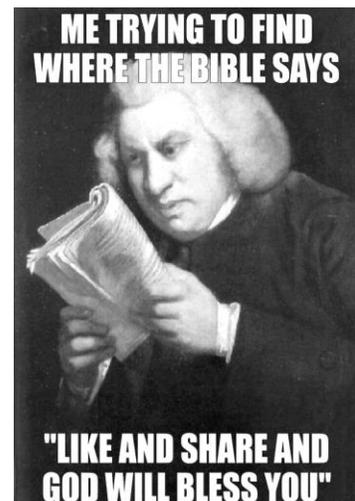
The library committee recently added several books to our FMC Library. Thanks to those who donated these books. The books have been entered into our FMC library data base which may be accessed through the FMC homepage.

### **Adult Books:**

- *I Shall Not Hate – A Gaza Doctor’s Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity* by Izzeldin Abuelaish
- *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis
- *Pembroke – a Rural, Black Community on the Illinois Dunes* by Dave Baron
- *Mohandas: A True Story of a Man, His People and an Empire* by Rajmohans Gandhi
- *Gifts of Many Cultures – Worship Resources for the Global Community* by Maren C. Tirabass and Kathy Wonson Eddy
- *Singing: A Mennonite Voice* by Marlene Kropf
- *Let all Within Us Praise: Dramatic Resources for Worship* by Patricia Shelly
- *Songs for Renewal; a Devotional Guide to the Riches of Our Best-Loved Songs and Hymns* by Janet Janzen
- *Mennonites in American Society – Volume 4* by Paul Toews and Jim Butti – from the Mennonite Experience in America Series (the library owns all 4 volumes)
- *One Foot in Heaven* by David Waltner-Toews

### **Children’s books:**

- *Psalm 23* by Tim Ladwig
- *A World of Prayers* by Jeremy Brooks
- *Because Nothing Looks Like God* by Lawrence & Karen Kushner
- *Jubilee* – Ellen Yoemans





## Update from Natalie Bidner, regarding her Sehgal internship

India is a place like no other! With so much diversity at every corner, I'm always seeing something new. Deciding to travel to India for a 2-month internship was a somewhat challenging decision. I love to travel, but going somewhere that is so different and far away is a little intimidating. One thing that makes it easier is knowing that a familiar face is here, to give advice and aid me when needed. That familiar face and gracious person is Usha Zehr. About three weeks into my internship, I traveled to Aurangabad from Gurgaon (south of New Delhi) to see Usha, the sights, and spend time in a different environment.

As many at FMC have mentioned, Usha is a very hospitable host and an excellent tour guide. Luckily, I had the opportunity to experience this for myself. I was able to stay at her home and travel to the Ellora and Ajanta caves, along with seeing the city of Aurangabad. It was a nice time to talk about home and FMC, along with eating some American comfort food. While she showed me more of India, I felt more at home and also got to snoop on Ben's baby pictures!

As I was picking out some music to listen to one evening, I came across many familiar CD's, with a few linking back to FMC! It was a reminder of how far our fellowship and FMC family can travel. Receiving care packages at college is wonderful, but being connect with my church family while being so far away from home gave me a perspective on how lucky I am to be part of a church that is so welcoming and kind.

For my internship, I am working on researching new crops that can be grown in saline soil and water in the Mewat district of Haryana, India, one of the poorest parts of India. I have traveled to Mewat several times to speak with farmers and learn about agriculture in rural India. It has been eye opening to see how different the practices are, but also how similar the fundamentals of agriculture are.

No part of India is the same. The rumors of how hot it is, how colorful, and how bad the traffic is are all true. I am in the technological hub of India, and even with all the wealth, the streets still flood during monsoon season, there is trash on the street, and pigs, dogs, and cows are everywhere. Seeing this new culture and environment have helped me understand the world a little more and gain a new perspective!





## **Delegates accept Future Church Summit results as ‘guide for discernment’** ORLANDO, Florida (Mennonite Church USA)

The delegate assembly re-convened Saturday morning, July 8, at the Mennonite Church USA 2017 convention in Orlando, overwhelmingly voting to accept the final report and outcomes of the Future Church Summit (FCS) as a guide for discerning the church’s ongoing work and ministry.

Executive Board (EB) member Samuel Voth Schrag presented the EB’s proposed resolution stating that the delegates “receive the FCS Theme Team’s report as the direction of our national body.” In response, delegates expressed various concerns, including the need for more time, a lack of specifics in the [FCS Outcomes Report](#), and that important voices present at the FCS and in the wider church were missing in the Delegate Assembly. Some non-delegate observers yelled out in protest with concerns that the delegate process was undermining the summit’s more “representative process.” Several delegates said they were not ready to affirm the report as the church’s future “direction.”

Following what’s known as a friendly amendment, the final resolution stated: “We, the delegates of Mennonite Church USA, affirm the collective work of the Future Church Summit (FCS) participants, and we receive the FCS Theme Team’s report. We commend this report to the Executive Board. We intend that this report be a dynamic document that is offered to the church to guide further discernment for living into God’s calling in agencies, conferences, constituency groups and congregations.”

Incoming moderator David Boshart of Wellman, Iowa, said the report would shape the priorities of the Executive Board in the upcoming biennium in a continuing process. The next convention — Kansas City in 2019 — would “serve as a checkpoint” for progress on that work, he said. Orlando moderator Patty Shelly formally transferred authority to Boshart at the end of Saturday’s session. “In this moment I am filled with love for our church,” Boshart said.

Delegates also heard greetings, music and prayer from the four-person delegation from the Mennonite Church in Tanzania, which will be traveling to churches around the country in the coming weeks, and affirmed a resolution thanking all those who served in leadership at the convention. Mennonite Church USA executive director Ervin Stutzman, who is retiring next spring, also received a special expression of gratitude.

The Anti-Racism Team and Listening Committee gave summary reports, noting some frustrations over inclusion and representation of people of color during open mic times, also noting the widely voiced concern that Latino/a and Asian histories were not adequately represented in the FCS 100-year timeline exercise. They reminded the gathered body that the FCS has begun to name ongoing dynamics of harm to people of color that is rooted in the church’s history and culture. They identified improvements exemplified in the FCS process and leadership throughout the convention, but challenged the church to continue to do better.

Earlier, the FCS participants held their final session, reviewing all the common themes that had been produced over the previous two days and using polling technology to register their level of affirmation. Participants voted on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) to express their level of confidence in the reports of

the Theme Team, which was charged with gathering and compiling all the input from the table groups and finding common threads. Separate polls were taken of the report from the bulk of the summit, which looked at broader ideas and values, and from Friday evening's session, which specifically focused on hopes and vision for the denomination.

Both pieces received strong agreement that they accurately represented the conversations of the FCS. The first section had almost half of participants — 49 percent — giving a 5 to the report, and another 40 percent giving a 4, with an overall average of 4.3. The second section received a 5 from 45 percent of participants, a 4 from 40 percent and a 3 from 11 percent, for an average of 4.2.

At the start of Saturday morning's session, Sarah Bixler offered a prayer that summed up the week's journey: "This week we experienced many things. We have had moments of hope, moments of disappointment, moments of joy, moments of pain — and we hold these in prayer together now with one another as the church."

The Future Church Summit Outcomes Report can be found at: [mennoniteusa.org/resource/future-church-summit-outcomes-report/](http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/future-church-summit-outcomes-report/)



A timeline of Mennonite history helped Future Church Summit participants consider how legacies of the past shape dreams for the future.

- reported by Vada Snider, Mennonite World Review



Mennonite Church USA delegates discuss the Future Church Summit resolution July 8, 2017.

- reported by Vada Snider, Mennonite World Review