#1 Dare to Dream: Welcoming and Supporting Unauthorized Immigrants

Paul Weaver, professor and Luz Varela, student at Bluffton University

How can the church and church institutions be genuinely welcoming and supportive of all newcomers, including those who have been here for years? In this workshop you will have the opportunity to hear from a young Mennonite woman who is undocumented. She will share her personal story of making a life for herself in this country. We will also share about a program which a group of Bluffton University alumni, faculty, staff and church members has started to assist young people who have been denied federal and state financial aid because of their immigration status. We will also give a brief overview of the Dream Act and Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

#2 Dreaming Beyond the (Annual) Budget: Legacy Gifts Planning for the Congregation

David Miller and Vyrone Schmidt, representatives from Everence Financial

More than 90 percent of the largest gifts to charity come from bequests, but the local church and conference receive almost none of these. Why not? What can you do to open this and other additional avenues of gift income for your congregational ministry? This workshop is particularly useful for pastors and other church leaders who would like to understand how Planned Giving tools can expand their ministry.

#3 Exploring the Lyrical Language of Anabaptist Gospelization

Rick Stoner, associate pastor, Bethel Mennonite (WL)

This workshop will focus on the research findings from my doctoral of missiology studies at Fuller Theological Seminary: a lyrical language of Anabaptist gospelization. Reflecting on how the gospel takes a hold of us and how we begin to live and tell this gospel narrative, this “gospelizing” flows from our faith tradition, which gives us a framework to live out of. The lyrical nature of this is focused on how, like a song, the gospel is sung into our lives and how it then flows out of us. This moves gospelization from a new technique towards a poetic gospel lifestyle. This workshop would be a time to explore this idea further together.

#4 Giving Them the Good News: Preaching in a Post-literate Age

Dave Maurer, pastor, Bethel Mennonite (WL)

We live in a time of cultural shift. It is a time in which technology is reshaping the way in which we communicate. It is also a time in which fewer people know or have even heard the gospel story. This has implications for our preaching and may suggest that we make intentional shifts in how we proclaim the good news and our resurrection hope. It is not that we change the message itself or that we attempt to “entertain” people; but rather that like those who translate the Bible into other languages, we attempt to “speak their language,” the language of a post-literate age.

#5 Healthy Crucial Congregational Conversations

Terry Shue, MC USA denominational minister

Crucial conversations are conversations where the stakes are high, there are differing opinions and the emotions are high. We can either avoid them, charge ahead and have them badly, or learn a better way. We live in a day when the opinions of people are wide and varied. Our news and entertainment have voices on the margins yelling out their opinions with little respect for ongoing relationships with other persons. Surely in the church we can find a better way. This workshop is an exercise to develop practical skills to talk about important things in healthy and honest ways.

#6 Making History OUR Story: How Rootedness in Anabaptist History Can Effectively Shape the Future Story of Your Congregation

Alex Dye, youth pastor, Oak Grove Mennonite (WL)

This workshop is for ministers, youth ministers and anyone interested in exploring how the History of the Anabaptist Church and its practices can and should still speak into our churches and culture today, especially in a post-modern world searching for the embodying of deeper and genuine Christ-centered living. Participants will receive a greater understanding of the value of involving history in their workshop, sermons and classrooms as well as some practical ways in which this could be accomplished.

#7 The Necessity for a Congregational Vision and Strategy

David Eshleman, pastor and church planter

Participants will see the importance of finding God’s vision for their congregation, who is responsible to lead the vision and how to develop a strategy for fulfilling God’s vision for the coming year(s). Dave speaks from his 50 years of pastoral experience as well as working with many congregations the past six years.

#8 New Abolition Movement: Human Trafficking

Marilyn Rossiter, pastor, Summit Mennonite

This workshop will explore the second most lucrative illegal crime in the world – human trafficking. Economic and spiritual aspects will be reviewed, as well as concrete ways we can help. Information will be included about a new opportunity for empty-nesters to make a difference in the life of a child, ages 12-17, right here in Ohio.

#9 New Wineskins: Evaluating Your Congregational Structure

Gary Martin, transitional pastor at Central Mennonite

Jesus taught that the new work of the Spirit needs new structures which are flexible. Missional transformation in congregations often requires examining the organizational structure. It is common for congregations to spend more energy than necessary in making decisions and keeping the congregation working together toward a common vision, because the structure is inefficient or perhaps even dysfunctional. This workshop will define and clarify the five major functions of an organizational structure, and provide

(Continued on reverse side)
tools for locating where these functions are assigned in any congregation’s structure, and evaluating how well they are working. The workshop will conclude with a simple model for assigning these five functions. Aha moments are guaranteed!

#10 Our Stories Untold

Hilary Scarsella, co-coordinator for MC USA’s Women in Leadership Project and associate at Our Stories Untold

This workshop will offer an overview of the different initiatives across the denomination that are currently working to both address the problem of sexual violence and abuse and promote healthy sexuality. It will also offer information on how faith communities can become safe places for those who have experienced abuse as well as those who are vulnerable to it.

#11 The Prayer Path

Dana Short, Ohio Conference prayer coordinator

In this workshop, you will receive a brief introduction to the spiritual discipline of a prayer walk. You will have the opportunity to walk a prayer path set up especially for ACA 2014. As you walk and pray, you will have the opportunity to meet Jesus, just as the two travelers to Emmaus did (Luke 24:13-35). Along your way, you will stop at interactive prayer stations to help you engage in this unique, individual prayer experience.

#12 Speaking of Death

Tony Doehrmann, pastor, Jubilee Mennonite and Roger Kauffman, physician

A pastor (who has experienced the death of his wife) and a physician will speak from their experiences related to death and dying. This workshop will help to start the conversation about death and dying. How does the Christian deal with end of life issues? It will help to develop a greater comfort level in working with people that are dying and walking alongside their families.

#13 Supporting Caregivers – Being “the Village” to Caregivers and their Loved Ones

Ginnie Horst Burkholder, member, First Mennonite, Canton and author of Relentless Goodbye

This workshop will 1) highlight frequent challenges to the experience of the caregiver 2) provide a list of ways to support caregivers 3) discuss “what caregivers don’t want to tell you” and 4) consider how a church environment of self-awareness and self-nurturance can promote caring for each other. (This workshop offered SAT. only)

#14 What’s Up With Young Adults?

Kathryn Wengerd, young adult, North Lima Mennonite

We keep hearing that, in many cases, young adults are dropping out of the church. What are some of the dynamics involved with this trend? What are some things that young adults struggle with? How can the ministry to young adults be strengthened? What are some positive ways that local churches can work at relating with young adults? Be part of this discussion that will be led by a young adult involved with an Ohio Conference church.

Workshops will be offered on Friday at 5:15 p.m. and on Saturday at 1:10 p.m. You may attend and sign-up for two workshops. Please provide an alternate choice in case one of your first two choices is full or there is a cancellation. Please complete one sign-up sheet per person. Please DETACH AND RETURN THIS SLIP ALONG WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM. Thank you!!

1st workshop choice

2nd workshop choice

Alternate workshop choice

Name

Congregation

Phone

Email

___ Please check here TO REGISTER TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP ONLY and complete the form above. Cost is $10 per workshop FOR THOSE NOT REGISTERED FOR ACA. You are welcome to stay for a meal and a worship service. Most workshops will be offered on Friday and Saturday. See workshop descriptions for those only offered once.

___ Check here to attend this workshop on Friday at 5:15 p.m.

___ Check here to attend this workshop on Saturday at 1:10 p.m.

___ Check here to reserve Friday dinner ($10.00)

___ Check here to reserve Saturday lunch ($8.00)

Enclose fee totals (payable to Ohio Mennonite Conference), and send to Ohio Mennonite Conference, PO Box 210, Kidron OH 44636