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## Report to Ohio Conference from MennoMedia

### Spring 2017

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#### New Resources for the Entire Church, from Herald Press

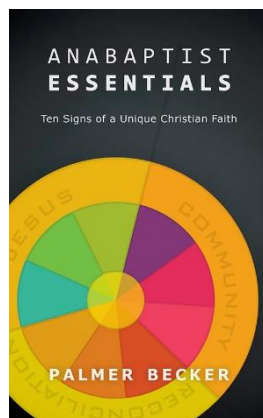
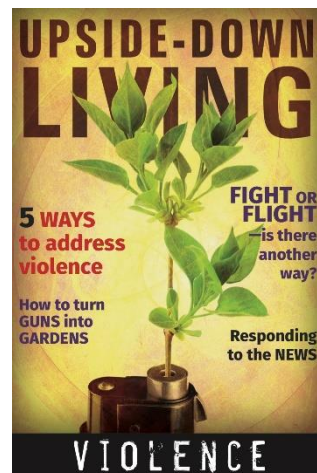


#### Smart Compassion

When is doing good not good enough? When does “doing outreach” actually do harm? In the vein of *When Helping Hurts*, Wesley Furlong’s *Smart Compassion* calls Christians to strategic, prayerful, and biblically based approaches to compassion. With evangelical Anabaptist conviction and psychology-informed insight, Furlong guides readers through three aspects of smart compassion needed for the flourishing of families and neighborhoods: community empowerment, radical hospitality, and healing presence. Discover wise strategies that bring Jesus’ love to your neighbors. Shift your paradigm from fixing everybody’s problems to loving, listening, discerning, and responding. Learn to “suffer with” someone without burning out. \$15.99/available February 2017

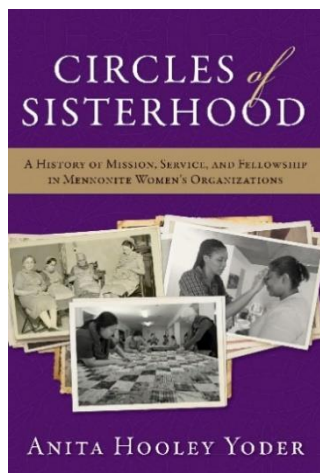
#### Upside-Down Living

Weary of Christian faith wrapped in a flag and trapped in your heart? Tired of faith as usual? Live out your Christian faith through the lens of Jesus. Follow values that seem so countercultural they appear to be upside down. Each compelling six-session Upside-Down Living Bible study helps us encounter the teachings of Jesus and wrestle with living out the kingdom here and now. The Bible isn’t a cookbook with solutions for every ethical dilemma, but it helps us raise the right questions, encounter the teachings of Jesus, and discover new ways of faithful living in the world. Ideal for Sunday school or Bible study sessions, each topical study covers a specific theme or issue and comes with thought-provoking discussion questions and activities. Live upside down. Topics include Sabbath, technology, money, identity and aging, violence, and sharing faith. \$9.99 each/available beginning February 2017



#### Anabaptist Essentials: Ten Signs of a Unique Christian Faith

Jesus. Community. Reconciliation. These sum up the core values of Anabaptist faith and life, writes pastor Palmer Becker in this concise new resource. In *Anabaptist Essentials*, Becker introduces readers to the key convictions and practices of Anabaptism, the Christian tradition of the Amish, Mennonites, and Brethren in Christ. From the believers within a 16th-century movement to those today who try to follow Jesus, create community, and practice peace, Anabaptists have a rich witness to offer the wider world. Designed for study by small groups and for use as a resource for Christian formation and conversation, this clear, readable guide to what makes Anabaptism unique will equip readers to live out a more radical commitment to Jesus. \$12.99/available March 2017



## **Circles of Sisterhood: A History of Mission, Service, and Fellowship in Mennonite Women's Organizations**

The saga of Mennonite women's organizations is a story of struggle and triumph, productivity and misgivings, questions and celebrations. During the 20th and 21st centuries, women's groups have offered Mennonite women a means of serving others by sewing clothing, laboring over quilts, rolling bandages, and packing school kits. Women's groups have also provided Mennonite women the opportunity to test their skills as leaders and give voice to callings they felt in a church that has not always valued their gifts for ministry. In this vibrant portrait of Mennonite Women USA, Anita Hooley Yoder paints with both broad and subtle strokes the 100-year history of an organization that nurtures local church women's groups and connects Mennonite women across the world.

## **Hymnal Project Update**

What songs connect you to God and your community and empower you to serve? What songs do you turn to in joyful or difficult times? What are your heart songs?

These are questions the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee is asking and is inviting Mennonites to respond to in a survey at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MWSC\\_Heart\\_Song](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MWSC_Heart_Song) as it embarks on a listening and study phase toward developing a new hymnal collection to be released in 2020.

"We want to hear from people across the church about the music and worship practices that sustain them," said project director Bradley Kauffman. "We are developing intentional ways of listening and are asking what existing content has the durability to enhance worship in coming decades."

The new worship and song collection is being designed to succeed *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (1992) and its supplements *Sing the Journey* (2005) and *Sing the Story* (2007). This new collection will take into account the breadth of the Mennonite church and the diverse ways Mennonites sing and worship, will be available in bound and digital formats, and will include an accompaniment volume. The collection is to be owned by and available throughout the denominations. The survey is open to everyone who has specific ideas for a new collection. Those filling out the survey can recommend songs from existing Mennonite collections and beyond for inclusion in the new collection. The survey will remain open throughout 2017.

Another important element is a call for new and original content. Authors, songwriters, composers, and artists can submit their original work online at <http://mennoniteworshipandsongcollection.org>. This online submissions portal will be active throughout 2017.



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