



Mennonite Education Agency 2018 Report to Ohio Conference

This report highlights our work in cooperation with colleges and universities, seminaries, Ministerios Hispanos and primary and secondary schools in the Mennonite School Council (MSC), Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN), and others.

*MEA provides networking, support, collaboration, resources, professional growth opportunities, scholarships, and more, to ensure exceptional academics with Anabaptist values. MEA seeks to transform students to be Christ followers, service givers, peace seekers, rigorous learners, difference embracers and community builders. **Here are MEA highlights from 2017:***

Higher Ed. Task Force Proposal

The committee on Higher Education Future Church-School Relations created an initial proposal outlining a new structure between MEA and MC USA affiliated institutions of higher ed. The proposal includes an updated, standardized agreement between MEA and each of the schools and creates a Mennonite Higher Education Association (MHEA).

New Mennonite Higher Ed. Presidents

MEA assisted with the search for and calling of a new president for Goshen College (Indiana), Dr. Rebecca Stoltzfus, and for Bethel College (Kansas), Dr. Jonathan C. Gering. MEA is assisting with the presidential search at Bluffton University (Ohio).

Investment Committee Update

The MEA Total Fund experienced a strong one year period ending June 30, 2017, with assets of \$151.5 million, and a one year return of 14.1%; this surpassed the Absolute Objective benchmark of 6.7% and the Relative Objective benchmark of 12.9%. The total fund outperformed several of the larger, well known educational endowment funds for the one year period, including Harvard (8.1%), Yale (11.3), Princeton (12.5), Notre Dame (12.6), Duke (12.7) and Stanford (13.1).

Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA)

IBA continues serving leadership development with an Anabaptist foundation in Hispanic congregations. One of the most economical academic programs across the church, IBA has over 250 students and 40 centers with a yearly budget of \$170,000. This budget also includes the Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary (SeBAH), continuing education and the monthly publication Meno Acontecer.

Professional Development Conferences

Mennonite Educators Conference 2018 takes place in February with the theme “Unexpected Encounters...God Surprises.” **Education Leaders Gathering** took place in March 2017 with the theme “Beyond Buried Treasure: Turning Hidden Resources into Assets.”

Encounter Bible Curriculum

2017-2018 is the pilot year for Mennonite Schools Council’s new *Encounter* Bible curriculum, which draws on Anabaptist theology. MSC hopes to make *Encounter* available for broad use in the summer of 2018.

Mennonite Schools Council Celebrations

In 2017, Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, VA) celebrated its 100th year. Warwick River Christian School (Newport, VA), and Lancaster Mennonite School (PA) each celebrated their 75th year. Academia Menonita Betania (Aibonito, PR) celebrated its 70th year.

Anabaptist-Based Accreditation

MEA is assisting five schools involved in accreditation this year: Bethany Christian School, Dock Mennonite Academy, Freeman Academy, Quakertown Christian School and Eastern Mennonite School (undergoing a mid-point review).

Anabaptist Leadership Institute (ALI)

Bluffton University began offering a faith-based concentration for educators seeking a master’s degree. This grew out of MEA’s ALI program, which offers ten credit hours towards graduate work in faith-based education.

Finally, from all at MEA, we want to say THANK YOU!

Thank you to members of your conference who are serving on Mennonite educational boards and committees.

Thank you to the 19 congregations who support Mennonite education with total giving of \$81,815.37 from Jul. 1, 2016 to Jun. 30, 2017.*

**Giving includes gifts for higher education, MEA, Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education and Ministerios Hispanos.*

