

Perspective



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Congratulations, Sue!! Sue Short graduates from AMBS

On April 27, AMBS held its commencement service honoring 22 graduates. One of those honored was Sue Short, pastor at Zion Mennonite in Archbold. Sue anticipates completing her Master of Divinity with a major in Pastoral Ministry this August. Sue completed most of her degree from a distance through the MDiv Connect program. Sue states, “My seminary experience at AMBS helped shape my pastoral voice, provided opportunities to explore my gifts, and nurtured my spiritual life in a warm and encouraging environment.”



To read more about the commencement service and Sue’s reflections, visit <https://www.ambs.edu/news/meet-the-22-graduates-of-ambs-class-of-2024/#h-sue-short>.

The Schleithem Confession for Today

By: Keith Lyndaker Schlabach

Editor’s note: Keith is pastor at Millersburg Mennonite. As a student of the AMBS Journey Program, he wrote the following lesson response as his attempt to bring the Schleithem Confession

into modernity. Follow his blog at <https://keithlyndaker.wordpress.com/> for more reflections.

Introduction

In the spirit of our early Anabaptist siblings, we gather today to affirm our commitment to the path of Jesus, seeking to embody the principles of peace, justice, and community as expressed in the original seven articles so revised as follows:

Seven Articles Revisited

Article I: Baptism (Commitment)

Baptism is a sacred act of transformation and commitment. It is for those who have turned from the shadows of their past and seek to walk in the light of Christ’s love. This excludes infant baptism, which lacks

Perspective: 1) The inter-relation in which a subject or its parts are mentally viewed. 2) Point of view; capacity to view things in their relative importance.

Social Justice Sunday perspective

Don’t forget that Social Justice Sunday is on June 23. If your congregation is unable to celebrate that day, consider choosing another Sunday.

Resources are available at <https://shorturl.at/d3pxi>.

After you celebrate, tag us on Facebook or send us a story about how you celebrated. Be sure to include photos. We want to see how you participated in this day!

Please distribute Perspective copies to:

- Pastor(s)
- Church chairperson
- Youth sponsor(s)
- Delegates
- Duplicate for other church leaders

personal conviction and understanding. We affirm this with the clarity and conviction of our forebears while at the same time respecting diverse understandings of baptism among other faith traditions and agreeing that no one will be forced to be re-baptized unless it is their sincere desire to do so.

Article II: The Ban (Accountability)

We confess that in the past, the ban was not always used appropriately and has caused many to be wounded by the church. We believe in the power of community to guide, correct, and restore. When one among us strays, it is with a gentle spirit and a hopeful heart that we seek their return to the fold, not through coercion, but through the transformative power of love and the mysterious workings of the Holy Spirit.

Article III: Breaking of Bread (Communion)

The table of the Lord is open to all who have been baptized into the community of faith. It is a table of remembrance, of unity, and of hope. We break bread together, walking in the way of forgiveness and mutual respect, recognizing the diversity of our journeys, yet celebrating the unity of our purpose.

Article IV: A Peculiar People (Separation)

We stand apart from all systems of domination and oppression, aligning ourselves not with the empires of this world but with the kin-dom of God. Our separation is not one of elitism but of a prophetic witness to the way of Jesus, who resisted the temptation to set up an earthly kingdom yet was incarnate and gave his life for the world.

Article V: Pastors in the Church (Leadership)

We believe that all members of Christ's Body are called to be ministers of reconciliation. Leadership within our community is not about power or hierarchy but about serving and shepherding. Our pastors, men and women, are called to guide, to care, and to walk alongside, embodying the servant leadership of Christ.

Article VI: The Sword (Nonviolence)

We renounce the sword, namely all weapons of violence, for the way of Jesus is the way of nonviolence. We commit to resolving conflicts not with force but with the tools of dialogue, reconciliation, and restorative justice.

Article VII: The Oath (Truthfulness)

Our speech is to be simple and our commitments sure. We forgo the formality of oaths, choosing instead to live lives of such integrity that our words need no additional weight.

Conclusion

As modern-day Anabaptists, we hold these truths to be the foundation of our faith and practice. In a world rife with division, we seek to be a community of healing, wholeness, and hope, following in the footsteps of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

(Author's Note: The original Schleithem Confession was written in 1527 and was the first attempt to codify Anabaptist principles. The Confession consisted of seven articles, including adult baptism and strict pacifism, along with other principles essential to the early Anabaptist faith. The original text can be found at <https://courses.washington.edu/hist112/SCHLEITHEIM%20CONFESSION%20OF%20FAITH.htm>)

Ohio MCC Bike Ride

Join a group of bicycle riders from July 13-14 near Kidron, Ohio, and bike 100 miles over two days to support MCC's Gaza relief fund.

You will ride approximately 50 miles each day over roads and paved bike trails. Visit <https://mcc.org/events/ohio-mcc-bike-ride> to learn more and to register.



Salary guidelines perspective

MC USA Church Vitality office and Everence have updated Pastor Salary Guidelines. These guidelines provide “a platform for open and informed conversation regarding compensation between pastors and their congregations,” according to Bill Hartman from Everence. More information can be found at <https://shorturl.at/pwP6S>.

Podcast perspective

MC USA has a new podcast entitled *Lead/Follow: Inspiration for Today's Pastors*. Lead/Follow is a video podcast hosted by Glen Guyton. The first season debuted the beginning of May and will include 10 episodes. The podcast can be best viewed on MC USA's YouTube channel but can be listened to on Apple podcasts and Spotify. Subscribe at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/leadfollow/>.

Anabaptist World perspective

Anabaptist World is looking for submissions related to interfaith relationships. Submissions should be between 600 and 1200 words and may include photos or other art. Submissions are due by June 25. Visit <https://shorturl.at/NgONI> to learn more.

Perspective deadlines

June 18 for June 20 issue

July 2 for July 5 issue