

A HISTORY OF MENNONITE YOUTH MINISTRY 1885–2005

BOB YODER, EDITOR

This volume explores attempts of the Mennonite Church and its predecessors to nurture the faith of youth, with the intent that the history will serve as a witness for this ongoing task. It begins with an historical survey of Mennonite youth ministry and moves on to eight essays on specific topics.

BOB YODER, DMin, campus pastor and assistant professor of youth ministry at Goshen (Ind.) College, began this research as part of his doctoral studies. He is a former conference youth minister and congregational pastor and camp worker in United States.

CONTENTS

PART 1 – Overview of Mennonite Youth Ministry Efforts

Growing faith in Mennonite youth: 1885–2005, *Bob Yoder*

PART 2 – Congregational Efforts

A brief history of Mennonite involvement in Christian Endeavor and Youth for Christ, *Randy Keeler*

A program, an organization, and a movement: MYF 1948–1968, *Jonny Gerig Meyer*

Bible quizzing as youth ministry, *Barb Draper*

Called to youth ministry, *Susan Allison-Jones*

PART 3 – Efforts from Outside the Congregation

Why camping?, *Josh Hertzler*

Short-term work for long-term change: An early history of SWAP, DOOR and Group Venture, *Matt Harms*

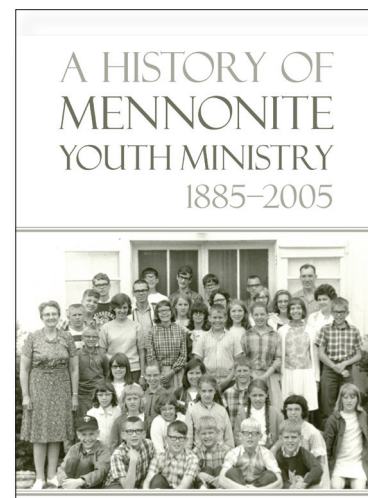
The Mennonite Young People's conference movement, 1919–1923, *Anna Showalter*

Getting Outtatown, *Dana Honderich*

Conclusions

Joined at the heart: The intergenerational path, *Anna Rehan*

Let me explain... no wait, too long. Let me sum up, *Kent Miller*



“Mennonite Youth Ministry, 1885-2005” is a wonderfully documented case study of the complexities of youth ministry within one community of faith. With young people as the focal point, it describes the tensions between people committed to retaining a strong community characterized by long standing traditions and people concerned with responding to the distinctive needs perceived among young people.

– Mark H. Senter III,
from the Foreword

If you wish to receive information about this book when it is completed, please send a message with your name and email address to the Institute of Mennonite Studies, ims@ambs.edu.



Anabaptist Mennonite
Biblical Seminary

INSTITUTE OF MENNONITE STUDIES

3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517
574.295.3726 ph 574.295.0092 fx
bngingerich@ambs.edu • www.ambs.edu/ims

A HISTORY OF MENNONITE YOUTH MINISTRY 1885–2005

CONTRIBUTORS

Susan Allison-Jones is an ordained pastor in the Mennonite Church who has served as Mission Worker (Botswana - Mennonite Church Canada), Pastor (Breslau Mennonite Church), Youth Pastor (Mennonite Church Eastern Canada) and Voluntary Service Worker (Egypt - Mennonite Central Committee). She lives in Baden, Ont. where she is experiencing the joys and challenges of church planting!

Barb Draper is a member of Floradale Mennonite Church and works part-time for *Canadian Mennonite*, a news-magazine of the Mennonite Church Canada. She also works at other writing and editing projects, especially those relating to the Mennonite church and its history in Ontario. Barb caught the passion for youth Bible quizzing long ago and over the years has participated in writing questions and serving as judge or quizmaster.

Joshua Hertzler graduated from Goshen College in 2011 with a B.A. in History and a Secondary Education Teaching Certification. He is currently living in Goshen and hopes to begin teaching in a larger city in the near future. He hopes to continue his study of history at some point in the near future by attending graduate school for African Studies. Josh attends Benton Mennonite Church in Benton, Ind. and is a member of Landisville Mennonite Church in Lancaster, Pa.

Dana Honderich completed a Masters degree in Theology at Conrad Grebel University College at the University of Waterloo and an undergraduate degree at Columbia Bible College. Her passion for working with youth and young adults has led her from camp, to church, to the Outtatown discipleship school and other university and college settings. A native of New Hamburg, Ont., Dana currently lives in British Columbia, and enjoys reading, great conversations, and living life to the full.

Randy Keeler is a professor at Bluffton University teaching mostly youth ministry and practical theology courses. His past experiences in youth ministry includes being an inner-city youth worker, youth pastor, conference youth worker, camp director, and campus pastor.

Jonny Gerig Meyer is a graduate of both Goshen College, where he received a double B.A. in History and Religion, and of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, where he completed a M.A. in Theological Studies. He is currently adjunct professor of Philosophy at Goshen College, and also works as a freelance web developer. He lives in Goshen, Ind., with his wife, Hannah, and is a member at Benton Mennonite Church.

Matt Harms graduated from Goshen College in 2009 with a History degree. Currently, Matt lives in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and works for Mennonite Central Committee as Program Manager for the East Europe region.

Kent Miller is the denominational minister of youth and young adults for Mennonite Church USA. He relates to conference youth ministry leaders, young adult initiatives, Mennonite camps and campus pastors in Mennonite colleges and universities. Kent focuses on establishing connections amongst these groups in order for them to share resources and trends between themselves and the wider denomination.

Anna Rehan is an ordained minister in the Mennonite Church. She is currently the Area Church Youth Minister for Mennonite Church Saskatchewan (since March 1985). She has served as Youth Ministries Facilitator for Mennonite Church Canada (2003-2011); youth worker for what is now known as Mennonite Church British Columbia and Sherbrooke Mennonite Church in Vancouver, BC (1982-1985). She lives in Langham, Sask., with her husband where they enjoy growing sour cherries and vegetables and do a lot of canning.

Anna Showalter is from Waynesboro, Pa., and a member of Marion Mennonite Church. She graduated from Goshen College in 2010 with dual degrees in History and Music. Since then she earned her Master of Music degree in piano performance from the University of South Florida in Tampa and is now a student at Duke Divinity School.

Bob Yoder is an ordained pastor who serves as campus pastor and assistant professor of youth ministry at Goshen College, Goshen, Ind. He has ministered in a variety of settings including congregational, camp, conference and college. Bob is a member of College Mennonite Church where his wife, Pamela, serves on the pastoral team. They have two children, Josiah and Mira.