

## REPORT FROM MCUSA CONVENTION 2019

Every other year over the July 4th week the collection of Mennonite churches and agencies to which CCAM affiliates, gathers together for worship, equipping and decision making. This biennium's convention was held in Kansas City, MO. CCAM sent Luanne Livingston and Pastor Dale to represent our congregation. While reporting to the congregation from the convention is a priority, it would be difficult to impossible to adequately capture the workings of this event in words. However, to communicate at least some of the aspects of the gathering we have put together the following resources:

- A compilation of the articles only related to the delegate sessions can be found on our website. More extensive access to articles from the entire convention can be found using the "KC Sauce" link on our website or going to the website of MCUSA.
- A running journal of sorts from Pastor Dale's perspective on his participation. Available upon request (specify hard copy or email)
- A summary comment from each Luanne and Dale (below). They would be more than willing to flesh out more thoughts with you in person and attempt to answer questions you may have.

*"There was much to appreciate at the convention. Highlights would be the worship times, morning and evening; teaching at the delegate sessions from Ephesians; and our small delegate table discussions. Every Mennonite church in MCUSA, is different. How each church works out the renewed commitments will also look different from a church that is 10 miles away or 3,000 miles away. The Mennonite church is not perfect, does not have all the answers, and probably never will. I do have assurance that we have leaders at MCUSA and at the local levels who are committed to listening to the Lord and discerning His will and direction." -Luanne Livingston*

*"God's Spirit was active among the convention delegates as we studied Scripture with humility and gifted guidance. I came to convention thinking it would likely be my last but not because I want to leave MCUSA. I simply questioned if it is worth the investment. I left sensing that it absolutely is worth the investment! MCUSA is far from perfect but where else would we find a stream of Jesus' Church free from hang-ups? I'm committed to sticking it out. We have too much yet to learn about ourselves and our siblings through this difficult journey the Mennonite Church is on. The Spirit is breathing on us, speaking to us and reshaping us into something greater together than we could be apart. It is the most faithful move we can make to stay connected and learn to love better." - Dale Meyers*

Walking together as a Church is hard work and often messy work but walking together is what we are called to do in the book of Ephesians. This letter was the teaching text of the delegate assembly. "We do not walk alone, God walks with us," Tom Yoder Neufeld taught. We walk in humility, with patience, forbearance and forgiveness. These are the identifying marks of Jesus' Church. We have our unity in Him. May CCAM reflect these characteristics as she walks together with the broader church and sees the face of God in others.