

**VMC News**

·         **Perspectives on the World Christian Movement** is a class for believers from all walks of life to get threaded into God's story and experience God's heart for all peoples. *Perspectives* will open the eyes of your heart with fresh knowledge and understanding of God's unchanging purposes and why they are relevant to your life. The Spring 2017 class will meet at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry Center, 711 S. Main St., Harrisonburg, Va. The first two sessions are free. For registration details, find the class at perspectives.org or contact Carol Tobin at 540-435-9887.

·         The **School for Leadership Training**, January 16-18, 2017 at Eastern Mennonite Seminary will explore why it’s so hard to get along with those who aren’t like us as we learn more about how we can live into Jesus’ teaching to love our neighbor. Learn more and register at [www.emu.edu/slt](http://www.emu.edu/slt).

·         The **Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center** (VBMHC) invites you to join us for our Annual Meeting at 6 PM on February 3, 2017 at Park View Mennonite Church. The Annual Meeting is a celebration of the work done at VBMHC in 2016 and an invitation to support and join in the work of carrying out the mission and vision of the center in 2017 and beyond. The guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Dale Stoffer, Professor of Historical Theology at Ashland Theological Seminary (Ohio), is described as a walking encyclopedia of church history.  Guests at the annual meeting are invited to enjoy the complimentary (and compliment-worthy!) meal prepared by Marjorie Rohrer Shank free of charge. Please RSVP by January 27 to reserve your seat. To RSVP, call 540-438-1275, email info@vbmhc.org, or fill out the form [here](https://www.vbmhc.org/annual-meeting/), and please be sure to indicate how many are in your party.

·         **Virginia Mennonite Conference Winter Delegate Session** will be February 4 at Waynesboro Mennonite Church from 8:00 - 3:00. The church is located at 1801 Monroe St, Waynesboro, VA. Register at virginiaconference.org/2016/11/register-winter-delegate-session/

·         Are you interested in learning more about conflict transformation, facilitation and gaining peace-building tools for working and organizing in the community? The Center for Justice and Peacebuilding invites you to attend **SPI Community Day** on February 17, 2017. Cost is $50 and includes a full day of presentations, workshops and lunch. For more details and registration visit <http://www.emu.edu/cjp/spi/spicommunityday/>.

·         **Virginia Mennonite Conference Ministers Retreat** will be February 24-26, 2017 at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Williamsburg, Va. Presenters Sheryl Shenk and Ted Swartz will do dramatic interpretation of scriptures, with the theme "Life is a Pilgrimage." Learn more and register at virginiaconference.org/news/ministry-retreat-to-look-at-life-as-a-pilgrimage/

·         Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center is very pleased to announce that Greg Yoder has been named Executive Director and began his tenure on January 1, 2017. Greg is probably best known as a member of the Walking Roots Band--singer, player of many instruments, composer, and even rapper. He will be not quite full time at VBMHC while he finishes this semester teaching music at Redeemer Classical School in Keezletown, VA. Prior to this he taught five years in the Rockingham County Public Schools where in 2014 he was named Teacher of the Year at Peak View Elementary School. He also operated a farm and CSA for the past two years. Greg graduated from Goshen College with a degree in Music and Education. Greg is a creative, visionary high-energy person who brings not only many of the skills we are looking for in a director but in his own words has a passion for "connecting contemporary followers of Jesus with their spiritual forbears to deepen and enrich their faith." In making music, he has had opportunities to connect with people of many different ages and backgrounds, experience he wants to expand upon at VBMHC. These opportunities have included relating to Mennonites and Brethren, as well as other Christian denominations. Greg, his wife Kristina and their young son attend Community Mennonite Church.

 **Courses and learning tours:**

·         **Registration is now open for “Places, People, & Prayers, A Cross-Cultural Encounter with the Holy Land,”** an Israel/Palestine study tour offered May 4-27, 2017, through Eastern Mennonite Seminary.  Trip leaders are Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor of New Testament, and Kevin A. Clark, EMS Campus Pastor.  “Places, People, & Prayers” is open to all interested travelers, with or without seminary credit.  NOTE: All MCUSA pastors are eligible to apply to the MCUSA “Come and See” program for a $500 scholarship to assist with trip costs.  If interested, please contact Dorothy Jean Weaver at (540) 432-4276 or at weaverdj@emu.edu at your earliest.