



Band selection process underway

Music is an integral part of the Youth Convention experience. It is a way for us to connect and communicate with each other. It is also a way of expressing ourselves to God in an act of worship. We have many opportunities to listen and actively participate in a wide variety of music experiences during convention week — worship services, workshops, seminars, small groups, coffee houses, etc. We want to celebrate those experiences.

There is great diversity within our denomination, not only in music styles but also in music preferences. And because of that diversity, we want to celebrate the richness that song brings to our hearts.

In preparation for convention week, we invited people from across the church to be a part of the worship experience — to be a member of the worship band. In this experience, we envision bringing together the diversity of the church into one place to lead youth and sponsors into the presence of God through song. We consider the responsibility to lead youth in worship so important, that all members are to have made a decision to follow Christ and have experience in leading worship.

Applications have been sent to many interested in applying for the music team. Selections will be made soon.

Video

The Youth Convention office is preparing a promotional video for Nashville 2001. This video will be available from your conference youth minister or your conference office sometime in November. Due to the cost of production, we do not send one to every congregation, but rather send a number of copies to each area conference office. Please call us at MBCM if you do not know to which district or conference your congregation belongs.

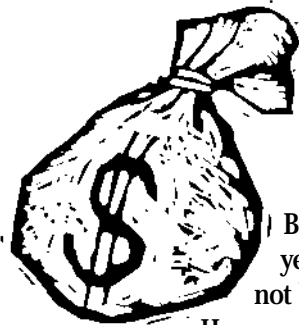
Sponsor handbook

Sponsor handbooks are being prepared for the contact sponsor of each youth group. This handbook will contain information to better prepare you for Nashville. It will also contain guidelines for convention week and assistance to follow up with your youth group once you are back home. If there are any specific questions that you need answers to concerning Youth Convention, please call or write us so that we may include those in the handbook. Once we have the handbook complete, it will be posted on the web so that you can reference it or download it at your convenience.

Scholarship challenge

One of the primary goals of Youth Convention is to ensure its accessibility to all youth groups, regardless of cost. To that end, the budget will include more than \$50,000 in financial aid. However, past experience shows this will not be enough to cover all needs. Consequently, we are again challenging youth groups to raise additional funds to help others less fortunate be able to attend.

As your youth group is raising funds for your expenses, we also invite you to raise additional funds and send them to the Youth Convention office to help with the costs of others attending. For more information about the scholarship challenge, contact the Youth Convention office.



How much will it cost?

Because the entire program is not yet put together, the budget cannot be finalized for Nashville 2001.

However, we project that the cost for registration, room and board will range from \$380 - \$410 per person. Please note that this amount includes a Youth Convention program that is one night longer and includes two more meals than was the case at our last two conventions.

We are sharing this projected cost per person at this time so that you will know how to plan for Nashville 2001. Please note that this is our projected cost per person for the event, and a final cost will be set in the fall. This amount does not include, of course, the cost of transportation to and from Nashville.

Registration forms coming in December

Registration forms for the Nashville 2001 Youth Convention will be mailed to every congregation in December. The packet of registration forms will be sent in bulk in care of "youth sponsor." Please look for this in your church mailbox in mid-December. Registrations on line will begin Jan. 1, 2001. Check the web site for the latest information at Nashville2001Youth.mennonite.net. The deadline for registration without a late fee is April 30, 2001.

Visit the WEB!

The Nashville 2001 web site is now up and running! Log on at Nashville2001Youth.mennonite.net. The site includes information that is in this newsletter. Also, information and pictures about the Opryland Hotel and the City of Nashville can be viewed. You may download the newsletter from this site also.

Posters

Every congregation will be sent a poster that provides introductory information about Youth Convention. We anticipate that the posters will be mailed at the end of October. Please display them in a prominent location in your church. If you should need additional posters, please contact the Youth Convention office and we will gladly send you more.

Newsletter

Please feel free to copy this newsletter as needed. Or if you would like to request more copies from our office, just give us a call.

The next newsletter will feature what is developing in the area of service projects. Also, wazzup with mTOWN! Costs for youth and sponsors to attend Nashville should also be finalized.



Memnonite Youth Convention
PO Box 1245
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On the Road to Nashville

Vol.1, No. 2 September 2000

Meet the worship leaders

Marisa Cantu, Glen Guyton and Lana Miller have been selected to lead us during the ten worship sessions. Here is a bit of introduction to each one.

Glen Guyton



Glen has served as youth minister at Calvary Community Church in Hampton, Va., since 1998. Along with his wife,

Cynthia, Glen oversees programming for ages 4 to 22. He earned a bachelor's degree in management from the US Air Force Academy with a minor in Japanese. He has served as an officer in the Air Force for four and a half years and worked for Mennonite Mutual Aid as a counselor following his conscientious objector (CO) discharge in the winter of 1998. He also spent time as a licensed middle school teacher following his master of education coursework at Old Dominion University. Glen currently serves as a board member for the National Inter-religious Service Board for Conscientious Objection. He is also a member of the Virginia Conference Damascus Road Anti-racism Team. Glen and Cyndi have been married since 1995 and are the proud parents of Andre-A and anxiously awaiting the birth of their second child in February 2001.

Lana Miller



Lana is minister of youth and young adults at Clinton Frame Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind. She has served in that ministry since

June 1999. Prior to that she taught chemistry at Northwood High School. She attended Bethany Christian High School and continued her education at Goshen College, where she received a bachelor's degree in biology and secondary education. She is a congregational student advocate who encourages young people to attend Mennonite schools and colleges. She has served as a VORP (Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program) volunteer and has been a member of the Indiana Teachers Association. She is the oldest of three children and the daughter of Carolyn (Roth) Miller and the late Larry Miller.

Marisa Cantu



Originally from Rock Island, Ill., Marisa is currently a senior at Goshen College studying communications and Hispanic min-

istries. She has worked with youth at her home church, where her father pastors, as well as other Christian organizations, such as Christian Friendliness Youth Center and the Boys and Girls Clubs. She led and helped organize a conference for young Hispanic Mennonite leaders called *Celebremos*. She has been involved in many organizations and clubs such as student government and the multi-cultural affairs club. She enjoys leading praise and worship at *Iglesia del Buen Pastor* in Goshen. Her family resides in Rock Island and includes her parents, two sisters and a brother.

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Meet the speakers

The high point of Youth Convention is the worship services, and the centerpiece of each worship service is the speaker. We are pleased to announce the following speakers for each of the sessions:

Nancy Rodriguez-Lora



Nancy is the mother of three, two boys and one girl, and lives with them and her husband, Juan, in New York City, where she was born and raised. She is a certified clinical social worker providing therapy to families and individuals. She directs the worship team,

Jerusalem, at her 300-member congregation, United Revival Mennonite Church in Brooklyn. She is a church elder and has had many years of experience as a youth leader and counselor. She is also coordinator for the 145 children in the children's department. She currently serves as a member of the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA. She continues to say "Yes!" to God's call and is excited about what other blessings God has for her.

Mike Yaconelli



Mike has been working with young people for almost 40 years. He is the owner of Youth Specialties, an international organization that trains and provides resources for more than 100,000 youth workers worldwide. Considered by many an expert on the effects of

Western culture on young people, he has spoken to young people and youth workers all over the world. He has authored or co-authored numerous books as well as numerous articles, tapes and videos on the subject of youth and culture. Mike lives in Yreka, a rural northern California town, where he is lay pastor of Grace Community Church. He and his wife, Karla, are now discovering what it is like to adjust to a cavernous house where their five children used to live. Mike is a local high school board member and the proud grandfather of two. He breezed his way through his four-year college education in 10 years and finally graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in communications.

Michael and Addie Banks



Michael and Addie serve in pastoral leadership at Glory Tabernacle in New York City. They have been committed to this work for the last 16 years. Michael also serves as one of the regional bishops for the New York

area. Together, they serve as Peace Evangelists for the Mennonite Church. Addie is also a Christian educator and has conducted numerous seminars and workshops in the area of prayer, peacemaking and women's issues. Michael has a passion for planting churches radically committed to the demonstration of peacemaking and evangelism. Michael has been a speaker at previous youth conventions.

Shirley Hershey Showalter



Shirley began her term as Goshen College president in January 1997. After coming to the college in 1976, she taught in the English and History departments, eventually becoming a full professor and English department chair. Her administrative experience

included directing the continuing education program, administering a \$1 million grant for technology and the liberal arts, and chairing the first academic council. During her first term, college enrollment increased every year, reversing seven years of gradual decline. Financial support of Goshen College has also increased. Shirley is the author of numerous essays and editorials, papers and scholarly publications. She is a frequent lecturer in higher education circles and has also served widely as a consultant. She has also received several awards, including the Sears Roebuck



Get it
together
in
Christ

Foundation "Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award" and the Knight Presidential Leadership Award. Born in Lancaster, Pa., she graduated from Warwick High School, earned her bachelor's degree in English from Eastern Mennonite College, and received her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. Shirley and Stuart were married in 1969 and are the parents of two children. She and her family attend College Mennonite Church.

Buster Soaries



Reverend DeForest "Buster" Soaries, Jr. is the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, N.J., a church that now has a following of more than 4,500 members and is one of the fastest growing African-American churches in the state.

Under his tutelage, First Baptist has started construction on a new \$10 million church complex; founded the First Baptist Community Development Corporation, Renaissance Community Development Credit Union, CDC Properties housing company; and developed several economic, spiritual and educational programs for church members and local residents. Dr. Soaries is an internationally renowned speaker and author. An advocate for at-risk youth, he has addressed more than 2 million youth in the last 10 years. He is the host of the NJ Network special television program "Straight Up with Buster Soaries", which focuses on helping teens find solutions to today's problems. He is a speaker on many video and audio tapes used by educational and religious organizations. He earned a BA from Fordham University in New York; an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a DMin degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He also has honorary doctorate degrees from Drew University and Monmouth University. He is member of many civic organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, the New Brunswick Development Corporation, and Youth For Christ/USA. He resides in Franklin Park, N.J., with his wife, Donna, and twin sons.

Leslie Francisco III



Bishop Francisco serves as senior pastor of the Calvary Community Church in Hampton, Va. He is also founder of Calvary Christian Academy, one school in two locations offering quality programs that target the spiritual, academic, physical and emotional needs of children enrolled in preschool through eighth grade. He also serves as founder and president of Calvary Bible College, an institution that seeks to educate, liberate and empower servant leaders for ministry through its certificate and associate degree programs. Bishop Francisco is author of three books and a member of the board of directors of Operation Breakingthrough — a viable organization that mobilizes churches to effectively rebuild communities that have been broken by poverty and despair. He also serves as president of the African-American Mennonite Association. He serves as a member of the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board. As an urban consultant within Virginia Conference, Bishop Francisco and the Calvary Community Church have planted a growing congregation in Rocky Mountain, N.C. They are currently starting a new church in Chesapeake, Va. They are the parents of three daughters.

Mark Vincent



Mark lives in Elkhart, Ind., and is married to Lorie. They have two children. In his role as stewardship resources director for Mennonite Mutual Aid, Mark brings experience from the pastorate, youth ministry, program development and project management. In addition to oversight for stewardship education, he regularly consults with churches, nonprofits and organizations facing complex decisions. Mark is particularly noted for his abilities in preaching, storytelling, leadership development, and keeping the right questions in front of people when consulting. Mark pioneered work in neighborhood ministry to children, congregational leadership

development, and unique seminar and program events that benefit congregations. He is author of several books, articles and curricula. In addition, he edits *Giving*, the magazine of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. Mark's education includes a BA degree in biblical studies, an MA in ministry with a special focus in group process, and additional theological and management studies.



Music with Ken Medema



Ken has been writing and performing his own songs since 1970 when he began composing material for his work as a music therapist in a psychiatric hospital. He is now involved in a full-time performance schedule that has taken him all over the world. Ken,

now residing in the San Francisco bay area, with his wife, Jane, and daughter, Rachel, studied music therapy at Michigan State University, concentrating heavily on performance skills in piano and voice. Medema's music is earthy and direct, full of stories and humor. It utilizes musical styles from classical to rock, from ballad to blues, from sacred to profane — always searching for ways in which people can connect with each other, enabling them to sense the sacred within themselves and in surprising places. Medema appreciates the diverse way in which people musically express themselves, and uses a variety of styles to share his concerns for the planet and its survival, social justice, and people's relationship to spirituality. Blind from birth, Medema understands the importance of inclusivity and sensitively, seeks to challenge his listeners to dream and work for a world of justice and peace.

Meet the sponsors' institute leader



Mark DeVries

Mark has served as pastor to youth and their families at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tenn., for the last 14 years. A 22-year youth ministry veteran, he has served as a volunteer with Young Life and on staff in local churches. Mark received his undergraduate degrees in English and Greek from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude in 1980. Mark continued his training at Princeton (N.J.) Theological Seminary, receiving his MDiv in 1986. Mark travels nationally and internationally, speaking to church and lay leaders, as well as college and seminary students on the subject of family based youth ministry. His presentations are characterized by a fast paced, interactive approach that offers strategies for the godly transformation of the next generation. He is an author, editor and writer of several articles for various youth leader magazines and academic journals. Mark and his wife, Susan, reside in Nashville and have three children.



Convention choirs

There will be two choirs in which youth will be able to participate in Nashville. One choir will be led by Ken Medema, and the gospel choir will be led by Natalie Francisco. Let your youth know that they may sign up for either choir on the registration form (coming in December). There will be a charge of \$8.00 (U.S.) to cover the cost of the music scores. If you have any questions, please call the Youth Convention office.