

INTRODUCTION

Mennonite Education Annual Reports, Fall 2009

This is the third year that MEA has compiled both the narrative annual reports and the enrollment statistical reports together in one booklet and made it available in print and online (www.MennoniteEducation.org/ANNUAL2009). Through this resource, MEA not only wants to provide valuable information to our educational institutions, church leaders, and other interested persons, we also want to use this information to illustrate the importance of Mennonite education in the mission of the church.

MEA is witness to how Mennonite education changes lives. Students who receive an education shaped by the Anabaptist-Mennonite understandings go on to serve around the world—making an impact in their fields of study, communities, and countries. Thus, Mennonite educational institutions are missional centers that contribute to the building of a strong church foundation—from helping to shape and build Mennonite identity to providing pastors and other church leaders.

MEA supports Mennonite education by:

- Advocating for the vision and mission of Anabaptist-Mennonite education in church and school
- Developing and maintaining the vision for and the long-term interests of Anabaptist-Mennonite education
- Discerning the educational needs of the church and developing schools and programs that best meet these needs
- Dismantling racism in MEA and the schools
- Encouraging and enabling schools to collaborate in ways that ensure that the common good of Mennonite education and the church will take precedence over specific institutional self-interest
- Facilitating cooperation, collaboration and coordination among Mennonite Church USA educational institutions and between these institutions and other church programs
- Providing services in support of the missions of the educational institutions
- Providing for the establishment and maintenance of accountability and support relationships between the schools and the church

Mennonite Education Annual Reports, Fall 2009 illustrates the collaborative spirit among our educational institutions. We thank them for providing annual reports and sharing enrollment information with us. We continually work to find ways to advocate for Mennonite education, and in this booklet you will discover both the challenges and joys experienced by those who work for Mennonite educational institutions and programs.

Section 1: Annual reports from institutions, programs and conferences

One of the purposes of MEA is “facilitating cooperation, collaboration and coordination among Mennonite Church USA educational institutions and between these institutions and other church programs.” One of the ways MEA accomplishes this purpose is by sharing what is currently happening in Mennonite education through annual reports submitted by Mennonite educational schools, colleges/universities, seminaries and programs. Please note that this is not a comprehensive collection since not every educational institution/program has submitted a report.

To provide a focus for the annual reports, the MEA Board of Directors chooses one of the four desired outcomes for the agency—Church Relations, Transformational Leadership, Support Services, and Viable Access. This year, questions related to the outcome of Church Relations were asked.

Church Relations. MEA, its institutions and the wider church support one another in discerning educational needs.

Mennonite Church USA area conferences, congregations, and members support the institutions by sending students and providing resources; the institutions provide intellectual and spiritual training for individuals to serve the church and its mission at home and in the world. MEA maintains accountability for strong relationships between church and school, promoting the long-term interests of Anabaptist-Mennonite education—interests that transcend specific institutional goals.

Due to the focus this year, the MEA Board also invited Mennonite area conferences to respond to questions about church relations from their perspective. These reports are included at the end of Section 1.

While we strongly encourage you to read all the reports, a compilation of the annual reports from educational institutions and programs and a compilation of the conference reports are at the beginning of Section 1. These compilations were written to categorize the responses and note recurring themes.

Section 2: Fall 2009 Mennonite education enrollment statistics

Enrollment at Mennonite educational institutions is one benchmark of their relationship with the supporting constituency. MEA has been collecting enrollment data over a number of years to report on the interesting data and trends of each of the following types of education:

- PreK-12 education (preschool, elementary, middle and secondary programs)
- undergraduate programs
- adult degree-completion programs
- graduate programs
- seminary education
- other degree programs
- non-degree programs

Under each level, current year statistics, basic enrollment trend charts or tables, Mennonite enrollment data and Racial/Ethnic enrollment data are provided.

Youth Census information is provided at the end of Section 2. MEA requests this information from congregations on an ongoing basis for the benefit of all of Mennonite Church USA. This information is a way to facilitate connections between church and education. We hope that the number of congregations that complete the Youth Census forms will grow and help the Youth Census statistics to better represent Mennonite Church USA.

Your feedback

As you read the *Mennonite Education Annual Reports Fall 2009*, feel free to make note of any questions or comments you would like to share with MEA, and then contact us by e-mail, info@MennoniteEducation.org, or by phone: 866-866-2872 toll-free/574-642-3164. Visit our Web site, www.MennoniteEducation.org, to learn more about the work of MEA and about educational institutions at all levels. I have included MEA's mission, vision, purposes, outcomes, and strategic vision on the following pages.

I invite you to walk with MEA as we “strengthen the life, witness, and identity of Mennonite Church USA through education.”



Carlos Romero
MEA Executive Director



MISSION, VISION, PURPOSES, OUTCOMES,¹ AND STRATEGIC VISION

Mission

The mission of Mennonite Education Agency is to strengthen the life, witness and identity of Mennonite Church USA through education.

Vision

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” - Romans 12:2

Purposes

Advocating for the vision and mission of Anabaptist-Mennonite education in church and school.

Developing and maintaining the **vision** for and the long-term interests of Anabaptist-Mennonite education.

Discerning the educational needs of the church and developing schools and programs that best meet these needs.

Dismantling racism in MEA and the schools.

Encouraging and enabling schools to collaborate in ways that ensure that **the common good** of Mennonite education and the church will take precedence over specific institutional self-interest.

Facilitating **cooperation, collaboration and coordination** among Mennonite Church USA educational institutions and between these institutions and other church programs.

Providing **services** in support of the missions of the educational institutions.

Providing for the establishment and maintenance of **accountability** and support relationships between the schools and the church.

Outcomes²

People touched by MEA-affiliated schools, institutions and programs grow intellectually, spiritually and strengthen the life, witness and identity of Mennonite Church USA.

¹ The Mission, Vision, Purposes and Outcomes document was adopted by the MEA Board of Directors, October 5, 2003.

² The Outcomes were revised by the MEA Board of Directors, March 18, 2006.

1. **Church Relations.** MEA, its institutions and the wider church support one another in discerning educational needs.

Mennonite Church USA area conferences, congregations, and members support the institutions by sending students and providing resources; the institutions provide intellectual and spiritual training for individuals to serve the church and its mission at home and in the world. MEA maintains accountability for strong relationships between church and school, promoting the long-term interests of Anabaptist-Mennonite education—interests that transcend specific institutional goals.

2. **Transformational Leadership.** MEA and its institutions develop the vision of Christ-centered, servant leadership in those who attend, support and serve Mennonite Church USA schools.

Mindful of Mennonite commitments to an “upside down” kingdom, MEA advocates a transformational approach to dismantling racism, restorative justice, peace building, and community empowerment. MEA and its institutions support programs, scholarship, and recruitment practices that address these visionary endeavors.

3. **Support Services.** MEA provides services in support of the missions of its schools.

Working with the schools and their statements of arrangements with the agency, MEA provides assistance in the form of consultation, counseling, staffing, research, sponsorships, appointments, etc. in helping schools achieve their missions.

4. **Viable Access.** Students seeking Christ-centered Anabaptist-Mennonite education have viable access to Mennonite Church USA schools.

Working with the schools on issues related to location, delivery system, cost, transfer and outreach to the under-served, MEA envisions and supports programs and initiatives that facilitate ready accessibility.

Strategic Vision³

Drive the growth of Mennonite Church USA by **equipping** our educational systems, with **innovative tools** and vibrant **connections**.

Equipping

- Delivering functional tools
- Initiating networking tools
- Facilitating personnel tools

Innovations

- Generating creative ideas
- Developing new initiatives and tools
- Reapplying best practice education ideas

Connections

- Spanning geographies, and church entities (schools, conferences, congregations and individuals)
- Connecting those who can mutually benefit
- Linking networks across Mennonite USA organizations and individuals

³ The Strategic Vision was adopted by the MEA Board of Directors, June 21, 2008, for a five-year period (2007-2012).