

# **Live the Call!**

Ephesians 4:1-6

## **Mennonite Early Childhood Network Assembly**

**San Jose, California**

Room J2, Convention Center

**July 4, 2007**

1:30-5:00

**Who are we?** Kathryn Aschliman, MEA Coordinator

**Welcome:** J. David Yoder, MEA staff member

**Tribute to Evelyn Rouner,** Howard Keim, President, Hesston College

**Live the Call!** Maria Crockett, parent, pastor and director of two child care centers in Elkhart, IN

**A Culture of Peace Nurtured at Stepping Stones Preschool,** Sharon Davisson who for more than 20 years nurtured a vibrant culture of peace among children ages three to five at Stepping Stones Preschool. Nestled in the foothills of Nevada City, California, surrounded by pine, oak and cedar trees, this small school focused on creating the foundations of peace.

Break with **input from Susan Graber,** Coordinator of convention preschool activities

***Three presentations based on the fall MECN survey responses:***

**Providing Quality Care in Faith Based Programs,** Kathleen Roth, Director of Diamond Street Early Childhood Center, Akron, PA, a large center involved in a quality assurance and improvement program

**Engaging the Multiple Intelligences of Children,** Jo Ellyn Peterson, Assoc. Prof. Bluffton University in Ohio teaches courses in early childhood, has trained Head Start teachers and paraprofessionals in early intervention programs and has worked with typically developing children as well as those with developmental challenges

**Helping Children Live Counter Culturally,** Leonor Kennell, bilingual special educator teaching K-2 in a school in Ft. Collins, CO, attended mostly by Mexican immigrants

# MENNONITE EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORK

The mission of the Mennonite Early Childhood Network is to provide information and support for parents and early educators of all children, birth through kindergarten. The network's goal is to assist in developing the whole child spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and cognitively within a framework that reflects an Anabaptist interpretation of the Christian faith. Adopted August 8, 2006

## MECN Council

Kathryn Aschliman, Project Coordinator (Goshen College)  
Linda Huber Taylor, Non-Mennonite setting (Ball State University)  
Tami Keim, Director, Hesston College Preschool (Hesston College)  
Linda Martin, Early Childhood Consultant (Harleysville, PA)  
Jo Ellyn Peterson, Early Childhood and Special Education (Bluffton University)  
Nancy Yoder, Roberta Webb Child Care Center Board (Eastern Menn. Univ.)  
Looking for a parent from the midwest to represent families  
J. David Yoder, MEA staff

*The Mennonite Early Childhood Network Council has as its mandate, to guide the network in its mission to assist in developing the whole child spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and cognitively within a framework that reflects an Anabaptist interpretation of the Christian faith. It functions through monthly teleconferences and email contacts. Agenda items include planning for early childhood forums and development of the MECN website. The Council always welcomes suggestions for inclusion on the website.*

## MECN Activities

**Half day meetings** at Church Assemblies

Charlotte, 2005—Dr. Kevin Swick, Univ. of South Carolina, keynote speaker  
San Jose, 2007—Sharon Davisson, "A Culture of Peace Nurtured at Stepping Stones Preschool." Keynote address

**Periodic Email Alerts to Network**

**Interest Survey circulated by email**

**Website continually under development**

**<http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/EARLY>**

MECN Information  
Our Stories  
Faith Development  
Resources for Parents and Early Childhood Educators  
Growing Toward Peace  
MECN Directory

## MECN FACT SHEET

**Spring, 2007**

**Current MECN Directory of Persons/Programs**

65	Persons
42	Mothers' groups with child care
4	Before and after school programs
20	Child care programs
2	Family child care homes
1	First Steps
2	Head Start
22	Preschool/nursery school
43	Schools

**Mennonite Schools Council Enrollment Report**

9 schools reported having PreK programs

18	infants and toddlers
9	2 year olds
145	3 year olds
285	4 year olds
85	5 year olds
542	total PreK enrollment

Kindergarten enrollment in MSC Schools: 675