



NATURAL LINKS

MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

TRANSITIONS

The Hidden Acres (New Hamburg, ON) Board of Directors announced the resignation of Executive Director Chris Oldham, effective December 31, 2021. After months of prayer and discernment Chris felt that it was time to move on from the position as ED at Hidden Acres. The board and staff would like to thank Chris for his dedication and hard work during a very difficult 2 1/2 years. Chris was called to HAC “for such a time as this” and Hidden Acres is blessed to have had him in leadership and appreciate everything he did for the camp.

Starting January 1, 2022 Chris Pot will serve as acting ED for the next 8 months while a permanent Executive Director is pursued.

MCA VIDEO

Don't forget about the short video that was created last year for all MCA camps to use for their summer camp recruiting purposes.

The video can be found on [YouTube](#), the [MCA website](#), [Instagram](#) and the [MCA Facebook page](#).



Bethany Birches, Plymouth, VT

JOB OPENINGS

Join the full-time, year-round ministry team at **Spruce Lake, Canadensis, PA**, with a commitment to excellence and a heart for pointing people toward Christ! In the role of Director of Operations, you will ensure that guests receive a positive, clean and safe experience. This is accomplished through oversight of housekeeping and custodial teams, recreational facilities, audiovisual equipment, meeting room supplies and equipment, while providing a positive work environment. Excellent communication and management skills are required, along with the ability to ensure compliance with OSHA, EPA, DEP and other regulatory codes. Full benefits package. Read entire position description and apply online at <https://www.sprucelake.org/about/employment/>.

Little Eden Camp, Onekama, MI, is seeking a full-time Guest Services Manager. The Guest Services Manager will provide leadership for the day to day marketing, booking and hosting of non-summer guest groups. This is a salaried, year-round position that includes benefits. To find out more about the position and the qualifications required, please download the job description on our website at www.littleeden.org. If you are interested in being considered for the position, please send a resume to admin@littleeden.org.

A Guest Services Director is needed to serve with the ministry of **Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano, VA**. Responsible for leading the Guest Services Team in providing an environment where guests and campers can begin a relationship with Jesus and grow in their walk of faith. This includes overseeing the reservations, housekeeping, and food service areas. Year round, full time, salary and benefits. For more information contact Bob Briscoe at 757-566-2256 or email wrcr@wrcr.info. A job description and application can be found at <http://wrcr.info/about/employment>.

A Maintenance Director is needed to serve with the ministry of **Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano, VA**. Responsible for leading the Maintenance Team in providing an environment where guests and campers can begin a relationship with Jesus and grow in their walk of faith. This includes landscape maintenance, basic electrical, carpentry and plumbing. Year round, full time, salary and benefits. For more information contact Bob Briscoe at 757-566-2256 or email wrcr@wrcr.info. A job description and application can be found at <http://wrcr.info/about/employment>.

DEEP FAITH 2022

Pastors & Leaders | Deep Faith 2022

“Formed in the Wilderness, Leading in Hope” February 21 – 24, 2022

During the Pastors & Leaders | Deep Faith 2022 conference, we will draw insights from the late Alan Kreider's book, *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire* (Baker Academic, 2016), as we seek guidance and inspiration for the challenges of our time.

In the midst of these challenges, we know that this is not the first time God's people and their leaders have found themselves in a kind of wilderness. The Bible tells us that the Hebrew people wandered quite literally in the desert for many years. And the church, from its beginnings in the New Testament until now, in many places over many years, has faced times of great upheaval and struggle brought on by disease, war, discrimination, persecution, economic inequality, and technological change. Somehow, in the midst of peril, God's work and God's people have not only survived, but thrived. And if their testimonies are to be believed, their lives and leadership have often been shaped by surprising hope.

This is a joint conference of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Mennonite Church USA Faith Formation.

For more info and to register: <https://www.ambs.edu/lifelong-learning/pastors-and-leaders>

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MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

BI-NATIONAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 21-24, 2022

at **SPRUCE LAKE**
CANADENSIS, PENNSYLVANIA

KRIS WINT, SPEAKER

Pastor at Finland Mennonite Church in Pennsburg, PA

[REGISTER NOW BY CLICKING HERE](#)



WORKSHOPS

Leadership in these crazy times

- Mark Swartley, Executive Director, Spruce Lake

What are the key factors to leadership in the crazy times in which we find ourselves? We will work together to identify and flesh out your key objectives for success as a 2022 leader.

Ministry & mental health: caring for your staff

- Rachel Scharff, MA, Foundations Christian Counseling Services

Hurting people may hurt people, but hurting people help people, too. All of us go through personal struggles, including the staff who serve under us. Depression and anxiety are common hurdles we see in others (and ourselves!). Leading and ministering to someone who deals with mental health issues can be difficult as we may not know what to say or how best to lead. This session will provide a brief overview of these mental health situations, how to listen to the heart, identify key biblical themes in mental health struggles, and tips to lead the staff for a successful camping season.

Purposeful programming

- Jonathan Tice, Program Staff, Spruce Lake

Focusing on adults and families, learn the importance of Christ-centered programming for this audience and how to create effective goals in your respective programs. Learn together as we discuss the successes and failures in our various programs.

Maintenance Workshop

- Joel Varga, Maintenance Staff, Spruce Lake

Tackling maintenance issues at our camps.

Welcoming those on the margins

- Chris & Amanda Pot, Program Staff, Hidden Acres Camp

How do we as camps welcome those who are on the margins of our communities? Do we create intentional space at our camps and in our programs? If we don't, how can we start? Chris and Amanda will share from their experiences running camp and retreat programs for children with special needs, children from community organizations, single moms and their children, young adults with special needs and adults with disabilities. Come with stories and ideas to share what is happening at your camps.

Moving towards renewable energy

- Jonathan Fridley, Camp Friedenswald

Come hear what Camp Friedenswald has been doing to reduce their energy usage and decrease their reliability on propane. Bring questions, new ideas, or share how your camp has reduced its energy footprint and carbon emissions.

RECIPE SWAP!

- Cindy Rall, Food Service Director, Laurelville

Bring your favorite tried-and-true camp recipes to swap! Come hear what works well in other camp kitchens and what are the most-requested foods and menus from across MCA. This will also be a time to share your best quick tricks and life-saving techniques with each other!

Gift shops - purpose, ministry value and pitfalls

- Jackie Swartley, Spruce Lake

A gift shop doesn't have to be limited to souvenirs and toothpaste. Don't sell the possibilities short of what an effective gift shop can provide for your guests and your ministry. Come with questions and an open mind as to how to enhance your gift shop.



[REGISTRATION DEADLINE](#)
[MARCH 11, 2022](#)

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)