

# MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

# Natural Links

## JOB OPENINGS

## FROM THE MCA BOARD

**Crooked Creek Christian Camp, Washington, Iowa,** is seeking an energy-filled, Christ-serving, creative individual to take on the position of Program Director. This position is responsible for all camp programming which includes planning, hiring and carrying out summer camp, and coordinating other programs and marketing throughout the year. Visit [www.crookedcreekcamp.org](http://www.crookedcreekcamp.org) for job description and application.

Greetings again to all our Mennonite Camping Association members! It's hard to believe that just this past week our 2020 Bi-annual was scheduled to meet. Once again I express my appreciation to the MCA Executive Board and the staff at Spruce Lake for helping to guide us through that time of uncertainty.

One agenda item that was scheduled for the MCA business meeting at the Bi-National was the introduction of our nominees for President and President-Elect. These are two positions on our Executive Board that are traditionally affirmed by the membership. In our next newsletter, we'll be introducing our nominees and suggesting a structure for affirmation. Until that time our Executive Committee will continue to function with the current officers.

These are times of crises for the camping industry. If there is anything you as an MCA member wish to have passed along to the denomination, please feel free to contact me. My email is [bluegrass774@hotmail.com](mailto:bluegrass774@hotmail.com). It was gratifying to hear in a recent ZOOM meeting that an Everence representative was raising concerns about our camps and the status of our staff persons. Some very difficult decisions are looming. We affirm the connections our camps are using to share ideas and provide support.

*May God be with you and may the Spirit guide your decision making process in the days ahead.*

Respectfully,

Keith Zehr  
President, Mennonite Camping Association

## PRAYER

When this is over,  
may we never again  
take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends,  
may we find  
that we have become  
more like the people  
we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay  
that way—better  
for each other  
because of the worst.

-Laura Kelly Fanucci



## DOVE'S NEST WEBINAR

Despite the cancellation of the Mennonite Camping Association Bi-National Gathering, Anna Groff, executive director of Dove's Nest has graciously offered to host a free Zoom training webinar to all MCA member camps. The webinar will be held at **2pm EST on Friday, May 1, 2020**. Directions and link for connection will be sent out closer to the presentation date.

### Healthy Boundaries and Prevention Steps at Camp

This Dove's Nest live Zoom training will address protective and risk factors in camp settings, what kids are bringing to camp in terms of abuse history and other vulnerabilities, and strategies on how camp directors can establish healthy boundaries for all at their camps. The webinar will include an interactive exercise utilizing the SafeZone: Promoting Healthy Boundaries in Christian Camps booklet. Speaker Anna Groff is executive director of Dove's Nest: Faith Communities Keeping Children and Youth Safe.

## DEEP FAITH RECORDINGS

**Listen to audio recordings of past Deep Faith conferences** from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Recordings from the March 2-5, 2020 conference: [CLICK HERE](#)

Recordings from 2018 and 2019 Deep Faith conferences: [CLICK HERE](#)

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## RESOURCES

Below is a very incomplete list of resources designed to help us all in this surreal time of uncharted waters. Some links include resources for how to handle COVID-19, how to discuss it with children and resources for your own spiritual growth as you navigate this time.

### **Mennonite Church USA**

Resources to empower conferences, congregations and constituents with accurate, reliable information to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to help us care for ourselves and others during the pandemic. [CLICK HERE.](#)

**Mennonite Church Canada:** [Equipping congregations for pandemic preparedness](#)

### **Building Faith:** [making faith sense in strange times: COVID-19](#)

“Building Faith is a ministry of Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN). Our goal is to provide a simple, usable resource for parents of young children who want active and effective ways to help their children build faith.”

**Illustrated Ministry** provides Bible-themed coloring sheets and family devotions. [Sign up for free weekly resources during the pandemic.](#)

**PBS Kids:** [How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus](#)

**Christianity Today:** [20 Prayers to Pray During This Pandemic](#)

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR ZOOM CHAT

### **CALLING ALL PROGRAM DIRECTORS!**

On March 25, missing their bi-national peer group time, several program directors met via Zoom to chat instead.

If you are a program director and would like to join in on the next virtual gathering, contact Jenelle Roynon at [Jenelle@rmmc.org](mailto:Jenelle@rmmc.org) to be added to the email correspondence. The next chat will be in early May.



## COVID-19 PRAYER

God of all mercies, grant:

To our families and communities, safety and good health;

To those afflicted with COVID-19, swift healing;

To health-care providers, strength and stamina;

To our leaders, wisdom and compassion;

To our nation, unity and purpose;

To the dying, comfort;

To the dead, eternal life;

To all believers, strong faith in You;

To the Church, the gift of service;

To the whole human family, unity of heart; and

To us, your servants, the reward of knowing that we are doing Your will when we spend ourselves in loving service of others.

May the God of all consolation walk with us through these difficult times. And may God find us worthy of the call to be a healing and reconciling presence in a wounded world. Amen.

*-Fr. Joseph M. McShane, S.J. president of Fordham University*