

Ex-Mennonite/Near Mennonite:

Liturgical, Non-Denominational, Secular

An academic and community education conference

**Hosted by the Chair in Mennonite Studies
at the University of Winnipeg**

October 3 and 4, 2014

This conference considers the process by which Mennonites have become non-Mennonites, either as individuals or as church groups. It addresses the fact that church boundaries and religious identities are never static, but evolve, sometimes flourishing in unexpected ways, but at other times giving way to other faith or cultural expressions, sometimes in syncretic form with competing identities.

It also recognizes that historians tend more often to emphasize moments of 'becoming' Anabaptist or Mennonite, than stopping to identify as Mennonites. Yet in past decades, even centuries, many Mennonites have switched religious affiliations, either by choice or involuntarily. They may have joined non-denominational evangelical bodies, mainline liturgical groups or non-Christian religions. Or they may have left religion entirely to embrace a secular cosmology in which linkage to a Mennonite past is expressed in terms of a symbolic ethnicity.

The conference also considers how those leaving the Mennonite fold may cultivate a 'near-Mennonite' identity, for example, embracing a theology or cosmology that respects so-called Anabaptist values – nonviolence, community, humility, service. Such values may have been maintained, perhaps reinvented, or even reinvigorated even as the nomenclature 'Mennonite' is exchanged for another.

The conference is not a lament, nor is it focused on the 'fate' of the Mennonite community. Rather it facilitates the analysis of a social and cultural phenomenon. As such it seeks neither to endorse nor critique changing religious affiliation but to be frank and honest in its historical analysis of the changing ecclesiastical landscape among Mennonites.

For more information visit www.mennonitestudies.uwinnipeg.ca/events

The conference is a Divergent Voices of Mennonites in Canada conference, sponsored by the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada.

Call for Papers: 2015

Mennonites and Medicine:

Body, Health Care and Illness in the Past and Present

An academic and community education conference

Hosted by the Chair in Mennonite Studies
Eckhardt Gramatté Hall, University of Winnipeg

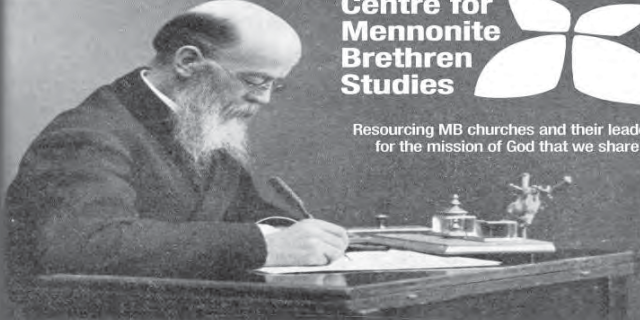
22-23 October 2015


This academic conference will consider a wide variety of themes, including:

- The history of Mennonite medical health providers, from folk and herbal to modern medicine.
- Notable doctors and nurses, as well as pharmacists, dentists, chiropractors and midwives in the past and present.
- The institutionalization of Mennonite health: hospitals, clinics and seniors' homes.
- Government and medicine: Medicare, health insurance and immunization.
- Medical aid in overseas Mennonite missions and development agencies.
- Faith, healing and well-being: the divine and the miraculous.
- The body: pregnancy and birth, youth and sexuality, aging and dying.
- Physical work, exercise, fitness and obesity: the city and the farm.
- Epidemics and disaster: community responses to social crises.
- Genetically transferred diseases (and lack of diseases) and medical case studies.
- Genome-based research and Anabaptist community participation.

Send a 100-200 word proposal and short CV to Royden Loewen, Chair in Mennonite Studies, by 1 November 2014 by emailing r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca.




Planning Committee: Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, Dept. of Pediatrics and Child Health, U. Manitoba; Bruce Guenther, MB Biblical Seminary, Langley, BC; James Hanley, History of Science, U. Winnipeg; Glen Klassen, Biology, Canadian Mennonite U.; Terry Klassen, Faculty of Medicine, U. Manitoba; Royden Loewen, Mennonite Studies, U. Winnipeg; Vanessa Quiring, Joint Masters Program History, U. Manitoba; Conrad Stoesz, Centre for MB Studies/Mennonite Heritage Centre.



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Winnipeg is a major city in western Canada and home to a number of Mennonite archives and libraries, which offer rich international collections for the serious researcher.

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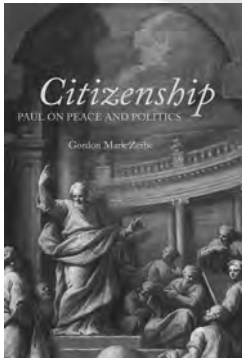
For more information on these programs, contact:

Royden Loewen, Ph.D.
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