



## 2024 Report to Mosaic Mennonite Conference

### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THEME

During the 2024-25 academic year, our civic engagement theme activities at Bluffton will focus on the relationship between faith and memory during challenging times. We will commemorate two significant milestones in Bluffton's faith history: 125 years since Bluffton's founding as Central Mennonite College and 500 years of Anabaptist faith from the beginnings of the Mennonite church. As we remember the stories of Bluffton and of its Christian heritage, we will consider how these memories of faithfulness may help us face the challenges of our time with resilience and hope.

### HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Performing selections of Handel's Messiah with orchestra has been a Bluffton tradition dating back to the early 1900s. This year, in conjunction with University of Findlay, Bluffton will showcase two performances. The 130th and 131st performances will be held Dec. 6 in Yoder Recital Hall, Bluffton University and Dec. 7 in Winebrenner Auditorium, University of Findlay. Dr. SeaHwa Jung, associate professor of music and chair of visual and performing arts at University of Findlay, will conduct this year's performances.

### FAITH AND CULTURE TRANSITION TEAM

The Faith and Culture Work Group planned a "Merger Meet-up" at Bluffton University Thursday, Oct. 24, for employees of Bluffton University and University of Findlay campuses. The event included merger updates, the Bluffton University lantern tour, and the opportunity to socialize. These and several other teams are using the fall months to identify opportunities for collaboration and resource and/or program sharing. Work is being done on the vision of the merged institution, and Cabinet members have been assessing strengths, needs and potential synergies in their areas.

### ONLINE MSW ENROLLMENT

Bluffton's MSW program, offered in conjunction with Goshen College, enrolled 12 students in fall 2024, doubling the Bluffton enrollment in the entire program. This program features a mental health specialization, preparation to sit for licensure in any state, and self-directed learning through weekly Zoom classes and in-person field work. Students meet one night a week for each class they take.

### MERGER UPDATE

Bluffton University and University of Findlay announced during Homecoming weekend that following the completion of the proposed merger of the two institutions, Bluffton University will return to its previous name, Bluffton College. Approved unanimously by Bluffton University and University of Findlay Board of Trustees, and pending approvals from the Higher Learning Commission, U.S. Department of Education and Ohio Department of Education, the Bluffton campus will be renamed Bluffton College, continuing its peace-church heritage. Under the umbrella of University of Findlay's mission to equip students for meaningful lives and productive careers, Bluffton's current mission will be maintained, and its legacy will continue.

NAMED A  
**COLLEGE OF  
DISTINCTION**  
FOR 2024-25

**TOP TIER**  
IN "MIDWEST  
COLLEGES"

– *U.S. News & World Report's  
Best Colleges*

## Save the date

### Anabaptism at 500 Bluffton University Events

Join us in spring 2025 as we look back at 500 years of Anabaptism with readers theatre, an early Anabaptist Bible exhibit, book celebrations and much more!

A full list of events will be available at:  
[www.bluffton.edu/anabaptism500](http://www.bluffton.edu/anabaptism500)

Find us on the web  
and social media!  
[www.bluffton.edu](http://www.bluffton.edu)

For more information, contact  
**Gerald Mast**  
Church relations coordinator  
and professor of communication  
[mastg@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastg@bluffton.edu)