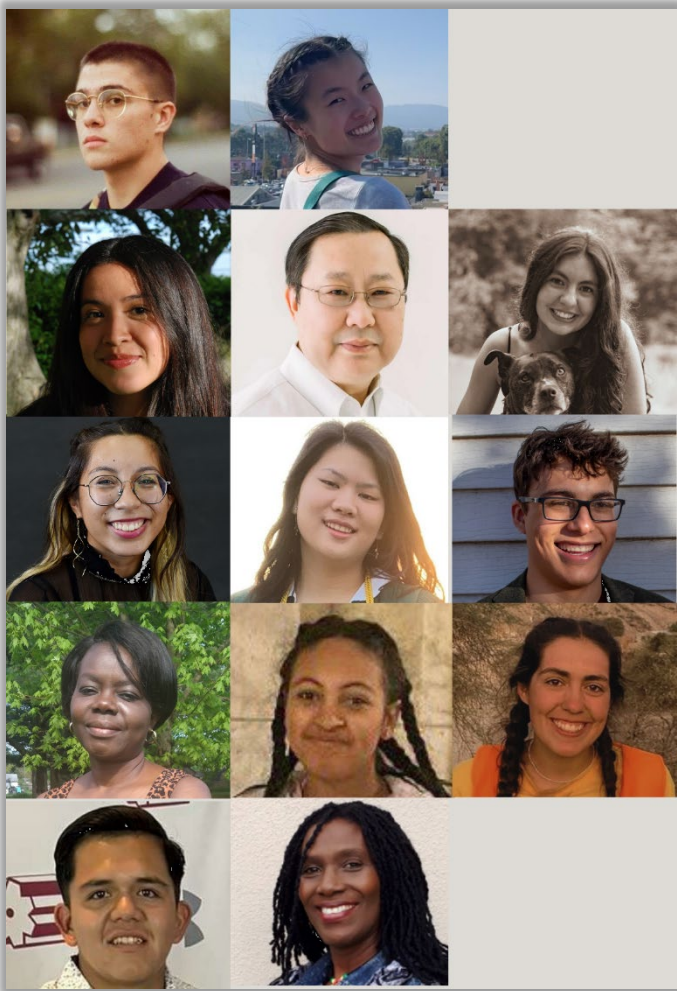


Report to New York Mennonite Conference – September 2024
Helping Mennonite Church USA fulfill its educational mission

2024-25 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

MEA awarded the 2024-25 Scholarships for BIPOC Students to 13 students from five schools partnered with MEA. **Thanks to the generosity of donors, we granted \$28,000 in scholarships – more than double the awards of the 2023-24 academic year!** Photos of the 2024-25 scholarship recipients are below.



Awards are based on an applicant’s connection with an MEA-partner school and their leadership on campus and at church. Participation at an MC USA congregation is required. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage the next generation of church leaders to complete their education and continue serving the church.

The scholarship recipients are from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Bluffton University, Eastern Mennonite University, and Goshen College. To learn about the recipients, read the article from MEA [here](#). You can learn more about the scholarship at www.MennoniteEducation.org/schools/mea-scholarship-for-bipoc-students. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, you can do so at www.MennoniteEducation.org/donate. Applications for the 2025-26 academic year are due by April 1, 2025.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY MERGER

Bluffton University recently announced their intention to merge with the University of Findlay in Ohio. You can find more information about this merger at www.FindlayBlufftonFuture.com. If you have questions or concerns, please contact www.FindlayBlufftonFuture.com/contact-us/ or email MEA at info@MennoniteEducation.org. **MEA is committed to promoting Anabaptist values in education and strengthening the relationships between Mennonite schools and Mennonite Church USA.**



MEA’S HISPANIC MINISTRIES programs are growing! Eight MC USA students continue in the [Certificado de Posgrado en Estudios Teológicos](#) (Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies) program this fall. This historic program is in partnership with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS). It is the first graduate certificate program taught in Spanish at an Anabaptist seminary in the United States!

19 students enrolled in the [Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano](#) (SeBAH – Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary) this summer, the largest cohort since the pandemic!

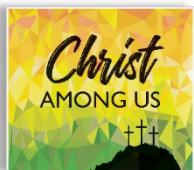
The [Instituto Bíblico Anabautista](#) (IBA – Anabaptist Bible Institute) program now has 12

study centers across the U.S., including a **new center at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind.**, in partnership with Prairie Street Mennonite Church. IBA is also expanding beyond physical centers with **a virtual and a hybrid center.**

MEA is excited to announce **a new partnership between IBA, Western District Conference of MC USA, and SEMILLA (Seminario Anabaptista Latinoamericano – Latin American Anabaptist Seminary)** in Guatemala City. IBA will help to train the leaders of a new church plant in Uspantán, El Quiché, Guatemala, called Iglesia Arca de Salvación (Ark of Salvation Church). The partners are providing the curriculum, instructors, and student scholarships.

Finally, a new six-week **Continuing Education** program is beginning this month!

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME



MEA publishes the **Advent- and Lent at Home** worship guides, available for free download in English and Spanish from the MEA website. The **At-Home** series is designed to be an accompaniment through the seasons of Advent and Lent. They are intergenerational and can be used by individuals, families, and congregations of

Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. With daily Scriptures, worship rituals, prayers, activities, and background information, these resources enhance the experience of these holy times. **Advent at Home 2024 will be available by November 1!**

FAITH FORMATION: MENNONITE EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORK



Building Faith is the online ministry of the **Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN)**, a partner ministry of MEA. Each month, Building Faith creates simple, accessible resources for families to help their children grow in their faith. Families can sign up to receive an email with the month's faith practice, including a verse, activity, and prayer. Each lesson is written in English and Spanish. Visit

www.BuildingFaithFamily.com to learn more about this ministry or to subscribe.

Whether at home or in the classroom, MEA is committed to equipping teachers and parents as they impact children and young people.

2023-24 ENROLLMENT REPORT

MEA produces the Enrollment Report annually to create a snapshot of enrollment trends across all schools that partner with MEA: from early childhood programs through graduate schools and seminaries. Based on headcount in the fall of 2023, **Mennonite schools are impacting the lives of 8,971 students**, a decrease of 3.4% since the 2022-23 academic year. To view the 23-24 report or previous reports, visit

www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources/enrollment-reports.

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATORS

The **Mennonite Public Educators** group was formed by teachers to give faculty and staff in public schools a place to talk about some of the unique challenges Mennonites face in public education: what to do about the Pledge of Allegiance, how to respond to wars and violence, and how to (whether to) be a peace witness. The group has met virtually several times this academic year. MEA is helping to promote the group and broaden its reach. **The next virtual meeting is October 17 at 7 pm Eastern.** The topic is, **"How do we, as educators and peacemakers, live out our values in a polarized political environment during an election year?"** Participation is free but registration is required. Contact [info@Mennonite Education.org](mailto:info@MennoniteEducation.org) for more information.

On behalf of the staff and board of directors, thank you for supporting Anabaptist Mennonite education.

Grace & Peace,

Michael Danner
Executive Director