



June 2009

Introducing Heidi Martin



At present, Mennonite Creation Care Network runs primarily on the volunteer time of a number of busy people. Imagine how delighted we are to have acquired the services of a full-time intern for eight weeks!

Heidi Martin, Strasburg, PA, is a recent graduate of Bluffton College where she studied English Literature, Writing and Wellness. She especially enjoys writing creative nonfiction and memoirs. Heidi will spend July and August with us, living at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College as a writer in residence and gathering stories for our web site. If you have a story to tell us, now is a good time to pipe up!

MCCN In Dialog with Mennonite Church USA's Peace and Justice Partnership Council

In March 2009, Jennifer Schrock of the MCCN Creation Care Council met with the Mennonite Church USA's Peace and Justice Partnership Council. This group includes representative executives from Mennonite agencies such as Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Publishing House, the African-American Mennonite Association and the Peace and Justice Support Network of MC USA. Here's what we heard from the peace people:

- The group encouraged us to talk about the interrelatedness of racism, poverty and ecological destruction.
- The group challenged us to make peacemaking a clearer priority, as war is one of the most ecologically devastating activities there is.
- The group suggested MCCN produce some green guidelines for corporate offices, along the lines of our Green Guidelines for holding conferences.
- The Peace and Justice Partnership Council hopes to take the following actions:
 - discuss creation care with their boards
 - make a list of the top five things they are already doing for the sake of the earth and identify one priority to work on in the future.
 - appoint someone within each agency to advocate for creation care.

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MCCN active at Mennonite Church USA Convention

If you plan to attend the Mennonite Church USA's biennial convention in Columbus, OH, June 30 – July 5, come visit MCCN's booth in the display area. You'll have the opportunity to meet members of the MCCN Creation Care Council and pick up some helpful resources:

- Creation Care Council Member Jim Smith of Mennonite Mutual Aid has prepared a CD with a variety of resources for congregations interested in become more earth-friendly. Gathered in one convenient place, you'll find an overview of what Mennonites have said they believe about caring for the earth; suggestions on how to lead a creation care Sunday school class; a sermon outline, songs, children's activities and more.
- With the help of Columbus natives, we are preparing pamphlets that will take you on some interesting ecological prayer walks. Spend a reflective hour in Columbus' nearby Goodale Park; trace your ecological footprint; find the best green spots in Columbus, OH, when you need to escape the crowds.

Workshops at Columbus 09

The following workshops may be of interest to you or your family members. The first two are by Creation Care Council members.

Creation care: A call to regenerative stewardship

Adults ▪ Friday, 4:15 p.m., E151 ▪ Saturday, 4:15 p.m., E171

Luke Gascho will explore three models of interaction with the earth: dominion, stewardship and relationship. What does it mean to be a regenerative steward?

Greening the church experience

All ages ▪ Wednesday, 4:15 p.m., D240/241

Luke Gascho will examine practical steps toward a greener congregation, such as creating a creation care statement as part of the mission and vision for the church; conducting an energy audit and making a plan for reducing your ecological and carbon footprint.

Congregations going green

Adults ▪ Thursday, 3 p.m., D234

How are Mennonite congregations living out God's call to love, respect and care for creation? Jennifer Halteman Schrock has gleaned most of these stories from MCCN members.

Environmental justice: A "natural" fit for Mennonites?

Youth ▪ Friday, 3 p.m., C142/143 ▪ Saturday, 3 p.m., C124/125

Does our use and abuse of the planet perpetuate poverty? Is there a correlation between war and scarcity of earth's resources? Join Ryan Sensenig and explore how the Environmental Justice movement offers a hope-filled model of how we can simultaneously heal our relationships with the land and each other.

Five percent hog the M&M's

Youth ▪ Wednesday, 3 p.m., D246 ▪ Saturday, 4:15 p.m., D246

Five percent of the world's people consume one-third of its resources and make nearly

half the waste. Sound like the way Christ called us to live? Ponder this with Susan Mark Landis.

Starvation: the role of energy costs, biofuels and organic farming

Adults ▪ Thursday, 8:45 a.m., C114

John D. Rohrer and Fred Yoder examine difficult moral choices related to hunger. “Is it a moral choice to raise smaller harvests organically when we have food shortages in many parts of the world?” they ask.