

and thought, a worship service aid, pamphlets on family topics, and VBS possibilities.

More Resources Available at www.emconference.ca

A Case Study for Discussion: on Remembrance Day
A to Z on the EMC's Board of Church Ministries
Basic Books on Anabaptist History and Thought
Going Deeper: Guidance on Six Key Themes on Anabaptism
Looking for us? (an overview of BCM's work)
Marks of a Mature Disciple
2014 Peace and Discipleship Sermons by EMCers
Seeking to be Faithful (history of EMC)
Series on EMC Statement of Faith and Church Practices
Some Useful Writings on Arminian Theology
What About War in the Old Testament? A Survey
What's in a Name? (Bicentennial study)

Licensing Questions

Q: Does my local EMC church need to purchase its own music license?

A: Yes, the conference license through CCLI only covers music use at regional and national events, not your local church.

Q: Does my local EMC church need to purchase its own video license?

A: It depends. If the specific film title is covered by Audio Cine Films (check its website), your local church is covered by a conference-wide license and the answer is no. But if the film is not covered, the church would either not use the film or would have to purchase a license from another supplier.

Q: Does my local EMC church need to purchase its own CCVL?

A: If it wants one, yes. ACF's license and CCVL are not the same.

Q: My local church livestreams our services, including music, beyond our building. Do we need a live streaming music license?

A: Yes, according to our information. The conference has purchased one for its regional and national use, but this does not cover local churches.

Radical Followers of Jesus

This video series and study guide (2003), produced by the Evangelical Anabaptist Fellowship, focuses on the history, theology, and current state of the Anabaptist movement. Each lesson is about 30 minutes. Twelve lessons: the Apostolic Church and Church Fathers, Constantine and Compromise, Voices for Reform, The Reformation, The Swiss Radicals, The German/Dutch

Radicals, Migration in Europe and the Radical Vision, A Radical Approach to the Bible, Radical Discipleship, Migration to the Western Hemisphere, Missions of the Radical Followers of Jesus, and Radical Faith in a Postmodern World. For purchasing or borrowing, contact the EMC national office or EAF at 204-362-9444 or eafellowship@gmail.com.

Key Links

- ♦ www.acf-film.com (Audio Cine Films video licensing)
- ♦ www.mennomedia.org/vbs (VBS materials)
- ♦ www.faithandliferesources.org/periodicals/rejoice (Anabaptist devotional)
- ♦ www.faithandliferesources.org/supplies/closetohome (pamphlets on issues)
- ♦ www.mpn.net/worship (worship guide)
- ♦ www.mennonitebrethren.ca/resource/faith-and-life-pamphlet-series (social issues)
- ♦ www.emconference.ca
 - www.emconference.ca/ce-resources
 - www.emconference.ca/theodidaktos
 - www.emconference.ca/worship-resources
- ♦ resources.mcc.org/content/understanding-sexual-abuse-church-leader-or-caregiver
- ♦ www.mennonitechurch.ca (*What is an Anabaptist Christian?* booklet)
- ♦ www.themeetinghouse.ca (*Inglorious Pastors* series)
- ♦ re-worship.blogspot.com (Dr. Christine Longhurst's worship blog) and faithmatters.ca
- ♦ www.cmu.ca/portable.html (CMU short courses)

Blessings on the teaching ministries within your churches!

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Christian Education Update

Resources for Pastors and Sunday School Teachers

September 2015



Youth Ministry Sites

1. **CPYU.org**—At a time when an already confusing youth culture is changing quickly, CPYU helps parents, youth workers, educators, and others understand teenagers and their culture so that they will be better equipped to help children and teens navigate the challenging world of adolescence.



2. **YouthPastor.com**—YouthPastor.com was founded in 1997 to create the most comprehensive youth ministry network and online “free” resource for youth pastors. Its focus is dedicated to the youth pastor, designing resources and services not typically available from church denominations and Christian curriculum publishing services. Instead, it complements the offerings of specialized ministries and curriculum publishers.

3. **FullerYouthInstitute.org**—Youth workers need innovative models and practices that reflect current research on the ever-changing landscape of youth, families, and culture. FYI translates research into practical resources that youth workers in local churches and Para-church ministries can use in their ministry contexts.

4. **YouthWorker.com**—*Youth-Worker.com* (and *Youth Worker Journal*) includes practical youth ministry ideas and insights, discussions of important theological issues, Bible resources, youth culture updates, youth ministry games and activities, reviews of the latest youth ministry books and music, information about youth camps and retreats, professional development articles and much more.



5. **StudentMinistry.org**—Tim Schmoyer is the founder of *Life In Student Ministry* and is dedicated to facilitating discussions among Christian youth workers about youth ministry. He is an author, a national youth leader trainer, speaker, and a super-volunteer at his church.

6. **Other youth ministry sites: Simplyyouthministry.com**—youth ministry tools; **Skitguys.com**—comedy, drama, and action

figures; **Iamsecond.com**—movement to live for God and others; **Egadideas.com**—free youth games and ideas; **Thesource4ym.com**—Jonathan McKee’s site.

Teach Them to be Christians

Is this too obvious? Yet the difference between being a Christian and a non-Christian is greater than *any* differences between Christians. The goal of Christian education is to help children, teens, and adults to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). After going through the local church’s educational system, how are people to express their faith? One attempt at a description is the EMC pamphlet *Marks of a Mature Believer*, available at your church and from the national office.

What’s in Your Order of Service?

Some possible parts are: welcome, call to worship, invocation, hymns/choruses/songs (in more than one place), sharing, pastoral prayer and the Lord’s Prayer, confession and assurance of pardon, sharing the peace/greeting others, confession of faith/the Apostles’ Creed, Scripture readings, sermon, announcements, offering, benediction, dismissal. Teaching children and adults about the order of service (why the parts and what they mean) is needed. Saying the Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles’ Creed together instructs and unites children, teens, and adults.

Are You Making Anabaptism Irrelevant?

Paul Martens of Baylor University says, surprisingly, that the desire to “identify” and “preserve” the “distinguishing core of Anabaptism inadvertently makes Mennonite theology superfluous.” He says to define it as discipleship, the church as a brotherhood, and a “new” ethic of love and non-resistance suggests that Anabaptism focuses on human effort. Rather, he says, early Anabaptists began their confessions of faith focused on God’s work, especially in Jesus’ life and death (*Journal of Mennonite Studies*, University of Winnipeg, 2015). Ultimately, Anabaptism is grounded not in its distinctives, but in the Christian faith. Does your church emphasize God’s *initiative* of grace in Christ? Teach historic Christian truths? Encourage well-rounded discipleship?

The Apostles’ Creed

Use it in worship services, Sunday School, VBS, Kids Club, and Christian Life classes. Centuries ago Anabaptists and Roman Catholics held it in common. Menno Simons and other Anabaptists agreed with it (1554), Balthasar Hubmaier used it for

baptismal candidates (1527), Hutterian leader Peter Rideman used it to structure his Confession of Faith (1540-47), and the Swiss Brethren used it to dialogue with Reformed leaders (1578). Today, EMCers are less aware of it—our loss. *The Messenger* in 2016 will carry a series on the Apostles’ Creed. The series could be used for a quarter of Sunday School lessons.

Intergenerational Worship Services

At whom is your worship service aimed? One current trend is to make it intergenerational. That is, it isn’t aimed only at adults; it has elements in which children can freely participate. A separate children’s church is, at times, useful, but sometimes children do not move into regular worship. To ease the shift, the children’s church can help practice and explain the order used in the regular service.

Walking With Veterans

A free on-line Sunday School curriculum invites pacifists and veterans to walk on a common journey toward peace. *Returning Veterans, Returning Hope: Seeking Peace Together* is a six-week series to assist congregations to think theologically and practically about war’s trauma, healing from trauma, and Jesus’ way of peace. The curriculum, for churches with and without veterans, is available only at pjsn.org and mcc.org/veterans-curriculum.



Kingdom Come: Living What Jesus Taught

From the Conservative Mennonite Conference (Ohio), this curriculum has 13 interactive, Scripture-based lessons for various learning styles in small groups, Sunday School, or discipleship classes. Prepared for adults and youth, it is a teacher-led (not a video-based) curriculum with more than 70 media clips. It contains spotlights on history, word studies, and stories. Most important are the Scripture texts and related activities. More than 50 contributors were involved. www.cmcrosedale.org/resources/ curriculum. We have a review copy.

Resources in Sept. 2011 C. E. Update

Check out the listing of resources found online with the *C. E. Update* (Sept. 2011): evaluating materials, the need for S. S. curricula, a daily devotional, basic materials on Anabaptist history