

Title (Business Meeting)
Speaker (Various)
Speaker's Residence N/A
Date Wednesday, April 7; Thursday, April 8, 2010
Venue Fair Haven Amish Mennonite (Goshen, IN)
Program Beachy Amish Mennonite Ministers' Meeting 2010
Transcriber Cory A. Anderson (www.beachyam.org)
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010

Moderator: Dean Miller, Woodlawn A.M., IN

The newly ordained, introduction. I'll assure you, we've all done this. I just did it a couple years ago. I'd like to do something a little different. As your newly ordained brothers come up here from your church, stand to show your support by doing that.

Name	Office	Church	Location	Date
Bobby Miller	Bishop	Salem A.M. Church	Newcomerstown, OH	Nov. 9, 2008
Alvin Stoltzfus	Bishop	Mine Road A.M.	Oxford, PA	April 26, 2009
Dave Beiler	Bishop	Shekinah Christian F.	Middleburg, PA	May 10, 2009
Melvin Lapp	Bishop	Crystal Valley M.	Dundee, NY	Aug. 23, 2009
Duane Troyer	Bishop	Faith & Light C.F.	Leesburg, OH	Aug. 30, 2009
Robert Beachy	Bishop	Canaan Fellowship	Plain City, OH	Nov. 8, 2009
Bill Yoder	Bishop	Sunnyside Fellowship	Sarasota, FL	March 7, 2010
Wilbur Gingerich	Bishop	Trinity Christian F.	Arthur, IL	Mar. 14, 2010
John Beiler	Bishop	Light of Hope C.F.	Wytheville, VA	March 21, 2010
Lester Glick	Deacon	Crystal Valley M.	Dundee, NY	Aug. 5, 2007
Al Garber	Deacon*	Gospel Light F.	Lincoln, MO	April 26, 2008
Dale Miller	Deacon	Bethesda Fellowship	Plain City, OH	Sept. 27, 2009
Steven Adams	Minister	Fairhaven A.M.	Millbank, ON	Oct. 26, 2008
Steven Gerber	Minister	Fairhaven A.M.	Poole, ON	Oct. 26, 2008
Phaylon Schrock	Minister	Fair Haven A.M.	Goshen, IN	March 8, 2009
Jon Yoder	Minister	Pilgrim Fellowship	Centreville, MI	April 12, 2009
Jared Schlabach	Minister	Living Waters F.	Sugarcreek, OH	May 17, 2009
Delbert Hostetler	Minister	Bethany Fellowship	Kokomo, IN	June 28, 2009
Leland Wagler	Minister	Mt. Nebo Mennonite	Newberry, IN	July 26, 2009
Simon Schrock	Minister	Pilgrim Christian F.	Stuarts Draft, VA	Aug. 23, 2009
Tim Yoder	Minister	Shady Grove C.F.	Lewisburg, PA	Nov. 1, 2009
Lamar Hochstetler**	Minister	Oak Grove Mennonite	Aroda, VA	Dec. 22, 2009

*With the charge of 'bishop' under Bishop Truman Yoder

**Who was ordained Tuesday evening because of a snow storm on Sunday.

Dean Miller: Let's all stand and have a word of prayer. (Ivan Beachy called up front to lead.) Song, and now is the opportunity for ladies to dismiss. Christian Hymnary #829 "Sweet Are the Promises." Please raise your hand if you have not received a ballot, and the ushers will bring those around.

2:45pm: **Bishop Committee (Tim Miller, Oak Grove Mennonite, VA)**

Reads off the current committee: Tim Miller, David Yoder, Philip Miller, Roman B. Mullet, and Raymond King.

Three nominees, and those are to stand as their names are read:

Ben Stoltzfus, Pequea AM

Ivan Beachy, Faith Mission Fellowship

Donnie Swartzentruber, Montezuma, GA

We did a bit different in the nominating process. We had become aware of a pattern, where the nominations and election were decided by which bishop had a topic at the ministers' meetings that year. To minimize that effect, we consulted with Paul A. Miller, and decided to let you give your nominees before the meeting, which you had a place for on the nominating card. It reduces the time in the meeting, too. Some did not notice the directions, so not everyone filled out that part. We'd like to continue that practice and prayerfully consider your nominee. Each time, give both the brother's name, the church he's from, and the state. As more join the ranks, we have more similar names, so we need to identify who you are referring to. Ushers, please collect the ballots at this time.

Thank you for the response in February. We received responses for about half, which is quite good for this group. [*laughter from assembled*] You are still welcome to send in your responses or given them to the committee still yet. One issue that was raised to us is in relation to the mode of baptism. Historically, we have accepted pouring, but it seems more problematic when the mode becomes a more significant issue than what Scripture and the early church made. If there is need for us to look into issues further, we're open to input and discussion on that.

Also, we're aware that there's promotion of doing away with the second ordination, the bishop. We have some concerns we hope is considered. One thing we fear is that we could be moving away from the seriousness from which the lead responsibility is viewed by both the congregation and the leaders. It also could, depending on how it's used, could lead to confusion in the congregation for who is responsible for what. A question we have is, how might this contribute to an instability that comes from a lack of consistent long-term leadership? Those exposed to mission churches know it's a struggle to have a frequent change-over in the leadership role, and are we in danger of that kind of instability in that kind of frequent turn-over. The second ordination has served our churches over the years, and serious consideration should be given before discarding it. We recognize there have been some situations of abuse by the bishop, but we feel those situations do not change the problems that would have come. To change the title doesn't change the man. Harm could be done by too frequent of that role of the pastor, and there is little accomplished by exchanging one role label for another. That's some of the things we think would do well to consider as we look at some of those issues.

With regard to your responses on the survey we sent out, I plan to give some summary comments from this year. The committee is going to continue to evaluate the responses and continue with the discussion next year. We appreciate you putting your thoughts on paper. With regard to the non-use of the radio, a substantial majority of the constituency continues to affirm the support at the ministers' meeting in Grantsville, MD in 1999. There was some question if our constituency position on that is somewhat obsolete because of the technology. As time goes on, we're adding other things to the negative influences which draw people away from Christ. We believe radio in the old form and the new form (Internet, cell phone) is still an influence to be avoided. Influence of video in most forms and TV in all forms compounds the way the enemy distracts, destroys, and takes us away from rather than toward growth in Christ and obedience to his word. Is the result of the influences we're so willing to allow taking us toward or away from God and his Word? We believe American Christian culture has simply followed world culture, and any way we absorb either of these can lead to our spiritual ruin. We think that a high level of concern is in order in relation to these things. We continue to be concerned that we may be neglecting to look far enough into the future in relation to the use of these information technologies. Ronald last year gave us some good admonition on those things. The direction in which we're going is more important than where we actually are at any given moment. Is our vision broad enough to see the effects of our choices, the choices of our churches today to the lives of the third and fourth generation, not just how it affects us and our children, but your grandchildren and great grandchildren?

As we think about these things, and sometimes it changes faster than what we can keep up, we are not serving our churches well as leaders if we say we expect one thing and in reality don't expect that at all. Let's lead our churches into a way of integrity that what we have agreed on, what is our standard of practice, is in fact what we are practicing, what we expect of each other. To say passively that the pressures and influences of the world is going to work their will and all we can do is slow the pace, is to abdicate our call, but rather we need to lead our church in victory of pressures and influences.

In the question we asked about what our strengths are weaknesses are, there are some consistent themes. The strengths, a lot of response in some form or another, referring to the openness we have to differences and input and a broader spectrum of fellowship than others are comfortable with, and an appreciation for our emphasis on congregational autonomy. In response to our weaknesses, is that we have a lack of accountability to one another, and we're getting farther and farther apart. We see that our strength is our weakness. We've done fairly well until now in both the strength and differences it brings to us. Now there's increasing concern that those differences are great and fundamental enough that the tension is getting too great. One of our characteristics seems to be that none of us consider our churches to be typical Beachy. It's typical Beachy to believe we're not typical Beachy. On the one hand, that's a defining characteristic of our churches. Our churches do not need to be like any other church in our constituency. But to the degree that means that we're distancing ourselves from one another and from the constituency, to that degree then we are lessening our respect for each other, our consideration for each other, and the positions and concerns others may have. Another issue is that since none of us are typical Beachy, then typical Beachy becomes whatever we make of it. We wondered, is that helpful?

As we think about the common themes that unite us, obviously there are a lot of themes, things like faith in Christ and certain Anabaptist principles or principles promoted by the Anabaptists that seem common to us. There are ways in which those things are generic enough that they include our neighboring churches ourselves. How ecumenical are our churches? Does having faith in Christ mean something different? It seems important to call attention to two things that unite a group of people. One, and there are more, of those things that unite people together is around something distinctive. To say we are Beachy means we are not something else. An example, the fire department is not the rescue squad, and loyalty to each organization is distinctive from the other. Another thing that unites is the willingness of each member of the group to accept the parameters that are established, whether formally or informally, by the group. If you want to be accepted in the skateboarding crowd, which most of you wouldn't dare try anymore, you have the right clothes, hairstyle, and language, and you are identified and accepted with that group. There's an agreed upon set of parameters.

To build on that, consider this: the real depth of any relationship is based on the level of submission between the parties involved. Consider how the relationship in marriage differs from the relationship, those same married individuals have with others. A husband and wife will have a significant and high degree of accommodation to needs and desires. If the husband starts having a higher sensitivity to other women than his wife, she will rightly question whether his heart is truly with her. That lack of consideration brings about a brokenness in any unity and oneness that was there. Romans 14 and other passages give us some particulars how this aspect of relationships is worked out in the church. We do need to consider as we interact on the constituency level. **The broader the disregard for the needs of others, the more distant the relationship.** Some people I do business with, I have disregard for most areas of their life; I don't know what they are. The broader the regard, the wider the scope of this regard and sensitivity care of the desires of others, the more close and deep the relationship. It seems that to us, as the constituency grows, it becomes more difficult to have the closeness of personal relationships that in earlier years heightened our regard for each other. Everyone knew each other well, which created a level of regard for what others thought. Now the group is so large, we don't know each other's names; that's why we all wear name tags. It's something that we need to consider, something we need to ask questions about. How can we be and maintain this constituency unity? Can two walk together, except they be agreed, is the rhetorical question of Scripture, and the obvious answer is, "No." Unfortunately, where there is less agreement, then we find it easy to separate our ways to solve the problem. I talked earlier about that tension, as the rubber band gets pulled farther. The obvious answer is to relieve the tension by cutting the rubber band.

Is the only solution to separate and reunite by separation and division, or can we consider that we are willing to sacrifice in the spirit of Romans 14 for the sake of deeper fellowship with one another. Do we accept this solution to some of the differences in the widening space between us is to work for agreement? We can also lessen the tension of the rubber band by moving the ends closer together. That's more costly, and we take the other route precisely because it's easier. Agreement comes at a price, and the price is submission, and our human nature would like to avoid that kind of thing. Our plea is to understand these principles and take seriously Romans 15:2 as it relates to our constituency and our relationship to our constituency. "Let every neighbor..." Our unity must be based on our commitment to centering on the Word of God... the kingdom of God is built up by investment in that and by the unity of our constituency. **Too many**

of our people are starving and dying spiritually because the seeds of the gospel (pause) are being choked out their lives by the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and worldly values, and they become unfruitful because we've not been protective of them in directing them and warning them carefully enough.

It seems like it is characteristic of us to line up all round the edge of the constituency, and we, one eye out, and one eye in, or one foot out, one, in, all the way around, on every side of the spectrum. We're apologetic about bringing people into our constituency for a wide variety of reasons. Can we gain the vision for gathering together away from the edges, around the Word of God and around the presence of Christ within us? God is here. We're not the only people of God, but God is here among us. With the strength that we gain from uniting together, from stepping in from the edge, we give witness to the transforming work of Christ that stands as a witness both to the world and to worldly Christianity, that it is possible to live out salvation in a way that is faithful to the entirety of God's Word.

Brethren, let's first rise up and be faithful to God and to His work, and let us love one another as individual brethren, but also as churches, as a constituency, with a depth that calls us to live out the principles of Romans 14. Let's be drawn together by a common concern, be faithful both doctrinally and practically to the desire of God for his people, and may I even say this way, and the desire of God for His Beachys.

3:13pm **Moderator (Dean Miller)**

Thank you, Tim; the results of the voting, Ivan Beachy is elected. Stand and sing, "This is my commandment that you love one another."

3:14pm **Missions Interest Committee (Mel Glick, Cold Springs Mennonite, SC)**

Hillcrest Home (Ken Nisly)

Many wonder what all goes into caring for the elderly. It's a special thing to us to have our youth come with the idea to serve, though not all youth have the concept that in serving they desire growth. We thought we came to serve, that's great, but it's also our desire that those that leave do not do so in the way they came. This friction of unit life is like between husband and wife, but it can bring growth. Presently, the youth there have that desire to grow. What do you think of when you think of being a mentor? Perhaps what Barnabas did for John Mark, Barnabas was a mentor. If we have the concept that we all walk beside them, we'll accomplish what we want to do.

Current needs: nearly at full capacity with the elderly, around 88-90, licensed for 93. Need for a laundry couple at any time. A local couple has filled in for quite a while. Need ladies, CNAs and kitchen workers, as well as a secretary. Male needs are met.

What happens when someone comes work in a VS unit? What is their perspective of what's asked of them? The worst thing we can do to our young people is to have a list of standards written on a piece of paper for that purpose only. When they come and find what is written is what we mean, they have trouble with that. In our churches, we have trouble with what we ask to practice we do not practice. The conservative churches [Mennonite] seem to do better than we.

There are two other nursing homes in town, and the way they care for the elderly is not the best.

Many want to transfer to Hillcrest. The two homes are operated by the same company, and the manager came to get a tour. As they were touring, she saw most were volunteers. She said, "I can't compete with that." We're doing what we're doing because we want to do it.

Northwest Ontario (Darrel Nisly)

Nate Hostetler, yesterday he underwent surgery to remove a tumor from his ear canal. The last report, they were able to get most but not all of the tumor. They hope he can be released today, but the way he appeared last night to his family, it didn't appear possible. Pray for Nate and family for a full recovery.

Last year, we requested a worker that might be pretty hard to fill. Following that meeting, someone suggested someone, and Galen and Edith Miller have now moved to Sioux Lookout to help with the bookstore ministry. Thanks for listening! Ministry happens as we live our lives.

I had the privilege of going for help in my marriage with my wife. It was a rewarding time. Only a few weeks later, at 10pm, we got a call from a neighboring couple who requested help that night. After sharing for an hour or so, we were able to share God's will for marriage. As the evening closed, we prayed. Later, the wife came and thanked us. Pray for this couple's salvation.

Spring is coming early this year. Fellows tend to run over water with their snowmobiles. You start out on ice and cross open water, hoping you make it safely. Three young men were doing this, and two snowmobiles went down. One fellow drowned when the current pulled him under. This young man and his family were not believers. Through this, Nate Hostetler's son Jesse was asked to sing at his funeral. Many people were there, over 600, and were blessed.

Finally, at a Good Friday service, after the service was over, there was opportunity for testimony. From the beginning of the service, a woman shared she was impressed with a need to let go of bitterness from having been raped as a young girl. She wept and cried out, later testifying the Holy Spirit was pouring out the bitterness and she now feels so free.

Our desire is to be available, not only to give the salvation message, but to help with healing because of what Jesus does for him.

Sioux Lookout (David Herschberger)

As David went around to different reserves, he looked at what literature they had, and all he found were comic books and dirty literature in the local stores. Millions of dollars have been spent teaching these native people how to write through our schools. When looking around for materials, David couldn't find any Christian books, to try to get literature to these people. We started a small bookstore back in 1979, and in 1980, took the first trip to the isolated communities by plane. Book tables have been set up. [*Map is displayed of areas where book stands are.*]

About 250mi North and 250mi East they are trying to cover with literature. Because of lack of funds, the number of communities has been limited to 9, and last year, we added two more. Books are loaded in boxes, put in the planes, unpacked in a community building, and people come in to buy books, and the next day they're in another area.

Last spring, David approached the board and said he can't carry it on much longer. Three options: let it shut down, give it to another mission, or recruit a young man to help and eventually take over. They pursued the third. Galen and Edith Miller are now there to help develop it. We need a bigger building at Sioux Lookout to store the books and a display, to box them up and take them to communities. When it was started, contributions from people and MIC funded it, but to expand, David is asking for interest-free loans. This is what happened at first, and all were returned, and some said they needn't pay it back. \$1,000 to \$100,000 interest-free loans. For the building, 15000 sq ft., and the cost would be from \$24K-\$30K, and at present they cannot pay that. Another option is to buy a building, and that would be \$300K-\$500K. The other option is to build a warehouse on a commercial lot. Pamphlets are available if you know anyone interested.

Story: a chief welcomed MIC to his community, and he wanted a Christian influence. We gave them free literature, and gave him a Bible. Last year on Good Friday they held a service there, and the chief came and said he needed another Bible. It was all tattered and marked. He had built a small building to have believers come together to have a church.

Faith Mission Home (Galen Stutzman)

Thank you for your support and for suggesting people. Currently 59 residents in care and 44 single staff and 11 families from 16 states and a variety of churches. Erase a rumor spreading that there is a waiting list for people wanting to serve at FMH. Presently, they are comfortably staffed but not fully staffed, and numbers are going down in a month or two.

My work is working with the staff. One staff member came from a broken home, the father was not a Christian, and another staff came from a troubled home (mom and dad didn't get along). One had trouble getting along at FMH, the other you couldn't tell there was a problem. This underscores that it is the commitment to Christ that makes a difference. The home is under attack. The best contribution you can make to the constituency is to have a good home. The young people at FMH don't always get things right, but as the administration works with them, there is an openness to wanting to do things right, and this is an encouragement. Continue praying as our work load can be large.

Choice Books of Northern Virginia (Simon Schrock)

Thanks to MIC for supporting in the early days. 8,500 books are sold a day. Mel serves on the board of directors as representative of MIC. Mel helps find human resources. He even goes on the road and services book racks. Current needs: two sales reps in TX, a floater in Northern Virginia but travels to other states, someone in NYC as soon as possible, someone in Miami, FL.

On Los Angeles, Ernest Witmer had been to LA a number of times, and deep in his heart, he wanted to establish a conservative Anabaptist witness. Choice Books needed someone in LA and connected with Witmer, and this was a two-pronged vision. Choice Books gave him a job, but his pay scale does not allow enough for his family to live in the LA area. A co-worker suggested Simon raise funds, and he agreed to do it. Simon let a few people know, and he's looking for a 'few drips a month' to fill the bucket. This is not for what he does for Choice Books, but rather to establish an Anabaptist church.

Voting (Mel Glick)

Mel Glick thanks for ongoing prayer, financial, and personnel support. Express keen sense of loss of Willis Bontrager passing on, who had been with the MIC board for nine years. Pray for Esther and the family. Two options to replace Willis: go through an election process where secretary mails out an election form to the churches. Another option is to permit the board to appoint a replacement for Willis. After three years, that person would be eligible for election. We did get some affirmation from other groups at this meeting, but wanted to come before the body if they would trust us to appoint someone in place of Willis without going through the election process. A raised hand vote, passed without tallying. Ivan Herschberger completed his third term, and Rodger Byers, Free Union, VA, was elected to replace Ivan several months ago. As of last evening, he is a member of MIC.

Ireland (Mel Glick)

The Dan Yoder family is now citizens of Ireland. Four daughters and two sons. The two boys are married and are there, while the daughters are scattered. There are two school teachers there. The Ed Yoder family is leaving in August, and Ken Miller family is replacing them this summer. The church has had some connections in England, Wales, and onto mainland Europe. These attachments lend themselves to ministry. Friends from other EU countries, Eastern Europe, have moved to Ireland and have taken up residence. These families can move freely like we can in the states. Some have chosen to attend and some have chosen to become members. Europe has many seekers where people have an interest in what we believe, and they make contact, and there are many contacts with East Dunmore. The Boys Camps, in past years there was interest in staff in becoming involved in a Boys' Camp in Ireland. Dan Yoder was ready to be a part of something. In the partnership, Bald Eagle provides the expertise and MIC already has the presence. The traditional Boys' Camp model probably will not work: climate, culture, government, etc. They have just recently been removed from being a third-world country, and in their memories, they remember third-world countries. Having tents or crude housing in the forest doesn't sound good. Another thing against us, they are not comfortable with us working with troubled boys as a religious organization. Recently, news of the Irish clergy abusing boys is a hurdle. Wes and Karen Sensenig are the pioneers and are searching out the project. We've just completed the purchase of 16 acres of land to access the forest. All forest land in Ireland is owned by the government, and they cannot buy their own woods. It must be leased from the government. One acre accommodates staff housing, and hopes to build a house. Currently they are renting. With some variance, perhaps build another one. The other fifteen acres will be for planting trees, as the government strongly encourages reforestation of open area.

4:04pm: Amish Mennonite Aid (Earl Peachy)

Daniel Bontrager requests not to be put up for re-election for AMA board. A slate of three brothers has been created to replace him.

Lavern Miller, Rosewood Fellowship, Shipshewana, IN

Paul Beachy, Grace Mennonite, Bastrop, TX

Virgil Kanagey, Calvary Mennonite Fellowship, Blackville, SC

Pray

Appreciation is expressed for Daniel's time on the board. The board requests to use Daniel as an honorary member status, and he has agreed to do that, but affirmation is requested from the assembled. Affirmation by closed eye. Unanimous support.

Financial report (Ivan Beachy)

Two books from AMA are available for free. Calendars are also available. The Love offering distribution has not been done. Generous in giving, \$58.70 per share, and 1,782 shares to be distributed for workers in 2009. Over \$104,000 to bless those who have served. There's no papers for financial report. AMA is in transition, changing accounting programs and accountants. Mark Payne is the new accountant and trying to come up with better reporting, especially with new IRS regulations on the 995. Present condition, the year ended positively, total income \$2.36 million in 2009. Phenomenal. After last year, \$25,000 had to be withdrawn from savings. One month's funds available in savings, but that was the only time needed to withdraw. Businessmen called and offered money, as business was better. The balance \$540,000, which included the reserve in love offering. Operating balance of \$436,000.

Personnel needs (Ray Stutzman)

Recently, there were visitors in church, and he asked the host who the man was that preached, and he asked "Was that the man who calls everyone for help? I'm going to stay away from him." Well that doesn't work, I've got him on the list. Recently, while retrieving a birth certificate for a worker preparing to go, he talked to a man and lady at the state department. They found out about the work we do, and the words they had were very encouraging. Thank you as a constituency for support. It's not a problem to call any and ask for a reference. If you're a parent of one of those that have gone to the mission field for support, there is a lot of enthusiasm of parents. Last trip was to Paraguay, and it was a good time connecting with workers. In the next four or five months, people are leaving for the field. So, there are not many needs, but the next time will come around, and he still wants names. The workers going to the mission field: Lori Ann Troyer going to Belize to Double Head as a domestic social worker, daughter of David Troyer, Leesburg, OH. Marty and Kristy Bender have left for Kisumu, Kenya, in Agape work. He is the son of Glen Bender. Orientation scheduled for the latter part of June. Delilah Miller left in Jan. as an assistant to Miss Nancy in Belize. James Gingerich is leaving to do maintenance in Belize. Deacon at Bethel (Lancaster) will be leaving in July, unit leader in Scotland. Priscilla Wagler from Trout Creek, MT, nurse aid in Paraguay. Brenda Zook from Belleville, PA, leaving in August to be a cook in Paraguay. Catherine Hostetler, Belleville, PA, Agape worker in Kisumu, Kenya, where her brother Joseph is serving. Jay Yoder, Montezuma, GA, going to Paraguay as a maintenance boy there. Rhonda Kuhns, Belleville, PA, going to Paraguay to be a nurse. Rhonda Brenneman, Aroda, VA, RN in Paraguay. Isabella, Weston Showalter from Double Head is taking on that responsibility along with work as a unit leader in Double Head. Loncho and Pauline are leaving for sabbatical, and someone will fill in for them, and someone committed for two year term where Mark and Ellen Yoder are serving. Pending church approval, so not public at this time. Needs are covered, except, Merle Beachy in Kenya who has been serving there for around a decade will be terminating as bishop of Kisumu area. Looking for a replacement for him. Someone with administrative and pastoral experience is desired. This person may not take on his work, but fill a void and perhaps choose someone from there to take on mission responsibilities. Is there a minister in your congregation who is suitable for that? If someone comes to mind or if you wish to volunteer, please make this known.

General Missions Report (Daniel Bontrager)

In Central America, there is a meeting similar to this. AMA has been going for 50 years, and we don't see the fulfillment of everything right away. We used to bring a minister from Central America to give them exposure. There are around 100 ordained or commissioned leaders at those meetings. Two ordinations, one in Paraguay (where Amish group is) a deacon ordained. The deacon recently had a fire where his storage building and truck were burned. If anyone cares to contribute, it is welcome. Another Orlando Matute as bishop in the Cayo church. This is the second native bishop in Belize. Have encountered sufficient legal problems in the past couple years. The clinics in Paraguay they have been operating with official permission to be there. But this permission is being challenged. Those clinics may need to go through extensive, costly legal obligations. The clinic at New Life and Hope is improved over government clinics. But they say it needs to be modified considerably, but if they government takes it over, they can do it without costing a dime. If the clinic chooses to close it though the government requirements, we're okay with that (with approval of the colony church).

We want to see that church goes on itself. The El Salvador churches had the vision of starting their own children's home. That has grown considerably, beyond their means of operating by personnel and finances. With the help of CAM and Holmes County New Order Amish they have a larger home than the mission before. The old home has been converted into a deaf ministry. That is being supported financially and personnel with the NOA. In Kenya, there are several new congregations, and not nearly as many as could be. It's a stressful situation because of the number of requests still coming. It's still true, and it keeps being that way. With growth, comes pain. One growing pain is that while AMA is not really a material aid ministry, sometimes you just can't help it. Agape is largely a material aid program, which helps many orphans and widows of AIDS. It is largely in private homes with financial help distributed through Agape, and thanks to CAM for assistance. While there are pastors, they're saying 'How are we going to support our families?' The image we're giving some is that money and spreading the Gospel go together. This is a prayer request, how can we best reach the people who want to know, and how can we best help people who are willing but don't have the resources.

Fellowship Haven, one of the earlier ministries of this group, has a few people still there. They say now, if they could do it over, they wouldn't have made some of the changes that they did. They would like to join this fellowship again. Some contacts have been made for help, and we give this as a prayer request. Pray for the hungry souls at Fellowship Haven looking for direction.

Proposed Ransom Policy (Earl Peachy)

There has been no ransom policy in place, and AMA proposes a statement that AMA does not pay ransom, though individuals may pay. AMA may assist in helping to transfer funds if requested by the individuals. Raised hand vote for show of support. Unanimous.

In the Mennonite history of missions, efforts were met with suspicions because it might have a liberalizing effect. We have a concern from the other end. The missions are concerned about the liberalizing effect that is coming from home. Visitors on the field should be willing to comply with local practices.

Paul Beachy is elected.

4:39pm: Calvary Bible School (Paul A. Miller)

CBS is governed by a five-member board, Marvin Kauffman, Tim Stoltzfus, Norman Kauffman, Ken Miller, and Paul Miller. Because Ken is moving to Ireland, he is not standing for re-election. There is a slate of candidates to replace Ken Miller. Two are proposed:
Stan Nisly (Carol), minister at Cornerstone, KS
Mel Stoltzfus (Mary Ellen), layman at Mine Road, PA
Last year, it was approved to allow one laity on the board if elected.

Principal's Report (Floyd Stoltzfus)

Nearly 41 years ago when Willie Wagler from Kansas took a trip to Shady Lawn, AR, and heard about the school that was evacuated back in the hills. He drove up there and was excited, and told the board he thinks he found the place. A place of God's gift given to us through the years. There's probably not a place more suited in the location where it is. I don't know if we could find it in Indiana, Ohio, or Pennsylvania. Woods, mountains, fishing, bluffs, caves, a natural falls within walking distance.

An encouraging year, thank you for gift of young people, teachers, and staff. 140+ people were on campus for each of the two terms, and for the six term 220 students, 103 men, 117 ladies, from 16 to 24, 103 in the first term, 104 in the second term, and 74 in the third term. FL to NY and ON, from CO and TX and 18 states in between. 13 students from missionary families. Some are calling ahead to preregister for classes. This year they were preregistered before they got to Bible School for the third term (or first and second). After a sermon for the Beauty of Christian Womanhood and the need for women to have a Biblical size for their covering (Chester Weaver), and Floyd is offering copies of this recording. It brought a revival, a message from his heart, and he talked about drift in other churches.

Treasurer's Report (Tim Stoltzfus)

Last year with the ice storm, there were \$1,547 in balance at the end of the term. Income \$191,467 expenses, \$203,952 income, \$12,485 balance. Much of this was from donations. There was a theft at CBS, and several thousand worth taken during the months CBS stands empty. On arrival of the teachers, a senior teacher said "I wish they had taken the teacher's chairs."

Paul. A. Miller

An email will be coming of a list of items they're looking to replace. Marvin Kauffman is always looking for potential teachers. If there are possibilities, contact Marvin or other board members. We're open to feedback regarding CBS and how this training arm can better serve the needs among us, especially the changing needs of the changing times in which we live. As you entrust to us your youth, give us input and feedback on how we best can serve your needs and how we can augment and support the teaching programs in your own churches. This is preventative training in one sense, but in this training in sound doctrine and fervency in spirit to serve the Lord, so that our churches may prosper and grow and carry the Gospel. Stan Nisly was elected.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010

2:29pm: **Moderator (Dale Hochstetler, Fair Haven A.M., IN)**

I had to think about last night and the four lepers, and they wondered, what are we doing here, let's go share it. He called us out of darkness into our marvelous light. Then he read from Acts 26, to turn from the power of Satan unto God.

That'll bring us to our business session.

- More ministers' directories are now here. Take enough for your whole team.

Those are dismissed who wish to leave.

2:31pm: **Song (Dale Hochstetler, Fair Haven A.M., IN)**

1. "Lord, Speak to Me" (#908 Christian Hymnary)

2:35pm: **Bishop Committee (Tim Miller, Oak Grove Mennonite, VA)**

The incoming chairman for the committee will be David Yoder from Kansas. In this coming year, there will be ongoing discussion on questionnaire items, and input is still welcome. You can send those to Brother David or to Tim who will pass it on to David. The summary of our report will be on the registration table. Please take those for yourself and your co-ministers who are not here.

We thought it would be good to review the purpose, statement, and function of the committee. [*The statement is read.*]

Comment on 1.2: In some situations, the committee does not see itself as directly involved in the minister team resolve problems, but being the resource to help get help. In a number of situations over the past years, we talk to individuals or a leadership team, we get the approval of the congregation before that, and someone else takes on assistance from there. This is a different approach than the traditional one chooses one, the other side chooses another, and the two choose a third. The committee is available to hear to help you find a way through without taking direct responsibility.

Comment on 2.5: This is why we do not feel we should be directly responsible in a congregational conflict. It's inherent that it does change the nature of the relationship to such an extent that the committee should NOT take direct responsibility.

May the Lord bless you as you seek to lead your congregation ever more in the ways of God.

2:41pm: **Calvary Publications (Elmer Glick, Slanesville Community Mennonite, WV)**

The present board is Elmer Glick (chairman), Nathan Yoder (Vice Chairman), Enos Stutzman (Secretary), Ralph Miller, David L. Miller, and Glen Bontrager. Paul L. Miller is editor, and Mark Beachy as treasurer and circulation manager.

Ballot:

Manferd McGratch (Taylorsville, NC)

Ralph Miller (Free Union, VA)*

Mark Webb (Aroda, VA)

In the annual meeting—and he told me to say “THANK YOU” loudly for the support. We thank you for your subscriptions, church donations, and personal donations. A bit of history about the financial stability. I didn’t go back into the records to see how far it was, but in the earlier years, we were subsidized by MIC. The board members from MIC, their funds don’t reach as far as they did at one time, and we are glad to say we don’t use MIC funds because of church offerings. We keep the subscription low enough to make sure people can afford it. Subscriptions are the same as last year, at around 5,000. We don’t know how many are being read, or how often each copy is read. We’d encourage you that when it does come into the home, it is at a visible point, especially so the younger generation can pick it up and read it. I hesitate to give a treasurer’s amount because it is deceptive. \$18,509.79. That seems large, but most of our income is derived from annual subscriptions which comes the first of the year, so we have to live off that amount for nine more months, paying Carlisle Printing and small stipends for editors. There were a few times we scraped the bottom of the barrel and even took loans until more came in. We are in the black, and we hope to stay that way, but that figure can be misleading.

In the back corner across from the CLP stand, we do have a few publications, including *Hey Peachy*—the account of a I-W objector and they are inexpensive enough. Another is *Dowsing—How Does It Work?* Trying to make clear dowsing is not for the believer. The third one is *The Terrible Price of Darkness*, having to do with the occult. The largest sales of this book are going into Amish bookstores. The prices are \$1, \$2, and \$5. We have two tracts, “Yes, I’ll Tell You Why I Wear It,” and “Answers to Questions about the Amish and Mennonites.” \$5 a pack. We would like to affirm our editor, Paul Miller, in his work. We wish to continue using him, as well as Floyd Stoltzfus and Ernest Eby as section editors as well as other [named] brethren. When David L’s last term expired, he didn’t feel he should take another term. So, we reaffirm his board position on a year-to-year basis, and we reaffirm his position on the board and his writing in the Observations. How many turn to David’s column first? [most hands raised]. In concluding the presentation, Ralph Miller has been re-elected.

2:51pm: Conservative Anabaptist Institute (Elmer Glick, Slanesville Community Mennonite, WV)

To help and encourage schools—Jonas Sauder brought this vision to birth, and continues to be highly involved in that. It continues to go on. What does this body have to do with the CASP board institute? To give the board institute some credibility. It was offered to various church groups. This body affirmed in the past that we would be willing to be the umbrella. Rather than form a committee, Calvary Publications took on the logistics of being your part of it. We do very little, like Paul A. keeps this meeting going here from year to year. We see there is continuity and oversight on the committee. Alan Byler, Lee Lehman, PA, Edwin Eby, Greencastle, PA, and Jonas Sauder from Lancaster County. The fourth annual meeting was held March 5-6 in Oak Grove, VA. Good attendance, good support, and we want to see that continued. We heard expressions of appreciation and support. If you’re not on the mailing, keep watching the CM each year, or, write to Elmer to be placed on the mailing list. March 4-5 is the projected date for

2011. You won't have far to drive next year providing your community hosts it. We're open to invitations.

2:54pm: IGO (Merle Burkholder)

God is doing some tremendous things in our day; people are coming to Christ. We have tools almost no generation has ever had. If we're going to get everything done, it's not going to happen with spare change and spare time, but we're going to have to get committed to getting the job done. In the past, we've had good intentions, good ideas, and good people, but they were ill-prepared to face the challenges of life, cultural adaptation, theological vulnerable, language, and we have lost people from our own circles from this. We sent people on to the field where we put people in leadership positions they were not prepared for. We send good people into difficult situations and tell them to do good things. After a year and a half in service, they knew they were not going to continue after three years. We've lost good people who had a vision for spreading the gospel because we have not prepared them effectively. We need people to prepare themselves to be a career as a missionary. As we prepared, we train them here and then send them around the world. The vision of IGo was to do missionary training in a cross-cultural setting. We take North American students and taking them to Thailand and immerse them in another culture. We do not run a compound. We have no A/C and air conditioning. The students are eating Thai food five days a week. We want to prepare people for village ministry and say "I know how to do this." We have taken an apprenticeship model because people learn when they see it. We start out in the first year of training with a three-week classroom term. They go out to a point in Asia at some point while there in teams and they get experience in different types of missions. They go back and forth between classroom and field experience. *[the remainder of this presentation is absent from this record]*

3:06pm: Moderator (Dale Hochstetler, Fair Haven A.M., IN)

Statement read. Christian Believer's Fellowship in Lewisburg is looking for someone to oversee Lighthouse Haven, a home for unstable women. No training necessary, but a practical understanding of the Word of God and how to apply it. If you know someone, let James Yoder know.

3:07pm: Song (Dale Hochstetler, Fair Haven A.M., IN)

1. "I Love You, Lord" (from memory)

3:08pm: CASP / Peace and Service (Elmer Miller, Woodlawn A.M.)

What I have to share may seem fairly tame in comparison; yet at the same time I have a firm conviction it is of great important. What we want to do today is mention two things. The Peace and Service committee. Harlan will take charge of re-election. David L. will discuss what's been going on lately with the draft and other issues. Then, I want to give a report on the CASP program and raise some questions we'd like you to respond to. The first thing, let's have an election. Ballots are involved.

Harlan is coming off the committee. These are the nominees:

Dave Beiler from Shekinah Fellowship or Lewisburg, PA
Merv Lapp from Weavertown A.M., Lancaster County, PA*

David L. Miller: When I look back and think how much changed of these meetings, before the decade of the 1950s, there were no committees, Both mission boards started in the 1950s. MIC started in the Old Order setting and AMA started a couple years later. A couple boards have been added since, the CBS board and the publication board, but has anyone ever counted the number of para-Anabaptist boards? There seems room for that side of growth and introspection. We should stay abreast of those things and we, as well as CASP people, there are 14 different groups that consider themselves affiliated with CASP. The Beachys are the largest, and they have some 800 young persons age-eligible for this service. There are certainly a lot of service opportunities and things that have made it difficult to recruit the volunteers we've had. Those volunteers have been excellent. A month or so ago we got word from Selective Service that they would like to have a conference call with interested people, so Elmer Miller and I were notified. The head of selective service, they have a new director of selective service. He was on, too. They were interested in introducing their new director and informing people what they envision. We don't see any changes, other than the new director is very sympathetic to the alternative service. They are working on a memo of understanding, and Cassandra has been working on it for a long time. Her superior wasn't interested in it, but now it looks like it is going to happen. There are some 14 different groups who want to be affiliated with CASP. When they do these short-term service projects, there has to be a place. Sometimes I think we do well to back off and see ourselves in the context of the larger picture as a family of Anabaptists. We have a yearbook that CLP puts out regularly, and if you were total up the different groups who teach as Mennonites historically taught, it would be somewhere around 30,000, but it did not include some off the groups who were sort of mainstream, and Sword and Trumpet comes out with a second directory. That number would be somewhat less than 30,000 but the combined total would be about 50,000. I think it's good we have FB and northern youth programs that do not operate along the various groups. Conservative Anabaptists have so much in common, and we should reach across these lines and cooperate. You may not be aware, the history of CASP goes back to March of 2005 when MCC called this meeting in Illinois in a Church of the Brethren. The Church of the Brethren is struggling. In WWII about 10% of theirs went to COs and they are considered an historic peace church. This indicates what other groups work with who have been acculturated. The GC Mennonites and the (Old) Mennonites average about 50% COs. One of the concerns of CASP is the concept and the conviction for COs is not lost. The other reason for CASP we credit to Lyle Hostettler of Tampico, IL. He worked in I-W. He's bishop in Shelbyville, MO. He'd want a better place for young people to serve than what was in the I-W area. We are in the early phase of this venture, so we solicit your prayers as we continue. The organization that we work under is CAM and we need an umbrella like that. The 14 different groups includes three New Order Groups, Michigan, Holmes County, and Guthrie, KY. We sit around the table and have a common interest. Suggestions are welcome.

Elmer Miller: Sometime the first part of January I had my neighbor in my home, Marvin Troyer, who represents BMA. He came and said, "I hear you got kicked out, Beachy people got kicked out." "Yes and no." The CASP board would have kicked us out; they did in a sense when we had our meeting in August in Plain City, the larger CASP group, 85-100 people which represents the 14 groups, Eli Weaver on the CAM board. Since the Beachy group is the largest under CASP, you do your own thing. You find your own project, and CAM will no longer give you a place to serve. That's where we came up with this project in Hutchinson, KS with interfaith housing services program. Just a bit, we had this program this past year and we did have three months, or

three four-week terms. The first term there were seven people, and the second and third term there were six people. With the exception of one blip, we've had an excellent time. These men that came ranged from 18 to 26, one person was maybe 30. They did a tremendous amount of themselves. They worked with John Scott of Interfaith Housing. They were overwhelmed. Dan Miller (IN) was the project coordinator first six weeks, Marcus and Lois Overholt (SC) for the last six weeks. The work was done in five weeks that was meant to take 12 weeks. On the back stand, one corner there is a sign that says "CASP" and there's a newspaper article from Hutchinson News. There's some copies back there including a certificate from Interfaith Housing Service. [*Reads the statement.*] A few more things, we had asked last year for approval of this assembly to pursue this and it was given. Now, it is completed for this year, but we're not finished yet with what all, the bills. If you have any money left after the other requests, we need some too. The process we've been going through, we pay back loans (interest free). We have received from about five different churches and the Interfaith Housing Services themselves (unexpected) and they had stipends of \$300 per worker per term. We're going to be running short, somewhere between \$8000-\$9000. Will you see it in your heart in the next few months to send a contribution to me?

In our meeting a couple days ago with CASP committee, it was suggested we give a report. I did send out 90 letters to 90 different church leaders. After two months, 27 returned with responses. We got on the telephone. We were able to squeeze out enough people until about three weeks before the project was to begin, on the eighth day of January, I had two in the bush and none in my hand. Lots of potential, but it finally worked out. It was difficult. We try to publicize it, but we need more than just intentions.

There is a possibility of organizing a non-minister CASP board similar to Penn Valley. PVCR is one of the ones with a non-minister board with minister oversight. What our experience was, it seemed excellent beyond our expectations; it was just pretty smooth. We're thinking about that. By the middle of the year, I hope to send out to the church leaders a more comprehensive report to church leaders with potential for another year. Sometime another year, the CASP board will meet sometime the next year in Illinois. Maybe Cassandra and some others would attend. Maybe we can project another project for next year.

Elmer suggested this morning we should look at the health plan. Perhaps we should do a bit more looking at the health plan.

This booklet introduced this morning, something written in 1982 and then revised in 2004, we passed these out 4-5 years ago. There is a box full of them which is a statement of position on peace, war, and social issues. It was first written in 1982. We've revised it and added a few things to it.

Mervin Lapp has been elected to the board.

Warren and Grace Keupfer (KS), Ollie and Emma Troyer (KS), Ken and Anne Beiler (PA) [*also helped in some way with the Interfaith Housing project.*]

CAM is asking the Beachy group to go on its own. We asked, can we get under that program?

Advised we check with Eli Weaver from CAM. My question is, does it seem right for 2011 perhaps another three months we should purse that and try to squeeze some volunteers? [*Raise of hands for support.*]

3:35pm: Penn Valley Christian Retreat (Homer Zook, OH)

Regardless how small the work is, if it is God's directed work, it is important work. It is true, Elmer, that Penn Valley has a non-ministerial board and a pastoral board. We appreciate the group here that is left. Maybe we should have our business meetings on one day and keep the best till last. Again, thanks to all of you for support. PVCRC is under the umbrella of the Beachy constituency, and the pastoral board fits between there, trying to keep it Beachy, though PVCRC generally ministers to more non-Beachy people than Beachy people. As we try to keep it in that perspective. Pastoral board: Elmer Schrock (VA), David S. King (Belleville), and Homer Zook. David's term is up, he served for ten years already, and it was handy since he lived nearby. If there were needs, he was there. I talked with Elmer and Alvin Beachy, and with your request, we would make this consent, that you would give approval for David to serve another five years. David, would you stand? Would you give your approval for David to continue for another five years. [*Strong support raised hands*]

PVCR had a good year despite economic recession. There has been money coming in. Right across the aisle where the peanuts are, you can pick up a well-written report of what's been happening at PVCRC. They're offering 25 seminars, as I listened to the messages, maybe you have some suggestions of areas we could cover. One of the problems we face, those things we feel should be covered in seminars, it's hard to get our people there to listen. The board has adjusted some seminars. Smaller ones have been phased out. Few have always been full, is the marriage seminar, youth seminar (Bible school reunion). There have been some changes made that has really been working well. Some of the youth seminars were so large like the YFM they were uncontrollable, so we phased in some things to try to give some control, and it has been working well. Thanks for your support. We praise the Lord on the renovation program. There were some things there that were less than ideal, maybe for seniors and other things. We did recently have all permits to proceed with the renovation program. We juggled some things around. They're planning to start the renovation by Sept. 27. We would like to have your response to that in helping as much as you can. There are some present needs, staff needs. We also need an administrator. Ervin Hostetler plans to leave by August or September. We don't have an administrator at this time. If you have someone at home, we would appreciate your response. [*Read a short piece.*] We invite people to come and give input, three to four hours at most, so traveling a long ways seems difficult. Trying to find something that works better, maybe get some input about a seminar you'd like to put on the schedule. Feel free to share that with us. We have nearly \$100,000 for renovation program, offerings, etc. May the Lord bless you and continue to pray for Penn Valley as an arm of the Beachy constituency.

3:45pm: Faith Builders (Ernest Hostetler, Cold Springs Mennonite, SC)

The display is in the location of the peanuts. You'll see information about the classes and teachers. There's an order form there and copies of publications there. Two books mentioned were *Overcoming Evil God's Way* and the one on Annie Funk. There's also a stack of CDs there from a colloquy "How can we avoid the dangers and maximize the opportunities in the next 20 years?" I'll give you something emailed to me. This has been prepared by the staff [*reads letter*]

of Steve Brubaker]. Thanks to all who gave. FB felt the economical crunch, but there's not as much physical renovation as needs to be done. The stats last year are the same for this year, and the Beachys represents about half of the students and staff. FB welcomes our comments and inputs. John Nisly, Gary Miller, ... Glen Yoder, Wayne Schrock, and myself are on the pastoral board, among others. If you want to give something, it's welcome. If you do budgets, include something for FB for this coming year. Who should attend FB? They have a program that takes turns every fall. They have 15 student spots open in the fall. Three reasons why go to FB: 1) Prepare for teaching in the schools. The main reason students give for not coming is the cost. They're suggesting if cost is a factor, that we as churches could help a student and agree that they would spend time teaching in our schools. 2) Maybe a student wants to go on to college, and with the caution, they should have some preparation time. 3) Preparing for service. There's a winter term also, and Roman will talk about that in a little bit. The last thing, they're working on an Anabaptist periodical. This one will be published a minimum of once a year, or maybe twice a year at most. It would be close to 100 pages for issues, a 'journal' but everyone is backing off that. It's heavy reading, and they want to address current issues we have in our larger Anabaptist circles. These articles would be freshly written by selected authors with expertise. If you could have the periodical in your home, would you want it? [*Hand raise, some interest*]

Verlynn Yoder: I've been ordained for six years, and after two years of being ordained, I felt the need to take some time off and spend time where I could be stimulated, and discussion time and interaction. I felt like going back to Bible School again. We went to FB for five weeks. We took our whole family along. We camped out there at FB. I took classes like 'pastoral care' and 'introduction to the ministry.' I could sit with fellow ministers, and we enjoyed stimulating discussions. My wife was also able to enjoy classes, and we took turns doing the babysitting. I recommend it as a way to be refreshed.

Ernest Hochstetler: You can take what you need, one week, two weeks, whatever.

4:01pm: Billboard Ministry, CAM (Ernest Hochstetler, Cold Springs Mennonite, SC)

There are seven different types of boards. All have the same 800 number on it. All the phone calls go to the same place. We would like to have a number of you volunteer to take these phone calls. Raymond takes some, Johnny Miller takes them, Menno has, and I have also. In 44 states. There are states that don't allow bill boards: Maine, Hawaii, Vermont, Alaska. CAM is trying to get into airports and public places. I don't have exact viewers per day, but a little over 2million a day on 83 billboards in these 44 states. One is on a board, and one is on the side of a large semi parked by a highway. A few are on smaller boards. Would some of you be interested in volunteering to take calls? Fill out a form and submit to Dwayne Stoltzfus. We need some additional counselors. What kinds of calls do you get? All kinds. When the phone rings, there are four cell phones ringing simultaneously. Whoever gets it first gets the call. Every call you get is recorded, and you submit to CAM the information. Calls from those who are blessed, and some Christians call and object to the evolution board. They believe there is another gospel allowing for a mix of creationism and evolutionary thought. We have calls you check off based on the type of calls. I've never been talked to before like this ever like some calls on the phone! On the backside, you check off what kind of person it was, and there is a place for a 'mocker.' The mini sign had been sitting in the peanut section, and the information shows you the different messages, and on the backside it shows the location of the billboards. These calls come in 24hrs

a day, 7 days a week. So, you need to plan to keep your cell phone by your bed, and you learn to wake up real fast. You don't want to talk to a person about his soul when you're asleep. You wake up and hear someone pleading for help. The plea today is not the promotion of the billboard. Average cost is \$600/month. We need you, tele-counselors, like Uncle Sam.

4:10pm: **Song (Dale Hochstetler)**

1. Jesus Loves Me

4:11pm: **Masters International Ministries (Nathan Yoder, Faith Mission Fellowship, VA)**

Slide show presentation. For nearly 20 years there has been an Anabaptist witness in Ukraine. Not as well known as the other mission organizations, we are grateful for what He is doing there. There are today a number of churches established, three existing and a new one. There are ways you can become part of this work, the tiller program. The NOA in Holmes County have provided chain saws and tillers for the poor folk there. They are multipurpose and used much. Other ways to be involved in the work, prayer. Summer Bible Camp program with young children. There are many children in Ukraine looking forward to going to summer Bible camp and many for the first time hear about another lifestyle. A summer Bible school poster for fund raising is available. There are envelopes and newsletters to pick up, and let us know if you want a summer Bible school kit. Another thing is the Lamp and Light translation work done by Michael Jantzi. One of the larger projects is translating *Doctrines of the Bible*. It's been many years Michael has been working on it, and it is finally ready for the printer, but the baby has come full term but mother doesn't have the strength to deliver. A printer in Ukraine can print for about \$3 a copy, and we plan to print 3,000 copies. We are planning to charge for it instead of giving it away for free, but we are looking for a donation to be able to print it. Another need, the church in Chernivtsi has been rented, but there is a plot of land available for \$20,000 that is sizeable enough that we can build on it. We need another \$10,000 for that plot of land. Natives are interested in helping with the work if the land can be secured. Recently, there's been a building project many of you have been involved in. There's a number of people responding in a village 1.5hrs west. The mission base is planning on relocating to this village, and there is no church of any kind there. They are inviting MIM in to evangelize. It seems like a golden opportunity. There are small houses there, and housing is an issue. Land was gotten there and a house was built. A couple plans to move over there. Another building (multi-purpose) is being built that can be used as a church, since legally it is hard to build a church. There is also an apartment and a storage area. It is nearly finished. Much of the material has been gotten at reduced costs, and a number of containers have been shipped over. Some people have loaned us interest-free totaling about \$200,000. They'd like it back , so as the Lord lays it on your heart, we invite you to share.

4:22pm: **Anabaptist Financial (Richie Lauer, VA)**

Slide show presentation. two-fold vision of organization, to assist the brotherhood in channeling material resources within the Kingdom of Christ. The other is to provide stewards with Biblically-based financial counsel consistent with conservative Anabaptists beliefs. We believe the funds conservative people hold should work within our own circles, rather than in the secular marketplace. Where you allow your money to work does matter and relates to accountability and stewardship. AF has been around for five years. Merle Burkholder is one of the board members as secretary. There is a 40-person advisory group that meets with the board once a year. From the Beachy constituency, there is Bill Mullet, Ben Stoltzfus, Aaron Lapp Jr., and Raymond King

serve on this group. The board seats are not allocated by affiliation, but are intentionally spread across groups. AF represents Anabaptist Financial and Anabaptist Foundation. The former is for investment and loss, while the latter is a public foundation. Both are tax-exempt organizations. The latter focuses on institutions, while the former works with businesses and individuals. The church constituency are those who support the 1963 or earlier confessions of faith [*list of church groups allowed*]. Headship veiling, still practice a form of non-conformity. 19 of 23 groups identified are currently participating. IRS approved donor-advised fund. Through the foundation, the giver can give anonymously and get the tax deduction. They give a gift to the foundation, then the foundation gives it to the organizations. Overhead is kept at a minimum. We assess 0.5% of donations. The foundation does not exist to raise money for itself, but for the other organizations. The channeling that has been going to longest is in the Wilderness Camp project. Currently, they're raising funds for the Maryland camp. We lack \$97,000 to give the camp to Bald Eagle. Open Hands Fund is to support efforts by creating self-supporting and responsible Anabaptist communities in poor countries. It's designed to have micro-loans in the community, as well as financial accountability and Christ-centered teaching. A self-sustaining, local congregation. 96% repayment rate on loans. Currently operating in Haiti. Lyndon Swarey has committed to three years to work in Haiti. Investment Management Agreements: funds are deposited and loaned back out to other conservative Anabaptists. 3.75% pay rate for long term investments (one year plus). These funds would otherwise be invested in CDs at secular financial institutions. Anabaptist Financial Investments: operates as a brotherhood-based investment option for conservative Anabaptists. At this time, it only applies for residents of PA, then MD shortly. Next year, complete in the state of OH, IN, and SC. Current rate of return 4.0%. 1.8 million per month coming in. Currently serving over 350 borrowers. To receive a loan, the borrower must belong to one of our conservative churches. They must sign a brotherhood agreement of accountability. Three business seminars a year, one in Ohio, IN, and PA. Visit afweb.org for more information. Also, church presentations on request.

4:37pm: Shepherds Institute (Chester Weaver, Rosewood Fellowship, IN)

An effort to provide help for ministers in preaching, pastoring, and theology. It moves from one place to another, and the last one was at Pequea AM. The next one is at Pleasant Grove Mennonite, April 19-23. It features presentations and a round-table. One church sent someone to the Shepherds Institute and paid a hired man to do his work at home. SMBI and FB offers similar programs. Shepherds Institute is traveling. Each class offers lectures and discussions. One of the focuses is the 'emergent church.' It is already posing a threat to our people. That will come up in discussions this year. Brian McLeran is the leading figure in the Emergent church. *A New Kind of Christian* is the book he wrote. Its emphasis on community and simplicity and non-hierarchy and smallness is attracting our people and—I'd better stop. Brochures and information are there in the back corner.

There are booklets entitled "Amber Alert: Exodus En Mass" which was preached at the Anabaptist Identity Conference last year. It deals with our young people leaving the church.

4:44pm: Youth Fellowship Meeting (Donald Miller, Cedar Crest A.M., KS)

Five member committee representing five districts in our constituency, we are needing to elect a new member to take Donald's place. It's his fifth year. New man on from the southwest district:

Dan Byler, Huntsville, AR*
Julian Nisly, Hutchinson, KS

We received positive feedback for the meetings last summer. We appreciate your contributions and the work you put into it. I'll forego listing the locations. The next issue of CM will have a list of the youth fellowship locations. One dark spot in last year's meetings. Most of you probably heard where a young girl's life was taken in a motorcycle accident in the SW district. We want to re-emphasize a plea for a safe environment for these meetings to take place. We continue to have a burden for our youth. There is room for improvement, and we trust the format is a way we can contribute to their growth and maturity. We continue to be open to your input if these meetings are filling a needful role. We encourage the youth sponsors and parents to attend with their youth as a positive way to interact and know what's going on. Current board: Simon Bender, PA, Luke Stutzman, OH, Verlynn Yoder, MN, Wayne Nisly, Abbeville, SC

4:48 **Titus Wagler, Native Missions Endeavors**

The body gave approval to help put together a board. We provide help for churches already established in evangelizing locally. We have 32 pastors we are sponsoring at \$50 a month in India. We're praying for open doors in other areas. There may be some American missionaries that could be moved to another location. We need to replace Melvin Glick, it's a six year term. John Hostetler serves also, and Titus Wagler.

John Beiler, Crystal Valley, NY

Daniel Brenneman, Virginia Beach, VA*

Sanford Wayne Yoder, Wytheville, VA

Executive committee:

Alvin Beachy, Plain City

Leon Overholt

David Kauffman, Weavertown

Jay Hostetler, Sec/Tres

4:51pm: **Archiving and Annual Meeting (Paul A. Miller, Maranatha Fellowship, OH)**

"Hutterites have very clear records." Dutch Mennonites began installing cannon. Cory Anderson and Paul A. Miller were corresponding to collect records from this body. There is no formally established central archive or anything recording decisions you are making. We're suggesting the value of a central archives. What documents? Bishop committee reports, any committee reports, all service units that report to this body, the recordings of the ministers meetings, minutes of annual meetings, programs over the years, etc. It might be of interest to catalog, preserve, and make available to those who would like to research at a later date. We have not given much thought to how, there is no formal proposal today, merely raising the idea. If there is already such an organization, then we'll submit the information we have. There are duplicate binders, and records are being kept, but they should be archived somewhere. Someday our children and grandchildren may want to look back and see the records of our proceedings. If you're interested in participating, I'm welcoming contributions of the 'who, what, and where.'

At this time, I will express appreciation on behalf of the visitors to the hosting congregations who have worked. We appreciate planning and diligence. A year from now, the meeting will be in Lancaster, PA, April 5,6,7.