

DAYTON MENNONITE CHURCH

Dayton, Virginia



Beacon

JUNE 2023



BY RUTHANN WEAVER

A ROSEDALE NETWORK PUBLICATION

VOL. 53 | NO. 6

Reflections on God's Work – Part 6

God is at work. In 2023, the *Beacon* feature articles will seek to capture a snapshot of the ways God is working in churches across our conference. We pray that these articles encourage your faith and spur you on to join God in the work He is doing in your local congregation.

~Kelsey Jurkovich, Publication & Literature Committee

Knowing Christ... and making Him known is the mission of Dayton Mennonite Church (DMC).

Situated centrally in the lovely Shenandoah Valley in the midst of a somewhat rural, widely diverse faith-based community, DMC is surrounded by four colleges, an expanding immigrant community, and a world that is searching for truth in all the wrong places. Our congregation is a reflection of this reality.

Quite a number of us have come from Old Order Mennonite background. Crisis from within other local congregations and changes in theology (especially the shift from teaching the Bible as the infallible word of God) bring those hungry to follow just Jesus, and providing assistance in practical matters to the immigrants among us has certainly spurred growth at DMC.

Recently, while visiting one of our favorite getaway destinations on the eastern shore of our state, my husband and I were discussing all the changes that storms and growth in tourism have brought to the area. Some of the changes were sad to see, but it is still a place where we can find restful spaces to soak in God's amazing creation that brings refreshment for body and soul, enjoy the fresh sea foods we love, and of course, get our favorite ice cream.

In retrospect, some of the same can be said of our home church Dayton Mennonite. In the more than 25 years we've worshiped here, the tides of time have brought many changes.

Events of the past seven-plus years have moved our leadership model from a full-time lead pastor to a team of bi-vocation pastors, deacon, and elders. In 2016, God called our pastor to a church plant in Pennsylvania. Recognizing God's leading during that season and witnessing His provision of a uniquely gifted interim pastor during that pivotal time proved to be faith building – not to mention stretching. Following an exhaustive search to obtain a lead pastor from outside the congregation,


our overseer, Dale Keffer, strongly encouraged the shift to finding leadership from within.

March 1, 2020 became the official date our current leadership model was implemented. No one could have predicted the impact of the pandemic shut down just two weeks later. Trial by fire may seem an extreme description, except to those who were charged with navigating church life in those days.

Despite all of this, Dayton Mennonite has experienced substantial growth. The obvious answer for this is...God. Several factors at play from a human perspective include timing and the desire to know Christ and make Him known in our community.

This growth has not been without its growing pains. Just as in Jesus' day the people's expectation of the kind of leadership the Messiah would bring caused them to dismiss this Teacher and His band of unlikely disciples, so too the changes at DMC have not always gone the ways we've expected or wished them to go.

But like our vacation destination, the *Good News* is still here to be discovered – hearing truth preached, lifting voices in a blend of worship music and hymns, warm fellowship with other believers, a vibrant youth group, small groups, various outreach ministries, church campout, weddings, births, deaths, baptisms, and more – binding us together through the love of Christ.

Moving forward it is the desire of DMC to step out in faith, trusting God to lead us and shape our trajectory... “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in [us] will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6 NIV). 



Ruthann is the administrative assistant at Dayton Mennonite Church in Virginia. She and husband, Kent, have three young adult children, one son-in-law, and a little grandson.



Full-time or Bi-vocational Pastors

This or That? Part 6

RBC's series of Beacon articles this year showcases a wide variety of differing practices encountered among Rosedale Network congregations. We hope these articles promote thoughtful discussions and spark new ideas about the differing ways our churches are faithfully seeking to honor Christ as His Body.

Full-time Pastoring –Duane Detweiler

I served as the lead pastor of Fairlawn Mennonite Church for six years in a bi-vocational role and then, for the next 20 years, as a full-time salaried pastor. Now I've transitioned out of that lead pastor role and currently serve bi-vocationally again.

Having been on "both sides of the fence," I see benefits in both ways of serving, but for the purposes of this article I want to share some of the benefits I've personally experienced from being a full-time, salaried ministry leader.

First, the most important benefit of being a pastor with full-time support was my ability to spend more time with my family. I was able to prepare sermons, do visitation, and perform general administrative responsibilities during the day. Consequently, my evenings were more available to spend quality time with my family.

Second, I was able to focus more of my energy on the church because I didn't have to balance it with other responsibilities. The church was my sole calling and passion. I didn't have to struggle with divided loyalties and was free to concentrate on the needs of the church. Full-time ministry allowed me to give more focused time to study for sermons, pray for our church, and intentionally discern what God was calling us to do as a church.

Third, full-time ministry made it more possible for me to continue learning. I was able to stay connected to our Rosedale Network (RNOC) events by attending Pastors Conference and Multiply, in addition to other beneficial resourcing experiences. Being able to take part in these events helped me grow in my faith, leadership, and preaching, which was vital in equipping me for ministry. As a bi-vocational pastor, I was very limited in how many events I could attend, and I often had to choose between RNOC events and others that were offered.

I see both models working well. However, I believe I became a much more effective leader of my family and church because of the opportunity I was given to be in full-time salaried ministry those 20 years.

Bi-vocational Pastoring –Tim Yoder

At Maple Glen Mennonite Church, we lead with a team of bi-vocational pastors. This model, that we have traditionally used, has numerous advantages.

First, being a bi-vocational pastor guards against becoming stuck in the "Christian bubble." Working in the community brings an authentication to the gospel and to the leader's preaching because it is daily lived out in circumstances that many church members face each day. Leaders stay grounded in the reality of where most people live.

Second, bi-vocational pastoring allows more freedom to be "prophetic." The pastor is not relying solely on the church for his financial support and can be less concerned that preaching the truth will get him "fired" or that he will lose financial support.

Third, it follows Paul's tentmaking model of ministry. It is important to have skills other than pastoring with which to make a living. Tentmaking allows the pastor more freedom to move on when God calls, rather than just "hanging on" because there are no other options.

Fourth, using the bi-vocational model brings more people into the leadership and management of the church. Since no one is full-time, the church cannot function without the laity being involved in the ministry and workings of the church. Responsibility shifts more from the pulpit to the pews.

The negatives of being a bi-vocational pastor can be summed up in one word—time. There is not enough time. Sermon preparation can be stressful for both bi-vocational pastors and their families. If a pastor has had a busy week without time for sermon preparation, Saturday will have to be dedicated to study. There are times my children are glad that it's not my turn to preach because it means more time with them!

As lead pastor, I have numerous ideas, but I almost never attempt them because there is no way there would ever be enough time for effective implementation. However, at this point in the history of Maple Glen, the advantages of having bi-vocational pastors outweigh the disadvantages! 🙏



"I'm Going to Say Yes"

BY ROSEDALE INTERNATIONAL

In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a young family prepares to follow the call of God on their lives and return to the Mediterranean to serve Him. Jamie, Hazel, and children Willow, Cyrus, Chase, and Shiloh recently committed to Rosedale International (RI) as their sending organization, and will join RI's team in the region. But Jamie and Hazel's journey starts long before their involvement with RI. Theirs is a story of God bringing two people with different desires, hopes, and fears into one mind and one calling.

As early as first grade, Hazel knew that she was called to be a missionary. She "read all the [missionary] books" and wanted to join the long line of believers who had worked overseas. But her faith community did not nurture this desire, and she set it aside. In contrast, Jamie dreamt of moving west and becoming a rancher. By his own admission, his two greatest fears were airplanes and Muslim people—and he had no plans to encounter either.

After the two were married, Hazel again felt the weight of God's call. She and Jamie discussed going overseas, but he remained closed to the idea. So again, Hazel tried to set that calling aside. "I knew that God wanted us to be married. But I couldn't figure out why I had this really strong burden—so I asked God to take it away. But He *would not* take it away." Finally, she surrendered. "I remember saying, 'Okay, God—I will be a missionary for you. But I don't know what that means, because my husband's *not* going to.' And I didn't think Jamie would change his mind."

As Hazel struggled over God's plan for her, Jamie also began to wrestle with God. "In my heart, I kept saying, 'No, I won't; I'm terrified.' But day after day, it kept eating me up." In the winter of 2014, God took Jamie through a season of hardship. "Looking back, I think it took that to bring me to the point where I was willing to say yes to God." In the spring of 2015, as the couple crossed the Susquehanna River on their way to a wedding, a sudden peace came over Jamie. "All of a sudden he said, 'I'm going to say yes,'" Hazel remembers. "And I knew exactly what he meant. I knew our whole life would change."

After Jamie said yes, the dominoes fell in rapid succession. Within 24 hours, they learned of an opportunity for missionaries in Spain. Within 48, they'd received a blessing and confirmation from their pastor. "He told us that [the previous day] he had felt strongly that he should tell us to attend long-term orientation for mission work. It was just undeniable what direction we were going to go next." Jamie, Hazel, and their children would go on to study local language and culture in the Mediterranean before moving to Spain to work with Mediterranean immigrants. Although they returned to the States due to COVID-19 and visa complications, they have continued to seek God's direction and wait for His nudging.

Their journey is a beautiful picture of God working in the hearts of His followers. Because God doesn't work in a vacuum, the story doesn't end there. As Jamie and Hazel asked God to reveal their next steps, a small team of women in the Mediterranean began to gather. These women sought to respond to their country's lack of care for—and exploitation of—vulnerable women with exceptionalities. In a previous *Beacon* article, RI worker Alice shared, "In our government system, women with exceptionalities are especially susceptible to exploitation. We hope to begin a home where they can live safely, with purpose and dignity. We wait and pray in faith that the Lord would lay on someone's heart to come here and make this their full-time work."

Through Jamie and Hazel, God has answered this prayer, and this fall they will join Alice and her foundation in building and operating a home for vulnerable women. 🏠

As this family embarks on a new stage of life, please lift them up in prayer. Ask for God's blessing and vision as they help build the House Project from the ground up. Ask that they could remain in the leading and guidance in the Holy Spirit. Ask for perseverance in serving, giving, and loving others faithfully.



Madalyn serves as media coordinator for Rosedale International. She lives in Columbus, Ohio, and attends Shiloh Mennonite Church.



multiply
2023

July 28-30
Castorland, NY

What is the Multiply conference?

An oft-debated question among the planners of Rosedale Networks’s Multiply Conference is, “What is the purpose of our annual gathering?” Is fellowship the primary purpose? Is it to be an equipping event for ministry leaders? Is it meant to be primarily inspirational? Those are all good things, and we hope they all happen at Multiply 2023, but those things can also be experienced at many other conferences. Is there a unique purpose for which we gather each year? We propose that amidst the other reasons we gather, **the overarching purpose is to celebrate our life together as a body and recommit ourselves to the mission to which God has called us.** As a body made up of local churches, a Bible college, and a mission agency, we have stories to tell of God’s goodness and how he has been at work in our midst. Let’s tell those stories! And let’s be inspired to embrace anew our mission to mature and multiply churches locally and globally.

JOIN US JULY 28-30

NAUMBURG MENNONITE CHURCH
5463 NY-410, CASTORLAND NY 13620

For more information and to register, visit our website at www.rosedalenetwork.org





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Doors Open 3:00 pm

Dinner 5:00 pm

FRIDAY EVENING 6:30–8:00 pm

Worship – Aaron Miller

Moderator’s Address – Preston Yoder

Stories – Rosedale Bible College & Rosedale International

Offering for Rosedale Bible College

Reception 8:00 pm – Hosted by RBC, RI, & RNOC

Youth Social 9:00–11:00 pm

SATURDAY MORNING 9:00–9:50 AM

Call to Worship and Hymn Sing

Youth Program 10:15 am at Croghan Mennonite Church

Men’s & Women’s Sessions 10:15 am

Moderated by Darren & Caryn Peachey, respectively

Men’s Session – Food Tent; Women’s Session – Sanctuary

“Living Out the Call to Make Disciples”

Your Home – Dan Horning (VA), Lena Hartzler (PA)

Your Workplace – Darrell Miller (NY), Elizabeth Miller (OH)

Your Neighborhood – Chris Raber (IN), Joyce Beachy (CAN)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1:00–2:00 PM

GSE: A New Tool for Our Toolbox for Use in Jesus Christ’s Harvest – Tony Webb

Breakout Sessions & Field Trips 2:30–5:00 pm

Breakout Sessions

- *GSE (Gatherer-Shepherd-Elder) Principles for Church Planting* – Tony Webb (2:30–3:30) [Location TBA]
- *Rosedale International Field Workers* – c/o Colleen Maust (2:30–3:30; repeated 3:00–4:00 pm) Food tent
- *Onramps to Church* – Paul Mast (2:30–3:30; repeated 3:00–4:00 pm) Held at Moving Mountains Café
- *Neighborhood Transformation Through Kingdom Initiatives* – Abraham Ndung’u (2:30–3:30; repeated 3:00–4:00 pm) [Location TBA]
- *GSE Principles for the Established Church* – Tony Webb (4:00–5:00) [Location TBA]

Field Trips

- *The Christian Community Center Story* – Brian & Cheri Siegrist
- *The Living Hope Ministries Story* – Todd Waugh and Nathan Zehr; Held at Pine Grove Community Church
- *Spanish Service at Iglesia Hispana Luz y Vida* – Led by Larry Moser; Guest speaker, Martin Guarena
- *Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Farm* – Guided tour

SATURDAY EVENING 6:30–8:00 pm

Moderator – Caleb Reed, RNOC Church Planting Catalyst

Worship – led by Aaron Miller

Introduction of Church Plants – Caleb Reed

Offering for Rosedale Network

Filling the Void in Utica, New York – Video

Our Church Planting Journey

– Interview with the Olmstead Family and Hassan

Tell All the Nations, “The Lord Reigns” – Nate Olmstead

Reception 8:00 pm – Tent

Hosted by local Rosedale Network congregations

Youth Social – TBA

SUNDAY MORNING 10:00–11:45 am

Worship – led by Aaron Miller

Offering for Rosedale International

Introduction of New Rosedale Network Congregations

The DNA of a Maturing and Multiplying Church

– Brian Hershberger

RBC & RI Stories

Closing – Preston Yoder, Moderator

YOUTH SESSIONS – Croghan Mennonite Church

Saturday 10:15 am–3:30 pm

THEME: Transformation

Personal Transformation – Matt Zehr

Transforming Your Community/Neighborhood

– Nate Olmstead

The day includes times for worship, prizes, and giveaways, a pizza lunch provided by RBC, and an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones.

Experience REACH 3:45–4:45 pm for interested young adults

CHILDREN’S CLASSES

Saturday 9:00–11:30 am & 1:15–5:00 pm

Sunday 10:00–11:30 am (Nursery–5th grade only)

THEME: TBA

Registration & Check-In

Naumburg Lobby

Infant–Pre-K

Junior Youth (6th–8th grades)

River Valley Mennonite School

K–5th grades

Register your children at: www.rosedalenetwork.org.