

Call for Submissions to the April 2022 Issue of *Anabaptist Witness*

Formation and Witness

Submission Deadline: November 1 2021

How are Anabaptists formed for witness? This issue calls attention to formation, broadly construed—those forces that shape Anabaptists as persons and communities which, in turn, impact their witness. Formation is *situated*, meaning that social, cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, socio-economic, and other contextual aspects profoundly shape one's life and witness.

Recent scholarship from theologians such as Willie James Jennings and Kwok Pui-Lan draws attention to the processes and products of formation. Analyses from Jennings, Kwok and their colleagues in *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging*, *Teaching Global Theologies: Power and Praxis*, and *Theology without Borders: An Introduction to Global Conversations* resound a similar claim – theological education and formation in North America has been predominantly done through Western, Euro-centric, and individualistic lenses. Recipients of theological education in the church and academy alike are being formed into an image of the white, self-sufficient male. In order to counter this malformation and to enrich theological education and formation in our globalized and pluralist society, it is crucial to diversify and incorporate non-Western and traditionally marginalized voices, both in the academy and the church. How do these calls for an evaluation of formation speak to Anabaptist witness in churches and schools in North America and beyond?

This statement leads us as guest editors of the April 2022 issue to ask self-critical questions: Whose theological insights do we typically utilize when we prepare a lesson, sermon, or academic paper? When we talk about Anabaptist/Mennonite identity and history, whose stories do we favor and whose experiences do we not count as Anabaptist? When we engage in witness, are white Anabaptists aware how they are complicit—knowingly and unknowingly—to white supremacy, settler colonialism, and patriarchy?

Theological formation, ethics/discipleship, and witness/mission are deeply interconnected in many Anabaptist streams. Authentic witness emerges from Christians faithfully practicing the teachings of Jesus, and theological education aims to equip and form people to live out this calling of discipleship in society. Hence, theological education and formation undergirds Christian witness.

Being aware of the urgent challenge to diversify theological education and recognize the interconnectedness of formation, discipleship, and witness, this issue invites papers that critique current patterns of Anabaptist/Mennonite education and formation and also offer constructive proposals rooted in authors' particular contexts and traditions. Submissions are invited that explore these interconnections, which may include projects such as:

- Anabaptist theological resources that empower communities for holistic formation and witness
- Interviews with Anabaptist BIPOC leaders reflecting on their theological formation in Anabaptism
- Photo-essays that reveal or defy images of whiteness in Anabaptist witness
- Analyses of the vestiges of hegemonic whiteness in historical or current Anabaptist witness
- Incorporating pedagogical strategies such as Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to foster greater inclusivity in Anabaptist theological education
- Formational visions for trauma-informed Anabaptist witness
- Theological reflection on divine and human agency in formation and witness

Because this journal is an exchange among peoples from around the world, from laity and pastors, to artists and activists, and to academics and administrators, we welcome submissions from a variety of genres including sermons, photo-essays, reflections, interviews, biographies, poems, and academic papers. We encourage authors to incorporate sources by women and BIPOC into their work. We also encourage submissions in languages other than English, particularly in French, Korean, and Spanish.

The guest editors for this issue are Sarah Bixler (PhD, Assistant Professor of Formation and Practical Theology, Eastern Mennonite Seminary) and “Pablo” Hyung Jin Kim Sun (PhD, Teaching, Research, and Program Assistant, the Canadian Council of Churches).

Guidelines and deadline:

Submissions on this topic are welcome through November 1 2021. Through a peer review process, we will choose 3–4 shorter articles of approximately 1,500 words in length, and 5–6 academic papers of no more than 7,500 words (including footnotes). Image-based submissions are also subject to peer review. Please familiarize yourself with our editorial process and technical requirements at <http://www.anabaptistwitness.org/guidelines/>.

If you have an idea you would like feedback on, you are welcome to submit a one-page abstract by October 1, 2021. Address all correspondence to sarah.bixler@emu.edu and pablokimsun@gmail.com.

If you are interested in reviewing a book for *Anabaptist Witness*, please find a list of currently available books and contact information for our review editors at the following link: <http://www.anabaptistwitness.org/book-reviews/>. Review suggestions accepted.

Anabaptist Witness is a publication of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary,
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