

## **Call for Submissions to the April 2023 Issue of *Anabaptist Witness***

### **Mission and Education**

#### **Submission Deadline: November 1, 2022**

Education has been a significant part of Anabaptist mission practice since the Reformation period. Influenced by the humanist call to go “back to the sources,” and Martin Luther’s related quest to put the Bible into the hands of “ordinary” people, early Anabaptist missionaries not only sought to baptize but also to catechize converts—even in the face of persecution. Interrogation records, among other sources, indicate the extent to which new Anabaptists had memorized key biblical passages and doctrinal emphases.

When various Anabaptist groups joined the global Protestant mission movement in the nineteenth century, they too prioritized education. To take one example, in the late 1800s a small group of mission-minded young people from Pennsylvania met to discuss how they might reach out to their neighbors through Sunday Schools and service projects. This led to the initial formation of Eastern Mennonite Missions in 1914, and in the 1930s the first Mennonite missionaries were commissioned to go to Shirati, in present-day Tanzania. The initial focus was on planting churches and fulfilling the Great Commission. However, it wasn’t long until the need for literacy in the churches and communities became a critical focus, leading to the formation of primary schools and other forms of education. Many other Anabaptist groups have engaged in similar mission efforts in their home communities and around the world.

In this issue of *Anabaptist Witness*, the guest editors invite submissions on how Anabaptists and Mennonites define mission in relation to education, or education in relation to mission. We are particularly interested in submissions that account for and respond to the colonial legacy of education in Anabaptist mission, examining colonialist mission histories and pointing to alternative, decolonial pedagogies. What theologies and practices might shape a genuinely intercultural form of education in mission today? Additional questions include:

- How do Anabaptist and Mennonite education institutions (K-12, colleges and universities, seminaries) conceive of and embody their work as “mission”? How does their educational mission respond to specific contextual challenges, such as secularization or religious pluralism?
- What can we learn about contextually sensitive mission from Anabaptist and Mennonite educators? How have these educators navigated the educational

cultural and histories of the communities they serve? How has their work been shaped by their Anabaptist and/or Mennonite convictions?

- Do Anabaptist parent educators see homeschooling as mission? How does this form of education-as-mission relate to more institutional forms?

Because this journal is an exchange among peoples from around the world, from laity and pastors, to artists and activists, and to educators and administrators, we welcome submissions from a variety of genres including academic papers, photo-essays, reflections, interviews, biographies, and poems. We honor diversity, equity, and inclusion in authorship, content, styles, and perspectives. We also encourage submissions in languages other than English. The guest editors for this issue are Ron Shultz (PhD, Associate Professor of Teacher Education, Eastern Mennonite University) and Shin Ji Kang (PhD, Professor of College of Education, James Madison University).

**Guidelines and deadline:**

Submissions on this topic are welcome through November 1, 2022. Through a peer review process, we will choose shorter articles of approximately 1,500 words in length, and 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, 2022. Address all correspondence to [ronald.shultz@emu.edu](mailto:ronald.shultz@emu.edu) and [kangsj@jmu.edu](mailto:kangsj@jmu.edu). 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, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Church Canada, and Mennonite Mission Network.