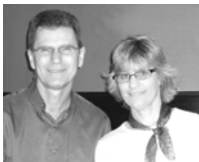


Convention Leader Information:



Kathy and Stan Shantz, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Music & Worship Coordinators:

Kathy Keener Shantz and Stan Shantz are pastors at James Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster, PA. They have also been pastors in Indiana and Arizona. They have been involved in various boards and committees within the Conferences they served and Mennonite Church USA. Their daughters are Kristi (10) and Kayleena (7). Family hobbies include camping, sports and music.

Kathy and Stan will present a workshop for caregivers, in addition to leading our music and worship sessions.



Walter Sawatzky, M.A. Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

Walter earned a masters degree from Princeton Theological Seminary (NJ) focusing on informal education. He has been coaching as a mentor, pastor, and manager, for the past 20 years. He and his wife, Joy, are the parents of two sons, Benjamin and Alexander.

Walter has served as a consultant to the MMA-MNA Study Team this year and will moderate the Thursday evening and Saturday morning Study Team presentations and discussion.



Pakisa K. Tshimika, DrPH, Clovis, California.

Pakisa currently serves as Associate General Secretary for the Mennonite World Conference as well as Executive Director and Founder of Mama Makeka House of Hope. He and his wife Linda, have three children.

Pakisa will be the lead presenter in our consideration of Mennonite Primary Healthcare in his native country, the DR Congo. He will also be a panel member in the Friday evening presentation.



Franklin Baer, DrPH, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Franklin has thirty-five years of health systems development experience in Africa. As the project manager of the USAID-funded SANRU Basic Rural Health project, he expanded that work to create 100 decentralized health zones, most co-managed by protestant and catholic health services. He and wife Retha have three children – Joshua, Jennifer and Julia – all born in DR Congo.

Franklin and Pakisa Tshimika, will introduce us to Healthcare in the Congo on Friday morning and they, along with **John Martens M.D.** will be participants in the Friday evening panel moderated by Ruth Keidel Clemens.



Ruth Keidel Clemens, Baltimore, Maryland,

Ruth grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the child of Mennonite missionaries. She returned to work in Congo for five years under Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission and MCC. Ruth and her husband, Jonathan Clemens, a pediatrician and member of MMA, are parents of four children.

Ruth will lead a panel presentation about the health needs of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the work of Congolese and North American Mennonites responding to these health needs.



Tim Leaman M.D., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Tim works as a family physician and associate medical director at Esperanza Health Center, a Christian community health center that provides care to an under-served, predominantly Latino, neighborhood in North Philadelphia. Tim lives with his wife Jen, and their 3 children, in the Oxford Circle/Frankford area of Philadelphia. They are actively involved at Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, where Tim is on the leadership team.



Leonard M. Dow, BS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Leonard resides in Philadelphia where he is senior Pastor at Oxford Circle Mennonite church while serving on the boards of Mennonite Central Committee US, Oxford Circle Christian Development Association, Singing City of Philadelphia, and Kingdom Builders a network of Anabaptist churches in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Leonard is married to Dr. Rosalie Rolon-Dow an Associate Professor at the University of Delaware, and they have three children – Carmela, Marcela and Lorenzo.



Orpha Gehman, R.N., MSN, Denver, Pennsylvania.

Orpha has taught nursing in Reading, Pa and Nazareth, Israel. Most recently she has served nearly 10 years with Eastern Mennonite Missions, teaching English to doctors, nurses and related healthcare professionals in several hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City. She is now re-entering life in the USA, hoping to do some tutoring in nursing and perhaps some ESL/EFL work.

She will be presenting a workshop on Saturday morning, focusing on how teaching English can be an opportunity to be "salt" and "light" in a socialist/communist country like Vietnam.



Julia Spicher Kasdorf, PhD, Bellefonte, PA

Julia Spicher Kasdorf has published two collections of poetry with the University of Pittsburgh Press, *Eve's Striptease* and *Sleeping Preacher*. Additionally, she has published or edited many other works. She is associate professor of English and women's studies at the Pennsylvania State University where she directs the MFA program in creative writing. Julia will be presenting her poetry after the Saturday evening banquet. (photo by Heidi Lynn Photography)



Clair M. Mellinger, PhD., Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Clair is a retired Professor of Biology at EMU, who has taught biology courses such as botany, ornithology, and ecology. He is an avid birder and spends a good bit of time studying Northern Saw-whet Owls. He will be leading nature hikes during the Convention weekend. Clair is married to Mamie, who is current President of Mennonite Nurses Association.