



Memorial Service for Albert J. Meyer

11:00 a.m. August 8, 2020

Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Welcome

Lora Nafziger- Pastor, Assembly Mennonite Church

Psalm 100

Erin Yoder – Open Table small group member

Measurement by Julie Cadwallader Staub

Naomi Yoder – great niece

Remembrances

Ed Metzler – life-long friend and fellow worker in the church

Maria Hosler Byler – granddaughter

Orv Yoder – colleague

Heart with Loving Heart United

II Corinthians 5:17-19

Nelson Kraybill – spiritual director

Reflection on the scripture

Mary Lehman Yoder – Assembly Mennonite Church and Co-housing friend

The Duteous Day Now Closeth

Benediction

Sharing time

*Thank you to the following people for participating in the music making: **Family-** Barb Meyer-Reed, Lane Meyer-Reed, Conrad Meyer-Reed, Kat Meyer-Reed Elaine Meyer-Lee, Rich Meyer, Brenda Hostetler Meyer, Carl Meyer, Karissa Loewen, Anne Meyer Byler, Kathy Meyer Reimer, Paul Meyer Reimer, Ben Meyer Reimer, Elena Reimer, Lynda Nyce, Martha Yoder Maust, Ruth Maust, Tom Yoder Neufeld, Esther Strahan, Claire Paulson, Sarah Buss, Emily Buss; **Friends-** Ann Weber Becker, Gwen Gustafson-Zook, Les Gustafson-Zook, Jessica Baldanzi, Kyle Schlabach, Erin Yoder, Jamie Lake, John Glick, Sally Glick, Scott Hostetler, Evan J Miller*

Albert J. Meyer, educator, administrator, and churchman, died at his home from Parkinson's Disease.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Jacob Conrad and Esther (Steiner) Meyer. He grew up in Wayne County. At age 16 he went with a group of "seagoing cowboys" to deliver horses to Gdansk, Poland.

Albert graduated from Smithville High School. He received his B.A. in physics and mathematics from Goshen College in 1950. The summer after college he led a voluntary service team at a mental hospital in Delaware.

He received his Ph.D. in physics from Princeton University in 1954. In addition to his doctoral studies he taught third-grade Sunday school at the Presbyterian church on campus and helped form an inter-denominational Bible study group of graduate students.

In 1953-54 he studied theology on a fellowship in Basel (Switzerland). During this time he enjoyed many biking, rock-climbing, and mountain-climbing excursions.

Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Smithville, OH, was an important influence on his life, and it was there that he was married to Mary Ellen Yoder on August 21, 1954. From that time on, they worked together as a team.

From 1954-57, he represented Mennonite Central Committee in the European Peace Section and as director of their work in France. He helped coordinate the Puidoux Theological Conferences, 1955-1957. During this time he also met with the Concern group of young adults who wrote about fuller implementation of the church as a radical, disciplined church of believers. In North America, he served on the Mennonite Church's Peace Problems Committee (later Committee on Peace and Social Concerns) from the late 1950s to the early 1970s.

In 1957, Albert taught physics at Goshen College. In 1960, he was called to serve as academic dean and professor of physics at Bethel College (Kansas) for five years. He began to mentor young adults in their relationship with God and the church and meaningful life work and started religious small groups on campus.

Back in Goshen, Albert and Mary Ellen helped found Assembly Mennonite Church as an assembly of small groups in 1974. They hosted small groups involving many college students for 47 years within Assembly and then the Open Table congregations. He would give his full attention when engaging a person in conversation. Sometimes he would speak at length, since he was well-versed in so many subjects that it was difficult for him to summarize anything briefly.

When Albert returned to Goshen in 1966, he was part-time professor of physics at the college, where he collaborated with colleague Robert C. Buschert in founding the Turner X-ray Precision Measurement Laboratory in 1969. He spent more time as executive secretary of the Mennonite Board of Education. He continued in both roles until his retirement in 1995.

He lived life with gusto. He would stride into the office and shed his long tan trench coat and plaid scarf, emerging in a grey suit and tie. At his desk, he would pull from his pockets his Day-Timer, the latest issue of Official Airline Guide, and his treasured fountain pen and be ready to face the day. On trips he would carry a couple of satchels filled with extra copies of papers for distribution.

During his time with the Board of Education he sought to support Mennonite educational institutions in their specific missions. He was creative and insightful, carefully considering the long-term consequences of any administrative action. After retirement he continued relating to MBE and its successor, Mennonite Education Agency, as senior research associate. Albert's interest in strengthening the relationship of churches and their higher educational institutions led him to write the book *Realizing Our Intentions: A Guide for Churches and Colleges with Distinctive Missions* (Abilene Christian University Press, 2009).

Ever interested in ecumenical dialogue, Albert became the first staff person for the joint Mennonite Church and General Conference Mennonite Church Interchurch Relations Committee. He continued to volunteer for Mennonite Church USA Interchurch Relations until 2005.

Albert was an avid pond hockey and tennis player. He also was a ham radio enthusiast. He especially enjoyed intergenerational times with both immediate and extended family members.

In addition to his life partner, Mary Ellen (Yoder) Meyer, he is survived by five children—Richard (Brenda) Hostetler Meyer, Anne (Mark) Meyer Byler, Kathryn (Paul) Meyer Reimer, Barbara (Lane) Meyer-Reed, and Elaine (Robert) Meyer-Lee; two siblings—Margaret Meyer Irvin and John (Maria) Meyer; 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by grandchildren in love, Rob Weiss and Kylie Gruner.

A Saturday, August 8, 2020, memorial service will be held on Zoom. A slide show will begin at 10:45 a.m. followed by an 11 a.m. memorial service. To participate in the service please click the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3798171524>.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be sent to the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA.