Foreword

This issue offers three articles reflecting a broad thematic range that explore historical and contemporary matters of interest and importance to the Mennonite community.

In “Moral Tales, Essays, and Letters from Georgia: Representations of Blackness in Three Anabaptist Newspapers,” sociologist Timothy Epp examines the portrayal of race and racialized minorities in late 19th- and early 20th-century Anabaptist newspapers. After surveying and analyzing these historical depictions, he comments upon the implications of this portrayal and points to ongoing issues that his study raises.

The next two articles deal with present-day concerns, focusing particularly on the Mennonite Brethren experience in Canada. In “Pathways to Engaging Cultural Diversity by Canadian Mennonite Congregations,” Rich Janzen presents case studies of how different MB congregations have adopted distinct practices to reach beyond an initial ethnically homogenous identity. In doing so, he discusses actions particular congregations have taken and the “creative intentionality” underlying these initiatives, before making suggestions for how to move forward on “a longer journey of solidarity with culturally diverse newcomers.”

Finally, in “What’s in a Narrative? Canadian Mennonite Brethren and the Struggle for Identity,” Brian Cooper moves from a historical overview of various streams that have contributed to Mennonite Brethren theology in Canada to discuss the challenging work ahead for the MB denomination to provide grounds for agreement, create cohesion, and achieve a clear denominational identity.

A slate of reviews of recent books on biblical, pastoral, ministerial, and ethical subjects rounds out the issue.

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We welcome submissions of articles or reflections in keeping with the journal’s mandate to advance thoughtful, sustained discussions of theology (including biblical studies, ethics, etc.), peace, society, history, and culture from broadly-based Anabaptist/Mennonite perspectives.

W. Derek Suderman  Stephen A. Jones
Editor  Managing Editor