

To be published in 2018

Peaceful at Heart: Embracing Healthy Masculinity

This is a book by men writing to men. It will promote an Anabaptist Christian perspective on masculinity that is more peaceful, just, caring, and life-giving for men and sensitive to women and children than many dominant images of masculinity and the hyper-masculine images promoted by contemporary popular culture and wider evangelical Christianity.

The book will address men and masculinity utilizing Anabaptist touchstones of discipleship, community and peace. Christian men's books generally fail to address men's propensities for violence and traditional inequity between men and women, often endorsing inequity and sanctioning aggressive behaviour as appropriate "manly" response to conflict. Christian men's books also tend to be individualistic in their focus, missing important aspects of our relationality as human beings. As a collaborative project of men for men, this book will demonstrate in its development and content the importance of collective reflection, accountability and mutual encouragement.

While much has been written describing the characteristics of masculinity and the impacts of patriarchy, this volume will move the dialogue in the direction of building a vision of discipleship, community and peace as an alternative for men's lives. Rather than supporting patriarchy and nationalism commonly advanced in traditional Christian thought, this volume drawing on an Anabaptist perspective of faith will invite men to experience God's call to live at peace and be peacemakers.

The book will be published by the Institute of Mennonite Studies (IMS) and Wipf and Stock.

Outline

Preface – A pastoral vision for engaging men – Steve Thomas, U.S. Coordinator of Mennonite Men

Introduction – Don Neufeld

Section I – The Context

Chapter 1 – Masculinity: An Interpersonal Clinical Perspective – Don Neufeld, clinical social worker and board member for Mennonite Men

Chapter 2 – Masculinity: An Historical-Cultural Perspective – Jamie Pitts, professor of theology at AMBS on the construction of masculinity in culture and society

Chapter 3 – Experiencing Masculinity: A Traditional Perspective in the Church Past and Present (tentative title) – Kurt Horst, lead pastor at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston, KS

Chapter 4 – Experiencing Masculinity: An African-American Perspective – Leonard Dow, former pastor of Oxford Circle Mennonite Church, community leader in Philadelphia, consultant with Everence

Chapter 5 - Experiencing Masculinity: A Latino Perspective -- Hugo Saucedo, educator and university professor in San Antonio, Texas

Chapter 6 – Experiencing Masculinity: An Indigenous Perspective – Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle, Sandy-Saulteau Spiritual Centre, Manitoba, Canada

Chapter 7 – Experiencing Masculinity: An Asian Perspective – Pablo Hyung Jin Kim Sun, Ph.D student at Emmanuel College in Toronto, former pastor of A Church for Others, a Korean Mennonite church in Los Angeles

Chapter 8 – Experiencing Masculinity: A Gay Man’s Perspective – Pieter Niemeyer, former pastor at Rouge Valley Mennonite Church in the Toronto area

Section II – An Anabaptist Contribution

Chapter 9 – Reading the Bible as Men – Tom Yoder-Neufeld, Professor Emeritus, Religious Studies and Theological Studies, Conrad Grebel University College

Chapter 10 – Discipleship – David Augsburg, Senior Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Fuller Theological Seminary

Chapter 11 – Community – Gareth Brandt, professor of Practical Theology at Columbia Bible College in British Columbia

Chapter 12 – Peace – John Powell, African American leader in antiracism, justice and reconciliation work

Section III – The Application

Chapter 13 – Men, power and leadership – David Evans, Professor of History and Mission and at Eastern Mennonite University and Director of Cross Cultural Programs at Eastern Mennonite Seminary

Chapter 14 – Pastoring Men in the Congregation -- Scott Brubacher-Zehr, Mennonite pastor in Waterloo, Ontario

Chapter 15 – Promoting Peace for Men in the Community -- Marty Troyer, Mennonite pastor and peace promotor in Houston, Texas

Section IV

Afterword – Women reflecting on the book – Cyneatha Millsaps, Program Director with MCC Greatlakes and former Mennonite pastor; Carol Penner, Assistant Professor of Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College and former Mennonite pastor; Sara Wenger Shenk, President of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

Conclusion – Where we go from here. A closing invitation for others to take up this conversation and move it forward.

--By Don Neufeld with Steve Thomas, January 10, 2018