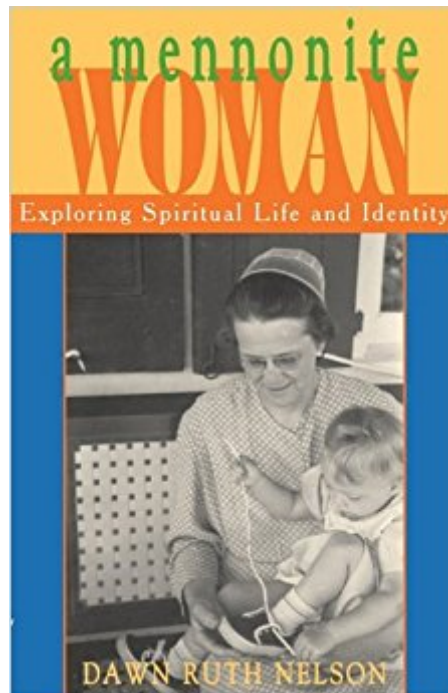




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A Mennonite Woman: Exploring Spiritual Life And Identity



Synopsis

As Sara Wenger Shenk, President-Elect, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, puts it, "Rooting Mennonite spirituality within the earthy settledness of her grandmother's story, Nelson lovingly shows the way toward a spirituality of pilgrimage, in the company of Jesus" In a book that is part narrative, part theology, part spiritual memoir, Dawn Ruth Nelson draws on a Mennonite background, encounter with Irish Catholic faith, and the spiritual life she discovers in her grandmother and her own everyday life to propose contemporary forms of spiritual formation and expression. "Although Nelson's six suggestions for contemporary spirituality are focused on Mennonite tradition and experience," observes Joann Wolski Conn, Professor of Christian Spirituality, Neumann University, "their transforming power make them applicable for anyone desiring Christian formation." C. Arnold Snyder, Professor of History, Conrad Grebel University College, comments that "Nelson's search leads from her grandmother's life in Mennonite community, through peace work in Ireland and engagement with the Roman Catholic tradition, and finally to the essential inner/outer balance of the Anabaptist spiritual tradition-a response of discipleship made possible by the spiritual connection to the living vine, Jesus Christ."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author uses her grandmother's narrative, as well as her own, to identify key themes for a contemporary Mennonite spirituality. Noting how "displacement" of North American Mennonites from the previous generations' local community/extended family context the author observes how new

realities require people to find ways of identifying and forming Mennonite spirituality that is 'portable'. The Author identifies key themes for Mennonite spirituality and suggests how they can be intentionally cultivated, personally and in congregational life, to provide for a relevant Mennonite spiritual formation that has continuity with the past values and aspects of Mennonite identity, in ways that can be taught to the next generations.

This book is amazing! There is so much here for pastors, spiritual directors and judicatory folks seeking to foster Anabaptist spiritual formation in 2010. Persons who grew up in traditional Mennonite congregations will recognize significant elements of their own journey. All sorts of lights will go on for pastors in congregations which used to be like the author's grandmother's church! And the author's suggestions of spiritual practices to foster "becoming like Christ inwardly and outwardly" are worthy of serious conversation and consideration.

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