

## **Anabaptist Perspectives**

279 County Road 617

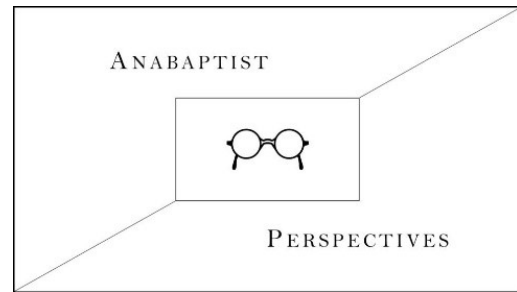
Athens, TN 37303

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Dear friends,

We write to introduce Anabaptist Perspectives and to report changes to our organizational structure.



### **Vision Statement**

*Anabaptist Perspectives will describe and defend biblical elements of contemporary Anabaptist lifestyle and theology while promoting biblical discussions among Anabaptist people about social and cultural issues. This will be done primarily through freely-accessible, online, digital media.*

Anabaptist Perspectives began with the vision of brothers Jaran Miller and Reagan Schrock, both of Wellspring Mennonite Church of Athens, TN. They recruited a team of helpers and advisors both from the congregation and from other parts of the country. In January 2018 they launched a weekly podcast and video series featuring interviews with leaders and thinkers from a variety of Anabaptist circles as well as interviews with Anabaptists who have had unusual experiences such as spending time in an ISIS war zone.

Reagan and Jaran began Anabaptist Perspectives as a personal project. It soon became apparent that more structure was needed. After discussion, Wellspring Mennonite Church agreed to bring the project under the umbrella of the church. The congregation provides direction for the project by means of a board that includes members both from within the congregation and from other congregations. We as a board held our initial meeting on August 16, 2018 and made the arrangements needed to place Anabaptist Perspectives under the church and the board. Jaran Miller will serve as administrator.

We are excited about the opportunities. Our first season of 50 episodes will run through December of this year. We release weekly episodes in both video and audio. Each week we have about 600 people listen to our podcast and about 700 who watch on YouTube. We also have a significant number of viewers on Facebook. Speakers have included Dean Taylor, Melvin Lehman, Merle Burkholder and many others. Topics have ranged from higher education, to the value of family farms, from choral music to church planting, and from social media to non-resistance.

Planning for the second season is underway. We are open to pursuing other internet media projects besides the weekly episodes as God provides and directs. We would appreciate your partnership with us in promoting these episodes and giving us comments and feedback on what you hear. Financial partners are also needed. There is significant work involved in producing and disseminating free, high quality media, and not all of this work can be done by volunteers. Conducting our interviews also requires significant travel.

God's cheer to all,

The Anabaptist Perspectives board,

Reagan Schrock (interim chairman)

Byron Miller

Marlin Sommers

Chester Weaver