

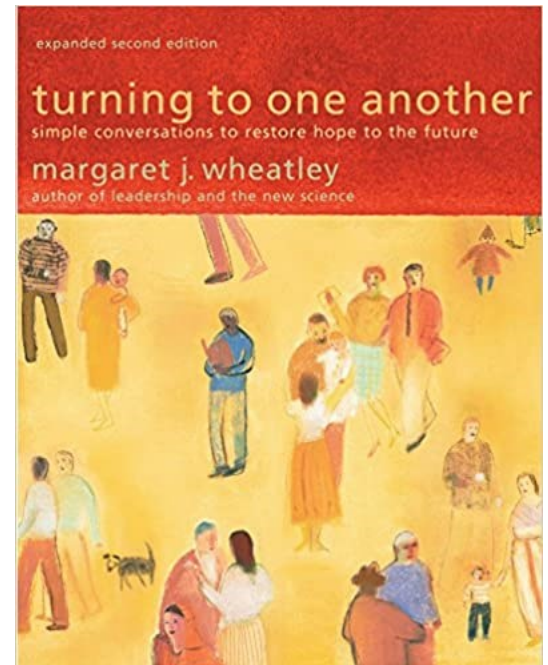
“With Care...”

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Perhaps some of you have seen – and may have used personally or as a congregation – some of the resources MennoMedia has published in recent months. Their purpose is to support reconnection and renewal for our congregations as we move through various and continuing impacts of the past two years. I’ve been intrigued by the simplicity and directness of this series’ name, “*What Now?*” A good question indeed! It brought to mind another favorite resource of mine, filled with questions that feel equally timely although published two decades ago.

In “[Turning to one another: Simple conversations to restore hope to the future.](#)” Margaret Wheatley draws from her years of engaging communities in conversations that support well-being even amidst difficult or chaotic times. At its core is her belief that “there is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.” Along with offering stimulating prompts for deepening conversations, Wheatley shares poetry and other short readings that have been meaningful to her life journey and vocation and that further enliven the tools she offers. While designed as a resource for group engagement, the format of this fairly slim book is well-suited to self-reflection and perhaps journaling too.



As I revisit this resource, its simply-stated wisdom has again captured my imagination about the “what now?” for the future of our families, congregations, local and global communities, and the earth. I recommend adding it to your toolbox. Most convicting to me at this moment– as I face my own reluctance and even fear to find ways into and through the polarization and reactivity that surrounds us - is Wheatley’s reminder of a truth she has witnessed through her work: “Remember, you don’t fear people whose story you know.” May we all discover new opportunities, new ways and new courage to turn to one another to hear the stories and start the “what now?” conversations that matter right where we are.