

## “With Care...”

Alice M. Price, member of the conference Dialogue Resource Team (DRT) and involved in leadership with Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa and Alamosa Mennonite Voluntary Service.



Hopefully many of you saw last month’s ZING! feature on Erin Kauffman’s Future Anabaptist Leaders (FAL) internship. Erin served in Voluntary Service in Alamosa, currently works at a nearby farm/ ranch operation, and actively engages in our Anabaptist Fellowship. Having forwarded her as a prime FAL candidate, it is gratifying to work alongside Amy Z. to support Erin’s efforts and see the benefits unfold in our local fellowship, as well as in the wider Conference.

A fun extra is jumping in on Erin and Amy’s book discussions, as they dig deeper into Erin’s interest in the intersection of faith and agriculture. One book, *Germinating Conversations*, spoke as well to my long involvement in dialogue processes. The book shares stories from a sustained Rural-Urban dialogue in Manitoba on food, faith, farming, and the land. While highlighting the substance of this extended dialogue, the book is also useful in outlining the not always smooth journey of how the process itself was designed, implemented, and refined over time. As one participant, agroecologist Joanne Thiessen Martens, wisely noted: “*Germinating Conversations* is really interesting in particular because it uses the word ‘conversations’ right in the name... I think that is key. Often, we come at issues trying to convince people of our own ideas or change their minds..., but that is not what conversation is. A conversation is sharing and listening on everyone’s part.”

Whether your interest lies in the increasingly critical questions behind this initiative or generally in bridging social divides, the book is a worthy resource for individual or group study **and will be one of the books Erin Kauffman plans to feature in the upcoming Faith and Food Book Club.** (*Germinating Conversations* is available to order through CommonWord Bookstore at Canadian Mennonite University).