

Biographical Sketch of:

Luke A. Gascho

2514 S Main St

Goshen, IN 46526

Home Phone: 574-533-6480

Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College

P.O. Box 263

Wolf Lake, IN 46796

Work Phone: 260-799-5869

E-mail: lukeag@goshen.edu

Staff Web Page: <http://www.goshen.edu/merrylea/staff/Lukesketch.html>

Dr. Luke Gascho is the Executive Director of Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College, Wolf Lake, IN. He has served in this role since August 1997. Merry Lea is a 1,189-acre preserve with a diverse group of Indiana ecosystems. Merry Lea's 13 staff members provide support to the mission of providing environmental education for people of all ages.

Previous to his current role, Luke served as principal of the Johnstown Christian School, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for 20 years. He taught life and physical science courses in a high school in Grenada, West Indies for three years and high school science and math in San Juan, Puerto Rico for one year. Luke earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1999. His masters is in Christian School Administration is from Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Indiana, and his B.S. is in biology and secondary education from Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

In addition to his role at Merry Lea, Dr. Gascho has served as chair of the Goshen College Strategic Planning Committee for the last seven years. He is a founding member of the Ecological Stewardship Committee at Goshen College, which is working to reduce the ecological footprint of the college. He provides leadership for the Mennonite Creation Care Network, an organization guiding Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada in environmental stewardship. He also serves on several other state and national groups that are committed to practicing the principles of creation care. Luke's wrote an introductory study book, *Creation Care: Keepers of the Earth*, which was published in 2008. Churches and small groups that are interested in learning about environmental stewardship from a faith perspective are using the book. He enjoys gardening, native landscaping, photography and woodworking as hobbies. Luke is married to Becky. They have three adult children and three grandchildren.