



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of**  
**The Communal Studies Association**



**October 9-11, 2025**

**Amana, IA**

**“Pathfinding”**

**The deadline for submission of proposals is May 23, 2025**

*Every community must find its way. Every individual must find a way.*

*How do communities or community leaders overcome obstacles - either internal or external. How do communities select a course to achieve goals or a path forward after conflict or to avoid conflict within or without their community? How do individuals chart a course within their own community? Or away from it?*

*By exploring historical or current challenges for intentional communities with neighbors, participation in local/regional economies or non-conformance to broader cultural norms, presenters at the CSA Conference in Amana could offer insights into the impact intentional communities had/have on their neighborhoods as well as the larger society. Or they could analyze how communities, or individuals in communities, choose a way forward as they deal with intragroup challenges or while they engage with or disengage from the larger society.*

As always, we are also interested in proposals that concern any other topic about intentional communities. **Please feel free to submit proposal on any aspect of communalism or intentional communities.**

The Amana Society, the Community of True Inspiration was persecuted for their faith in Germany. In 1842, they found a new home in America. They purchased a portion of the Seneca Indian reservation near Buffalo, New York, and soon 800 Inspirationists were on their way to America to live communally as the Ebenezer Society.

By 1854, the group had outgrown its land. A committee went to Iowa and found 26,000 acres along the Iowa River with everything necessary to start a new community. The first village, Amana, was laid out in 1855. Six more villages were soon established nearby, with all living communally, with a strong religious life.

By the early 1930s, the influences of improved communication and the Great Depression had weakened Amana’s economic fiber. In 1932, members voted to incorporate their holdings, and private enterprises were established. The Amana Church Society continues as the religious foundation of present-day Amana. Today, the seven Amana villages remain both a tourist mecca, with museums, food and shopping, and home for many Colony descendants

Please submit your proposals for individual papers or whole sessions via the website submission portal ([www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference](http://www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference)). Please include an abstract of 150 words maximum describing your presentation and/or session. Also, please include your biographical statement of 100 words maximum. For information, please contact Program Chairs Peter Hoehnle and Emilie Hoppe, [zhoppe@southslope.net](mailto:zhoppe@southslope.net). **All presenters will be notified of their acceptance by email by July 1, 2025.** A limited amount of financial support is available for graduate student assistance. If applicable, please indicate your interest with your on-line proposal submission. Successful applicants will be notified of financial support by email by August 2023.

The Communal Studies Association is an interdisciplinary organization for people living in intentional communities, historic site personnel and academics representing topics including history, anthropology, religious studies, sociology, political science, and others. The CSA’s annual conference is often held at the site of an historic intentional community or other relevant venues. For more information about the organization, see our website [www.communalstudies.org](http://www.communalstudies.org).