



Please share widely. If you receive this e-bulletin via more than one address, let us know which address you prefer. To submit announcements or manage your subscription, email brenda@pnmc.org. See schedule at the end for publication dates and submission deadlines.

From our Executive Conference Minister ~ *Iris de León-Hartshorn*

I hope your Advent and Christmas were times of reflection and celebration of our hope in Jesus Christ. Maybe some of you are now thinking about new year resolutions? If you have not already engaged in *Dwelling in the Word* as a spiritual discipline, I invite you to take the opportunity to try it during this new year.

My prayer is that churches are engaging in *Dwelling in the Word* in various ways – as a congregation, as committees, during board and/or elder meetings. This is a spiritual discipline that can help us learn and practice how to listen and hear God together. I believe this discipline can cultivate within us ways to be a discerning community.

I have received some suggestions from others. These suggestions are listed below and hopefully they will spark your imagination. Experiment with *Dwelling in the Word* so it becomes a useful discipline.

When using *Dwelling in the Word*:

- Consider using a singing bowl to transition out of the time of silence. As a call to conclude discussion time, sing "Come and fill our hearts" (*Sing the Journey* #59). The combination of these two approaches keeps the process meditative, gentle and reinforces the sense of prayerfulness.
- When using *Dwelling in the Word* for committee meetings:
 1. Refer to Marlene Kropf's "Listening to God's Word Together" (http://www.pnmc.org/Resources/Dwelling_in_the_Word). This provides a great format for committee meetings.
 2. Another approach is to focus on one question at each meeting. The following questions, adapted from material written by Marlene Kropf, could be used for three consecutive meetings.
 - Who is on a quest and why?
 - What are the obstacles of that quest?
 - How are the obstacles overcome? What might this mean for our ministry?

I look forward to hearing more about your experiences with *Dwelling in the Word*. Please share your suggestions for what has been helpful so we can all grow in this spiritual discipline.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Jan 28-30, 2011: *Sing.Pray.Eat. Festival of Worship* hosted by Portland Mennonite Church. Marlene Kropf and Ken Nafziger will again be our resource people for a rich and renewing weekend of worship. For details, contact PMC or visit PMC's website (503-234-0559, www.portlandmennonite.org).

Feb 4-5: *Bienvenido Facilitator Training*. If you are interested in helping support immigration issues in our conference, please see the Appendix for two ways you can support this important work within PNMC.

Feb 18-19: *Monday Marriage: Celebrating the Ordinary* with authors Gerald and Marlene Kaufman, licensed social workers with many years of marriage and family counseling. Registration fee: \$25 per couple (includes book by same title). Lunch will be on your own at local restaurants. Return registration form (attached) along with registration fee to Portland Mennonite Church **by January 30**. Please make checks payable to *Portland Mennonite Church*. Questions? Call 503-234-0559.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Western Mennonite School

Sat, Jan 22, 9 AM - 5 PM: *Quilting Blitz Day*. All are welcome to come help cut, sew and assemble the high school senior's comforters. No experience necessary. Details will follow later.

Sat, Feb 5: *9th Annual Benefit Concert* presented by **WMS's A cappella Choir**. Come enjoy the beautiful music performance of the three-time state champions! All proceeds benefit the choir's annual trip to the Mennonite Schools Council Music Festival. Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Contact Charlene Schultz to purchase tickets or with questions – 503-363-2000, cschultz@westernmennoniteschool.org.

Weds, Feb 9: *Middle School Visitors Day* for prospective families interested in learning more about the school. Details available at <http://www.westernmennoniteschool.org> or by contacting Cheryl Mayo – 503-262-2000, cmayo@westernmennoniteschool.org.

The latest issue of the *In Touch* newsletter is available at <http://www.westernmennoniteschool.org>.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC commissioned 60 new workers for one-year assignments through its **SALT (Serving and Learning Together) program** for young adults from Canada and the U.S. who volunteer outside both countries. They completed a week-long orientation at the Welcoming Place, Akron, in August. For more information on MCC, visit mcc.org.

Nathan Morrow of Wenatchee, Wash, is **servicing in Vietnam** as a manuscript editor. Morrow graduated from Goshen College in April 2010. He attends Warden Mennonite Church in Warden, WA.

Mennonite Church USA

Discernment re: location of Mennonite Church USA's 2013 convention. You may be aware that leaders of Mennonite Church USA have been discerning whether or not to hold the 2013 convention in Phoenix as planned. Across the church, people have raised concerns that Arizona's new immigration law (SB 1070) will mean that some constituency groups would not feel safe traveling to the convention. In response, Mennonite Church USA leaders have sent a delegation of church leaders to meet with city and convention officials and church leaders in Phoenix; invited feedback from all parts of the church; and arranged for discussion of the issue in various settings, recognizing that the underlying issues call us to work more diligently on growing toward the biblical vision of being one people from all tribes, languages, peoples and nations gathered together by Jesus.

The Executive Board, which **anticipates making a final decision at its Jan. 7-9 meeting**, has released an update on the process and the current direction and invites your prayers in this final period of discernment: <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/Portals/0/Convention2013/UpdateAndCallToPrayer.pdf>. Thank you for your support and prayers! —*Executive Committee of the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA*

Mennonite Health Assembly

Mar 10-13: Annual Mennonite Health Assembly. Church leaders, health-care practitioners and administrators of church agencies engaged in health and human service ministries will focus on "Many Voices, One Spirit" as they convene in San Antonio, TX. <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/Home/News/tabid/65/EntryID/457/Default.aspx>

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Jan 17 (submissions due by 1/10)

Feb 7 (submissions due by 1/31)

Feb 21 (submissions due by 2/14)

Mar 7 (submissions due by 2/28)

If you would like to contribute, please send a **brief announcement** in Spanish & English with website links to brenda@pnmc.org. Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> **e-Bulletin Archives:** <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>

e-Bulletin Appendix

Welcoming Strangers: Bienvenido Program

The stresses associated with immigration often put immigrants at risk for mental health problems such as substance abuse and its consequences (e.g., domestic violence, social isolation, etc.). In response to this fact, Gilberto Pérez, a Mennonite in the Goshen area, developed the Bienvenido Program. Bienvenido is an educational program designed to prevent mental health problems by reducing the emotional and behavioral risks associated with immigrant trauma. Participants in Bienvenido meet regularly in small groups where – with the help of trained facilitators – they 1) discuss their personal immigration experiences in a supportive setting, 2) learn how to minimize the impact on their lives of immigration related stresses and 3) develop the skills and strengths needed for contributing positively to their families and communities.

Bienvenido has been well received by Latino participants in northeastern Indiana, and an independent evaluation of the program has described it as “innovative,” “strong” and “successful.” What began as a small program has spread across northeastern Indiana and is now moving to other locations – including the Pacific Northwest. Gilberto Pérez has been invited to lead a **Bienvenido facilitator training event** in our area on **February 4-5**.

There are **two ways that you can support this effort**. First, the total cost to train ten Bienvenido facilitators will be approximately \$2500. This includes all training fees and materials as well as transportation, housing and meals for Gilberto. If you feel called to support this event financially, please send a donation to PNMC and specify that it is to be used for Bienvenido facilitator training. Any donation that you make will be highly appreciated.

Second, if you think that you might be interested in being trained as a Bienvenido Program Facilitator, or if you simply want more information about the Bienvenido Program, please contact Jack Knox (smcpastor@qwestoffice.net) or Samuel Moran (samorano77@netzero.net) for more information.