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## From our Conference Moderator ~ *Linda Dibble*

As many of you are now aware, Mennonite Church USA and PNMC have been in conversation regarding the calling of Iris de León-Hartshorn to an MC USA Cabinet-level position as director for transformative peacemaking. Iris will begin working part-time with MC USA effective May 15<sup>th</sup> and will be part-time for PNMC from that date until August 31<sup>st</sup>. As of September 1, Iris will be full-time with MC USA.

The Board has met to discuss the transition process and we are in communication and working closely with Nancy Kauffmann, our Denomination Minister. As we begin the search process for another Executive Conference Minister, Nancy has given her assurance that she will be available to the Board and the Search Committee as needed. We are in the process of establishing a Search Committee at this time.

The Board is deeply grateful that Iris is able to transition over the summer. We are equally grateful for MC USA's willingness to work with us in this transition. Iris will be present for the Annual Meeting in June at Western Mennonite Campus. In addition, at our last conference Board meeting, Iris provided the Board with a list of planned tasks to complete prior to the end of August. This transition has come earlier to PNMC than expected, but it is our privilege to have had Iris in the Executive Conference Minister role. She capably brought some order to the final stages of structural change that were envisioned back in 2006 and 2007.

Lastly, Iris and her husband, Leo, are intending to continue living in the Portland area. Their gifts and awareness of the broader Mennonite community (nationally and internationally) will continue to be a resource to us. As we offer Iris' gifts back to the denomination, you are invited to pray for Iris and her new role as well as for our conference as we enter this time of transition. Regular updates will be posted on our website ([pnmc.org/Board\\_Staff/Staff/ECMtransition](http://pnmc.org/Board_Staff/Staff/ECMtransition)) as well as shared via the e-Bulletin. Please feel free to be in touch with any questions.



Registration materials for **2011 Annual Meeting** in Salem are now available!

Check out the details and download forms at

[http://pnmc.mennonite.net/Meetings/Annual\\_Meetings/Salem\\_2011](http://pnmc.mennonite.net/Meetings/Annual_Meetings/Salem_2011)

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

*listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization*

**THIS SATURDAY, May 7: 39th Annual Auction for Western Mennonite School** will be held at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem. **7:30-9:30 am:** Breakfast served. **9:30 am:** Live auction begins. If you have wonderful items to donate, please contact Charlene Schultz (503-363-2000). Auction info will be posted in April at [www.westernmennoniteschool.org](http://www.westernmennoniteschool.org).

**Hesston College Bel Canto Singers** will embark on a two-week tour through Nebraska, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona and New Mexico. They will present a worship program through sacred music on **May 10 at 7:30 pm** at Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church (Caldwell, ID) and on **May 11 at 7:30 pm** at Warden Mennonite Church (Warden, WA). Concerts are free and open to the public, though a free-will offering will be received to cover program costs.

The program of choral music from the Renaissance era to the 20th Century will focus around the theme "The Journey is Our Home." The 19-voice choir is under the direction of Bradley Kauffman. Ken Rodgers will provide accompaniment.

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**May 20-21: Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival** on Northwest Nazarene University campus at College Church of the Nazarene. The proceeds benefit Mennonite Central Committee. Details available at [www.idahomrs.org](http://www.idahomrs.org).

**March 30-April 1, 2012: West Coast Connecting Families Weekend.** The Brethren Mennonite Council in Oregon is planning a *Connecting Families* weekend at Camp Mrytlewood in Bridge, OR. *Connecting Families* weekend is intended to be a safe, relaxing time to share our common thoughts regarding sexual minority issues as they affect our families, our friends, our churches and ourselves. We welcome families and supporters of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. *Connecting Families* is a group of people, each on our own journey. Through listening and sharing our stories, we seek to provide support for families whose children are coming out to them and/or to their church. We are committed to maintaining confidentiality within the group, to providing a place to speak in safety or to remain silent, and to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere. As a group, we work to find ways to educate and engage our churches in dialogue and to help them understand and accept our families. More information regarding registrations will be coming in the Fall, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact [bmcoregon@earthlink.net](mailto:bmcoregon@earthlink.net).

**Congratulations to the following Goshen College students** from PNMC who graduated on May 1st!

☞ **Jesse Gerig Bontrager**, son of Robert and Beth Bontrager; bachelor's in history and certification in secondary education. 2007 Crescent Valley High School graduate; attends Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship.

☞ **Audrey Ellen Good Engle**, daughter of David and Marjorie Engle; bachelor's in sociology and Spanish. 2007 Western Mennonite School graduate; attends Salem Mennonite Church.

☞ **Maggie Noelle Gilman**, daughter of Pamela Gilman; bachelor's in interdisciplinary with concentrations in women's studies, international studies and peace, justice and conflict studies. 2006 St. Mary's Academy graduate; attends Portland Mennonite Church.

☞ **Seth J. Gingerich**, son of Charles and Sheryl Gingerich; bachelor's in elementary education/special education. 2007 Canby High School graduate; attends Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church.

☞ **Kristina Rae Mast**, daughter of Fred and Linda Mast; bachelor's in English and theater. 2007 Crescent Valley High School graduate; attends Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship.

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

### AMBS (Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary)

**May 11: 2-3 pm EDT ~ Webinar examines six images of the preacher** each with different goals, ways of using the Bible, and assumptions about authority: The Teacher, The Storyteller, The Counselor, The Witness, The Prophet, and The Evangelist. Participants will clarify their own understandings of the preaching task, and be encouraged to add new facets and approaches to their preaching identity. Ryan Ahlgrim, pastor of First Mennonite Church, Indianapolis, Ind., is the presenter. For details see [www.ambs.edu/webinars](http://www.ambs.edu/webinars).

**Upcoming Courses.** Summer courses, including *The Church and Race*, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* and *Contemporary Theologies of Mission*, are intensive opportunities to study subjects offered less frequently at AMBS. Details: [www.ambs.edu/academics/summer](http://www.ambs.edu/academics/summer). Course offerings for fall, interim and spring 2011-2012 have been posted. Consider an online course, weekend intensive or campus course. For full list of offerings: [www.ambs.edu/academics/courses](http://www.ambs.edu/academics/courses).

### Bethel College

The spring issue of the *Church Relations Update* is available at [http://www.bethelks.edu/bc/news\\_publications/church\\_relations\\_update/index.php?urlid=277](http://www.bethelks.edu/bc/news_publications/church_relations_update/index.php?urlid=277). It features an opening essay on "Seeking an Open Palm" (which offers a slightly different perspective on the Army Band controversy), **some great news about the recent Concert Choir tour to the Pacific Northwest**, and a list of public events at the college.

### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

May 16 (submissions due by 5/9)  
 June 6 (submissions due by 5/23)  
 June 20 (submissions due by 6/9\*)  
 \*earlier than usual due to vacation  
 July 4 (submissions due by 6/27)

If you would like to contribute, please send a **brief announcement** in Spanish & English with website links to [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto: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

**\* To view this press release in other languages, click [here](#).**

### Latin American women call MWC community to prayer

*Strasbourg, France*—The Movement of Anabaptist Women Theologians in Latin America (MTA) invites Mennonite World Conference (MWC) member churches to establish an annual day of prayer during the month of May, focusing particularly on Latin American women.

The MTA World Day of Prayer is an initiative of the women theologians who gathered in Paraguay during the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Mennonite World Conference in 2009.

Each year women from a different country prepare a worship guide that includes a meeting format, worship and teaching resources and background material for intercession.

The liturgy for 2011 was developed by Mennonite women in Guatemala, and is available online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) at <http://teologasanabautistas.blogspot.com>. The prayer focus for this year is on Guatemala, Argentina, Cuba and Haiti. The materials include background information on each country.

“We have action plans that we hope will allow us to get to the horizon we envision,” says Rebeca González of Mexico. “Our goal is that we may see relationships between men and women of the world transformed into equity and justice to build the Kingdom of God.”

A guiding Scripture for the MTA planning, González says, is Jeremiah 29:12-13: “Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

Last year, women from Mexico prepared the 2010 materials, whose intercessions focused on Chile, Haiti, Colombia and Mexico. Ofelia García of Mexico remembers: “It was very moving to hear voices united to intercede to God for the men and women of our beloved Latin America, and of course for all those who are victims of extreme violence and marginalization.”

Fabiana Ambesi of Argentina adds, “We gathered to pray for all women in Latin America, with emphasis on the issue of violence against women (mothers, grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters and sisters) who are victims of physical, mental and psychological violence. We also prayed for our girls, boys and adolescents who are suffering abuse at home or at school, so common these days. We try to put ourselves in their place even without knowing them, clasping our hands and joining our voices, knowing that the Lord is the only one who can bring relief to these difficult situations.”

The MTA invites groups around the world to choose a day in May for the day of prayer, and to use the materials at their blog site. Those who celebrate the day of prayer are urged to send testimonials to: Rebeca González [bekinare@hotmail.com](mailto:bekinare@hotmail.com) and Ester Bornes [esterbornes@hotmail.com](mailto:esterbornes@hotmail.com).

- *Rebeca González, Mexico City*

Mennonite World Conference is a communion (*Koinonia*) of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service, and witness.