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From our Executive Conference Minister, *Katherine Jameson Pitts*

New Year's Greetings! As we begin a new calendar year many of my friends are making resolutions for better living. Along with the traditional "lose weight and exercise more" vows, I've noticed many people resolving to "try new things." *What a wonderful idea.* We have a **God who delights in new beginnings and is always doing new things.** We know that "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Cor. 5:17) Let's join with God and resolve to trying new things as congregations and as a conference in 2013.

From the PNMC Office: To register, please contact [Barb Buxman](#) by **Tuesday, January 8, 2013.**

JANUARY 18: DISTRICT PASTORS

Portland Mennonite Church, 1312 SE 35th Ave. Portland, OR 97214

Gathering from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. (Lunch provided.) (If you require lodging, please specify dates with [Barb Buxman](#).)

Nancy Kauffmann will provide input on "Helping Congregations Make Difficult Decisions."

JANUARY 19: CONFERENCE COMMUNICATION COUNCIL (*Includes DPs, PNMC Board Members, one pastor along with one delegate from each congregation as well as the CIHAN Moderator and one representative.*)

Warner Pacific College, 2219 SE 68th Ave. Portland, OR 97215 (No registration fees; donations for lunch will be received.)

In the Kardatzke building from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

AFFINITY TABLE TOPICS: *Going through a pastoral transition; becoming a multicultural congregation; doing church without a paid pastor; life-giving worship; caring for the poor; studying your congregation and dreaming about the future; having a sister-church relationship; using technology to communicate in the congregation and issues facing an aging congregation.*

JANUARY 20(2pm-8pm) - 21(8:30am-2:30 pm): PNMC BOARD MEETING

Pony Soldier Best Western, 9901 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR 97220

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Portland and Seattle Mennonite Churches

Ted & Company TheaterWorks will bring **PEACE PIES & PROPHETS** to Seattle (**Friday, January 25**) and Portland (**Saturday, January 26**) Mennonite Churches. The show unpacks issues of justice and peace building through humorous and poignant storytelling. These interactive events are for people interested in engaging in laughter, thoughtful dialogue and pie. Yes, Peace Pies... The evenings include a hand crafted pie auction where sales will go toward the support of Christian Peacemaker Teams. If you would like to get involved and want to support CPT you can do so by bringing a pie (or two or three) to either event. Admission is free. Contact Jonathan Neufeld at jonathan@seattlemennonite.org or Curt Weaver at curt@portlandmennonite.org for more information.

*Mark your calendars: The Aging and Spirituality workshop with Marcus Smucker has been rescheduled for **Saturday, May 18, 2013** at PMC.*

Zion Mennonite Church

If you are interested in worship planning, consider this opportunity to explore the creative process with experienced AMBS Professor Marlene Kropf on Saturday, **February 2, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. through 2:30 p.m.** The goal is to find ways for congregations to develop methods for sustainable planning that provide meaningful worship for the long haul through collaborative planning. Participants will have opportunities to look at flow and focus, musical and visual choices, scripture presentation, the role of children's time and prayer in worship. \$15 registration fee covers provided materials and lunch. Please RSVP to 503.651.2274 or zionmc@canby.com.



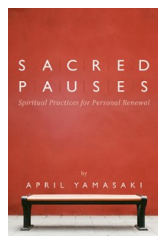
MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

[AMBS](#) (Elkhart, IN) will hold an **Open House** on **March 16, 2013**. This will be an opportunity for people interested in seminary study to meet faculty, sit in on classes, and learn about financial aid. To register, go to www.ambs.edu/admissions/visit-ambs.cfm or contact the AMBS admissions office at admissions@ambs.edu or 800.964.2627.

MennoMedia



In a fast-paced world full of distractions, spiritual practice can help us become more centered—*more in touch with ourselves and others, more in touch with the world around us, more in touch with God*. Sacred Pauses is an introduction to this more centered way of life. Author April Yamisaki, a pastor in British Columbia, begins with her own longing for personal renewal. **What would it take to feel renewed every day?** Instead of waiting for a vacation to smooth out the tensions of life, instead of waiting until the end of the week to shed our weariness, what if we could take time out every day? Live a renewed life every day? Be refreshed by God every day? [Sacred Pauses](#) offers simple ways for readers to do just that.

Mennonite Central Committee

With your support, lives have been touched around the world. Thank you for all the ways you've supported MCC.

Please consider beginning the year with a gift at donate.mcc.org.



Almost three years after a massive earthquake devastated Haiti, MCC continues to address long-term needs. MCC is building a community for 100 families northwest of Port-au-Prince and expanding a vocational training program in Desarmes, 32 miles northeast of the city. Project funding includes about \$800,000 of the \$14.7 million that contributors gave MCC after the earthquake in addition to a \$2.1-million grant from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). MCC's earthquake response so far totals \$9.8 million for 30 completed and 22 current projects since January 2010, leaving about \$6 million for the next two years of the five-year response. **"MCC Haiti's earthquake response has been effective in addressing needs in many people's lives,"** said Kurt Hildebrand, who with his spouse Wilda Mondestin, serves as MCC representative in Haiti. "However, the country's recovery overall continues to be slow and full of challenges, which makes MCC's work difficult." Hildebrand is from Medford, OR, and Mondestin is from Tabarre, Haiti. A big challenge is building housing for the 357,785 who live in tent camps. There is no centralized housing authority to manage land ownership, zoning or planning. It's not uncommon for several people to have papers claiming the same land. With 75 percent of tent camps located on private property, land owners are resorting to forceful evictions. In Desarmes students learn farming, masonry, plumbing and electrical skills in order to support themselves outside of the capital city which in turn reduces the need for people to crowd into the capital which, according to Hildebrand, contributed to the number of earthquake-associated deaths. Visit mcc.org to learn more.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Jan 21 (submissions due by 1/14)
Feb 4 (submissions due by 1/28)
Feb 18 (submissions due by 2/11)
Mar 4 (submissions due by 2/25)

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>
