



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-monthly communication for PNMC

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 on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

From Our Conference Minister, *Katherine Jameson Pitts*

The PNMC Pastoral Leadership Team met this week to interview two candidates for licensing and ordination. I was reminded again of the importance of the support we as a conference provide for our pastors. It's one of the 4 main values that the PNMC Board is focusing on providing for congregations. Through Regional Clusters, Pastor-Spouse Retreat, Mentors, and District Pastors, as well as the PLT, we try to provide our pastors with the relationships and resources that will help them thrive in ministry in our congregations. I am grateful for the way our pastors reach out to each other, the way congregations help nurture and support good leadership and for the gifted people who have found places of service here in the Northwest. "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," (Eph. 4:11-12) *Join me in giving thanks for these gifts among us!*

From the PNMC Office

Please be thinking and planning for your participation as we gather in **Portland, June 21-22**, for the **PNMC ANNUAL MEETING**. We desire to celebrate the languages we use to share God's power and love with our communities. Not just English, Spanish, and French, but the language of homelessness, of the city, of youth, of nurturing food from the land, of the wisdom of age. Add your voice as we speak together of what God has done and is doing among us. We hope you are giving serious thought to the selection of church leaders to represent your congregation as delegates. We will be asking for delegate names earlier this year so we can get information to them ahead of time. *More information coming soon!*

Churches, please continue to plan for selecting your congregational delegates for the Mennonite Church USA gathering in **Phoenix, July 1-5, 2013**. For details on choosing representatives you may reference these [instructions](#) from Ervin Stutzman.

Please keep the family of Elmer Friesen in prayer. He passed away February 20, surrounded by his family and wife of 12 years, Hilda Schmidt. Elmer was a warm, gentle and wise man. He had served the Mennonite Church in many capacities, including twelve years as Pastor of Peace Mennonite Church (1971-1982) and a stint as Conference Minister of the Pacific District Conference. Many of those years were spent with his first wife of 56 years, Lois. A memorial service was held March 2 at Portland Mennonite Church.

Please submit any news to be included in the Spring Evangel by March 7.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

CIHAN

There will be a service of thanksgiving and worship for men on **Saturday, March 16 at 5:00 p.m.** at the Christian Center Church in McMinnville, (97128 SW 903 Cedarwood, McMinnville). The evening's theme will be based on 1 Timothy 6:12, **Fight the Good Fight of Faith**. For questions, contact the CIHAN Moderator, Gilberto Cortez at 503-984-9458.

Mennonite Historical Society

The **Spring Meeting** of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society will be held **Sunday, April 14 at 2:30 p.m.** The meeting will be at Zion Mennonite Church, 6124 S. Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard, Oregon 97032. Jerry Barkman, President of the Society, will share his research on the conversion experience of Elder Jacob A. Wiebe, the founder of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren Church. The KMB (as it came to be known, emigrated to Hillsboro, Kansas in 1874 from South Russia.) For more information, call the Ivan and Pearl Heritage Center at [\(503\) 266-6447](tel:5032666447).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Biblical Mennonite Seminary

Webinar: Women Leaders: Engaging Race and Gender in the Church

Presenters: Joanna Shenk, Regina Shands Stoltzfus, Linda Gehman Peachey

Wednesday, March 13, 2:00-3:30 p.m. [Click here for details, March 8 registration deadline.](#)

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC partners in the Gaza Strip used \$10,000 grants to respond to needs of Gazans who were displaced or whose families were injured during Israeli airstrikes in November 2012. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 165 Palestinians in Gaza died and about 1,400 were injured during November. It was a fearful time for Israelis as well, as rockets fired from Gaza killed six Israelis and injured 224, according to OCHA. Human Rights Watch reported that three groups are known to have fired rockets from Gaza, including Hamas, the ruling Palestinian party in Gaza. The airstrikes were some of the most recent manifestations of the Israeli occupation, since 1967, of Gaza and the West Bank and Palestinian efforts to resist that occupation. The conflict also reaches back to the 1948 founding of the state of Israel, and earlier.

MCC partner Al Najd Development Forum acquired blankets, pillows, mattresses, kitchen utensils and cooking gas for families who left their damaged homes and for those who fled their homes in fear and took shelter elsewhere. Al Najd is a community-based organization begun by women to provide programs and services for women and their families. “If we die, we’ll die together” was the mindset of people who didn’t know when the next rocket would fall, said Bassem Thabet, partner relations director for MCC Palestine and Israel. Thus, large extended families tended to stay together in one family’s home.

Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA), whose partnership with MCC is part of MCC’s Global Family education program, bought similar supplies with its grant, giving them to people who needed them after the shelling ceased. Families in the far northern Gaza strip who were raising rabbits for food and income through an MCC-supported Al Najd program lost many rabbits in the shelling, said Joanna Hiebert Bergen, representative for MCC Palestine and Israel with her husband Dan Bergen. Some families who fled couldn’t take the rabbits with them, while other rabbits were killed by the airstrikes or died because of fear-induced trauma.

To support MCC’s Global Family programs in Gaza or elsewhere, including CFTA’s summer camps and Child-to-Child program offering leadership training and self-expression opportunities for children, visit globalfamily.mcc.org.

Mennonite Women USA



Carolyn Heggen and Rhoda Keener shared the **Sister Care** seminar in Guatemala **February 12-15** with 61 women attending. Participants came from Bolivia, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, and Guatemala. The seminar was held at SEMILLA and planned by pastoral care professor, Olga Piedrasanta. Carolyn said, “We feel so very good about the seminar, with such participatory, warm women who are grateful for the contextualized, translated into Spanish manuals and who told us over and over how much they have learned and will share with women in their churches and communities. About half of the women are pastors or assistant pastors and we believe they will use the materials and share things they have learned. We have learned much from them and our hearts have been touched by their gracious responsiveness and willingness to share their stories and insights with us.” Rhoda and Carolyn provided additional training for Olga and Ofelia Garcia, Chihuahua, Mexico, in preparation

for their leadership of a Sister Care seminar in May in Chihuahua, Mexico. They also led a one-day training for mostly male pastors regarding the pastoral needs of women. To learn more, visit <http://www.mennonitewomenusa.org/Ministries/Pages/Sister-Care.aspx>.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 18 (submissions due by 3/11)

April 1 (submissions due by 3/25)

April 15 (submissions due by 4/8)

May 6 (submissions due by 4/29)

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>