

Evangel

the tri-annual newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Winter 2010

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Dwelling in **the Word**

by Jeryl Hollinger, PNMC Moderator-Elect

"Why is the good news preached to the poor and not to the rich?" The question was asked in Sunday School as we discussed chapter 4 in *The Naked Anabaptist* by Stuart Murray. As happens in Sunday School, the question took us down paths of discovery that I had not planned as the teacher. It was also a continuation of what had happened in our worship service the Sunday before.

On October 17, our Mountain View congregation met in the fellowship hall for our worship service. We sat around tables of 6-8 persons. Instead of our usual progression of worship, we partook of *Dwelling in the Word*, "a spiritual practice of reading and dwelling in the Biblical text with an openness to be formed and transformed by the Living Word," as is being promoted by our PNMC leadership.

This was not the first time I participated in this practice. In January, when the District Pastors met in Portland, Iris deLeón-Hartshorn began each session by leading us in this practice of "listening deeply to God and one another." I was awed by the listening ability of these seasoned church leaders making it one of the spiritual highlights of my year.

At our 2010 Annual Meeting in Anchorage, again we took up the same text, Luke 4:16-30, to *Dwell in the Word*.

That time I sat at a table with some of our Hispanic leaders and again was blessed as we opened ourselves to God through this meditative and formational way of experiencing the scriptures. We hear so differently depending on our life experiences and context. We encounter God through the ears of others.

The PNMC board met in September and again we began each day *Dwelling in the Word*. Throughout the day, as we dealt with a variety of business items, time and again the text would be brought into our discussion. The God of Mystery was addressing us over and over again as the layers of text spoke into our deliberations.

In the *Dwelling in the Word* packet sent to congregations, a 1527 quote by Hans Denck, an early Anabaptist, challenges my usual way of reading the Bible: "I value the Holy Scripture above all human treasures but not as high as the Word of God, which is living, powerful and eternal, and which is free and unencumbered by all the elements of the world."

How do we hear the Truth? Who defines the spiritual questions we tackle? Where do we sink our roots and begin to define our vision? Whether we are partaking in conference, serving on a board or committee, or finding our way as a congregation, our goal is to be the church of Jesus Christ, led by his Spirit. *Dwelling in the Word* will help us become that church.

Orfilia Moran elected **CIHAN Moderator**

By Samuel Moran

On October 15, CIHAN celebrated its last meeting of 2010, with participation of pastors and leaders from PNMC Hispanic Mennonite churches. On this day, Orfilia Moran took the responsibility as the new CIHAN Moderator for the next two years (2010-2012). The Executive Conference Minister, Iris de León-Hartshorn, was present and able to bless and pray over Orfilia and her upcoming projects in our Hispanic Mennonite churches.

After being prayed over, Orfilia expressed to pastors and leaders, "God is a specialist who makes great things with few people." She also motivated us by saying, "Pay attention to our next generation. It's up to our youth ... we should give endless opportunities to them, so they can take part in various responsibilities and roles within our churches."

Together with Orfilia, Gilberto Cortez, of Roca de Salvación, was elected as CIHAN Moderator-Elect; Carmen Velasquez, of Pentecostes, as the new Treasurer; and Walter Salanic, of Restauración, as the new Secretary. Let us keep them in prayer.

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Our Vision: Healing & Hope

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

PNMC Moderator reflects on first Leaders Forum of MC USA



“ *This rare privilege of being in the same room at the same time to discuss issues was a bit like convention atmosphere – only more intimate.* ”

The first-ever Leaders Forum met in Pittsburgh this past September. The Forum consists of representatives from MC USA Executive Board, Mennonite schools, Mennonite agency board members, members from each Constituency Racial/Ethnic group, and Constituency Leaders Council (Executive Conference Ministers, Moderators and Moderator-elects and/or other conference board members). This rare privilege of being in the same room at the same time to discuss issues was a bit like convention atmosphere – only more intimate.

We heard powerful sermons from Ervin Stutzman, Executive Director of MC USA; Jack Suderman, MC Canada; and Elizabeth Soto Albrecht, Executive Board. We were challenged to hear the Spirit's call to us in today's world. As the church works to discern that call and grapple with decision-making issues, we should be moving into a mode of evangelism. We are to be the light of the world and a city of refuge on the hill.

Difficult discussions took place regarding the Arizona SB1070 anti-immigrant legislation and the fact that Mennonite Convention is scheduled for Phoenix in 2013. We felt the pain of those who stand in solidarity with our Hispanic brothers and sisters who are the target of SB1070.

The Mennonite Church has an opportunity to be a prophetic voice to the Phoenix community. No easy answer came to this group of leaders regarding the “to go or not to go” debate in having the 2013 Convention in Phoenix. The Executive Board has the ultimate decision. I pray we will support our leaders despite the realization that many will not be able to participate *or will choose not to participate in solidarity with others* if we do go to Phoenix.

As Moderator, your prayers are sought as the Board seeks to discern the Spirit's movement in the NW. We must look for ways to see beyond ourselves to become the communities of healing and hope that we are called to be.

~ Linda Dibble

Exec Conference Minister shares about upcoming opportunities

Planning for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Salem is underway and I am excited about what is in store. For the first time, we will be offering 3-4 training events for lay leadership and others who are interested. The trainings will be four hours long and held at specific times.

Many of our congregations have wonderful lay leadership. Many congregational leaders have asked for training in various areas. The fact that the religious landscape in our country and world is changing means we also need leaders who are able to read their context and what it means for our congregations.

Dwelling in the Word is a spiritual discipline that teaches us to listen to God together. As leaders we can also learn some helpful tools in ministry

governance, team building and the practical, but important work of pastoral and congregational reviews.

My prayer is that as PNMC shares what will be available at Annual Meeting, you will consider participating in one of these training events. Perhaps your congregation could select two or three people to come and learn together about what it means to be a leader in these changing times.

Please pray for our lay leaders, pastors, PNMC board and staff. May we continue to listen to God so we do not miss opportunities for joining in God's reconciling work.

~ Iris de León-Hartshorn



Iris de León-Hartshorn, Exec Conf Minister, prays for Orfilia Moran, new CIHAN Moderator

Evangel is the tri-annual newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Newsletter submissions, feedback and subscription information can be sent to: Brenda Zook Friesen, Editor brenda@pnmc.org or 1728 A St, Forest Grove, OR, 97116

In an effort to be environmentally and fiscally responsible, this newsletter is issued electronically. If this creates difficulties, hard copies are available by request. Newsletters are published in April, August and December. The next deadline for submissions is March 4, 2011.

Grab a warm beverage and enjoy archived issues here: <http://www.pnmc.org/Resources/Evangel>.

**Pacific Northwest
Mennonite Conference**

Liability Insurance

Is it necessary?

by Jerry Linscheid

What if...?

Could the church be held liable? Does your insurance cover it?

Q: Your church secretary takes her own car to run a church errand and hits a pedestrian?

A: Yes, the church can be held responsible for actions by its employees. Coverage is known as "non-owned and hired auto" and should be a part of the church auto policy or the general liability policy.

Q: The church youth group borrows a van for a weekend retreat. On the way a tire blows and the van rolls injuring the passengers?

A: Liability insurance is designed to pay for injuries the church causes to someone else, not for injuries members cause to each other. There is coverage in the church general liability policy known as "medical payments" that will reimburse medical costs even to church members. The limit is usually \$5,000 per person.

Q: One of the church members lost his job. To help, the church contracts with him to provide janitorial service. He is paid a flat monthly fee and given a form 1099 at the end of the year instead

of a W-2. The member is on a ladder changing a light bulb at church. He falls and is hurt. The church does not carry workers compensation insurance.

A: It is possible the member is an independent contractor, but don't count on it. The laws and governmental agencies impose an employer-employee relationship whenever possible. If the member is found to be a church employee, the church will be fined and have to pay for the injury. General liability insurance does not cover this.

Q: Church A owns a church facility. Church B wants to use the facility on Saturdays. Church C wants to use the education wing on weekdays to run a licensed afterschool program. Both B and C will use the playground equipment. Church C is responsible to keep the playground equipment maintained to licensing standards. At a Church B event a child is injured while playing on the playground equipment. Only Church A carries liability insurance.

A: All three churches get sued. Disregard the state's requirement that afterschool programs carry liability insurance. Church A's insurance has no duty to defend or pay liabilities of Church B or C.

What if B and C each carried their own

liability insurance and each named Church A as an additional insured on their policies?

Now Church B's insurance defends and pays liabilities of A and B. Church C's insurance defends and pays liabilities of A and C. If the injuries were so severe that both B's and C's policy limits were exhausted, then A's policy would pay for any additional liability owed by A.

Could Church A simply rely on the policies of B and C? No. Church A needs coverage for injuries that occur e.g. on Sunday morning when neither B nor C is involved.

Church liability is something that does not happen very often, but when it does, it is usually significant.

If the injuries are severe, an attorney will look for people and organizations to pay. If the church is without liability insurance and owns no property, the plaintiff may look to individual church leaders for compensation.

These scenarios are not meant to "scare" congregations into a liability insurance policy. Several churches have been wondering if liability insurance is necessary. If you would like to know more and understand the various options, please contact Jerry Linscheid with Mennonite Aid Plan/Mennonite Insurance Services (559/638-2327; jerry@mennoniteinsurance.com).

PNMC Finance Report

by Ed Miller, PNMC Treasurer

October Year To Date Finances

The end of October means we are nine months (75%) through the PNMC Fiscal Year. A summary of the income and expense as of October 31 is as follows:

	October YTD			Total Year	
	Actual	Budget	%	Budget	%
Church Contributions	\$ 96,413	\$ 95,539	101%	\$137,741	70%
Other Income	\$ 9,130	\$ 6,442	142%	\$ 22,020	41%
Total Income	\$105,543	\$101,981	103%	\$159,761	66%
Total Expenses	\$111,986	\$112,054	100%	\$166,487	67%
Income vs. Expense	\$ <6,443>	\$ <10,073>		\$ <6,726>	

Church contributions are tracking very close to budget. However, there are several congregations who will probably not make their budgeted contribution for the year, so it is anticipated that total church contributions will fall a bit short of budget for the full year.

On the expense side, an overall deficit of approximately \$8,800 for the Annual Meeting held in Anchorage has contributed to actual expenses exceeding actual income YTD. The distance to Alaska was a primary factor in the deficit. Reduced attendance caused registration fees to not fully cover local expenses, and reduced the amount of the offerings received at the conference. The distance also caused a significant increase in the travel expenses for those persons for whom PNMC was responsible for reimbursing. Also contributing to expenses was, for the first time, video recording of the conference and paying for Spanish interpretation of the meeting sessions.

A report showing the General Fund actual income/expenses as of October 31 compared to the budget for the full fiscal year is available on the PNMC website at: <http://pnmc.org/Teams/Finance/Reports>.

Contributions to PNMC

As we approach year-end, we encourage persons to consider making individual contributions to PNMC. Contributions can be sent as checks (made out to PNMC) to the PNMC office (see the last page for mailing address). We also have the capability for online giving using either credit or debit cards. This can be done through the PNMC website at: <http://pnmc.org/Home/Donation>.

Long anticipated Sister-Care Seminars a success

by Pat Hershberger

Women came “to share with other women,” “to learn how to care in healthy ways,” “to be cared for by some ‘mother-like people,’” feeling “lonely, needing connection,” and hoping to find practical tools in building caring relationships. In PNMC, the focus was upon “Loss and Grief” as a common experience.

Mennonite Women USA *Sister-Care* significantly touched 122 PNMC women of wide age range, from four states on three October weekends, meeting in Caldwell, ID; Salem, OR; and Ritzville, WA. Rhoda Keener, Executive Director of MW USA, and Carolyn Heggen, West Coast representative to MW USA board, co-presented materials they have authored with Ruth Lapp Guengerich, President MW USA.

The women seated around tables shared stories and reflections, found beauty in each other as well as in candles, chocolate, goody bags and prayer shawls. The Biblical stories of the woman at the

well and a female friend carried to Jesus by her four friends resonated with an inner awareness.

In one way or another, many of the women recognized the wisdom in this quote from the manual, “What we believe about our personal worth and identity makes a difference in how we care for others.”

Three common themes emerged in response to the seminar, among others:

- ✎ Drawing the personal story (time) line allowed introspection and opened a way for healing. Many women plan to continue this exercise.

- ✎ Hearing stories, both from table partners and from a panel of women who told their stories of loss and grief, provided new insight and companionship.

- ✎ A resolve developed to implement *Sister-Care* within home congregations with new vision.

The closing worship invited participants to first share a “bowl of tears,” then anoint each other from a second bowl with the “transformative living water” which Jesus offers each of us.

Sister-Care, PNMC was possible because many volunteered with hosting, planning and prayer partners. MW USA also subsidized the seminar here. Without

MW USA’s assistance, PNMC could not have provided this training. We are grateful for their *Sister-Care*! Gifts of appreciation were given to Rhoda and Carolyn for their gift to us.

PNMC Sister-Care Committee: Kathy Bilderback, Jo Miller, Pat Hershberger, assisted by local planning committees. Additional article: <http://www.mennoniteusa.org/Home/News/tabid/65/EntryID/436/Default.aspx>.



Left to right: Linda Dibble, Louise Claassen and Linda Dalke worship at Oregon Sister-Care seminar



Left to right: Bobbie Van de Veer, Meg Lumsdaine and Wanda Dorsing share at WA Sister-Care seminar

Spiritual renewal extends beyond the week

by Robby Gilliam, *Spiritual Life Director*

In this holiday season, I am filled with gratitude. 1 Thes 5:18 tells us to be thankful in everything, even when something is difficult. When facing a challenge, thank God anyway because He can allow it to help you in some way.

Recently Western Mennonite School experienced a season of change. Our annual Spiritual Renewal Week (Nov 1–5) approached with great anticipation for God moving among us. We believed God

would surprise us, even while skepticism crept among the student body.

As I started to announce our guest speaker, something was different in the air. It was obvious the students came expecting to meet God, to encounter something that would alter their being.

As our speaker approached, we felt that we should not talk much. Instead, the students experienced God by praying for each other and receiving prayer if they desired. What happened next can best be described by a 7th grade student:

I was amazed as we entered into prayer. God truly came and met with each of us students. I was amazed as I ... watched the other students seeking God together. How people were praying for people they normally don't hang out with, let alone talk to. I was amazed how God began to unify His body, ... how He healed hurting people, ... and how He chose to meet us in the exact way we needed. There was a standard set at Western during [SRW] and I feel like this isn't a spiritual high, but a tangible example of how we can live out God's love each and every day!

We spent five days praying and deepening our relationships with God. Every student

walked away from the week changed. The students practiced firsthand their theme of *One God. One Love. One People.*

The atmosphere at WMS has been inspiring. The students are walking in God's love and shining their light. They are not just talking the talk, but discerning how to walk the walk in every situation.

I am so thankful for a school that fosters a spiritual environment. I am so thankful that we have the freedom to dive into the true textbook—the Bible. I am so thankful we have staff and faculty who are committed to the students, mentoring them into a relationship with our loving God. I am thankful that our students are hungrier than ever before.

Greater things are yet to come here at Western Mennonite. We are only beginning and we are so thankful for it.

Left-right: Courtney Hochstetler, Rayleen Caldwell & Alexandra Kennedy pray with and for each other



Left upper corner, clockwise: Josh Mack, Micah Yoder, Peter Manickam, Emily Mack, Tyler Wood, Zack Smith and Mitchell Daily join in prayer

Church Connections

Filer Mennonite of Filer, ID

by Pastor Tim Gascho with Brenda Zook Friesen

In 1911, the first Mennonites moved into the Magic Valley area and two years later, Mennonite families began meeting in homes. Filer Mennonite Church was formally organized on January 31, 1914, with a church building constructed the following year.

Almost 100 years later, the congregation is still going strong. Each Sunday, an average of 30-40 people gather for worship and fellowship. We are a rural congregation and our membership consists of farmers, retired farmers and various other professionals.

Several ministries are thriving including a summer Bible school program that draws participation from 60 youth. For 27 years, Filer has hosted an annual Ten Thousand Villages sale where the church basement is filled with fair-trade items. The sales from this event totaled \$24,500 in 2010.

The congregation collaborates with Filer Ministerial Association to provide a community Thanksgiving Eve service, as well as distributing Christmas blankets to families in need. The Mennonite Women Ministries has supported a family in need from Mississippi for 18 years. MWM also sews comforters for the Filer Fire Department to be distributed to families who have experienced a loss. Filer Mennonite supports various local charities including making booties for a crisis pregnancy center, helping with a local homeless shelter and singing each month at two nursing homes.

Filer Mennonite Church is unique in our focus on missions and having all of our members participate in the ministry of the church. The biggest challenge for our congregation is to reach our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Filer Mennonite Church (above) transforms the basement for Ten Thousand Villages sale (below) to raise funds for the fair-trade organization.



Menno Mennonite of Ritzville, WA

by Pastor Matthew Yoder

This fall has been a full season for Menno Mennonite Church. In the midst of harvest time, the Menno congregation has created space for welcoming me, their new pastor and recent graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, and my family from Pasadena, CA.

Menno also hosted the annual MCC Relief Sale and Country Auction on the first weekend of October, which continues to draw a large crowd from across the community, country and continent. The MCC sale continues to be an important mission of Menno, which many PNMC churches support in a variety of meaningful ways.

This autumn, we also hosted a *Sister-Care* Seminar, a ministry of Mennonite Women. The seminar was a formative experience for the many women who

were able to attend, both from our community and beyond.

In addition, we are making preparations for our annual Menno Mennonite Church Harvest Festival. This year's Harvest Festival will feature District Pastor and PNMC Moderator-Elect, Jeryl Hollinger, and we will observe communion.

In the meantime, this year's harvest has been gathered and the fallow soil has been seeded anew. The earth, now pregnant with potential life, seems to ask, "What will the coming year bring?"

As I sit in my office on this chilly, overcast afternoon, I think about the long, rich heritage of Spirit-filled life and stories here at Menno, and about all that I have yet to learn and to become. I wonder ... what will the coming year bring?



Menno Mennonite Church (above) and the church parsonage (below).



PNMC Ministerial Updates

Gary Jewell is serving as *Interim Pastor* at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship through Dec 31, 2010.

Prince of Peace Community Church in Adair Village, OR, decided to withdraw from PNMC. The decision was made by all active members present at a congregational meeting on September 26, 2010, and was adopted along with a new constitution.

Why immigration issues get convoluted (obstacles to good conversation)

by Bob Buxman, West Coast MCC NW Rep.

Tendency to get caught up thinking politically, rather than theologically

Rev. Joan M. Maruskin reminds us:

The Bible is the ultimate immigration handbook.

It is written by, for, and about immigrants and refugees. It begins with Adam and Eve being exiled from the Garden of Eden. Abraham and Sarah are sent to another land. Moses, as a criminal alien, flees for his life. Ruth follows her mother-in-law to a strange country. The Old Testament prophets are seen fleeing for their lives. All of these are a part of the God story. They find protection and help in strange lands.

In the New Testament, the Messiah becomes an undocumented refugee fleeing to Egypt with his parents to escape political persecution and death. Jesus begins his public ministry by reading from the sacred book of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

He lives out his life as an itinerant preacher with no place to lay his head. Throughout the New Testament, the stranger is affirmed and included as those for whom Christ died. The New Testament closes with John living as an exile on the isle of Patmos.

The Old and the New Testaments are filled with these stories. We are repeatedly instructed to care for and welcome the alien, the stranger, the sojourner. We are encouraged to think first of all, theologically.

Lack of knowledge/awareness about what the U.S. immigration laws really are, how and when they are applied

We get so much propaganda and misinformation. This is true among those who are voting on these issues

and those potentially implementing new legislation. Voting and implementation happen with little to no awareness of current realities or why the system which is in place is not working as envisioned.

The propaganda and misinformation is also true for those in the immigrant community trying to do the right thing and make life altering "correct" decisions. For more information, check out:

www.aila.org and www.uscis.gov.

Lack of discretion for immigration judges and officers to consider personal history and circumstances in many parts of the decision process

Should we really treat a victim who was forced by a trafficker to enter the U.S. without valid documentation, an asylum applicant fleeing persecution and a minor child given no choice in the matter as being in the same "illegal" status as someone trafficking drugs, or even an economic migrant?

Should those with U.S. citizenship or permanent resident spouses and children be put in the same category with someone without any family ties in this country? Should someone who crossed the border without documentation yesterday be in the category with someone here twenty years?

Should those who tried to resolve their status and got caught up in administrative red tape, or ended up out of status through no fault of their own, be treated the same way as those who never tried to do anything about their immigration status?

Many components of our immigration laws group all of these people into one single category, but it is extremely difficult to have a "one size fits all" approach and still have any real justice and fairness in the process.

Lack of resources for those in need of reliable advice and assistance

There are few non-profit organizations serving the immigrant community, and almost all are clustered in large metro



This banner available from First Mennonite (NE) <http://www.fmclincoln.org/immigrationbanner>

areas. Their staff almost universally face high demand, low salaries and tight budget constraints, necessitating considerable limitations on the volume and variety of immigration legal services provided. Even private immigration attorneys can be few and far between outside of major metropolitan areas.

In addition, consultants and notaries often advertise immigration services they are not legally licensed or bonded to perform. Several studies have shown that represented persons are much more likely than pro se (self represented) persons to obtain approval of their cases. However, as there is no right to appointed counsel in any Immigration Court or Immigration Service proceeding, many people have no choice but to represent themselves.

Immigration Service offices generally do not employ attorneys and are not authorized to give legal advice. Nonetheless, people tend to rely on the information obtained there, even when it is misleading or inaccurate. While most inaccurate information is given unintentionally, it is essentially the equivalent of someone with no medical training trying to properly perform open heart surgery on the first attempt. The procedures are very complex and the consequences of a mistake very substantial.

Additional Resources

Loving the Stranger as Ourselves: Biblical Reflections and an extensive list of immigration materials are available from MCC here: <http://immigration.mcc.org/us/immigration/resources/>

Missio Dei Vol. 19: Immigration and the Bible by M. Daniel Carroll R. (Rodas) is available for free from Mennonite Mission Network here: <http://www.mennonitemission.net/Tools/MissioDei/Pages/ImmigrationandtheBible.aspx>



Revisit Luke 10:25-37 and the Good Samaritan in which Samaritans were strangers in the land of Israel.

Working through Value-based disputes

by Larry Hauder, CPM & Bob Rainville, CPM

Moral values give rise to the most bitter disputes faced by churches. Human sexuality, doctor-assisted suicide, and abortion illustrate the divisiveness of these disputes.

What approaches offer hope to churches confronting these conflicts? We offer these insights based upon our experiences with churches divided by value-based issues.

- Through **safe and structured conversations**, divided congregations can build understanding and rediscover unifying values. People can come to respect another's deeply held perspectives without threat to their own beliefs.
- **Facilitated, small group conversations** are often effective in strengthening relationships and developing solutions.
- Large meetings where opponents advocate for competing perspectives **do little to enhance understanding**, but do foster the hardening of positions and the formation of coalitions.
- **Votes intensify divisions**. People who lose feel rejected. Relationships no longer feel safe and welcoming. Loss of connection to their spiritual home can give rise to disorientation, sadness, fear and anger. Ultimately, church ministry suffers.
- **Consensus-building strategies** can change the congregation's focus from win/lose to problem solving. People who feel their ideas were thoughtfully considered are more likely to accept the outcome.
- Emphasizing a **congregation's pursuit of shared objectives** can encourage cooperation, appreciation, and mitigate divisiveness.
- Leaders who clarify their personal positions while **demonstrating respect for divergent perspectives** can help their congregations.

A congregation's highest call is to seek Christ's oneness: "Beloved let us love one another..." (1 John 4:7). For the full article, please contact bob@commongroundcs.org.

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www.commongroundcs.org

New ministries at Peace Campus

by Duncan Smith

On May 30, 2010, after 82 years of ministry, Peace Mennonite Church held its closing service. The closing worship was similar to a normal service with extended time for sharing from the alumni who came. This included two former pastors, Elmer Friesen and John Hess-Yoder. Peace Mennonite's closing set in motion the next phase for the people and property of 19626 NE Glisan in Portland, Oregon.

For the most part, former members and participants have found homes in other non-Mennonite congregations in the general area of the church. Until recently, the Wednesday evening Bible Study continued to meet at the home of a former member.

On November 11, there was a "reunion" at the church that was attended by virtually all of the people who had been active with Peace Mennonite in its last year. There were about 30 in attendance.

The property that Peace Mennonite owned is over 2 acres. There is also a former parsonage which has now become a rental. When Peace Mennonite closed, it had decided to deed the property over to the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. This transfer process took a while, but the PNMC took title of the property near the end of August.

Duncan Smith, who had been serving as the interim pastor over Peace's last year, was hired in June to begin working with the transition of the property and serve as the Building Administrator for the property.

This has included cleaning out what would not be kept and keeping what might be used depending on whether the property would be sold or transitioned to another ministry.

To this end, PNMC started receiving ministry proposals in June for future use of the property. Proposals were submitted by Mennonite and non-Mennonite ministries. At the July PNMC Board meeting, the Board discerned between different proposals and accepted a joint proposal from Anawim Christian Community and International Bethel City Church, both PNMC congregations.

Duncan is working closely with Anawim and Bethel to transition into managing the property as he transitions out of that position. A Building Management Committee will soon be formed to serve as a support and accountability group, helping with the transition. This committee will include persons from Anawim, Bethel, the PNMC Board, and a person with building management experience.

Anawim has expanded their day shelter ministry from one to three days on the campus. Anawim participants are providing virtually all of the labor for upkeep and maintenance of the property. Bethel now has storage space for clothes they are planning to send to Africa.

There are exciting possibilities ahead, as well as challenges, for Anawim and Bethel as they keep up with the property. Pray for them and for the Kingdom of God to be built with the ministries on the "Peace Campus."

Goshen College offers Online Advent Devotions

Students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on the upcoming Sunday's lectionary Scripture passages. Devotions are available at www.blog.goshen.edu/devotions, by e-mail or via an RSS feed. Writers will reflect on the Advent theme: "An Unexpected Hour," based on worship resources developed in *Leader* magazine, a quarterly publication of Mennonite Publishing Network. The short reflections and Scripture passages can help Christians concentrate on the meaning and mystery of Advent. When "Advent devotions" is searched on Google, Goshen College devotions are first on the list with almost 9,000 subscribers representing various denominational backgrounds and countries. Since 2001, Goshen College has offered online devotions to celebrate Advent and Lent, special seasons of the church calendar. —Goshen College Public Relations



Our Mission Statement is to:

Promote personal spiritual development,

Nurture healthy congregations,

Make strong connections, and

Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world.

PNMC Board of Directors

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Moderator, 2012

Jeryl Hollinger
Mod-Elect, 2014

Charlotte Derksen
Secretary, 2011

Ed Miller
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Mario Bautista
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PNMC District Pastors

Wendell Amstutz: Oregon CIHAN, Centro Cristiano Pentecostes, Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva, Iglesia Cristiana Roca de Salvación, Iglesia Menonita Pentecostes, Ministerios Restauración, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita

Iris de León-Hartshorn: Anawim Christian Community, Portland Mennonite, Prince of Peace Mennonite

Larry Hauder: Evergreen Heights Mennonite, Filer Mennonite, Peace Community Mennonite

Jeryl Hollinger: Menno Mennonite, Warden Mennonite

Brent Kauffman: Albany Mennonite, River of Life Fellowship, The River Mennonite

George Leppert: First Mennonite, Hyde Park Mennonite

Al Lind: Calvary Mennonite, Eugene Mennonite, Pacific Covenant Mennonite, Zion Mennonite

Cecil Miller: Mt. View Mennonite, Spring Valley Mennonite

Lynn Miller: McMinnville Mennonite, Salem Mennonite, Western Mennonite

David Morrow: Evergreen Mennonite, Seattle Mennonite

Duane Oesch: Emmaus Christian Fellowship

Rod Stafford: Bethel City Church, Peace Mennonite Church, Springwater

Dave Stutzman: Corvallis Mennonite, Lebanon Mennonite, Logsden Neighborhood Church, Plainview Mennonite Church

PNMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Jan 19-20, 2011: *District Pastors Annual Gathering*, Portland, OR

Jan 24-28, 2011: *Education Leaders Gathering*, Landsdowne, VA

Feb 4-6, 2011: *Oregon MDS Volunteer Rebuilding Project*, New Orleans, LA

June 24-25, 2011: *PNMC Annual Meeting*, Western Mennonite School, Salem, OR

July 4-9, 2011: *Mennonite Church USA Convention*, Pittsburgh, PA

* The PNMC e-Bulletin is distributed bi-monthly and includes details for the events listed above, as well as other PNMC and churchwide announcements. If you would like to subscribe, send an email to brenda@pnmc.org with "Subscribe e-Bulletin" in the subject line.

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