

Evangel

the tri-annual newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Spring 2011

Volume 66, Number 1

Anticipating Salem 2011

by Brenda Zook Friesen, Editor

As we turn our calendars to the months of Spring, planning for the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference 17th Annual Meeting in Salem, Oregon, goes into full swing!

The planning committee is hard at work pulling together numerous details and dreams to ensure we have a meaningful time together. The theme this year is *Discerning in Community* and our scriptural focus is Philippians 1:27.

Western Mennonite School will be providing space for us to meet for prayer, worship, discussion, fellowship, seminars and training sessions, as well as for reflecting on our methods of discernment.

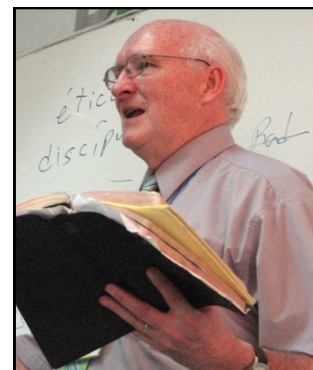
In *Church Connections* on pages 4 and 5, you can learn more about the local Salem congregations who are helping to plan the Annual Meeting. We invite you to consider staying in Salem through Sunday, June 26, to join in worship with one of the local Mennonite churches.

Our Annual Meeting is obviously a time for conference leadership to gather together for discernment. However, this is also a time for Mennonites from across the Pacific Northwest to gather together for worship and fellowship. All ages are welcome; there will be activities for children and youth as well as nursery care. This is also a wonderful opportunity for those who would like to learn more about PNMC and the work of the conference.

Registration will be opening in early May. Stay tuned for more details via the e-Bulletin, including a countdown of the *Top 10 Reasons to Attend Salem 2011!* Summer is a gorgeous time to be in the Willamette Valley. We hope you will be able to join us on June 24 and 25 for part or all of the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Salem 2011 Guest speaker **Jack Suderman**

Robert (Jack) Suderman has served the Anabaptist faith community in numerous ways. From 1968-1984, he taught in Canada and Bolivia. He was the founding director of CLARA (Latin American Anabaptist Resource Center in Colombia). Suderman was also the founder of Mennonite Biblical



Copyright © 2011, Mennonite Church Canada

Seminary of Colombia, where he served from 1989-1994. He served as executive secretary of Mennonite Church Canada Witness from 2000-2005 and was then appointed general secretary of Mennonite Church Canada in 2005. While serving, he taught theology as part of the MWC Global Gift Sharing project, recently retiring in August 2010. Suderman currently serves on MWC's Peace Commission as assistant secretary and as co-secretary of the MWC/Seventh Day Adventist conversations.

In This Issue

Moderator & Exec Conf Minister	2
Salem 2011 Annual Meeting	3
Church Connections	4
VBS & Ministerial Updates	5
Western Mennonite School	6
Finance & Peace Reports	7
Calendar & Directory	8

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 change



“... the point of considering change is that we hope the relationships we have with each other will encourage others to join the Kingdom of God.”

Have you ever noticed that even though things change, many things stay the same? Take technology for instance. When I attend Constituency Leaders' Council meetings, I notice the number of laptops, Blackberries, iPads, etc. that are being used to “stay in touch” with what is going on in our conferences, congregations and/or personal lives.

This technology changes rapidly nowadays, but often the purpose is so we can maintain our relationships.

Mennonite Church USA is considering moving toward a decision making style that involves prayer, scripture reading and listening to the Spirit's voice (i.e. discernment). In turn, MC USA would move away from the current style of resolutions, Robert's Rules of Order or other organizational modes of operation.

The point of this movement is to allow the body of Christ the time

needed to prayerfully consider how God calls us to change and calls us to a different place and to consider the effect this may have upon the church's future.

At our Annual Meeting, we also will discuss changing our decision making style as we consider how our discernment in community effects the church. Again, the point of considering change is that we hope the relationships we have with each other will encourage others to join the Kingdom of God.

I am excited about this year's speaker, Jack Suderman, and I am looking forward to renewing friendships with you. Preparation for the Annual Meeting at Western Mennonite School's campus is continuing. I ask your prayers for those who will be giving leadership to each aspect of our time together this summer.

~ Linda Dibble

Exec Conference Minister shares about the start of a new year

The 2011 year got off to a busy start! In January, we held the 2nd Annual District Pastors' meeting. We spent significant time dwelling in the Word, singing and praying. It was good to hear about the wonderful relationships building between District Pastors, pastors and congregations. I greatly appreciate the service District Pastors are providing for our conference.

We also spent time talking about discernment in anticipation of the 2011 Annual Meeting theme, *Discerning in Community*. We discussed the importance of bringing pastors together for a retreat or teaching event. We hope to plan a retreat this coming fall.

In this first part of the year, I have been busy working on the Annual Meeting, especially planning for training events offered for the first time. Across the conference, I have heard laity asking for training opportunities for congregational leaders and future leaders. This year, we are able to offer four training events as part of Annual Meeting. See more details on the next page.

Please continue to pray for our District Pastors and this year's Annual Meeting. May God continue to guide us as we discern together where we are being called to serve.

~ Iris de León-Hartshorn



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 June 27, 2011.

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

**Pacific Northwest
Mennonite Conference**



join us

Friday, June 24 & Saturday, June 25*

for the

17th Annual Meeting of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

with guest speaker, Robert "Jack" Suderman

hosted by Western Mennonite School

Photo from Western Mennonite School



***Pastors & Spouses Dinner, Thursday, June 23.**

Also consider staying **Sunday, June 26** to worship with one of the local churches: Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita, Salem Mennonite or Western Mennonite.

Worship :: Dwelling in the Word
Fellowship :: Delegate Sessions
Seminars :: Children & Youth Activities

Leadership Training Events

Saturday, 1-5 pm Open to all who are interested

Training Event in Spanish ~ Samuel Moran

Pastoral Reviews ~ Nancy Kauffmann

Team Ministry ~ Duncan Smith

Preaching 101 ~ Leo Hartshorn

BAFA-Intercultural Dynamics ~

Bob Buxman & Iris de León-Hartshorn

* BAFA will be limited to the first 40 persons to sign up.

See registration materials for details on these Training Events.

Many thanks to Curt Weaver, Pastor of Youth Ministries at Portland Mennonite Church, for designing our Salem 2011 logo.

All the information you need for Salem 2011 is here:

http://pnmc.org/Meetings/Annual_Meetings/Salem_2011

Church Connections

Salem Mennonite (Oregon)

by Kathleen Harley Aeschliman, correspondent

Interest in having a Mennonite Church in the Salem urban area led families to begin meeting in homes in January, 1960. In June, 1961, the Pacific Coast Conference of the Mennonite Church granted permission to organize a congregation and membership in the Conference. Regular worship services began in a rented facility that October. There were forty-three charter members; fifteen of these remain active in the church.

The congregation built its own worship facility and moved in February, 1965. In 1979, the building was enlarged to include a fellowship room and additional classrooms.

Through the years, a number of the congregation's members have served

in Voluntary Service, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Disaster Service and YWAM.

Music is an essential part of worship at SMC, whether it be our a cappella, four-part harmony singing, an offertory played by a bluegrass group, selections by guitar, keyboard, harmonica, or a vocal/cello ensemble. Congregational ministries include a Peace Cabinet, Quilting Group, Women's Bible Study, Care Groups and monthly offering of non-perishable food for neighbors in need.

A vision for working with the community around our church building led to SEKCC, the Southeast Keizer Community Center. During his Sabbatical in 1999, Pastor Carl Newswanger made contacts in Lancaster, PA, as well as with Salem area churches who were involved in community work. "The idea of service *with* people rather than *for* people

became the turning point," he says.

Initially, the 6:30-8:00 p.m. time on Friday attracted neighborhood children, but gradually adults also began to attend. After evening activities, a light meal is served. The children began calling it "Friday Night Church."

Realizing the importance of this ministry, the congregation hired a half-time coordinator for SEKCC. Attendance varies, but the average is about forty children and adults.

In addition to opening on Friday for a safe time of playing games and eating a light meal, SEKCC now sponsors tutoring for students from a nearby elementary school every Wednesday, and several evenings each week there are English classes for our church neighbors. Some participants have reciprocated by teaching Spanish to interested persons in our congregation.



Photos submitted by Salem Mennonite

Girls enjoying Halloween at Southeast Keizer Community Center



Salem Mennonite Church where Vida Nueva also meets for worship



Christmas party at SEKCC (Southeast Keizer Community Center)

Church Connections

Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva of Salem, OR

by Raquel Rodriguez with Brenda Zook Friesen

About thirteen years ago, Pastor Victor Vargas wanted to provide a place for people to gather and worship in their first language, Spanish. He approached Carl Newswanger, who was the current pastor of Salem Mennonite, about the possibility of sharing space.

Soon after, a few families began gathering each week for worship services in Spanish. Various pastors

came to preach each week, many coming from the Woodburn, OR, area.

The ongoing challenge for Vida Nueva is that the community is always changing. Many of the attendees are in the area for the growing season, but then leave in pursuit of other work when the season ends. Recent anti-immigration laws have also affected the number of people in attendance and have influenced who feels welcome in the Salem area.

Vida Nueva focuses on the needs of this changing community, doing our best to provide services and support. Even with these challenges, members gather faithfully each Sunday

at 3 p.m. for worship and sharing the Holy Supper, still sharing worship space with Salem Mennonite. The two congregations have joint services 3-4 times per year and once a month, Vida Nueva cooks the meal for the Keizer Community Center.

The congregation also gathers for Bible study and prayer meetings each Friday at 7 p.m. Four families provide stability in the midst of a congregation that ebbs and flows.

The Vida Nueva congregation would welcome your prayers as we are currently seeking a pastor. We also pray for stability as we follow God's leading.

Church Connections

Western Mennonite of Salem, Oregon

by Pastor Rick Troyer

In 1946, several families moved to the area from scattered Oregon Mennonite congregations to start Western Mennonite School or to have their children attend the new school. They first started meeting on Sunday evenings in homes until the chapel on campus was finished. In September 1947, the first regular Sunday morning service was held in the chapel located in the boy's dorm.

Western Mennonite Church was officially organized on March 7, 1948. In the 60's, the church considered moving off campus. Some families began a new church in Salem, but others remained at the campus continuing to rent chapel space.

In 1979, the chapel area was needed for dorm rooms so the Western congregation started meeting in the school library. Western Church and the school partnered to build a new chapel completed in February, 1991. An average of 60 to 75 persons currently worship at Western.

Over the years, a large portion of the congregation was made up of persons who worked or volunteered at the school. In the fall, new persons and families would join the

congregation for a period of years until moving back to their previous homes in the east or Canada.

In the 1970's, persons from the surrounding community started attending after being invited by friends and neighbors who were members. The church continues to seek ways to invite and include more persons from the community.

Western Church has always seen the school as a mission field. In the early years, it supported the school by being a support to faculty, volunteers and weekend dorm students. Over the years less faculty, staff and students came from out of state and from Mennonite Church faith communities.

Approximately 14% of the students and 23% of the faculty and staff currently attend Mennonite churches. This has brought great changes and identity questions, both exciting and difficult, within the school and church.

These things are what make Western Church unique and also filled with challenges ahead. How we reach out to others who are different is an ongoing challenge and opportunity.

Inviting community students from the school to youth activities is one approach. Working on auctions, events and building projects alongside local community parents, business people and volunteers provides additional ways of being recognized as a viable faith community to which all are invited to participate. That is not always



During a "Valentine to the World" service project, youth knotted comforters for Mennonite Central Committee. Left-right: Levi Glick, Isabelle Scottlind, Emily Stinson, Kayley Scottlind, James Stinson.



Western Mennonite Church

the easiest thing for Mennonites to fully understand and put into practice.

We love and serve a great and mighty God who loves the whole world. God has called, commissioned and commanded each of us who call Jesus Lord to do likewise. May we be faithful and fruitful in such an awesome purpose and mission. While time remains, may we continue to worship our God and lift high the name of Jesus as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit until all of God's children are gathered home.

Vacation Bible School 2011

taste & see

God is good



Taste & See will help children look at food differently, through the eyes of faith! As they participate in fun worship and activities and hear stories of manna in the wilderness, a woman who shares her last bit of food, or Jesus offering himself as bread and wine, kids will learn about gratitude, generosity and "spiritual food"—and how food is a constant reminder of God's active presence in our midst. Browse all Taste & See products and order online at <http://www.faithandliferesources.org/Curriculum/vbs/>.

PNMC Ministerial Updates

Brad Roth, pastor of Warden Mennonite, announced his resignation on January 30, 2011, and will be leaving in June, 2011.

A warm welcome to our new District Pastors: Charlene Epp and Gary Jewell. Congregational listings for District Pastors are on page 8.

Western Mennonite School to host 2011 Annual Meeting

By Abbie Friesen with Brenda Zook Friesen

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to gather at Western Mennonite School in Salem, Oregon, for our 2011 Annual Meeting. For those who are not familiar with Western, the following will provide a general overview. Please take time to visit the school's website to learn more about what makes WMS such a wonderful place!

Western's mission statement is "equipping students for a life of faith and learning." The school offers grades 6 through 12 with a 16:1 student/teacher ratio. There are 250 students currently enrolled, including 19 international students from seven different countries.

Western was established in 1945 by the Pacific Northwest Conference of the Mennonite Church. While its Mennonite roots still shape the school today, it is enriched by denominational diversity along with cultural diversity. Students come to Western's beautiful 45-acre wooded

campus from across the Willamette Valley, the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Western is fully accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Commission, the Oregon Department of Education and the Mennonite Education Agency, and offers students the personal attention of a small school and the opportunities of a large school. Western's exceptional faculty and staff strive to help students realize their potential — academically, socially and spiritually.

Western Mennonite School equips students for a life of faith and learning by providing an educational experience centered around five key distinctions: Christ-centered, academic excellence, a nurturing community, peace and service, and enrichment opportunities.

Western is located in the Willamette Valley just outside Oregon's capital city of Salem. It is in a rural setting between Salem and McMinnville. Located only an hour from the Pacific Ocean, the Cascade Mountain Range and Portland, students are able to experience the variety of historic, cultural and scenic opportunities offered only in the Pacific Northwest.

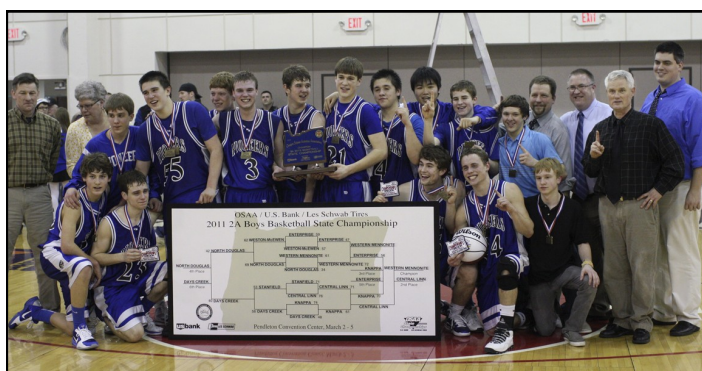


Aerial view of part of Western's 45-acre campus



WMS students enjoy a break on campus

Visit Western's website to learn more about the school at westernmennoniteschool.org



Congratulations to Western Mennonite School's boys basketball team! They won the 2A State Championship title for the first time in Western's history, as well as receiving the Salem Basketball Officials Association Sportsmanship Award. Read the articles and watch video at: www.westernmennoniteschool.org/news-events/in-the-news/wn-apr11/.

* A variety of lodging options will be available at Western Mennonite School for Salem 2011, as well as options in the surrounding community. Registration materials will be available in early May.

PNMC Finance Report

by Ed Miller, PNMC Treasurer

The PNMC fiscal year ended January 31. On January 22, the Board of Directors approved the 2011 budget. Following is a summary of the 2010 budget, 2010 actual income and expenses, and the 2011 budget:

	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2010 Actual</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
Member Church Contributions	\$137,741	\$135,440	\$135,047
Other Income	22,020	13,871	10,600
Total Income	\$159,761	\$149,311	\$145,647
Total Expenses	\$166,487	\$151,549	\$159,778
Income versus Expense	\$ (6,726)	\$ (2,238)	\$ (14,131)

HIGHLIGHTS

2010 Results

The fiscal year 2010 Actual results had a deficit of \$2,238. This includes a shortfall of \$8,843 for the June Annual Meeting held in Anchorage (see further information in the detailed comments to the financial statements).

Some congregations found it necessary to reduce their giving, but other congregations were able to give more than

the amount shown in the budget. The closure of Peace Mennonite resulted in an approximate \$1,400 shortage in their budgeted giving.

Actual income was \$10,450 below budgeted income, and actual expenses were \$14,938 below budget. Both budgeted Other Income and budgeted expenses contained \$11,000 related to activity to initiate the Capacity Building Campaign. This did not occur until late in the year, so there was no actual income and a very small amount of actual expense related to this activity.

2011 Budget

The Member Church Contribution total is based on the commitments provided by each congregation for giving in the coming year.

Total budgeted expenses for 2011 increased \$8,229 compared to total actual expense for 2010. Contributing to that increase was an approximately \$5,900 increase in the Executive Conference Minister Support, primarily due to increases in Corinthian Plan premiums and sharing of health care deductible costs.

The 2010 detailed financial statements, 2011 budget, and comments to each can be viewed at:

<http://pnmc.org/Teams/Finance/Reports>.

Progress report on Peace Campus

Excerpts from report by Duncan Smith with Ed Miller

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that for everything there is season. For congregations there is a time to begin and, though not something easily considered, a time to close.

On May 30, 2010, after 82 years of ministry, Peace Mennonite Church in Portland, OR, held its closing service.

One major consideration of closing Peace Mennonite was what would happen to the 2.2 acres of property, plus a former parsonage (now a rental). The decision was made for the house to be sold or managed by PNMC, the latter of which is currently happening.

What follows is a timeline of how Peace Mennonite property (including the church building, a barn, a house and office) was transferred to PNMC.

1) Discernment and Closure of Peace Mennonite, June 2009 – May 2010

This year focused on discerning the congregation's future. From February

until May, the congregation focused on four specific choices and came to consensus that now was the time for closure.

2) Transfer of Property, May 2010

Peace Mennonite discerned that remaining material assets would be given to PNMC. The legal process of deeding the property to PNMC closed in August 2010.

3) Next Steps for PM Property, May 2010 – July 2010 PNMC asked Peace Mennonite to form a Reference Council of several of its members to give counsel regarding next steps. In May and June, PNMC received several proposals for the purchase and/or future ministry use of the property.

On July 10, the PNMC Board met and decided to pursue a proposal from Anawim Christian Community and International Bethel City Church. A PNMC Peace Property Task Force was appointed to review and further develop the proposal and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

4) Managing and Transitioning

Management, June 2010 – Present

PNMC hired Duncan Smith as Property

Administrator in June 2010 to work as superintendent for the rental house, support the legal transfer of property, finish the final clean out and work with Anawim and Bethel in taking on day-to-day property management.

People from Anawim and volunteers from East County congregations in Portland/Gresham have provided the primary labor for upkeep, repairs and remodeling at the Peace Campus.

From August through October, the Peace Property Task Force worked with Anawim and Bethel to develop a recommendation which was accepted by the Board in November. A major feature was to form a Property Management Committee made of representatives from PNMC, Anawim and Bethel, responsible to oversee the use and management of the property.

The new name for the property is Sanctuary. As of January 2011, Anawim and Bethel are the primary day-to-day managers of the Sanctuary property, with oversight from the PMC.

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

PNMC Board of Directors

Linda Dibble
Moderator, 2012

Jeryl Hollinger
Mod-Elect, 2014

Charlotte Derksen
Secretary, 2011

Ed Miller
Treasurer, 2011

Mario Bautista
CIHAN, 2012

Isaac Hooley
At-Large, 2012

Joseph Penner
At-Large, 2011

Jeanne Rempel
At-Large, 2011

Jennifer Sottolano
At-Large, 2014



Find us on
Facebook
Group Name:
PNMC

PNMC Staff

Barbara Buxman
Admin Assistant
office@pnmc.org
P: 888/492-4216

Iris de León-Hartshorn
Exec Conf Minister
irisdh@pnmc.org
W/H: 503/665-9235
C: 503/410-1515

Brenda Zook Friesen,
Communications
brenda@pnmc.org
W/H: 503/357-6487

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

Charlene Epp: Anawim Christian Community, Bethel City Church, Portland Mennonite

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

Gary Jewell: Evergreen Mennonite, Menno Mennonite, Prince of Peace Mennonite, Seattle 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, Shalom Church, Spring Valley Mennonite

Lynn Miller: McMinnville Mennonite, Salem Mennonite, Western Mennonite

Duane Oesch: Emmaus Christian Fellowship

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

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 CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Apr 10, 3:30 pm: *49th Annual Mennonite Schools Council Music Festival* at Salem Armory Auditorium

Apr 15, 7 pm: *Oregon Mennonite Sacred Choral Festival* at First Assembly of God in Albany, OR

Apr 14-16: *MC USA Board Meeting* at Portland Mennonite Church (OR)

Apr 16: *PNMC Board Meeting* at Portland Mennonite Church (OR)

May 7: *39th Annual Auction for Western Mennonite School* at Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem, OR

May 21: *PNMC Board Meeting* at Portland Mennonite Church (OR)

May 21: *ID Menno World Relief Sale* at College Church of the Nazarene in Nampa, ID

Jun 24-25: *PNMC's 17th Annual Meeting* at Western Mennonite School in Salem, OR

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

* Details for the events above can be found on the PNMC Calendar (pnmc.org/Calendar) or in archived e-Bulletins (pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin).

The *PNMC e-Bulletin* is distributed bi-monthly and includes information about PNMC and churchwide agencies. To subscribe, send an email to brenda@pnmc.org with "Subscribe e-Bulletin" in the subject line.



Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference

PNMC Conference Office

PO Box 301036, Portland, OR, 97294

T: 888.492.4216; F: 503.665.9235

Frequently updated, bookmark this page:

<http://www.pnmc.org/>