

# Evangel

the tri-annual newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

**Autumn 2012**

**Volume 67, Number 3**

## Conference Greetings

By Katherine J. Pitts, Exec. Conf. Minister

*"From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Eph. 4:16*

When the organizational structure of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference was revised several years ago a central part of that reorganization was something called the Conference Communications Council. In the intervening years and transitions, this council has never met. The PNMC Board and I are excited to convene this council on **Jan. 19, 2013** from 8:30 to 3:30 at Warner Pacific College in Portland, OR.

This group has the potential to be a place where more than just an exchange of information happens. We envision the Conference Communications Council as a place of true dialogue between congregations, between conference leadership and congregations, and between individuals who are together working at the hard job of being church for the world in the Pacific Northwest.

As we gather in January, the PNMC board, executive conference minister, district pastors, team chairpersons, and a pastor and delegate from each congregation will have the opportunity

to share in worship and conversation in a number of ways. We want to rejoice together in the things that are bearing fruit in our congregations. We want to pray for one another in the struggles that we face. We want to learn from one another new ways of approaching common issues.

The agenda hasn't been finalized, but we envision the opportunity for congregations to share their approaches to common areas of ministry. For example, as one congregation went through pastoral transition what did they learn that can help other congregations facing transitions? What kind of pastoral review processes have been helpful? A number of our congregations are ministering to their communities through different kinds of children's programs; how can they help one another? Other congregations are becoming multilingual in different ways; what can they share with one another? We all are making decisions about participation in the MC USA Convention in Phoenix; how is your congregation approaching that event? Communication is rapidly evolving in our culture; how is your congregation using technology to communicate?

As a conference our strength is the connections we have with one another as we share the gifts and callings God has given each of us. Our aim is to have the Conference Communication

Council be an event that strengthens old connections and creates opportunities for new connections to be built.

I have a vision of the PNMC as a web of relationships – congregations and leaders reaching out to one another in different ways at different times to find support and share our gifts. My hope for the Conference Communication Council is that it will provide PNMC with the opportunity to build that web. Together let us pray that this will be a time when, as is said in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ephesians, "speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

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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.*

# Harold Hochstetler, an Organization Bridge Builder

By Larry Hauder

Harold Hochstetler was a Mennonite Conference Minister for 24 years, a title that by itself did not give him the distinction of a great transitional leader. No, he earned his leadership stripes by building bridges of understanding from one era to another. I was fortunate to have Harold as my conference minister for 14 of those years. Here's why I think the bridge builder title defines his important ministry.

**First, Harold bridged a generational divide.** He was ordained as an "Old Mennonite" bishop and later was called to be the first Pacific Coast Conference (PCC), Conference Minister. The PCC was a predecessor organization to the current PNMC. This was more than a title difference. Bishops carried positional authority for individual congregations. For example, "Old Mennonite" congregations could not perform a baptism or celebrate communion without a bishop's presence. The conference minister not only replaced the bishop as a title, but functionally it changed how that office related to individual congregations. Harold gracefully embraced this change and became a leader in the movement toward local congregational autonomy. His openness to change paved the way for becoming the first conference minister for the Pacific District Conference (PDC), another predecessor organization to the current PNMC. When tensions arose in congregations that might have been easier resolved with a bishop's authority, Harold empowered congregational leaders to work out their differences through his skilled facilitative leadership style.

**Second, Harold was a bridge builder leader during the Mennonite Church's move toward professional pastors.** Professional clergy, those educated in seminary and trained for pastoral leadership, were seen as a threat to many pastors and bishops. Harold saw the inevitable change coming. He and Lydia moved their family off the farm, where Harold worked to support his family while serving as a pastor, in order for him to attend college. He embraced the need for additional education to meet the needs of an increasingly professional constituency in local congregations. After completing college, he moved to Eugene where he pastored the Eugene Mennonite Church part-time while he also served the conference.

**Third, Harold was a bridge between Mennonite denominations.** He led the way toward PCC integration with the PDC. When an opening occurred in the PDC conference leadership, Harold was called to be the conference minister of ten PDC congregations in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. His leadership style and goodwill paved the way for the 1994 decision to dissolve both the PDC and the PCC in order to form a new PNMC. This decision to integrate came eight years prior to the denominational integration and the MC USA formation.

**Fourth, Harold was a bridge builder leader who encouraged new pastors to consider stepping into leadership roles when they may not have thought it possible.** For



example, when I was in my thirteenth year as a pastor of Hyde Park Mennonite in Boise, and restless for a new challenge, he suggested I consider the conference minister role at his retirement. When I questioned my readiness, he said, "Of course you can do this job." Two years later, I did step into the role of conference minister and for the next 14 years he served as my mentor and spiritual advisor. I would regularly meet with Harold, send him letters, and often talk with him by phone. He continued his bridge building role as he helped me understand the theological fault lines, congregational personalities, and individual leader quirks.

*Harold and Lydia currently live at The Mennonite Village in Albany. Until recently, he was continuing to build bridges by leading a Bible study.*

*Evangel* is the tri-annual newsletter of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Newsletter submissions, feedback and subscription information can be sent to: *Evangel*/Editor [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto:brenda@pnmc.org) or PO Box 301036, Portland, OR 97294

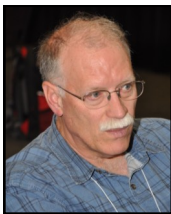
**Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite Conference**

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 November. The next deadline for submissions is October 1, 2012. Grab a cool beverage and enjoy archived issues here: <http://www.pnmc.org/Resources/Evangel>.



## A Circle of Prayer

By Jeryl Hollinger, Conference Moderator



As we stood in a circle holding hands, bowed in prayer, I felt a deep sense of appreciation for these persons whose commitment had brought them to our two-day PNMC board meeting. I experienced joy as I thought of their giftedness and their contributions to the church - and the congregations they represented. What a privilege it was to come together in the Spirit of Jesus from across the northwest and work for the good of our common witness! To be conference together is to join hands and support one another in the mission of Jesus. To that end PNMC organizes itself. To that end we had come apart to this place, and now we would return to our home places of ministry.

Your newly elected PNMC board met in Portland **September 21 & 22** for the first time. We had been communicating through email to develop a meeting agenda since the June annual assembly. As we came together, we had a lot of

things we wanted to do: get acquainted, worship together, hear reports from staff and others, assess our governance model, further define our value to congregations, review the purpose of our many teams and committees, lay plans for the approaching January meeting of the Conference Communications Council and the June 2013 annual assembly, take steps to be financially responsible, and set goals for our year together as a board.

The minutes of the meeting, recorded by our able secretary, Wanda Dorsing, are posted on the [PNMC website](#). Two formal board actions were taken: 1) to disband several non-functioning teams; and 2) to use our value proposition statement to shape our work as a board, guide our staff in working with congregations, and in appropriating funds in creating our budget. In general, our time together moved us toward greater clarity of our common vision and set the groundwork for the things we want to accomplish this year.

Of particular importance is the calling of our first Conference Communications Council meeting **Saturday, January 19, 2013** at Warner Pacific College in Portland. Further information will be coming as Executive Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson Pitts, and moderator-elect, Jennifer Delanty along with other staff, are putting

plans together. *I highly encourage each congregation to send a pastor and a delegate.*

The financial situation of PNMC continues to be a matter of discussion. We are working hard to limit spending, but our budget this year includes a \$10,000 deficit. Cause for celebration is the strong continued giving of many congregations. Of concern is the expectation that deficits will grow each year as most congregational giving has leveled. Should we explore other sources of income? Will individuals and congregations rise to the challenge of meeting our budget? [Our deficit could be overcome if each individual member gave \\$3 or \\$4.](#) but is that reasonable? How do we communicate our need?

As a board we stood in a circle and concluded our meeting in prayer for our congregations, leaders and our work together. *We invite each one of you to join our circle of prayer as we work together in our witness for Jesus Christ.*

## Christmas Performance

[The Christmas Revels](#) invites audiences to enjoy early American and Appalachian music, dance and traditions as we visit a small mountain community celebrating the shortest day of the year. Expect beautiful carols, toe-tapping tunes as well as high-energy clogging and square dancing to chase the winter darkness away. Audiences will enjoy glorious singing from a 70-person chorus, as well as special guest artist Suzannah Park. Audience members will have a chance to sing along and join the revelry in this family-friendly show directed by Goshen College graduate, Bruce Hostetler, who weaves the perspective of a traveling Mennonite family in to the story as well.



### **Performance details:**

11 matinee and evening performances beginning **December 7** and ending **December 16**.

Performances take place at The Scottish Rite Theater at 1512 SW Morrison, Portland OR 97205

Adult ticket prices begin at \$18, Student and Senior prices begin at \$12, and Children's ticket prices begin at \$7.

Revels Box Office staff available 10AM to 5PM Monday-Friday.

Tickets and more information are also available online at [www.portlandrevels.org](http://www.portlandrevels.org).

# Financial Report: PNMC is Congregations, but Individuals can Help

By Harold Nussbaum, PNMC Treasurer

As 2012 comes to a close, individuals and families are encouraged to contribute to the work of PNMC. Congregations have been asked to address the \$10,000 budgeted shortfall, but individual gifts can reduce some of that burden. This will put PNMC in a stronger position to begin next year.

We are very grateful for the strong support of each congregation. The shortfall in church contributions through October is due to the timing of payments by a handful of churches. Other income includes \$100,000 from the sale of the Eugene Mennonite building, without which our year-to-date shortfall would be \$6,330, *about half of the budgeted shortfall*. These funds are designated for ministry activities yet to be defined by the Board.

Expenses are only 89% of budget for this period due to close attention by the staff and Board, and some timing issues.

At the end of October we were nine months (75%) through the PNMC fiscal year. A summary of the General Fund income and expense as of October 31 is shown below.

	October Year to Date			Total Year	
	Actual	Budget	%	Budget	%
Church Contributions	\$93,096	\$96,072	97%	\$137,970	67%
Other Income	\$107,110	\$10,016	1069%	\$13,165	814%
Total Income	\$200,206	\$106,088	189%	\$151,135	132%
Total Expenses	\$106,536	\$119,639	89%	\$161,400	66%
Income vs. Expense	\$ 93,670	\$ (13,550)		\$ (10,264)	

Contributions can be sent as checks (made out to PNMC) to the PNMC office, PO Box 301036, Portland, OR 97294. Or, click on "[Donate to PNMC](#)" to use a debit or credit card.

## Building a Sustainable Ministry

By Tim Gascho, Filer Mennonite Church

The PNMC Pastor/Spouse Retreat was held at Menucha Retreat Center **October 29-31**. The theme was "Sustainable Ministry." Katherine Jameson Pitts, PNMC Executive Conference Minister, led the event. Twenty-five pastors and their spouses attended.

At times ministry can feel like Sisyphus pushing a rock up a hill just to have it roll back down. We need to take a step back and evaluate what we are doing. We need to realize that a sustainable ministry will last beyond the length of our service and will leave a lasting legacy. This kind of ministry begins by paying attention to God's leading in our lives. We need to be willing to take risks, try new things and invite others to partner with us in ministry.

One of the characteristics of a sustainable ministry is a life of conversion. This kind of ministry focuses on its primary mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God. A

sustainable ministry also practices gratitude by letting people know the gifts they bring are a valuable part of the ongoing ministry. We need to remember that ministry is made up of small steps that lead to our goal of leaving a legacy. As we persevere on the path of ministry God has called us to, we will build a sustainable ministry.

Those attending were divided into clusters that met several times. These small groups provided a place to share stories about the joys and challenges of ministry. Participants encouraged each other to continue their ministry and prayed for one another.

Meal times provided the opportunity to renew old friendships and establish new ones. There was plenty of free time to relax and enjoy the surrounding beauty outside. I encourage all PNMC pastors and their spouses to consider attending the next gathering. *Taking time away from our busy schedules to reflect on what God is doing renews our spirits and helps refocus on our ministry.*



Pastors, clockwise from top: Rachel Ringenberg-Miller, Katherine Jameson Pitts, Dave Stutzman, Brent Kauffman and Rod Stafford.



# Regional Sales Benefit Mennonite Central Committee

By Tiffany Sukola and Chris Lehman



October was Relief Sale season in the Northwest. In Washington, hundreds traveled to Ritzville for the Mennonite Country Auction October 6 at Menno Mennonite Church. Visitors

were treated to live demonstrations on how apple butter and apple cider were traditionally made. Members of the church took turns stirring the apple butter pot, the contents of which must be constantly stirred during the eight-hour cooking process. Meanwhile food booths provided shoppers with home-made goods including pies, ice-cream and more.

The event brought in about \$119,000, which included more than \$56,000 from the auction. The auction total was one of the highest in more than 35 years.

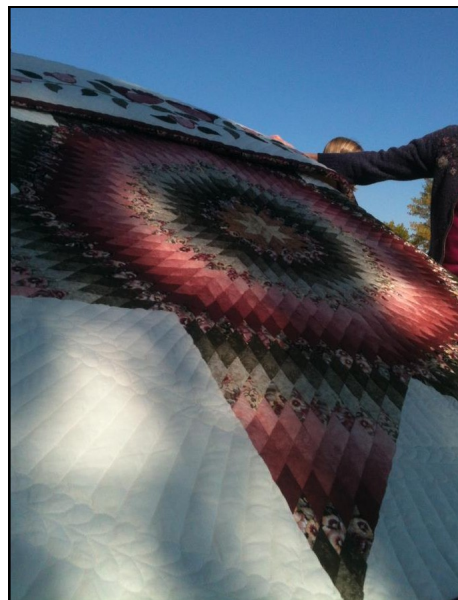
Michael Chapman, the West Coast MCC Director of Resource Generation, based in Fresno, Calif., said the group has helped people in more than 50

countries around the world. Chapman spent two weeks in Jordan and Palestine this past April and was able to see first-hand how MCC programs work.

While abroad, Chapman met a 17-year old boy who was both blind and deaf. MCC helped fund his education, and the young man received the achievement of reaching the highest level of education for a student with disabilities in Jordan. "Now there are 10 to 12 more students like him getting an education," Chapman said. "MCC provides education to people with disabilities and Christian education to those who didn't have access."

As is the tradition, the auction started with bids for a loaf of bread which symbolizes all the projects that the church participates in, and their work to spread their Christian beliefs. This year, the loaf went to the highest bid of \$1,000. The bread was set aside for the next day's morning worship.

One week later, the Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief was held October 13<sup>th</sup> in Albany. The festival, in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, raised more than \$120,000 for MCC. The Oregon sale also featured



The record-setting Lone Star quilt that sold for \$5,500 at the Ritzville Sale in Washington.

a live auction, an international food court, children's activities, home-baked goods and much more. Festival chair, Ron Litwiller, estimates the 2012 total is the highest in 15 years. "We are extremely grateful for all the work of the donors, the many volunteers, and all those who participated in a variety of ways," said Litwiller.

Michael Chapman opened the auction by telling the crowd "Not only are you getting beautiful crafts and other items, you are also helping thousands of people in need around the world. Bid high, and bid often!" The Festival was also a homecoming of sorts for MCC workers. Chapman estimated that just over half of the 170 former MCC workers living in Oregon were at the event.

## 2013 Events:

April 19-20: Idaho Sale  
October 5: Washington Sale  
October 12: Oregon Sale



Youth from Salem Mennonite Church, Salem, OR, initiated a new system for recycling and composting food service materials at this year's sale.

Visit the PNMC Facebook page  
for photos and upcoming events.  
(no sign-in required)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pacific-Northwest-Mennonite-Conference/234830199869321>

# Church Connections

## Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, (ID)

By Beth Landis



Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship started in 1977 partly by the Nampa Mennonite Church and by the support of the Voluntary Service unit. The Quakers previously used the building. Larry Hauder answered the call to be the first pastor.

Hundreds go through the doors of HPMF every year. Approximately 55 attend church on Sunday morning. Five nights a week, an Alcoholics Anonymous group meets in the basement. The building is also used by neighborhood, community groups, and by Dances for Universal Peace.

**Ministries** - HPMF started a 10,000 Villages store, now known as Dunia Marketplace, and Corpus Christi house - a day shelter for the homeless - and Sunday morning church services with the homeless. More recently, the congregation has agreed to support many folks in their choice of their ministries. Rather than select one as the main focus, we pray, give donations, and hear from each other. Some individuals continue with friendships and services to the homeless. Others focus on Witness for Peace, working with refugees, mediation services, environmental issues, Rake Up Boise, an ecumenical Thanksgiving service, and a tree-planting project in Zambia.

**Church traditions** - We rent a camp in McCall, ID in February. We ski, snowshoe, sled, make forts, labyrinths, and snowmen, and host the Saturday evening church camp favorite - the talent show.

On Easter, we head to a nearby park, Camel's Back, and pick up trash as we hike to the mountain peak. At the top,

we sing and then return to the church a few blocks away for brunch.

We have a strong relationship with our **sister church** in Puerto Asis Colombia. Almost yearly, the pastor and his wife visit here or we send representatives there, but we keep in touch with almost weekly updates via phone, email, and Facebook. Each Sunday we light a candle for them and they light one for us as we pause and pray, especially thoughtful of their work towards peace and justice in their community. The emphasis is on a mutual relationship.

Some **unique** things about HPMF - Our [website](#) captures the attention of many folks in town who share our love for biking. *Click on to our [Back to Our Future](#) document, a discussion we had in 2011 as we looked at our future as a congregation.*

We don't have a structure of traditional church membership. We all know people that belong to a church but don't participate and vice versa. We self identify meaning, do you call yourself a member? Do you participate? Do you want a church mailbox or do you receive the weekly emails or join the prayer chain list?

Most folks did not grow up in Boise, so we may join together for holidays and special events. Without extended family, we are sensitive to long distance relationships and each other. We share meals in each other's homes several times a year.

We have occasional potlucks, but for years, the congregation has shared Second Sunday (of the month) Soup. One family provides soup and a few others bring bread and veggies and help with clean up. By keeping it simple, we maintain fellowship and social times.

**Conference connections** - HPMF meets regularly with the two other Mennonite churches in the valley. We participate in the Mennonite Relief Sale and Festival that includes the Idaho churches. Many individuals don't feel a strong connection to the PNMC since it is a long way to other churches and most folks did not grow up in a Mennonite congregation.

We offer the conference an urban viewpoint and examples of strong relationships in community. Since most folks come from other church traditions, we learn from their past as well.

The biggest challenge we face is long-term sustainability. What is the best way to grow and reach out to the community? Our average age is slowly creeping up and we don't have as many children as we would like. We think we have a lot to offer local families as it takes a village to raise a child.

*If you are traveling through Boise, we welcome you to our church service and can provide hospitality. Visit us!*



**Marc Schlegel** started as pastor at HPMC October 1. Originally from Lincoln, NE, Marc graduated from AMBS this past May with a concentration in Urban Development and Peace Studies. Prior to coming to Boise, Marc served as an Interim Associate Pastor at First Mennonite Church of San Francisco. Marc has also served as youth and community minister at Mennonite Community Church of Fresno, and as a Service Adventure Leader in Philippi, WV.

**Marc moved to Boise by bicycle** (pictured above with his girlfriend Jenna Preheim). The trip covered 730 mountain and desert miles over thirteen days. Trip statistics:

- 730 total miles, averaging 61 miles a day (with one much needed rest day).
- 9 Flat tires.
- Longest day: 81 mi., shortest: 33 mi.
- Actual time on the bike seat: 58 hours and 51 minutes (ouch!)



# Ted Schwartz Performing in the Northwest in January

Ted & Company TheaterWorks, led by Ted Swartz, is a team of actors and musicians passionate about bringing thought-provoking storytelling to the stage. On **January 26, 2013**, they will bring **Peace Pies and Prophets** to Portland, OR for a performance at Portland Mennonite.

**Peace Pies and Prophets** is centered around a live performance of "*I'd Like to Buy an Enemy*," starring Ted Swartz and Tim Ruebke. The show **unpacks issues of justice and peace building through humorous and poignant storytelling.**

This interactive event is for people interested in engaging in laughter, thoughtful dialogue and pie. Yes, Peace Pies... The evening includes a pie auction where 100% of pie sales will go toward the support of Christian Peacemaker Teams. To support CPT, bring a pie (or 2 or 3) to the event. For details, watch this [video](#) or contact [Curt Weaver](#).

## Ministry Opportunities:

[Evergreen Mennonite Church](#)  
seeks a part-time pastor.

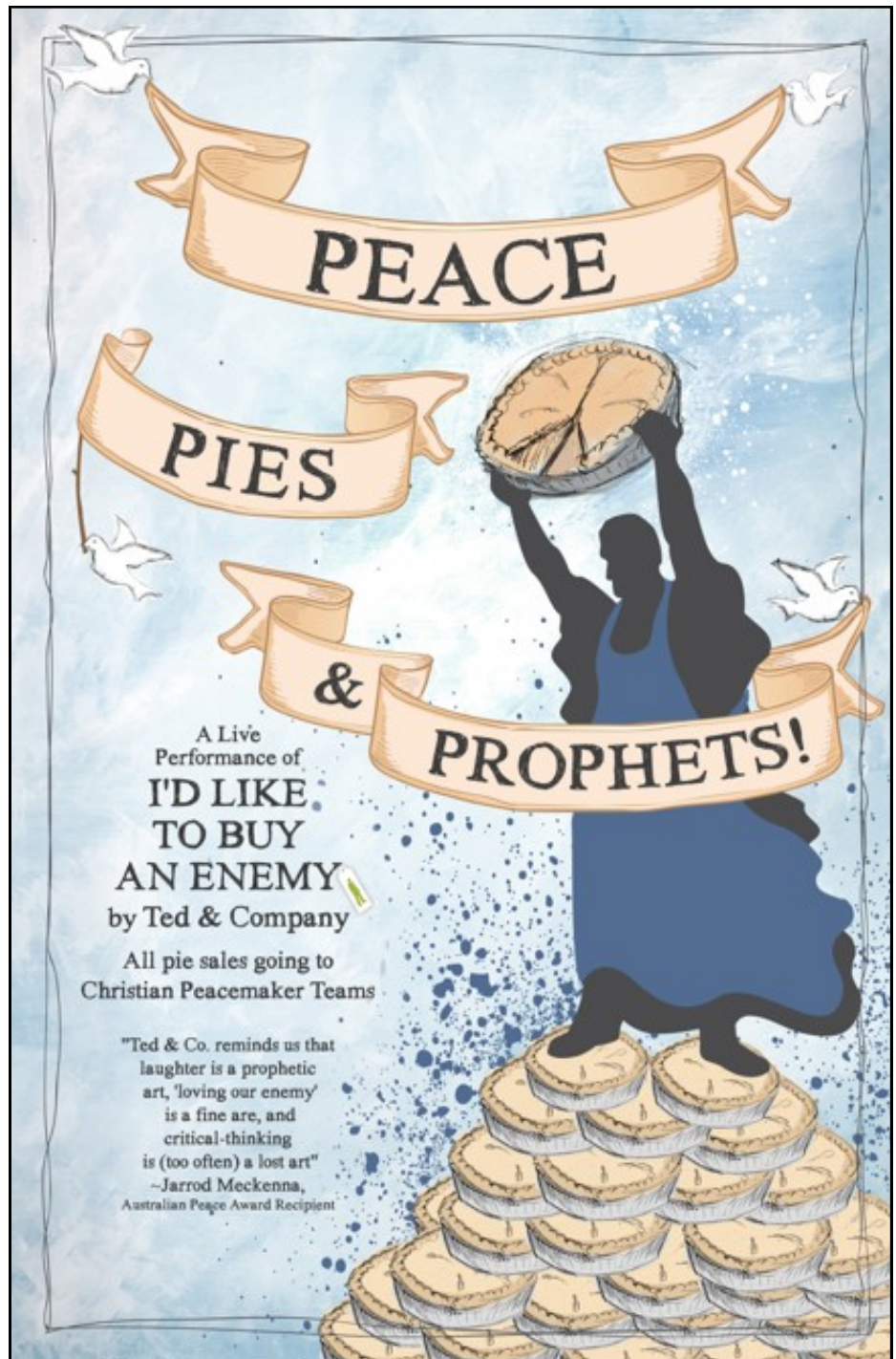
[Salem Mennonite Church](#)  
seeks a full-time pastor.

[The River](#)  
seeks a part-time pastor.

[Warden Mennonite Church](#)  
seeks a full-time bilingual pastor.

[Zion Mennonite Church](#)  
seeks a full-time pastor.

To inquire, contact  
[Katherine Jameson Pitts](#)



## PNMC Ministerial Updates

Matthew Yoder was licensed at Menno Mennonite Church October 7.

Marc Schlegel was installed at Hyde Park Mennonite Church October 7.

Jeanne Rempel will leave Evergreen Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA, December 31.

## PNMC Board of Directors

Jeryl Hollinger  
Moderator, 2014

Jennifer Delanty  
Mod-Elect, 2014

Wanda Dorsing  
Secretary, 2015

Harold Nussbaum  
Treasurer, 2014

Eva Mendez  
CIHAN, 2014

Jerry Barkman  
At-Large, 2015

Isaac Hooley  
At-Large, 2016

Joseph Penner  
At-Large, 2013

Jennifer Sottolano  
At-Large, 2014

Jack Swaim  
At-Large, 2013



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## PNMC District Pastors

Wendell Amstutz: Oregon CIHAN, Centro Cristiano Pentecostés, Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva, Iglesia Cristiana Roca de Salvación, Iglesia Menonita Pentecostés, 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, Fusion Faith Center

## Our Mission Statement is to:

**P**romote personal spiritual development,

**N**urture healthy congregations,

**M**ake strong connections, and

**C**all each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world.

## PNMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

Dec. 1, *Sing Your Own Messiah*, Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR, 7pm

Jan. 18, *District Pastors Meeting*, Portland, OR

Jan 19, *CCC Meeting*, Portland, OR

Jan 20-21, *PNMC Board Meeting*, Portland, OR

Jan 26, *Ted & Company at PMC*, Portland, OR

March 14-17, *Drift Creek Quilters Retreat*, Drift Creek Camp, Lincoln City, OR

April 5-7, *Oregon Mennonite Women's Retreat*, Drift Creek Camp, Lincoln City, OR

April 19-20, *Idaho MCC Relief Sale*, NW Nazarene College, Nampa, ID

May 4, *WMS Benefit Auction*, State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR

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

The *PNMC e-Bulletin* is distributed bi-monthly and includes information about PNMC and church wide agencies. To subscribe, send an email to [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto:brenda@pnmc.org) with "Subscribe e-Bulletin" in the subject line.



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## PNMC Conference Office

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