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## From the PNMC Office

Thanks to all who participated in last Saturday's **Conference Communications Council**. Approximately 65 pastors and representatives (with another nine tuning in from Idaho through Skype) assembled at Zion Mennonite Church where all were met with warm hospitality and a delicious meal. Attendees were initially asked to describe what would define a successful gathering. The consensus was to "*Listen to each other's viewpoints -- bear each other's deep needs and understand how others feel called to follow Jesus.*" The group was challenged to speak carefully and listen well as we approached the tender topic of LGBTQ concerns. Survey results from other conferences and church leaders across MC USA revealed how divided the church has become. Those attending agreed, that though it could be considered our denomination's golden calf, we maintain a deep desire for unity. And, in spite of the fear and anxiety attached to the issue's complexities, the hope for a common understanding endures. In the afternoon, participants divided into smaller focus groups. People could choose to continue the LGBTQ discussion; address PNMC's financial challenges; dream of fresh ideas on how to extend the church's vision in the Northwest, or reflect on how the conference has related to Western Mennonite School in the past and explore ways to nurture the relationship in years to come. In the end, participants expressed appreciation for face-to-face dialogue; a unique opportunity when we come from areas of vast geographical divide, but agreed that there is still much work to do as we prayerfully discern God's call.

PNMC has been invited to send 6-8 people to Israel/Palestine in April on a "**Come and See**" tour through Mennonite Church USA. For details, contact [Dave Hockman-Wert](mailto:Dave.Hockman-Wert@pnmc.org) at 541-752-0444.

It's not too early to plan for the **PNMC's Annual Meeting, June 19-20, 2015** in Lebanon, OR. The gathering will provide opportunities to connect with others in worship, fellowship, powerful workshops, valuable dialogue, relationship building, and *much, much more!*

Don't miss "Conversations for Peace in Palestine and Israel," a Mennonite Central Committee U.S. event with J. Daryl Byler, Executive Director for Eastern Mennonite University's [Center for Justice and Peacemaking](http://www.emu.edu/center-for-justice-and-peacemaking).

**Friday, January 23, 2015, 10:00a.m. at Albany Mennonite Church**

**Friday, January 23, 2015, 7:00p.m. at Salem Mennonite Church**

**Saturday, January 24, 2015, 7:00p.m. at [Portland Mennonite Church](http://www.portlandmennonitechurch.org)** (Follow link for details on PMC's no-host dinner with Daryl.)

**Sunday, January 25, 2015, 11:00a.m. and 7:00p.m. at Seattle Mennonite Church**

So that we can continue to lift PNMC District pastor, **Gary Jewell** in prayer as he recovers from serious complications following open heart surgery, a [Caring Bridge](http://www.caringbridge.org) link has been established. *Gary's family covets your continued prayers and support as he heals.*

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

*Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization*

### Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society (PNMHS) will be held **Saturday, January 31, 2015**, at 12 noon at Zion Mennonite Church in Hubbard, OR. There will be a \$10/person luncheon and a special speaker. Please RSVP by calling [\(503\) 266-6447](tel:5032666447) or by emailing us at [pnwmennonite@canby.com](mailto:pnwmennonite@canby.com). *Payment in cash or check can be made at the door. Everyone is welcome.*

### Lebanon Mennonite Church

Mike Rinkin, of Compassion Ministries in Albany, OR, will present a workshop addressing **depression and mental illness** at Lebanon Mennonite Church, **Saturday, January 24**. Today, more effective depression treatment is available than ever before. The seminar is free and the church will provide lunch. Plan to arrive by 8:30 for the 9:00 to 3:00 workshop. Questions? Please contact [Mike Rinkin](mailto:Mike.Rinkin@pnmc.org) at (541) 928-6382. To register, contact [LMC](mailto:LMC@pnmc.org) at 541-258-5789.

### Western Mennonite School

*Save the Date:* The **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Concert** will be held **February 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** Come enjoy an evening of great music followed by a dessert reception. Tickets are \$10. Contact [503.363.2000](tel:5033632000) for more information. Proceeds will make it possible for the choir to attend this year's MSC Choral Festival in Goshen, IN.

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

### Mennonite Central Committee

**January 12, 2015** marked the **five-year** anniversary of the massive earthquake that destroyed Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Mennonite Central Committee representative, Kurt Hildebrand, recently wrote [this letter](#) to his infant daughter, Akila, describing his hopes and disappointments during the past five years of Haiti's slow recovery.

### Mennonite Church USA

Although it's still more than five months away, [Mennonite Church USA's 2015 biennial convention](#) is taking shape. Registration is now open for the **June 30–July 5** event in Kansas City, MO. (Hotel registration opens **March 3**.) Convention planners are lining up special presenters and exhibitors in addition to a full slate of worship speakers. "My team and I are ready and excited for everyone to join us in Kansas City this summer," says Glen Alexander Guyton, chief operating officer and convention planning director for Mennonite Church USA. "We want everyone who attends **KC2015** to be able to engage in worship and experience the healing power of Christ at some point during convention."

Convention speakers:



**Alex Awad** of Jerusalem, pastor of East Jerusalem Baptist Church and a professor at Bethlehem Bible College in Palestine, will speak throughout the week. "Alex Awad is an evangelical Christian deeply committed to Jesus and to the way of peace in the midst of intense suffering and injustice," says André Gingerich Stoner, director of interchurch relations and holistic witness for Mennonite Church USA. "He and Bethlehem Bible College are a sign of hope. We have much to learn from their witness." *After KC2015, Awad will travel to Harrisburg, PA, to participate in Mennonite World Conference's Assembly Gathered. Awad's presence is made possible by support from Mennonite Central Committee U.S.*



**Drew Hart**, of Philadelphia, will be available throughout the convention week, offering several seminars focused on liberation theology and strategies for addressing racism in local congregational settings. Hart is a Ph.D. candidate at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and his research focuses on intersections between black theology and Anabaptism. He is a part-time pastor and a [regular blogger for \*The Christian Century\*](#).



**Alan and Debra Hirsch**, currently of Los Angeles, will offer several presentations on church planting and building missional movements. The Hirsches are the founding directors of the Forge Mission Training Network. Alan also co-leads Future Travelers, a learning program to help churches become missional movements, and is co-founder and adjunct faculty for the M.A. in Missional Church Movements at Wheaton (Ill.) College. He has written *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*, among other books.

### In Other News



*From Craig Morton, Emmaus Christian Fellowship, PNMC pastor and founder of [The Mission Place](#):*

As the new year unfolds, there are fresh developments in [The Mission Place](#). We are seeking ways to expand what we do and with whom we partner; developing an expanded group of thinkers and practitioners to share their voices, ideas and experiences is an ongoing goal - so we listen. Over the past several months new educational and formational processes for personal and congregational growth have been developed - we love teaching and exploring. And, with a commitment to communicate, we're expanding the topics and categories on the Mission Place [blog](#): missional development, leadership, and livable liturgies to find God's grace in daily routine.

Craig is available for workshops, retreats, and coaching; for adult education for a weekly series; or for more lengthy transition processes which may include dealing with conflict, interim ministry, or discerning new mission and ministry opportunities. Craig's services offer the flexibility to develop a focus and schedule that works for the needs of individual congregations or organizations. *You can help The Mission Place customize their resources by taking [this short survey](#).*

### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Feb 2 (submissions due by 1/26)

Feb 16 (submissions due by 2/9)

Mar 2 (submissions due by 2/23)

Mar 16 (submissions due by 3/9)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto:brenda@pnmc.org). Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>