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From the PNMC Office

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!*

Please continue to pray for Gary Jewell and his family as he recovers from heart surgery and complications that followed.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Drift Creek Camp

Women of all ages are invited to the [Oregon Mennonite Women's Retreat](#) at [DCC](#), **April 10-12, 2015**. This year's guest speaker, Jennifer L. Gingerich of Salem, OR, works as a Clinical Chaplain at Providence Portland Medical Center where she ministers in the Maternity and Neonatal Intensive Care Units. She is an active member at Salem Mennonite Church. Jennifer graduated from Goshen College in 2002 with a degree in Bible, religion and philosophy, and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in 2012 with a Master of Divinity degree concentrating in Pastoral Care and Counseling. Guests will gather each morning for singing, prayer, reflection and sharing. A quiet space will be available for those who crave time alone. Women are also invited to explore the benefits of spiritual direction.

Spiritual direction is a means to enhance spiritual formation in the life of the believer. In the classic sense a spiritual director is one who, as a representative of the church, walks with another as a mentor or guide to facilitate that person's relationship (formation) with God.

Western Mennonite School

Western Mennonite provides meals for students around the clock. The kitchen crew is currently under-staffed, making it difficult to meet the needs of students. How can you help? 1. Volunteer. WMS could use volunteers to help serve and/or cook breakfast, lunch, or dinner any day during the week (including weekends). 2. Apply. WMS is looking to hire interim staff to help prepare meals and support the overall kitchen operation while our staff gets back on their feet. This would be a two month commitment (February, March) which could potentially turn into a longer time. Pay would be hourly and hours offered would range from lunch coverage to nights and weekends. If you are interested in supporting the WMS kitchen staff in either of these ways, please contact [Renai DuBois](#) as soon as possible. Don't forget to get tickets for Western's **February 14** Benefit Concert. The proceeds will go toward fundraising efforts for the choir to attend the MSC Choir Festival in Goshen, IN in April.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Hesston College

Hesston College announced the names of full-time students whose fall 2014 semester grades earned them a place on the **Dean's List** (3.90 - 4.00) and Honor Roll (3.50 - 3.89). Lorren Oesch, freshman, was named to the Dean's List. She attends Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church, Caldwell, ID. Johanna Burkholder, freshman, was named to the Dean's List. She attends Warden Mennonite Church, Warden, WA. Karli Mast, sophomore, was named to the Dean's List. She attends Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR. [Hesston College](#) is the two-year liberal arts college of Mennonite Church USA.

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

The [LMPC](#) will be on the west coast on three occasions in **2015** providing training and resources for church leaders. The *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders* will be offered **March 16-20** at Hope United Methodist Church, San Diego, CA, and at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Portland, OR, **October 5-9**. The third visit will be **May 1-2** at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Beaverton, OR, for a *Healthy Congregations* workshop, which uses family systems theory for teaching healthy functioning in churches in face of anxiety and negative, reactive forces. Church Discount Coupons are available on our [website](#) to facilitate groups from the same congregation to attend together. *Consider utilizing these local training events as a way to further strengthen PNMC pastors, congregations, and individual members.*

Mennonite Church USA



Youth Ministry Council, **April 19-22, 2015**, Spruce Lake Retreat Center, PA: *"Connecting our Stories: Imagining our Future"* [Register now!](#) \$210, all inclusive, by **March 3rd** (travel not included).

Youth Ministry Council (YMC) is an annual gathering of youth workers (sponsors/pastors/leaders/educators) from across the denomination that meets to discuss the latest in youth ministry. The 2015 theme, *"Connecting our Stories: Imagining our Future,"* will address the complex topic of racism. The planning committee recognizes that this subject is not necessarily comfortable, but as followers of Jesus, we acknowledge that the intersection of life and faith is sometimes messy. Messy stories are all around us. Each night the news reports on Ferguson. On Staten Island. On places in our communities and neighborhoods, where peace is dim and hope wanes. Hard questions are being asked, and there are no easy answers. But there are stories to share. **Transformation always begins with building relationships.** Building relationships begins with listening and sharing. Well known author and pastor, Eugene Peterson writes, "Stories are verbal acts of hospitality." Sharing our stories of life and call is an authentic way of building bridges, forging relationships, and creating community. Inspirational speaker, [Felipe Hinojosa](#), is assistant professor of history at Texas A&M and the author of *Latino Mennonites: Civil Rights, Faith & Evangelical Culture* (John Hopkins University Press, 2014) will share his own stories and journey into the theme of talking about racism with today's youth. Felipe is a storyteller extraordinaire, and captivates through humor, truth telling, and challenge. Through his historian lens, he will share the often untold accounts within the Mennonite church during the civil rights era when black, brown, and white youth worked for change, and inspire with stories of current youth movements which he calls, *"politics of the possible,"* where a new world is being imagined.



Ingrid Friesen Moser, the Wellness Coordinator for The Corinthian Plan, highlights her own experience with the coaching aspect of the [Wellness Incentive](#) in her recent Mennonite Church USA blog post. It is a short piece is meant to be an encouragement for everyone toward creative ways of good health and good relationships. It is also true that one of the underutilized aspects of the Corinthian Plan by its members is the **Wellness Incentive**. The Wellness Incentive provides a money incentive, yes (up to \$300 each per employee and spouse participant), but also coaching benefits. *We hope Corinthian Plan members reading this will be encouraged to take advantage of that benefit.*

Mennonite Women USA



In **January 2015**, Carolyn Heggen and Rhoda Keener led a Sister Care seminar for 55 women in Curitiba, Brazil with some of the women traveling more than 1,500 miles to attend. Planning was coordinated by Gladys Siemens, Deusilene Milhomen, and Linda Shelly. Carolyn says: "Fortunately, the warmth of the women's welcome and response matched the summer heat they are now experiencing in Brazil. The animated worship music, dramatic presentations of Scripture and liturgical dances enriched the material we shared and energized our time together." *One woman who attended the seminar wrote: "I learned that we don't need to pass through suffering alone." Another woman wrote: "I was needing a time of healing. I loved the idea of 'God with skin.' I've had people who were the presence of God in my life. I feel challenged now to be that for others."* The Sister Care manual is now available in four languages: English, Spanish, Kek'chi' and Portuguese. Several

hundred additional Portuguese manuals were given to women pastors and leaders to share the Sister Care resource in their congregations and communities. (Pictured: Gladys Siemens, Rhoda Keener, Linda Shelly, Carolyn Heggen, Deusilene Milhomen.)

Mennonite World Conference



You are invited to join in a MWC [Prayer Network](#). Participants from around the world will pray for God's blessing on the 2015 Assembly, asking specifically that the visa process will be smooth and that we North Americans be filled with a generous hospitality of spirit. We are asked to pray for sisters and brothers around the world in fellowships which face hardship and persecution, as well as for the hundreds of young adults (age 18+) who will travel many miles to attend the [Global Youth Summit](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Feb 16 (submissions due by 2/9)
Mar 2 (submissions due by 2/23)
Mar 16 (submissions due by 3/9)
Apr 6 (submissions due by 3/30)

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

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