

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

2015 Workshops

1. Teaching Scripture in the 21st Century

What are some of the key challenges of teaching Scripture at a congregational level in the 21st century? We will look at things like what it means to teach Scripture in a context of pluralism and mistrust of authority, how to connect teaching more closely with actual practice, and how to communicate more vibrantly.

Facilitator: Meghan Good, Pastor at Albany Mennonite Church, Albany, OR

2. Mending the divide: Homosexuality in the Bible – two views

This workshop is proposed to solve all the problems of homosexuality in the church. After this, there will be no questions, no problems, and peace and harmony will rule and Jesus will return. Well, maybe not. But we will have a better understanding of different views of the Bible regarding homosexuality and a few things on which we can all agree.

Facilitator: Steve Kimes, pastor of Anawim Christian Community, Portland, OR

3. Mining the Web for Bible Resources

Discover helpful websites for studying the Bible on your own. So much of what you may be looking for is just a click away!

Facilitator: Mike Bogard comes from Newton, Kansas and has held a variety of ministry positions there. He will begin in the fall as a Bible teacher at Western Mennonite School

4. Scripture through Art

So you think you are not an artist because you don't paint, make music, write, or engage in other fine arts? Life is art and art can make the Scriptures come alive. Come discover ways for preachers and worship leaders to use art to communicate the gospel in fresh ways.

Facilitator: Craig Morton, co-pastor at Emmaus Christian Fellowship, Meridian, ID

5. Your Story Matters

“We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.” (Psalm 78:4) By contrast, we Mennonites have historically been known as “the quiet in the land.” There appears to be a disconnect between these two statements.

This interactive workshop will focus on the importance and value of preserving and sharing our faith stories. As we get older, we often feel that we no longer have anything to contribute. The truth is that this is exactly the time when we should be doing what the psalmist demands...sharing how God has worked in our lives and congregations. If not now, when? If not us, who? Join me for this workshop, open to all ages, as we explore why and how to share our faith stories with current and future generations.

Facilitator: Gloria Nussbaum is a member of Portland Mennonite Church, newly appointed conference historian and a personal historian.

6. Called to be a Pastor

“Why it Matters to Both Clergy and Congregants” is the title of a soon to be released book written by former PNMC Conference Minister, Larry Hauder. Larry will be reading excerpts from his book as well as discussing the important topic of pastor, congregation relationships. Wipf & Stock is making the book available at a discount to all workshop participants.

Facilitator: Larry Hauder, member of Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, Idaho

7. Spark: Igniting Your God-Given Creativity

Discover your God-given creativity as women of faith. Using the newly released Bible Study guide published by MennoMedia and Mennonite Women USA, Marlene and Kathy invite you to be enriched and encouraged for deeper faithfulness. Who knows what kind of sparks will be ignited in our participation together!

Facilitators: Kathy Bilderback, Mennonite Women USA Board Chair and Marlene Bogard, Mennonite Women USA Executive Director

8. Making Your Church a Safe Sanctuary

This workshop will bring to your awareness training to prevent sexual abuse of children and youth. Marlene Bogard will provide a basic introduction to the procedures and policies that need to be in place in your congregation to keep children safe.

Facilitator: Marlene Bogard, recently moved to Salem from Newton Kansas, where she served the Western District as Minister of Christian Formation and Resource Library Director. Marlene is currently the Executive Director of Mennonite Women USA

9. Gardening with God and Neighbor in mind

In our journey of faith we often refer to Jesus' command to love both God and neighbor. But what does that actually look like when we get home to our private sanctuary from the world? After my family and I returned from 12 years with Mennonite Mission Network in Hong Kong I began to explore this question in new and unexpected ways. As I tore up grass to grow food in our back yard I began to wonder how garden design influences how we encounter God in the garden. Later, after turning our front lawn into a giant garden, my question expanded to, how does loving my neighbor influence the way I create this private space that meets public sidewalk? In this workshop I'll share more of my journey and the ideas it inspired, give some practical advice for making it simple and cost-effective, and have time for us to share stories and ideas from your own experiences.

Facilitator: Andy Wade was founding pastor of Evergreen Mennonite Church in Kirkland, WA before moving to Hong Kong with Mennonite Mission Network in 1996 where he mentored local pastors, developed leaders, and later helped plant a multinational Mennonite Church with missionaries from the Philippines and Indonesia. Since 2009 Andy has been Director of Communications, blogger, and speaker with Mustard Seed Associates. Andy and his family currently live in his home town of Hood River, OR, where he also co-leads and is volunteer coordinator for the Hood River Warming Shelter.

10. A Holy Land, a Divided Land: Israel—Palestine

In 2009, Palestinian Christians issued an invitation to the church around the world to come and see their situation living under occupation. In response, MC USA developed the “Come and See Initiative”, a plan to send at least 100 church leaders on learning tours of Israel-Palestine over 5 years. This spring PNMC leaders Dave Hockman-Wert, Nelly Moran Ascencio, Rachel Ringenberg Miller and Katherine Jameson Pitts

participated in a tour. They will share from their experiences and help us understand the proposed MC USA resolution on Israel-Palestine. (English and Spanish)

Facilitators: Dave Hockman-Wert, Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship; Nelly Moran Ascencio, Ministerios Restauración; Rachel Ringenberg Miller, Pastor, Portland Mennonite; Katherine Jameson Pitts, Executive Conference Minister—PNMC

11. Ministry in Mexico

The NW Mexico Team has been actively involved in the Sonora & Sinaloa churches during this past year. There have been training events for the pastors and church leaders which Samuel Moran, Rick and Joanie participated in this past spring. There have also been fall evangelistic outreach, preaching and other teaching events. With increasing numbers in church growth and size, the building projects needs also are a growing part of what the NW Mexico Team is involved in. Come to our workshop and hear and see what is happening and how you can be involved in the mission opportunity.

Facilitators: Samuel Moran, Ministerios Restauración in Portland, Rick Troyer, Western Mennonite Church, Salem. Other NW Mexico team members are Simon Rendón, Miguel Castillo and Curt Dorsing.

12. Radical Creation Discipleship in the 21st Century: Technology, Resource Extraction, Indigenous Land, and the Sacred Integrity of Created Life

Christians face urgent challenges to apply gospel values in global techno-consumer society. Let's examine together why indigenous people must defend their lands from strategic mineral extraction, why technology tempts our children with seductive synthetic reality, why nano-robotics is revolutionizing warfare and the very definition of what is "alive". After reporting from their recent visit to indigenous movements in Mexico, the Lumsdaines will focus on innovative strategic actions that can be taken at this pivotal time in human history, before it is too late.

Facilitators: Pastor Meg Lumsdaine and Peter Lumsdaine: members of Evergreen Mennonite Church in Kirkland, WA

13. What is Mennonite Central Committee Doing in Cambodia?

What are the best ways to work at peace building in Cambodia? What difference do MCC partners, Precious Women and Organization to Develop our Villages make in the lives of Cambodians? What has happened to Cambodians that were exchange visitors to the US? What do the Cambodians think of our thrift stores and relief sales? Beth Landis completed a recent learning tour to Southeast Asia to meet MCC partners and staff and will share stories.

Facilitator: Beth Landis, member of Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, Idaho and PNMC representative to the West Coast MCC board