



21st Annual Meeting

DELEGATE HANDBOOK



Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA

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Welcome to Lebanon, 2015

May 15, 2015

Dear Delegates of the PNMC,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 21st annual assembly in Oregon's bountiful Willamette Valley. Our host congregation, Lebanon Mennonite Church, is ready to bless us with their hospitality and care. We look forward to two days of worshipping, discerning God's will together and deepening our relationships with each other.

Over the past year, the PNMC Board has prioritized holding the breadth of our conference's theological diversity in a respectful manner that allows forbearance and increases trust amongst our few dozen congregations. This is best facilitated in consistent fellowship; thus, we are grateful you are making a priority of attending the annual meeting.

As we continue to utilize a discernment model that was introduced several years ago for our delegate sessions, we are seeking to listen for and discern God's will for the PNMC. The discernment model is centered on the principle that any decisions we make must include seeking God's direction, and listening to each other in a manner that is open, gracious and loving.

Engaging spiritual disciplines through prayer, scripture study, silence and meditation helps prepare us for discerning together. For those planning to attend the MC USA national conference in Kansas City, a six-week devotional guide, developed by PNMC's own Leo Hartshorn, is available on MC USA's website for personal use. Even if you are not planning to attend the national conference, we encourage you to make use of this resource.

Like the disciples who recalled their hearts burning as the resurrected Jesus Christ explained the scriptures in Luke 24, we pray our time together at the PNMC annual meeting will empower your ministry as you return to your community and congregation.

Please read all of the gathered documentation contained herein. Come to Lebanon ready to respond to the Holy Spirit's leading, gathered in our midst. May God's will be done!

Grace and peace,
Jennifer Delanty

Report from Executive Conference Minister

Submitted by Katherine Jameson Pitts

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another.
(Romans 12:9-16a, NRSV)

As I finish my first three-year term as Executive Conference Minister for the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, I give thanks for you, the individuals and congregations that make up this conference. I have experienced many blessings in the past three years and am grateful for the ways that God's people in this place live out Paul's calling to the church in Romans 12.

I have seen your **generosity** in numerous ways. We have completed another budget year in the black, despite expecting a deficit, due to contributions from congregations and individuals above what was pledged and I am grateful. I have also been amazed at the outpouring of support for items that were outside of our budget, *such as SeedNW matching grant for Anawim, travel expenses for a "Come and See" Tour of Israel-Palestine, emergency medical needs.* The people of this conference contribute to the needs of the saints in ways that bless us all.

I have seen your **faithfulness** as people of God. This year I celebrated milestone anniversaries with seven congregations. Persevering in prayer, being patient in difficult times, extending hospitality, and serving the Lord were evident in the many stories shared. And in the midst of celebrating the past, these congregations are also discerning God's purpose for their futures with passion and zeal.

I have seen your **mutual affection**, even in a time of conflict and division in our denomination. In the midst of our differences in culture, language, and even theology, the congregations of PMNC care for one another and support one another in our common call to serve the Lord. This year there have been many times of shared weeping as well as shared rejoicing, and you have touched my heart with the ways you reach out across the conference to connect with one another.

As it says on our website --made up of Mennonite congregations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Montana, and Utah, we seek to connect Anabaptist congregations with the leaders, skills, and resources they need to be authentic witnesses to Christ in their communities. We help congregations through pastoral transitions and in planning for their future. We provide opportunities for both lay leaders and pastors to gain new skills and strengthen their ministries. We do this by working together, learning from one another, and sharing with each other. We hope that through our congregations, God's healing and hope shown in Jesus will flow to the world.

May we continue to grow into the likeness of Christ, *together*.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

DELEGATES: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

(March 2013)

WHO IS THE PNMC DELEGATE BODY?

1. Each PNMC member congregation is entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five of its members, or fraction thereof. (PNMC bylaws, Article III, 3, g)
2. All ordained or licensed ministers, whose ministerial credentials have been recognized by PNMC and who are considered active, with charge are entitled to be delegates. (PNMC Bylaws, Article III, 3, g)

WHO SHOULD CONGREGATIONS CHOOSE TO BE THEIR DELEGATES?

1. Congregations have the freedom to choose who will best represent their congregation in the PNMC delegate body.
2. Delegates should be members of the congregation they represent. Preferably, some of a congregation's delegates will bring a congregational leadership perspective having continuity with the congregation, understanding the range of views in the congregation and their own views respected within their congregation.
3. Delegates should hold to the vision and commitments of PNMC (Bylaws Article III, 2):
 - a. The vision and mission statements of Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
 - b. Common Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, as updated from time to time, as their “statement of faith for teaching and nurture in the life of the Church”
 - c. Commitment “to seek to understand and interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit in the Church”
 - d. Commitment to participate in discerning and living out statements of Christian faith and life made by Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
 - e. Commitment to participate in the life and mission of PNMC and Mennonite Church USA through delegate representation and financial support.

WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?

1. **Fulfill the role as defined in the PNMC bylaws:** (Article IV, 2):

Purpose: Delegates appointed by the Member Congregations have the authority to transact the business of PNMC, including but not limited to the following actions:

- a. Discuss and decide major issues of policy for PNMC, and discern the voice of the Spirit in the midst of the Member Meeting.
- b. Provide opportunity to speak to the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies.
- c. Receive reports from the Board, PNMC staff, teams and other conference activities. Reports shall be presented in writing and shall include financial accounting.

WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?, CONTINUED

d. Elect the following as needed:

- (1) Moderator Elect.
 - (2) Board members to fill new terms and vacancies.
 - (3) Secretary and Treasurer.
 - (4) Gift Discernment Team members. This team identifies and recommends persons to the Board to fill elected positions which need to be affirmed by the delegates at the annual Member Meeting.
- (There may also be other elections as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.)*

2. Gathered Discernment:

PNMC is comprised solely of Mennonite congregations in the Pacific Northwest. These congregations meet in annual assembly the fourth weekend of June. The delegate body assembly is a forum for these congregations to talk together and to discern together the voice of the Holy Spirit. This forum helps the church move beyond its usual congregational ways of thinking and acting. Discernment happens as delegates together dwell in the Word, meditate, pray, share, discuss and listen to one another. The value of this discernment is not realized primarily in formal actions. It is realized in the worship and dialogue itself as it informs, inspires and builds up our conference, denominational and congregational life.

3. Communication channel:

It is our intent that delegates help the conference stay focused on the value of PNMC to congregational life: 1. guiding through pastoral transitions; 2. helping plan for the future; 3. resourcing lay leaders; and 4. strengthening the ministry of pastors. This is accomplished by:

- a. Delegates represent their congregation's voice into the PNMC body. They receive PNMC staff and board reports and interact with the board and staff to provide counsel and direction.
- b. Delegates represent the PNMC body to their home congregations by relaying annual delegate session discussions.
- c. Throughout their term as delegate each provides a primary interaction service between PNMC staff and board and their home congregation. They may be sought for counsel or communication between the annual delegate sessions via email or snail mail.
- d. One congregational delegate shall serve on the Conference Communications Council.

THE DELEGATES' TERM OF SERVICE

In the fall of each year, the PNMC office will request a list of its delegates from each congregation. One of the delegates should represent the congregation, along with a pastor, at the winter Communications Council meeting. We hope that all the delegates shall represent the congregation at the summer annual assembly. Delegates shall serve in that role until a different list of delegates is requested the following fall.

2014 PNMC Delegate Session Minutes

PNMC Annual Delegate Session – June 20-21, 2014
Northridge Lutheran Church, Kalispell, MT

Opening Worship 9:00 am, Friday, June 20

The annual meeting was opened with worship centered on Colossians 1:3-6. The roll call was incorporated into worship. Each congregation present shared a short response to the question “Where is the gospel growing in you?” as pictures of the congregation were projected on the screen.

Delegate Session #1 Friday 10:30 am

Jeryl Hollinger, Moderator, introduced current board members: Jennifer Delanty, Moderator-elect; Harold Nussbaum, Treasurer; Wanda Dorsing, Secretary; Jennifer Sottolano; Joseph Penner; Jack Swaim; Dave Hockman-Wert

Members Absent: Sarah Hooley, Eva Mendez

1. Table groups were given time to get acquainted, review the table group covenant, and pray.
 - a. The minutes of the 2013 Portland, OR delegate session were approved as presented in the Delegate Handbook.

MSC: Brent Kauffman – David Hockman-Wert

2. ECM report: Katherine Jameson Pitts
 - District Pastors foster strong connections within the conference. There was significant turnover among District Pastors this year. Thanks to Lynn Miller, Duane Oesch, George Leppert and Charlene Epp for their years of service. Rose Marie Zook Barber, Bob Buxman, Tim Gascho, Renee Johns, and Victor Vargas have taken on the role of District Pastor. Continuing District Pastors include Wendell Amstutz, Gary Jewell, Brent Kauffman, Al Lind, and Cecil Miller. Katherine led a prayer of blessing for District Pastors.
 - Nurturing healthy congregations: PNMC churches called two new pastors this year: Mathew Swora at Zion and Angel Campoz at Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita. Katherine gave each of them anointing oil to represent their anointing as pastors and our blessing as a conference. Curt Weaver was ordained at Portland Mennonite. We mourned the loss of Nan Gascho who was serving as a chaplain at time of her death.
 - Looking ahead, Katherine anticipates strengthening congregational connections, revisiting affiliations with church related agencies and continuing to explore new ways of being church.
 - Jeryl prayed for Katherine.

3. Financial Report – Harold Nussbaum

Detailed reports are in the Delegate Handbook.

- The 2013 deficit budget ended up showing a surplus due to a \$28,000 estate gift.
- The 2014 budget projects a \$17,000 deficit, about 10% short. The board is concerned about approving deficit budgets, but notes that in recent years God has provided in surprising ways so that the deficit is covered by year end.
- PNMC assets have increased since 2012.
- Expenses remained very consistent in recent years with the main expense being ECM salary. Income from congregations is very consistent from year to year, but contributions by individuals vary each year.

Questions raised by delegates and responses:

- *Would you explain what the Seed Northwest Fund is?*

When the Eugene property was sold, they gave part of the money to conference, acknowledging the help conference had given them to get started. Seed Northwest is the matching fund program that makes this money available to support new outreach ventures

within congregations. The committee that administers the program includes Katherine, Joseph Penner, Rick Troyer, and Angela Boss. Details are available on the web.

- *Does anyone analyze differences in congregational giving? What long-term things are being looked at to sustain the budget for the future?*

Congregational giving is fairly consistent, but sometimes smaller congregations have difficulty giving what they would like to. The board is looking at establishing a finance team to work with the treasurer and bookkeeper to address financial concerns. The board has worked on defining what value the conference brings to congregations so congregations can be clear about what why they support conference.

- *Does PNMC suggest contribution amounts to congregations based on membership number?*

In the past, PNMC suggested a percentage for giving. Currently the treasurer asks churches in the fall to indicate what their projected giving is for the next year.

4. Introduction of ballot – Jennifer Delanty, Moderator

Samuel Moran – Moderator-elect

Brett Tieszen – Treasurer

Todd Lehman – 4 yr board term

Bob Buxman – Gift Discernment Team

Brent Kauffman – Gift Discernment Team

This ballot will be voted on in the next delegate session.

Board appointed positions were noted:

Nelly Ascencio – CIHAN representative

Dave Hockman-Wert – *appointed to complete the unexpired term of Jerry Barkman who resigned for personal reasons*

Meghan Good – appointed by the Gift Discernment Team to the Pastoral Leadership Team

Delegate Session #2, Saturday 8:30 am

Opened with singing “Heart with Loving Heart United”

1. Delegates filled out the ballot presented in the first delegate session.
2. Discernment Session – “How we deal with theological/faith differences in the church.”
 - a. Dwelling in the Word: Jennifer Delanty Romans 14:1-9,19-21 and 15:1-7
Table groups shared with each other in response to these questions:

- Do you feel strong or weak in faith? How does that shape your understanding of this passage? What is this Scripture saying to you today?
- What might this Scripture be saying to PNMC today?

The group concluded Dwelling in the Word by praying together Richard Foster’s “Prayer of Relinquishment.”

- b. Katherine introduced the tasks for table group discernment. Time was given for table group conversation and then groups were asked to report back to the delegate body.

- Name 3 ethical or theological differences at your table and 3 ethical or theological similarities.
- What is valuable about having these differences? How can they make us a stronger church? How can we respect and honor them? To share with the entire delegate body, name something of value in diversity and something of value in commonality and a way to honor each.
- How do we build relationships across diversity? What is the glue that holds us together? Create three action plans for ways to handle our diversity to report to the delegate body.

The responses to these questions were gathered to be reviewed by the board.

Delegate Session #3 Saturday 3:15pm

1. Moderator Report Jeryl Hollinger

a) Administrative Comments

- Katherine completed her first year as ECM in May of 2013. Her evaluation was completed by Jennifer Delanty, moderator-elect and Nancy Kauffman, Denominational Minister. The evaluation was strongly positive.
- We will have our own 501c3 designation in the near future. All paperwork is completed.
- The board spent time examining how the conference adds value to congregations and noted the need to work on how to help congregations prepare for the future.
- Review of the 3-year contract between PNMC and Bethel and Anawim regarding the Sanctuary property is underway.
- The Seed Northwest Project was begun as a way to invest the money from the sale of the Eugene property into creative outreach ideas.
- The Fusion Faith Center officially withdrew from PNMC. The board reviewed this experience to determine what can be learned for the future.
- The board began a conversation about creating a Finance Team as mentioned in PNMC governance documents, with the goal of providing financial guidance and expertise when needed. The board is still considering what models might be helpful.
- We have not effectively maintained relationships with PNMC constituency groups (e.g. Mennonite Village, Western Mennonite School.) The board anticipates giving attention to this in the coming year.

b) Reflections on the “wind of the Spirit”

- We are living in a moment of opportunity. The current debates in MC USA surrounding homosexuality have revealed that people within the denomination think differently about church governance. The movement of the Spirit can be painful and create conflict.
- We need a policy that expresses who *we* are. Have we tried hard to model how other denominations have handled their differences over homosexuality? We must remember who we are as Anabaptist Christians. We have traditionally not responded well to authoritative structures. Rather, our tradition emphasizes the servant leadership of Jesus, characterized by suffering and humility.

2. Jeryl recognized people who have made important contributions to the life of the conference over the past year.

- Jim Wenger – led the Sanctuary Property Management Committee
- Charlotte Derksen – served as Resource Advocate for many years
- Lynn Miller – chaired the Pastoral Leadership Team for many years
- Anne Hege- served on the Gift Discernment Team for many years
- Board members who completed their terms include Harold Nussbaum, Eva Mendez, and Jennifer Sottolano. Jennifer Sottolano is the new Resource Advocate. Jerry Barkman and Isaac Hooley resigned for personal reasons.

3. The new board members were affirmed by ballot at the previous delegate session. Iris de León-Hartshorn, MC USA, led a prayer commissioning the new board.

4. Jeryl presented Jennifer Delanty with a prayer shawl representing the prayers of the conference and led in a prayer of blessing for her as she becomes moderator.

5. Brent Kauffman extended an invitation for the 2015 Annual Meeting to be held in Lebanon, OR, June 19-20.

6. The Conference Communications Council meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2015 from 8:30am - 3:30pm at Zion Mennonite Church in Hubbard, OR.

7. Jennifer closed with prayer.

Table Group Covenant

The Delegate Body of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

*Adapted from "Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective"
Article 16, Church Order and Unity*

We gather as a part of the church of Jesus Christ, one body with many members, who by the work of the Holy Spirit are brought together into a dwelling place for God.

As God's people gather at Lebanon 2015, we are the church, a holy temple, a spiritual house, with Christ Jesus himself as our foundation.

We recognize the need to consult together in order to maintain unity on important matters of faith and life. Love and unity in the church are a witness to the world of God's love.

In our deliberations and decision-making we covenant with each other to listen and speak in a spirit of prayerful openness and with the Scriptures as the constant guide. In humility we are open to both give and receive counsel. We know that discernment will include points of agreement and of disagreement, words of affirmation and of dissent. In our discernment we are prepared to wait patiently as we seek a word from the Lord leading toward consensus rather than make hasty decisions.*

We rejoice in the multiplicity of people, gifts, ideas, and opinions that are present in this gathering of the delegate assembly of the Pacific Northwest Conference.

We covenant together:

- to assume the best intentions of all persons who participate at this table and this assembly.
- to pray for one another and the Conference leaders.
- to be patient and kind.
- to speak honestly and directly.
- to practice humility and be willing to change or be corrected.
- to listen actively and carefully.
- to respect the views of those who may not agree with the majority.
- to respect the wisdom of the greater assembly and of those at our assigned tables.

(Table leaders may lead their table in prayer.)

** Consensus means that the delegate body has listened carefully to all voices, majority and minority together, and sought the unity of the Spirit. Consensus is reached when the delegate body has come to a common mind on a matter, or when those who dissent have indicated a readiness to accept a group decision. Consensus does not necessarily mean complete unanimity.*

Treasurer's Report / Financial Reports

PNMC 2013 Financial Results and 2014 Budget

Treasurer's Report

For Fiscal Year 2015 (which ended January 31), PNMC ended with a \$10,916 budget surplus thanks to contributions which exceeded expectations and expenses coming in lower than expected.

Income notes:

- Sizable unexpected contributions from Zion (\$5450 over expectations) and Menno (\$5500 over) Mennonite Churches caused total contributions from member churches to exceed what was expected.
- Contributions from individuals were \$1243 above expectations; 32% higher than expected. I attribute this in part to a letter Jennifer Delanty sent to delegates encouraging end of (calendar) year giving.
- Registration payments for annual meeting came in \$4441 higher than expected.
- Rental income on the Sanctuary property (formerly Peace Mennonite Church) came in \$7341 over expectations. (Expenses were over budget by a slightly larger amount.)

Expense notes:

- Staff expenses came in under budget across the board.
- This year's pastors' retreat was cancelled by the hosting center on account of weather and our deposit was refunded. Because the deposit had been expensed in the previous year the refund of the deposit was recorded as a reverse expense.
- Expenses from the annual meeting in Kalispell came in \$5031 under budget.
- Spending on the Sanctuary property came in \$7558 over budget. (Income from the property was also over budget by a similar amount.)
- Administrative expenses were the one category which was over budget due to translation expenses and insurance costs coming in far higher than was budgeted.

Change in how pass-through gifts are reported:

In the past, earmarked gifts received by the conference were reported as income. This is appropriate when the designation is for a cause inside PNMC, but can distort budget numbers when the gift is earmarked for a cause outside PNMC. In FY15 reporting was changed so that such pass-through gifts now have their own category at the bottom of the income statement where they are reported as Other Income and then expensed as Other Expenses (Net Other Income always nets to zero).

2014 General Fund Budget vs. Actuals
February 2014 – January 2015

	FY15 Actual	FY15 Budget	Difference	% Difference
Contribution Income				
Member Church Contributions	\$ 141,827	\$ 135,884	\$ 5,943	104.4%
Individual Contributions	\$ 5,118	\$ 3,875	\$ 1,243	132.1%
Contributions from Other Groups	\$ 4,650	\$ 4,285	\$ 365	108.5%
Program Income				
Peace Mennonite/Sanctuary Property	\$ 33,136	\$ 25,795	\$ 7,341	128.5%
Annual Meeting	\$ 17,588	\$ 13,147	\$ 4,441	133.8%
Other Income				
Interest, Dividends, and Investment Gains	\$ 592	\$ 1,636	\$ (1,044)	105.0%
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 337	\$ -	\$ 337	0.0%
Total Income	\$ 203,247	\$ 184,622	\$ 18,625	110.1%
Staff Expenses				
Executive Conference Minister	\$ 78,860	\$ 80,673	\$ (1,813)	129.4%
District Pastors	\$ 17,584	\$ 19,900	\$ (2,316)	88.4%
Administrator/Communications	\$ 16,274	\$ 18,143	\$ (1,869)	186.5%
Board of Directors	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ (50)	50.0%
Travel Pool	\$ 30,696	\$ 31,594	\$ (898)	97.2%
Program Expenses				
Pastoral Leadership Team	\$ (1,992)	\$ 2,600	\$ (4,592)	-76.6%
Theological Education Team	\$ 612	\$ 500	\$ 112	122.4%
Mexico Work	\$ 2,071	\$ 3,000	\$ (929)	69.0%
Peace Mennonite/Sanctuary Property	\$ 27,731	\$ 20,173	\$ 7,558	819.3%
Conference Communication Council	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ (500)	0.0%
Annual Meeting	\$ 8,926	\$ 13,957	\$ (5,031)	64.0%
Designated Funds Expense	\$ -	\$ 7,700	\$ (7,700)	0.0%
Administrative Expenses				
Office Expenses	\$ 5,045	\$ 6,277	\$ (1,233)	90.9%
Professional Services (Translation)	\$ 5,492	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,492	183.1%
Insurance Expense	\$ 982	\$ 120	\$ 862	818.0%
Total Expenses	\$ 192,331	\$ 208,237	\$ (15,906)	92.4%
Designated Contributions				
NW Mexico Project Fund	\$ 17,238	\$ -	\$ 17,238	
Seed NW	\$ 6,233	\$ -	\$ 6,233	
Total Designated Contributions	\$ 23,471	\$ -	\$ 23,471	
Total Designated Expenses	\$ 23,471	\$ -	\$ 23,471	
Net Income	\$ 10,916	\$ (23,615)	\$ 34,531	-46.2%
Travel Pool	\$ 30,696	\$ 31,594	\$ (898)	97.2%

Program Expenses				
Pastoral Leadership Team	\$ (1,992)	\$ 2,600	\$ (4,592)	-76.6%
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BALLOT 2015
Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Lebanon, Oregon
June 19-20, 2015

Nominees for Affirmation by Delegates:

- **Officer, Secretary – 3 year term** Term expires 2018
Tom Brenneman, Zion Mennonite Church
- **Board of Directors, At-Large Member – 4 year term** Term expires 2019
Kathleen Aeschliman, Albany Mennonite Church
- **Pastoral Leadership Team – 4 year term** Term expires 2019
Rod Stafford, Portland Mennonite Church
- **Gift Discernment Team – 1 year term** Term expires 2016
Bob Buxman, Portland Mennonite Church
Brent Kauffman, Lebanon Mennonite Church

PNMC Board of Directors appointments:

- **Board of Directors, Completion of 4 year term for exiting director** Term expires 2017
Matt Yoder, Menno Mennonite Church
- **Conference Historian – 3 year term** Term expires 2018
Gloria Nussbaum, Portland Mennonite Church
- **PNMC Representative on West Coast MCC Board of Directors** Term expires 2016
Beth Landis, Hyde Park Mennonite Church
- **Sanctuary Property Management Chair**
Gerry Langstraat, Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship
- **Finance Team**
Randy Friesen, Eugene Mennonite Church
Darrel Wisseman, Bend Mennonite Church

TEAM / MINISTRY REPORTS

NW México Report

When was the last time you saw people looking through windows and listening through open doors at your local Mennonite church? Come to NW México and you'll likely see it. The Spirit of God is on the move. People are being saved and healed from medical conditions. The thirty to forty-seat churches built twenty years ago may have 100 or more attending! While not all the NW México churches are seeing this rapid growth, the church leadership training is being rewarded. Part of this rapid growth is due to the ongoing teaching and training seminars held twice a year for pastors and church leaders. PNMC has teamed with Lancaster County Mennonite Conference for the past several years to promote, teach, encourage and train the local church leaders in NW México. Couple this with the once or twice a year evangelistic crusades from PNMC pastors Samuel Moran, Simon Rendon, Rick Troyer and Miguel Castillo and you get another boost of enthusiasm and many new believers.

Another aspect of the work in México is helping with construction of new church buildings and parsonages. For the past three years, Colony Mennonites from Durango have helped the local Mennonite congregations and volunteers from PNMC construct three churches. It is great to see and hear three cultures and languages working together for the benefit of the local people. Being part of such a construction team is an experience you will never forget! As important as a new building is, even more important is the immediate growth in numbers experienced by the congregations once construction is complete!

Currently there are two congregations waiting for financial help so they can start building a new church or adding on to the present one. This year we did not have a construction project due to inadequate funds. It takes approximately \$35-40,000 to build a 200-seat church. Most of the congregations do not have the financial base to pay for construction themselves as most of the members are day laborers. We, here in our congregations, have a great opportunity to partner with them by giving financial support through PNMC. Take an offering, hold a fundraiser, and get creative! Send the proceeds to the PNMC treasurer earmarked for "México Work Projects". Then assist on a work team for the next project!

One of the major benefits to PNMC is the annual visit to conference by a representative of the NW México Mennonite Conference. For the past two years we have been blessed to have Otoniel Soto share at conference as well as helping out at Camp Camrec and visiting many of the PNMC/CIHAN congregations. This year we look forward to hosting Manuel Ruiz from Ciudad Obregon, Sonora.

Curt Dorsing for the NW México Team
cpdorsing@ifiber.tv (509) 346-9302)

Pastoral Leadership Team

Submitted by Rod Stafford, PLT Chair

March 25, 2015

The primary responsibility of the Pastoral Leadership Team is the credentialing of pastors and other church workers in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference.

In the past year this included the following:

- Angel Campo, pastor of Jerusalem Iglesia Menonita, was interviewed for licensing toward ordination on June 19, 2014. He was affirmed as a candidate and granted licensing. Dave Stutzman will serve as a mentor during this two year period.
- Miguel Castillo, pastor of Warden Mennonite Church, was interviewed for licensing toward ordination on June 19, 2014. He was affirmed as a candidate and granted licensing. Samuel Moran will serve as a mentor during this two year period.
- Jennifer Gingerich, a hospital chaplain, was interviewed for licensing toward ordination on November 25, 2014. She was affirmed as a candidate and granted licensing. Rose Marie Zook Barber will serve as a mentor during this two year period.
- Marc Schlegel, pastor of Hyde Park Mennonite Church, was interviewed for ordination for pastoral ministry in Mennonite Church USA and affirmed on March 11, 2015.

At the PNMC annual meeting in Kalispell in June 2014, Lynn Miller concluded his term as chair of the PLT. We are immensely grateful for his faith and wisdom, his steady leadership, and his pastoral heart.

For 2014-2015, Rod Stafford agreed to serve as chair of the PLT. Meghan Good, pastor of Albany Mennonite Church, joined the team. Gary Jewell, Cathy Passmore, and Simon Rendon continued their terms. Katherine Jameson Pitts sits on the Team as PNMC Executive Conference Minister. And we are very grateful for Barb Buxman's terrific work as recorder.

Submitted by Rod Stafford (March 25, 2015)

CIHAN

Submitted by Nelly Moran Ascencio

April 1, 2015

We are very thankful with our Heavenly Father, for the blessings He has given us.

In October 2014, we celebrated our Annual Meeting. At this event we gave welcome to the Executive Committee for 2014-2016. The new committee is integrated by the following: Nelly Moran Ascencio-Moderator, Fernando Mendez- Moderator Elected, Luz Maya De Campo- Secretary, and Ricardo Fuentes-Treasurer.

CIHAN adopted the theme for 2015, which is the following bible verse, "Be strong and courageous" Joshua 1:9. This verse exhorts the leaders of CIHAN and the congregations to be: encouraged, strong, and courageous in our work that we do, in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With the bible verse Joshua 1:9, as our theme, we began to develop our events for 2014-2015. Among these events, we can mention the following:

- **Christmas Dinner:** During this event, the leaders of each congregation participated. Within the leaders, the following committees were organized: Women, Youth, Men, and Children. Each committee had the responsibility to organize, one event for the year 2015.
- **Two Worship Services:** The services were celebrated at Primera Iglesia Ebenezer and at Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva. In each service, the attendance expectations were exceeded; we found ourselves in the need to improvise to provide more seats for the attendees. As a symbol of our fellowship together and as a family of Christ; together we celebrated Communion. We feel very grateful with God because the Holy Spirit is using this medium to strengthen our fellowship and harmony.
- **Event for Women:** The Women committee released their 2015 event, at Centro Cristiano Pentecostés, in McMinnville. We had a total of 60 women that attended. The program started with a time of prayer, led by Sister Orfilia Moran; who prayed for the families and the needs of the attendees. Also, the Women praised together and were challenged through the message of the Word of God. The challenge was to trust and surrender unconditionally, in service, to the ministry of The Lord. At the end of the program, they also enjoyed an exquisite dinner. As a fruit of generosity, the Women collected an offering donation; for the Mennonite Women of the Northeast of Mexico.

In addition, we are very pleased because this past year, we welcomed two new Pastors: Victor Fuentes and Angel Campo. Pastor Fuentes is now the Pastor of Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva and Pastor Campo for the church of Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita.

"BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS" Joshua 1:9

PNMC Historian's Report

Submitted by Ray Kauffman, PNMC Historian, April 9, 2015

This being my fourteenth and last PNMC historian's report I would like to begin with some questions for our conference members and congregations.

1. Are you a member of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society? You don't need to wait until you are retired, or older to join. We now have only 53 family units or individual members and need more. Individual and/or family annual memberships are \$25 (less on prepaid 3 year memberships).
2. Does your congregation have a historian? If not please appoint or elect one. Who is responsible to collect and preserve your documents and records?
3. Does your church librarian obtain some of the books I have recommended in each of my annual reports?
4. Does your church announce our twice-a-year public meetings?
5. Does your church have a line item in your budget for the PNMHS? No matter how small it helps. We are the place where all PNMC churches' records and documents are finally collected, sorted, and preserved (in our archives at the Ivan and Pearl Kropf Heritage Center located on the Zion Mennonite grounds). We get no regular financial support from the conference itself. We are grateful for all the donations from PNMC, individuals, and families given to build our new facility.
6. Since moving from our small one room location on the Western Mennonite School campus our expenses have increased. Our regular monthly expenses run close to \$1000 per month. We rely on contributions and memberships.

Books I recommend for your church libraries:

- *For His Sake*, author is Mildred Schrock, edited recently by Wilbert Shenk, Duley Press, 2014
- *Blush – A Mennonite Girl Meets A Glittering World*, by Shirley Hershey Showalter, Herald Press, 2013
- *Whose Land? Whose Promise? What Christians are not being told about Israel and the Palestinians*, by Gary M. Burge, The Pilgrim Press, 2013
- *Harold S. Bender 1897-1962*, by Albert N. Keim, Herald Press, 1998
- *The Meaning of Jesus – Two Visions*, by Marcus Borg and N. T. Wright, Harper-Collins, 1999
- *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Beacon Press, 2014

It has been a rewarding and learning experience to serve as your conference historian. I wish my successor, Gloria Nussbaum, God's blessings as she assumes this work. We keep the faith now and for the future as we learn from the past, which is never really the past. It lives in all of us as we share our stories and pass them along to our children and grandchildren. In closing I would like to quote from the preface of a new book I just checked out from our Albany city library, *Angels by the River*, by James Gustave Speth: " 'So we beat on,' F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote, 'boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.' It is a blessing, though, to know the past, to be borne back into it. The past is passage to understanding the present and the opening to future possibility."

Ray Kauffman
PNMC Historian

PNMC AREA ORGANIZATIONS & SCHOOL REPORTS

Drift Creek Camp

Each year when summer camp concludes, there is both joy and relief. At the conclusion of last summer's camps, there were more than the usual emotions. For one, the majority of the staff had been able to serve during the entire program so people got to know each other very well. The intense emotion experienced at the end of last summer was different than usual. There was a greater depth to the relationships that had formed. In addition, the camp theme, *Welcome, Giving and Receiving God's Great Love*, seemed to be the perfect expression of camp's purpose, and everyone on staff seemed to understand the significance of the experience; of feeling welcomed and loved and how a camp can be a second home; a holy space, a "thin place" where it's so easy to experience God's love through the embrace of community.

November 7-9 marked the 2014 Annual Members' Meeting. Participants made apple butter, indulged in homemade donuts, ventured on hikes, played table games, and enjoyed Jim Anderson's presentation, "Birds and the Bible". The auction raised funds for the caretaker cabin. It has not yet been determined whether the structure will be remodeled or torn down. The Forest Service is reviewing Drift Creek's Operating Plan as well as the long-term Master Plan. Work cannot be initiated on the building until both plans are approved. Therefore, the scope of the project hinges on plan approval. The structure is the oldest on-site and gets more use than any other since it is inhabited full-time throughout the year. While we are prohibited to expand the current footprint, the hope is to improve the layout and maximize the small square footage. DCC is seeking USFS approval to restore the old garage space and transform it into additional workspace.

In March, Aaron and Sara Gibson, along with their children, Tobias, Talitha, Barrett, Aravis and Arlo, departed from their cabin and prepared for life's next chapter. After 5+ years of serving as caretakers, the Gibsons have moved to Griffin, Georgia. *They served camp well and will be missed!* Meanwhile, Mathew and Janita Miller, of Salem, OR, have moved to Drift Creek as the new on-site staff. Since the future of the caretaker cabin has not yet been determined, the couple resides above the bathhouse in the Sitka cabin.

Women gathered April 10-12 for the 2015 Women's Retreat featuring guest speaker, Jennifer L. Gingerich. The topic "*Finding grace in transitions*" was something everyone could relate to as life is filled with change. Conversations were meaningful; singing was sacred, and the moments of shared laughter were like "carbonated holiness." The weekend afforded great opportunities to grow spiritually, build community and be renewed through time away and nurturing friendships. In addition to Jennifer's thoughtfulness, vulnerability and determined hope, we are so grateful to Pat Hershberger for the leadership role she has taken in planning the retreat and are grateful to the entire committee, including Jeanette Flaming, Caitlin Parker and Dawn Lehman.

The Drift Creek Nature Center meets every second month to explore ways to provide resources and develop programming to enrich the experience of guests. We are pleased that Ken Kauffman has agreed to volunteer as camp naturalist for our 4 weeks summer camp. We are also exploring grant opportunities for funding a camp naturalist. We are pleased with the quality of programming and level of participation in the Family Nature Retreat and Fall Mushroom Workshop, which we co-sponsor with [Straub Environmental Center](#).

The 2015 summer camp theme is **Message Received: Hearing God's Call**. Campers will be challenged to think about what it means to be still and listen for God's voice, even when it's hard to hear.

We are grateful for every volunteer, every donor, each congregation and camper, who together, make camp operations possible! We ask for prayers and your partnership to sustain DCC for generations to come.

*Submitted by Brenda Kauffman & John Gingerich,
April 2015*

Mennonite Village

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE JUNE 2015

Submitted by Ron Litwiller, President/CEO

Mennonite Village will be increasing services and adding amenities in 2015. Residents are requesting more services. We are offering individualized transportation for on and off campus needs. We have ordered a new bus for group travel events. This expansion of services is greatly appreciated.

An exciting project coming up will be the construction of a Picnic Shelter that will include a Pickle ball Court. This will be a barn raising event. You will be invited to participate. We will schedule this as soon as possible following spring rains. Two days will be scheduled – the first one will be a preparation day and the second date will be the actual barn raising. We'll record/video this event for posterity. ☺ Hope you can join us.

We will also be expanding our Community Center this summer. A warm water pool, a second classroom and an enlarged exercise/fitness area will be added. We continue to see growing participation in our wellness programs.

We expect to be able to build a bridge across Oak Creek by this fall. This will allow better access to the new part of our campus. Our Capital Campaign is underway. We are hopeful that we can begin construction of the new buildings to replace our nursing home and to expand memory care in the summer of 2016. This is a huge project, but we believe being able to offer private rooms with baths will be expected by the next generation. We also believe that 20-bed homes with a family environment will offer a quality of life far beyond what institutional-style providers have previously offered.

We are truly grateful for our relationship with the PNMC and local congregations. The support of volunteers, Christmas carolers, donors, and others helps us to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.



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This past year has been a time of growth and challenge for the people of OMRS. We developed two new group homes – one in Albany and one in McMinnville. The Steckley house is home to three men, and three women live in the Nice house. In addition, we began providing in-home supports to several individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities who live in their own homes or in family homes. Under new state rules, these individuals are able to access more hours of service than in the past. People are often isolated in their own homes due to their disabilities, and it's good to be able to assist them in their efforts to participate in their communities. Sometimes, families just need a break from care-giving. OMRS would like to support more people in this way, but we struggle to hire adequate staff to meet the demand.

OMRS was able to purchase one more of its homes recently. Whenever we can eliminate a mortgage or rental payment, we are able to contribute more toward actually supporting our residents and taking care of our employees who do such amazing work.

Residents were very excited this past September about a road trip to Silverwood Theme Park in Idaho. Twenty-seven residents, along with 35 staff to keep them healthy and safe, headed out in 11 vehicles and were gone for five days. Residents talked about the experience for months afterwards and are ready to return. The staff person who did most of the planning work for this trip said that the joy of those who participated made all the work worthwhile. OMRS is blessed with staff that love and value the people we serve. I am honored to work with them.

OMRS is also thankful for the congregations and individuals who make an effort to relate to the people who live in our group homes. Several of our residents have minimal contact with family, so having people in their lives that aren't paid to be there is a significant gift. You know who you are. Thanks to all of you for the meaningful way in which you help OMRS carry out its mission.

We also appreciate those who pray for OMRS and for the people who serve and those who are served. For many, people with challenging disabilities are out of sight and out of mind. Fortunately, God values us all.

Blessings as you serve as you are called.

Submitted by Karen Litweiler

Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

Greetings from West Coast MCC!

Your financial gifts, prayer support and volunteer hours impact MCC and the people featured in the stories below. Thank you for helping MCC share God's love and compassion for all.

Building Peace through Relief

In response to the current crisis in Syria and Iraq, MCC has programmed over \$22 million USD in emergency assistance, including over \$4.5 million in the shipment of in-kind- non-food items. Of this response, over \$12 million has been programmed inside Syria, \$6.6 million in Lebanon, \$2.6 million in Jordan, and \$900,000 in Iraq.

MCC has responded to the crisis in the key areas of emergency food assistance, non-food item distribution, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter support, education, peacebuilding, and trauma healing.

Building Peace through Development

In the small community center of Sans Souci in Mombin Crochu, Haiti, women work together, sterilizing canning jars as pineapple jam bubbles away on a nearby burner. This canning workshop is supported by MCC partner Partenariat pour le Développement Local (PDL). MCC began supporting the work of PDL in December 2013 -- part of MCC's efforts after the Haiti earthquake to help people find opportunity in the countryside and avoid moving to the crowded capital. "Rebuilding the country should start by rebuilding resilience in the countryside." - Cantave Jean-Baptiste.

In addition to lessons in planting and maintaining, PDL works with organizations to encourage them to create their own seed banks. It saves farmers from having to buy seeds each year and from paying inflated prices for seeds at planting times. For farmers such as Rosemitha Cherenfant, this means not having to rely on what sellers happen to have available in the local market, which might not include all the varieties or quantity a farmer hopes to plant.

"I've witnessed the last 20 years of teaching farmers that many farmers have changed their lives, says Jean-Baptiste, "Now I'm trying to reach another level," he says. His passion is to bring greater and greater numbers of people in communities into local organizations and to see those organizations grow stronger, explore new ways of working together and have a greater and greater impact in their communities.

PNMC Conference Support

In 2014, PNMC churches donated \$85,144.77 to MCC, in addition to generous donations of material resources like comforters and relief, health, and school kits. Additional funds were raised through the three MCC relief sales and related fundraisers in the Pacific Northwest: the Idaho Mennonite Relief Sale in Nampa, ID; Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief in Albany, OR; Mennonite Country Auction in Ritzville, WA. These events, combined with the Idaho MCC Bike Ride, brought in a combined total of more than \$295,000. Thank you to all the PNMC churches for partnering with MCC to serve in the name of Christ!

Currently serving with MCC internationally:

Michael and Melissa Chapman - OR-Newberg Friends Church - Guatemala

Katie Geluso - WA - México

Jessy Hampton - Newberg, OR - Palestine

Paul Manickam - Portland, OR - Akron, PA

Terry Morton - OR - Tanzania

Major and Karen Treadway - OR - Vietnam

Mallory Walk - WA - Indonesia

Derek Hostetler and Soleakhena So—Portland Mennonite Church—Cambodia

Gary and Linda Nafziger-Meiser—Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship—Tanzania

Kurt Hildebrand and Wilda Mondestin—Seattle Mennonite Church—Haiti

Meghan Reha—Seattle Mennonite Church—Bangladesh

Erika Bollman—Emmaus Christian Fellowship--Indonesia

Current PNMC representation on the West Coast MCC board of directors: Bob Pauw, Angela Boss, Pedro Olvera and Galen Martin

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Bethel College

Bluffton University

Goshen College

Hesston College



AMBS

Report to Pacific Northwest
Mennonite Conference

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary; Sara Wenger Shenk, president

New degree program: AMBS launched a new Master of Divinity program in fall 2013 with a distance option and fewer credit hours. MDiv Connect allows students to study where they live with only brief visits to campus two or three times a year.

Faculty: **Malinda Berry**, PhD, joined the faculty as assistant professor of theology and ethics. **Gayle Gerber Koontz** and **Ted Koontz**, theology, ethics and peace studies professors, retired after 31 years at AMBS.

AMBS Board: **Meghan Good**, Albany Ore., is a member of the AMBS board of directors.

Graduates: Thirty-five students graduated from AMBS in 2014.

Lifelong learning: In the 2013-14 year, there were 614 enrollments in AMBS Church Leadership Center events and offerings. **Meghan Good** has been a resource person for the Church Leadership Center in several ways recently: she led a Leadership Clinic on January 26, preached during Pastors Week at the end of January, and contributed to The Circle blog (www.ambs.edu/churchleadershipcenter/2014/12/The-Word-Wore-Red.cfm). The Church Leadership Center also offers webinars, workshops, online Anabaptist Short Courses, Pastoral Studies Distance Education, Business Leaders and Pastors Workshops, and more.

Discounts for seminary study: People exploring seminary study can receive a 50 percent discount on tuition when they take a first online course if they are not enrolled in a graduate theological program. See www.ambs.edu/academics/Online-Courses.cfm.

Pastors Week: *What is an Anabaptist Christian?* Is a question five speakers answered at Pastors Week, January 26–29, 2015. Speakers brought different points of view to how we honor all ethnic heritages that are part of the Mennonite Church today. Recordings of these presentations and Pastors Week sermons are available online: www.ambs.edu/news-events/iTunesU.cfm

Resources for all in the church

Practicing Reconciliation, a blog by Sara Wenger Shenk, asks questions and engages issues in the church: www.ambs.edu/practicingreconciliation

The Circle, a new AMBS Church Leadership Center blog, features presenters scheduled for upcoming events: www.ambs.edu/thecircle

Anabaptist Short Courses, online and non-credit, for people wanting to explore topics of Anabaptist faith and theology. Visit www.ambs.edu, select *Lifelong Learning*.

Webinars: Topics in the upcoming year include preaching, wedding planning, funeral planning and understanding Anabaptist approaches to scripture, www.ambs.edu/webinars

Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology, co-published with Canadian Mennonite University, focuses on Sabbath in the spring 2015 issue, edited by Sheila Klassen-Wiebe: www.mennovision.org

We thank God for your support and ask for your prayers as we continue to prepare leaders for mission, peacemaking and spiritual vitality in the church of Jesus Christ.

March 2015 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517 www.ambs.edu 574.295.3726

Bethel College has been privileged to serve Mennonite Church USA in a special way this past year by hosting a number of significant meetings and services with implications for the broader church:

- Hosting a Faith Mentoring conversation on our campus that involved all of the vice-presidents for student life and most of the campus pastors at all five U.S. Mennonite colleges.
- The Constituency Leaders Council held meetings on the Bethel College campus. The meeting was chaired by the moderator-elect of Mennonite Church USA, Bethel College's own Dr. Patricia Shelly.
- A release of *Mennonite Life* with major articles on Immigration and Citizenship, *Mothering Mennonite*, and John Howard Yoder, among others.
- Commissioning and hosting important research from Walter Sawatzky with significant implications for Anabaptist traditions world-wide.
- Sending eight students to visit AMBS for seminary preview day.
- Hosting Sarah Thomson, Executive Director of Christian Peacemaker Teams, as our MLK Day speaker.
- Providing speakers and musicians for local congregations roughly two-thirds of the Sundays while classes are in session.
- A biennial study trip to Israel-Palestine, in which many guests and pastors participate.
- Hosting MCC Central States' Annual Meeting and Learning Experiences.
- Working closely with AMBS-Kansas Center to provide courses for seminary credit.
- Placing two students in Ministry Inquiry Program assignments, including Joshua Janzen at Salem Mennonite Church of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference.

Student chaplains planned and hosted a very successful 24-Hour Prayer Event, and the Campus Ministries team hosted a number of powerful chapel services and enriching Bible and small group studies.

After thirty years at Bethel College, Dale Schrag retired as Campus Pastor and Director of Church Relations in June 2014. Bethel will continue to be blessed by Dale's passion, wisdom, and deep love of college and church for many years to come.

I began in this role near the beginning of the current academic year. I am excited and blessed to serve Bethel College's mission, vision, and values. I am thankful to work with five exceedingly talented and wise-in-the-Spirit student chaplains. Our academic year began with two special days of activities, including a campus-wide service project, in which we packaged 50,000 meals for needy members of our community. God is indeed at work at Bethel!

In gratitude for the prayers and good wishes from the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, we humbly ask for your continued support.

Bluffton University

Report to the Pacific Northwest Conference 2015

Students help to rebuild hope

More than two years after Hurricane Sandy slammed the East Coast, residents of Far Rockaway, Queens, New York, are still rebuilding what was lost. For a week in March, 13 Bluffton University students and staff spent their spring break trying to help.

In association with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), the group assisted Sandy victims whose homes had been heavily damaged by the October 2012 storm. Among other things, they repaired cracked walls and floors and painted the homes of residents who couldn't afford to fix them anymore.

"Hearing there was still work to be done from Sandy really hit me hard, and I wanted to go make a difference there," said Rachel Keske, a sophomore from Lima, Ohio, and president of the campus organization SERVE. "The impact I had in helping these families take one step closer to normalcy will be one of the most beneficial feelings I'll ever have."

Keske worked for the same residents throughout the trip. She and MDS members mudded and sanded cracked and patchy drywall before applying a new, long-needed coat of paint. "I never dreaded waking up at 6 a.m. to begin the day because I knew we would be helping them move their lives to the next step, after sitting still since October 2012," she said.

Jenna Moreo, a sophomore from Spencerville, Ohio, worked in several homes. She helped repaint the interior of a house that had endured extensive water damage, loaded shipments of drywall for delivery to the houses and insulated a basement that had been flooded to its ceiling. "It may seem like all we had to do was work on houses, but it was so much more than that," she said. "We actually got to meet the homeowners and talk to them about what happened."

"Hearing how the people whose homes were damaged still have so much hope after two years" was inspiring, said Kati O'Neill, a sophomore from Wapakoneta, Ohio. "You can't even imagine what happened to them and what they are going through. God is truly incredible and moves mountains."

Although there's still much to be done in Far Rockaway, the Bluffton students were happy to help as much as they could before returning to school, and many are eager to serve next spring break, too.

"To be able to give someone something back that we take for granted is a wonderful feeling," said Danielle Moore, a sophomore from Plymouth, Ohio. "It was a blessing to get to know the families and people at MDS."

"The thing is, we didn't 'give up' our break; that thought never crossed my mind," Keske said. "Serving in Far Rockaway was exactly what I wanted to spend my break doing."

Thank you, Pacific Northwest Conference!

Joshua Burkholder is a Bluffton senior from Warden (WA) Mennonite Church, which supported him in 2014-15 with Church Matching Scholarship funds.

For more information on Bluffton University:
Robin Bowlus, director of public relations
419-358-3453, bowlusr@bluffton.edu
www.bluffton.edu

Goshen College Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, April 2015

President opens year with message on Global Citizenship

During the 2014-15 school year, the college is focusing on its core value of "global citizenship." President James E. Brenneman opened the year with an invitation for students and employees to expand their understanding of this core value, noting that a primary understanding of global citizenship is that of people-to-people diplomacy and intercultural relationships, which the college has excelled at and focused on throughout its history. But, he said, "to be a global citizen first and foremost is to desire to experience, understand and steward the many and varied multi-cultures – the bio-diversity – of the natural world around us." The president encouraged all to pay attention to the pulse of life, to learn from nature and to take action that cares for all of creation. Brenneman, a 1977 graduate of Goshen College, was reappointed this summer to a third term.

Conference connections

This academic year we have 9 students enrolled from 4 Pacific Northwest Conference congregations. These 4 congregations have generously pledged \$16,500 in congregational student aid for the academic year. The Goshen College Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

2014-2015 Campus ministries theme

The Campus Ministries theme this year is "Encuentro! Encounter." Eleven Ministry Leaders, five Worship Assistants, and countless other Goshen College students provide leadership as we explore what it means to have meaningful encounters with God, with one another, and with the world around us. In the first chapel of the year, Campus Pastor Bob Yoder examined the first encounter between Lydia and the Apostle Paul, and the ripple effects it had on the Philippian church community. For the sake of the Gospel, Paul encountered many people, cities, and cultures throughout the Mediterranean region. Then, students were invited to write down and bring forward ideas for how they can bring about meaningful encounters during the school year. Students and employees were also invited to engage the theme through the GC Prayer Book, which includes twelve devotions written by students. This material is available to people in both print and electronic formats. Visit <http://www.goshen.edu/cmin/> to learn more about GC Campus Ministries.



For more information, contact Dan Koop Liechty, Director of Alumni and Career Networks. Call (574) 535-7002 or e-mail churchrelations@goshen.edu.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA REPORT
March 2015

2014-15 enrollment – Hesston College welcomed 237 new students for 2014-15, an increase of 10 percent from last year. Total enrollment for the year is 428 students from 33 states and 12 countries, including 46 percent from Kansas and 11 percent international. Spring semester in January brought 20 new students. Mennonites make up 34 percent of the student population.

Campus theme – The First-year Experience course invited the local community to participate in the theme “Power of Choice: Changing Cultures of Oppression,” illustrated through the common read *Escape from Camp 14* by Blaine Harden. The common read serves as a catalyst for a series of student projects, campus forums, community discussions and service activities throughout the year. Harden visited campus in October.

Homecoming 2014 – About 400 Hesston College alumni and friends gathered on campus Sept. 25 to 28 for A Hesston College Homecoming: A View from Everywhere with the theme “Each other’s light, a multicultural celebration.” Alumni presenters shared their heritage and multicultural experiences in “Go Everywhere” seminars. The keynote presenter was 1993 graduate Sadi Othman, who has served as a civilian senior advisor in Iraq as a communication bridge between American and Iraqi leaders. Entertainment included Tony Brown’s multimedia documentary *I Go on Singing: Paul Robeson’s Life in His Words and Songs* and *Heavenly Voices*, a play by Goshen (Ind.) College faculty member Pat Lehman that shares stories of Mennonite women of color. La República Rock band, featured 2008 alumnus Daniel Moya.

AVDS conference focuses on peace – Internationally known voice for peace and 2008 and 2015 Nobel Peace Prize nominee Father John Dear, was featured at the college’s Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series conference Feb. 13 to 15. The conference centered on the theme “Overcoming Evil: Ordinary People Making a Difference.” Stories of peace from people locally and around the globe focused on and encouraged participants to follow Jesus on the path of overcoming evil with good. Father Dear has spent more than three decades as a peace activist, popular lecturer, author and movement organizer. His most recent book is, *The Nonviolent Life*.

Leadership Scholarships – Hesston College’s Leadership Scholars program rewards promising high school students referred by their pastor with a \$1,000 scholarship as well as an invitation to participate in Leadership Scholars Weekend, where they could increase their award. Students who start at Hesston will also have opportunities to be involved in further leadership training. If you know a student who should be referred for this opportunity, tell your pastor!

Congregational student aid – Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by students’ churches. During the 2013-14 year, 88 churches contributed \$176,607 in student scholarships to 129 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of \$123,670. The average church aid per student was \$1,369, while the average church-and-college aid per student was \$2,327. **If your congregation is interested in providing a scholarship program to support Mennonite higher education, contact the Church Relations Office at 866-437-7866.**

Read these full stories and more at hesston.edu. For questions or more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations toll free at 866-437-7866.

2014-15 campus theme verse

“Abide in Me, abide in My love.” John 15:4-11 (adapted)

**Pacific Northwest Conference of Mennonite Church USA
Statistics and Connections**

2014-2015 Academic Year Students—7

Congregational Student Aid—5 congregations provided \$6,950.00 in tuition assistance for 6 students as of March 1, 2014.

Hesston College Board of Directors – Kevin Dorsing, Warden Mennonite Church, Warden, WA.

Unified and Designated Giving—We are grateful for the financial support of conference churches to Mennonite colleges and Mennonite Education Agency through Unified and Designated Giving and for personal contributions given from individuals.

Howard Keim, President

Dallas Stutzman, Director of Alumni and Church Relations

Maxine Martin, Development Officer

Bethany Miller Admissions Representative

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Everence

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)

Mennonite Education Agency (MEA)

Mennonite Health Services (MHS) Alliance

MennoMedia

Mennonite Mission Network (MMN)

Sing praises to God

Everence 2015 report

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Annual Meeting
June 19-20, 2015



Everence and congregations: a healthy partnership

I have sought a sense of call when it comes to key decisions, and the summer of 2014 was the right time to answer the call to join Everence. My new role combines my financial services vocation with my deep interest in church and community service.

A major priority for me is spending time with church leaders and members to hear about their experiences with Everence and how we can strengthen our relationship further. Everence values the connections we have made with our church friends over the last 70 years, and we look forward to continuing to serve the Anabaptist community as partners in stewardship.

*Kenneth D. Hochstetler
President and CEO*

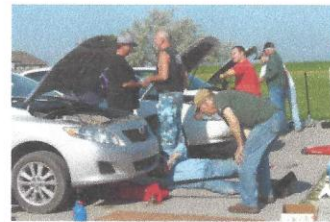
Hochstetler took helm at Everence last summer

Kenneth D. Hochstetler joined Everence in September 2014, becoming President and CEO following the retirement of Larry D. Miller. Ken and his wife, Sue, moved to Goshen, Ind., from southeastern Pennsylvania, where Ken was Senior Executive Vice President at Univest Corporation (and chief executive of several subsidiaries), which provides banking, trust, financial

planning, investment, foundation and insurance services.

Ken is a Goshen native who earned a bachelor's degree in business and computer science from Goshen College and a master's degree in business administration from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.

Sharing Fund helps in many ways



The Sharing Fund is a way for churches and Everence to work together to ease financial burdens for people in need. The fund – which distributed about \$925,000 in 2014 – helps people with everyday expenses and special needs, matching congregational contributions. It also helps church members share their skills with the wider community. Volunteers at one church provide free oil changes (pictured) for single moms and widows, aided by a Sharing Fund grant. The Sharing Fund makes a difference for thousands of people every year.

*Seven times a day I
praise you ...*

Psalm 119:164



New financial planning service

A new comprehensive financial planning service from Everence offers a tailored strategy to help people shape their financial paths in ways that fit their dreams, goals and values.

The service includes meeting with a qualified financial planner and access to powerful online software, Vine Vision 360, which helps people organize and track their finances and progress. Our planners walk members through seven branches of their financial lives – cash flow, protection, investment, retirement, tax, estate planning and charitable giving. Learn more at everence.com/financial-planning.

Video commentaries keep tabs on markets

The health of financial markets has a big impact on the U.S. economy, so even if you don't directly invest in stocks or bonds, it makes sense to keep an eye on the markets.

We recently made it easier – just visit everence.com, where you'll now find a monthly market commentary video from Chad Horning, CFA, Everence Chief Investment Officer. Chad covers a different topic every month, such as inflation, fixed-income returns and some of the things serious investors look for as they consider which direction the markets might take – and why.

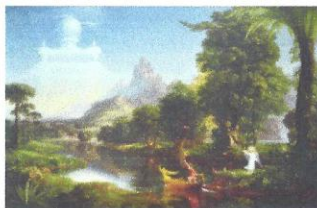
Asset management and generosity made easy

Being generous may be easier than you think. Everence Asset Management services help people increase their capacity for charitable giving through planned gifts, retirement security and investment services.

Through professionally managed portfolios, access to faith-rooted

investment selection and a personal relationship with a financial advisor – you can grow your ability to make a profound impact on the people and ideas you care about. We'll help you simplify your finances into a streamlined strategy so that you can spend time on what matters to you.

Appreciating God's goodness



All the days of my life is a new curriculum from Everence designed for Sunday school classes or small groups. Lessons draw from Psalm 23:6: *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life*. The curriculum also connects with a series of paintings by artist Thomas Cole called "Voyage of Life."

Lessons help us reflect on the past, focus on the present and prepare for the future. Learn more at everence.com/stewardship-education.

Financial education for women introduced

Spending, saving, debt, investing, charitable giving – these issues affect all of us, but sometimes affect women differently. Considering that women, on average, live longer than men, roughly 80 to 90 percent of women will be solely responsible for their finances at some point.

Everence has developed a new presentation focused on women and money, to help women prepare for potential financial

challenges. Call (800) 348-7468 or talk with your local Everence representative to learn more.

Targeting creation care

Everence has engaged companies on environmental and sustainability concerns for more than 10 years. But since 2013, we've made shareholder advocacy on creation care a top priority. We've increased efforts to impact energy and related companies as scientific reports document a growing threat to our earth.

Our efforts seek development of emissions reduction plans, transparent political funding/lobbying and examination of carbon asset risk. We hope that our work will persuade companies to redirect dollars toward renewable energy sources.

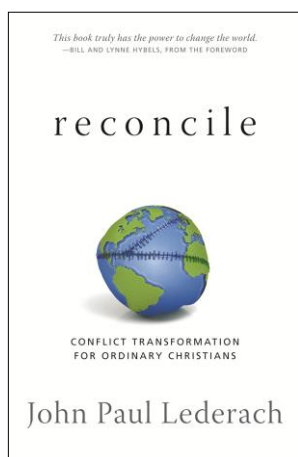
Using this card helps charitable groups

Everence Federal Credit Union donated \$14,000 from its Rebate for Missions™ program to global agencies MEDA and Mennonite World Conference in 2014. Rebate for Missions™ is supported by the credit union's 10 percent tithe of income generated when people use their Everence Visa credit cards.

Credit union branches also distribute grants in their own communities. Since the program started in 1995, the credit union has awarded more than \$360,000 to churches, missions and relief organizations. Learn more at everence.com/banking.

2015 Report

The big news this year for MennoMedia was the launching of our new Children's curriculum, *Shine: Living in God's Light*, a dynamic Sunday school curriculum for ages 3 through grade 8 that engages Christian communities in their life together. This is the first new curriculum created for children since the launch of the highly successful Gather 'Round in 2006. Launched in September of 2014, sales of this curriculum outpaced our projections and this is wonderful news. Particularly well-received was the story Bible component, *Shine On*.



In his bestselling pamphlet, "What is an Anabaptist Christian?" Palmer Becker states three Anabaptist "distinctives," one of which is, "Reconciliation is the center of our work." MennoMedia, through its *Herald Press* book imprint reissued John Paul Lederach's bestselling *Journey to Reconciliation* this past August. Now titled *Reconcile*, the book briefly rocketed to the top of Amazon's sales charts when it was featured in the worldwide leadership summit at Willow Creek Church, near Chicago, (with over 70,000 more teleconference participants) and preached from the pulpit by Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek, one of the largest mega churches in the U.S. This book has continued as the bestselling book for us this year and we are rejoicing to see churches around the world embracing reconciliation and peace as a core component of the Good News.

Launching this spring is a new and updated "Third Way" website, replacing "Third Way Café," which was first introduced over 20 years ago, in the infant years of the Internet. Curating the best of materials that reflect "all things Anabaptist," it remains the most

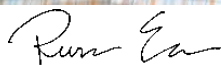
visited site for people looking for information on Mennonites and the Amish. Check it out at thirdway.com



Also coming this spring and summer:

- 25th anniversary edition of Howard Zehr's *Changing Lenses*, an original and ground-breaking book on the subject of Restorative Justice
- Believer's Church Bible Commentaries on Lamentations, Song of Songs and Galatians.

MennoMedia is also pleased to announce that Janet Buschert, of Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, will be joining our board of directors this fall for a four year term. We look forward to welcoming her to our board!



Russ Eanes / Executive Director MennoMedia / Harrisonburg, Virginia

Herald Press • Third Way Media • Faith & Life Resources

Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
—Romans 12:4-5

Because we belong to each other, we celebrate the work of individuals, families, congregations and conferences who together form the body of believers that is Mennonite Church USA. Here are a few examples of ways we collaborate with each other:



Returning veterans. The violence of war can destroy lives even after combat ceases. Some Mennonite congregations are responding to veterans with understanding and compassion as they seek healing for their emotional and spiritual wounds. The [Peace and Justice Support Network](#) (a partnership of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Mission Network) is working with Mennonite Central Committee U.S. to support these efforts by providing a monthly newsletter and developing a six-week Sunday school curriculum and a congregational training on relating to veterans.



Israel-Palestine learning tours. More than 30 Mennonite leaders have participated in learning tours to Israel-Palestine through the ["Come and See" fund](#) that was established by Mennonite Church USA, Everence, Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. in response to [Kairos Palestine](#), an appeal from Palestinian Christians. Our goal is to help 100 leaders participate in the next five years so that we can be more faithful and effective witnesses to Jesus' desire for peace in this region. Groups meet with Palestinians and Israelis; Christians, Jews and Muslims; and refugees, businessmen, pastors and farmers to gain a deeper understanding of the issues.



Women in Leadership Project. In February 2014, nearly 200 women gathered for a conference in Leesburg, Va., titled [All You Need Is Love: Honoring the diversity of women's voices in theology](#) and hosted by the [Women in Leadership Project](#) of Mennonite Church USA. Participants wrestled together with what it means for a Christian community to hold together the tensions and complexities of pain, suffering, anger and injustice.



Begin Anew: Christian Discipleship Seminars is a 16-session series of studies to make disciples in small groups and congregations. Based on the idea that Christianity is a combination of believing, belonging, becoming and behaving, the course is for anyone interested in growing in Christian faith from an Anabaptist perspective. [Begin Anew](#) is written by Palmer Becker and is a joint project of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada.



Radical Hospitality: Responding to the issue of immigration. This [free Bible study](#) unpacks questions such as, "What are the basic facts about U.S. immigration? Who are the people involved? What does the Bible have to say to us as Christians about immigration? What role might we fill as Anabaptists within this age-old challenge?" The core curriculum is based on five videos (each 15–20 min.) and an accompanying Resource Guide.



KC2015: June 30–July 5, 2015: On the way! [En el camino](#) (Luke 24). Mennonite Church USA's biennial [conventions](#) are places where people's lives are transformed and faith is renewed. Convention offers opportunities for networking and fellowship, learning and inspiration, and space for conversations about issues the church is facing. Representatives to the Delegate Assembly play an important role in churchwide decision-making.



Pastoral placements. It's not unusual for the Leadership Development office to receive an inquiry each day from pastors looking for assignments. The office maintains a national list that conference ministers use as they work with congregational [search committees](#), as well as an online [list of available pastoral positions](#). Staff members are always energized when a good pastor-congregation match is found.



www.MennoniteUSA.org
[www.Facebook.com/MennoniteChurchUSA](https://www.facebook.com/MennoniteChurchUSA)
Toll-free: 866-866-2872



MennoDisasterService

2014 AT A GLANCE

3,636	Volunteers
376	Long-term
2,874	Short-term
261	Summer Youth
125	RV
463	Clients Served

Clean ups	175
Minor repairs	227
Major Repairs	25
Houses rebuilt	36

“Love Awakens Hope”

Elizabeth Wilder, a Disaster Management Program student at Hesston College, describes what she saw happen at Ms. Elaine’s house in High River, Alberta, “The love of God transformed a vision and construction materials into a basement, and that transformed a basement into a symbol of hope”. Hope was awakened by many acts of love. In 2014, 4,181 volunteers worked 26,111 days, a value of \$4,710,424 (based on a volunteer rate of \$22.55/hour*). Additional volunteers served in many Unit and Regional responses showing love to their neighbors in a practical way.

Sandra Lynn Price, chair of the Mississippi VOAD says of MDS volunteers arriving on scene to the Louisville tornados, “When our Mennonite friends are with us, we know we will be okay.” This past year didn’t have multiple billion-dollar disasters as in the past several years. Nor did it see a major hurricane like 2012’s Super Storm Sandy that caused over \$65 billion in damages. But there were some unique disasters and officials say there may be more to come. Last February saw the massive mudslide in Oso, Washington, wiping out 49 residences and killing 43. Historic snowfall covered New York. Straight-line winds caused damage in multiple locations.

Although other types of disasters dominated the news – cyber stealing, threats to power grids, the Ebola virus epidemic and gun violence and unrest – the multiple tornados, wildfires, and floods that didn’t make the national news made this year the “worst year” for those affected by these disasters.

MDS volunteers left their homes and traveled to the many locations where disasters descended uninvited. This report shows the efforts of these caring workers who cleaned out basements, cut up tree limbs, laid new foundations, and built sturdy houses.

Thanks to your financial support, MDS is financially sound, is equipped with willing volunteers, and with the prayers of many so we can keep rebuilding hope!

To God be the glory,
Kevin King
Executive Director

*www.independentsector.org

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Mennonite Education Agency report
June 2015 annual gathering

Greetings!

MEA is pleased to share information with you for your annual conference. We are partnering with Mennonite educational institutions, preschool through continuing education, to transform students to become Christ followers, service givers, peace seekers, rigorous learners' difference embracers and community builders.

This year **13,589** students are enrolled in Mennonite institutions -- 31 Mennonite School Council (MSC) schools, 5 colleges/universities, 2 seminaries and 2 Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education (HPLE) programs. Many future church and community leaders are being shaped with skills needed to succeed.

MEA is working with school leaders and teachers to ensure schools have the tools they need to transform lives through an Anabaptist lens. Over the past year we have:

- Partnered with AdvancED to offer a performance based accreditation grounded in Anabaptist-Mennonite distinctives. Twelve MSC schools are using this integrated protocol.
- Implemented the collaborative MBA program between Bluffton University, Goshen College, and Eastern Mennonite University which began in the fall of 2014.
- Provided professional development training (Mennonite Educators Conference) for over 400 educators and planned professional board development training for February 2015 (Education Leaders Gathering).
- Translated the first IBA book into English and started the first English IBA center in Texas.
- Managed the investments of 19 Mennonite-related institutions through the MEA Investment Fund.
- Worked towards greater cultural inclusion by administering the Intercultural Development Inventory and facilitating/ participating in Hope for the Future.
- Noted an increase in giving to the HPLE programs for the 2013-14 fiscal year. However, there is a decrease in giving this year.
- Administered the Congregational Giving program.
- Entered into conversations with the MEA board and committees on the current landscape of the denomination and its implications.

Provided support and development to the many Mennonite educational institutions and their boards.

We are grateful

to members of your conference serving on Mennonite educational boards and committees.

- **AMBS:** Meghan Good, Albany
- **Bethel College:** Roberta Franz Hodgson and Warren Gering, Menno
- **Western Mennonite School:** Linda Dibble and Meghan Good, Albany; Eric Martin and Audra Stauffer, Salem; Cherri Barnhart and Rick Troyer, Western; Wanda Rohrer Heyerly, Jerry Roth and Stan Oyer, Zion
- **MEA board:** Judy Miller, Warden; Marlene Kropf and Linwood Rush, Portland
- **MEA Investment Committee:** Lowell Herr, Portland

We regret any omissions or errors. Please send corrections to info@MennoniteEducation.org.

Thank you to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference congregations who support Mennonite education*:

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 \$16,128.34

**Giving includes gifts for higher education, MEA, Racial/Ethnic Leadersh. Education and Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Education.*

One of our greatest accomplishments is the testimony of students to the transforming power of Mennonite education. Stories are plentiful and many of you could echo these words from a current Mennonite college student: "Attending a Mennonite college shaped who I am today and brought me to my own understanding and ownership of my Mennonite faith." Thank you for your work in partnering with Mennonite schools of all kinds as well as Mennonite Education Agency. ***We are grateful for your support.***



Carlos Romero, MEA Executive Director

2015 REPORT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE

MHS continues to carry out our mission to strengthen and extend Mennonite-affiliated health and human services organizations. Within Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, the following organizations are part of MHS:

- Mennonite Services Northwest, Albany, Oregon
- Mennonite Village, Albany, Oregon, an affiliate of Mennonite Services Northwest
- Oregon Mennonite Residential Services, Albany, Oregon, an affiliate of Mennonite Services Northwest
- Hope Village, Canby, Oregon, an affiliate of Mennonite Services Northwest

INITIATIVES

- The annual Mennonite Health Assembly, a March gathering for education and enrichment.
- A retreat for executives on succession planning and preparing an organization for transition.
- Co-sponsorship of the Values-based Leadership Program, which had 44 graduates in February 2015.
- Planning for an international gathering of healthcare leaders in conjunction with the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in July 2015.
- Release of a guide for boards called Sensitive Conversations, to help navigate issues raised by changes in marriage laws, as well as other complicated topics faced by organizational leaders.

ValuedLeadership.org – A NEW RESOURCE

Anabaptist organizations face challenges and forces as they confront 21st Century social and organizational life. In March 2015, MHS launched a new website – ValuedLeadership.org - to help leaders explore what it means to be an Anabaptist organization today.

Through videos, blogs and reflection questions, the website guides visitors in discovering how to demonstrate the values of Anabaptism in a way that is relevant. It supports leaders who are not Anabaptist and want to reinforce the unique core values of our faith tradition. Created for Anabaptist related health and human service organizations, the resources on the website are free and available to anyone interested in building, reinforcing, aligning, and integrating Anabaptist values into practice. Join the conversation at www.ValuedLeadership.org.

THANK YOU

MHS serves as the national sponsor for Mennonite Services Northwest, partnering on strategic direction and selection of board appointments. We deeply appreciate the many individuals who serve on the boards and staff, volunteer, or contribute financially to the ministries of Mennonite Services Northwest, sharing Christ's love and making a difference in your communities.

Submitted by Rick Stiffney, President/CEO

www.mhsonline.org



**Mennonite
Mission
Network**

The mission agency of
Mennonite Church USA

2015

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

Be salt. Be light. **Be the Gospel.**



Thank you!

We give thanks to Pacific Northwest Conference congregations for partnering in God's mission with Mennonite Mission Network. By working together, people around the world experience Christ's light

and love. We are deeply grateful for your enthusiasm for God's mission! Your prayers, people, time, and contributions are an important part in sharing the gospel.

Thank you for your partnership. We consider it an honor to extend the

missional reach of Pacific Northwest Conference and its congregations.

Stanley W. Green

Stanley W. Green, Executive Director for
Mennonite Mission Network

Pacific Northwest + Mennonite Mission Network

Service participants



Albany Service Adventure unit

Left to right: Nolan and Jill Baker, Rebecca Schrag, Sam Schamp, Paige Semer, Sebastian Reim, Eva Wilkins, Ben and Jakoby Baker. Albany (Oregon) Mennonite supports the unit.



Jonathan Mark, of Corvallis (Oregon) Mennonite Fellowship, served in Mennonite Voluntary Service in Seattle.



Ria Jewell, of Shalom Church, Spokane, Washington, served in Mennonite Voluntary Service in Seattle.

SOOP participants

Gene and Judy Gascho of Zion Mennonite Church, Aurora, Oregon, served with SOOP in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jerry and Nancy Friesen of Albany (Oregon) Mennonite Church, served with SOOP in Phoenix, Arizona.

Norman and Phyllis Lind of Salem (Oregon) Mennonite Church, served with SOOP in Tuscon, Arizona, and in Peticodiac, New Brunswick.



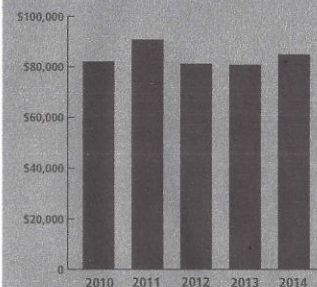
Globe bank gifts

\$ 925 from the children of Zion, Calvary, Evergreen Heights, and Spring Valley.

24 prayer partners

pray daily for Mission Network and its workers

Pacific Northwest Conference congregational giving



www.MennoniteMission.net Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872



Mennonite Women USA
2015 PNMC report

Mennonite Women USA is delighted to welcome Marlene Harder Bogard as our new Executive Director beginning April 2015! She has been serving the Western District Conference since 1990 as Director of the Conference Resource Library and since 2001 as Minister of Christian Formation. Marlene and her husband Mike are relocating to Oregon in May and will be part of PNMC. Ruth Lapp Guengerich retired in early March as co-director with Rhoda Keener. Keener will continue with MW USA as Sister Care Director, co-presenting seminars with Carolyn Heggen.

Marlene wrote: *"I want to offer my gifts to further empower women as they seek to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. I hope to help them embrace and release their gifts, dreams and love for the common good of the church and for future generations of girls and women."*

Over 3,200 women from 12 countries in Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and North America have participated in Sister Care seminars since 2008. Forty men have participated in Compassionate Care seminars. The manual is available in four languages: English, Spanish, and Kek'chi', and Portuguese. A seminar held in Brazil in January marked the 6th Sister Care seminar in Central and South America. Keener and Heggen will partner with Ofelia Garcia, Mexico, and Olga Piedrasanta, Guatemala, to offer a workshop at Mennonite World Conference: *Sister Care: Global Contextualization and Testimonials*.

In early March, MW USA offered training for conference MW leaders in becoming Sister Care study group leaders using the Sister Care 12-session DVD created by Eastern Mennonite University students with a Facilitator Guide written by Rhoda Keener and Carolyn Heggen. Women from across the USA and Canada attended the *Preparing, Resourcing, Encouraging, Praising* (PREP) training/networking event.

New ideas continue to emerge for sharing Sister Care with diverse groups of women. In October 2-4, a first Sister Care Level 2 retreat will be held at Camp Hebron, Pa. and will explore several Sister Care themes more deeply.

A pilot seminar for college women was held at Goshen College for 19 students March 20-21 hosted by MW USA board member and GC professor, Beth Martin Birky. The seminar focused on topics requested by students including: self-worth and body image, developing healthy relationships, identifying and managing stress, and identifying life mission to aid in decision making. Following the event, one student wrote: *"It is helpful to hear women in a later stage of life talk vulnerably about self-care, and to start conversations that are important to have among women but require a safe space (such as body image and sexual violence, etc.). This was a wonderful way to get access to many more resources and learn more about how the church is and can be responding to the lives of women."*

The 2015 women's Bible study is written by April Yamasaki titled *Spark: Igniting Your God-Given Creativity*. Mennonite Women Canada and Mennonite Women USA partner with Menno Media to produce this resource. The current issue of *Timbrel* magazine focuses on Food Justice.

Kathy Bilderback, Boise, Idaho, now serves as board chair. We are grateful for her leadership. God's spirit is truly doing many new things through Mennonite Women USA's ministry.

– Rhoda Keener, Interim Executive Director



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.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Mission Statement

P*romote personal spiritual development*

N*urture healthy congregations*

M*ake strong connections throughout the conference*

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



**Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference**

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