

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Annual Meeting

Lebanon 2015

The PNMC Board affirms PNMC'S central mission of supporting the health and strength of member congregations. Our annual meeting is an opportunity to foster and deepen relationships with each other across our five-state conference as we worship and learn together. We want to provide support, encouragement and ideas for attendees to bring to their home congregations. During our delegate sessions we seek to discern God's will together as a body committed to shining Christ's light in our region

Over the past couple of years, our denomination has experienced a high level of stress around the question of how the church should respond to persons in same-sex relationships. We have witnessed the departure of congregations from Mennonite Church USA due to differences in the ways congregations and conferences have responded to these persons. The upcoming national conference in Kansas City will feature a resolution on forbearance for delegates to consider as a way of moving forward together.

This year during our delegate session, PNMC delegates will together review this resolution and consider its applicability to our conference and impact on our congregations. PNMC holds the same diversity of opinion as our denomination. We will not be taking a vote on the resolution itself. We will be discerning an answer to the question, "Can we continue to be church together? If so, how?"

The Board encourages delegates to come prepared to worship, pray, and discern together. As the MC USA discernment preparation materials say, "There is hope we can move beyond simply coming together to press for our own perspectives to dominate the church, but to seek the will of God together for the church in all its diversity."
