

**BALLOT**  
**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**  
**Lebanon, OR June 19-20, 2015**

**Nominees for Affirmation by Delegates:**

- *Secretary – Tom Brenneman, Zion Mennonite Church – 3 year term*

Tom is a retired middle school science teacher. He spent 61 consecutive years in school (elementary, high school, college, teaching, substitute teaching) before it was finally decided he could quit last year. He grew up in Elida, Ohio, graduated from Goshen College, taught at Academia Menonita in Summit Hills, Puerto Rico for MCC, then moved to Oregon where he married Dorothy Gingerich of Hubbard, and taught for 32 more years. Dorothy and Tom have 2 daughters, 2 sons-in-law, and a lively 5-year-old grandson. He enjoys hiking, biking, jogging (especially the end of a jog), reading, and trying to play the guitar.

- *Board of Directors – Kathleen Aeschliman, Albany Mennonite Church - 4 year term*

Kathleen grew up in the Franconia Mennonite Conference where her love of music was nurtured with piano lessons and many choirs. She attended Christopher Dock High School and Goshen College. There she met Merlin Aeschliman and moved to Oregon where Merlin taught choral music at Western Mennonite School and several public schools. Kathleen and Merlin had three children and now nine grandchildren, and two great granddaughters. Merlin and Kathleen were instrumental in the formation of Salem Mennonite Church. Kathleen maintains ties with Salem Mennonite but is now actively involved in the life of Albany Mennonite Church. Kathleen has worked as a Library Assistant and a Registered Nurse and volunteered for Hospice for more than fifteen years. Merlin died in 2013, shortly after they moved to Mennonite Village.

"I have a sense of the history in PNMC. I also want us to be open to each other and treat each other with respect and love."

- *Gift Discernment Team – Bob Buxman, Portland Mennonite Church – 1 year term*

Bob is the Northwest representative for MCC, working with church relations. He is also a District Pastor to Zion Mennonite and Salem Mennonite churches. Bob has served on the GDT for several terms.

"I hope to help facilitate the formation of strong committees for the PNMC, with good cross representation from the varied PNMC churches. "

- *Gift Discernment Team – Brent Kauffman, Lebanon Mennonite Church -- 1 year term*

Brent is Lead Pastor at Lebanon Mennonite Church. He is also a District Pastor for River of Life, Albany, and Bend Mennonite Churches. Brent's long history in PNMC and his outgoing nature equip him well to help discern leadership in PNMC that is representative and gifted.

## **PNMC Board of Directors appointments:**

- *Board of Directors -- Matthew Yoder, Menno Mennonite Church -- completion of 4 year term for exiting director, term ends 2017*

Matthew was born in Elkhart, IN and raised in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley near Harrisonburg, VA. Educated at Hesston College, EMU and Fuller Seminary, a call to rural ministry led Matthew to Menno Mennonite Church where he has pastored for 5 years. He and his wife Shawna have three young children.

"The gift that PNMC and its churches has to offer the broader church is the knowledge and experience that we need each other -- in all our disparate values and ideologies -- we truly, deeply need each other, as a body needs hands, feet, and eyes. It is a true sacrament, this need, and knowledge of it is true wisdom."

**Continuing board members:** Jennifer Delanty, Moderator; Samuel Moran, Moderator Elect; Brett Tieszen, Treasurer; Nelly Moran-Ascencio, CIHAN; Sarah Hooley; Todd Lehman; Jack Swaim

- *Conference Historian – Gloria Nussbaum, Portland Mennonite Church --- 3 year term*

Gloria is a member of Portland Mennonite Church where she has served on various committees and as an Elder during her 17 years in Portland. She currently serves as secretary for the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society. She is a personal historian and has run her own business, "Real to Reel: Recording Personal Stories," since 2001. Gloria lives in Beaverton, OR, is married to Harold Nussbaum and has 5 grandchildren.

"My hope for PNMC is that more of our congregations and members would discover and utilize the extraordinary resources we have in the Historical Society."

- *Pastoral Leadership team – Rod Stafford - second 4 year term*

Rod is the lead pastor of Portland Mennonite Church. He is completing his first term on the PLT, where he has served as Team Chairperson this past year.

"My hope is that we can support pastors across a wide range of settings here in the Pacific Northwest. I hope that amidst our diversity and differences we will encourage each other to live out Christ's gospel daily, practically and faithfully."

**Continuing PLT Members:** Gary Jewell, Cathy Passmore, Simon Rendon, Meghan Good.

- *Sanctuary Property Management Team Chair – Gerry Langstraat, Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship*

Gerry studied Pastoral Ministries and International Agriculture, served with MCC in Brazil for 11 years, and then worked with a Developmentally Disabled facility for 12 years. Currently, he is a

licensed property manager in Corvallis where he manages about 100 units. His wife of 37 years died of cancer over 3 years ago. He has 2 children living in Portland and Salem. He is a founding member of Corvallis Mennonite Church.

“I hope to be helpful in service to the ministry of the Sanctuary. It seems to be an Anabaptist way of being church.”

- *Finance Team – Randy Friesen, Eugene Mennonite Church*

Randy discovered accounting during his PAX (MCC) years with the Protestant Univ. of Congo. He earned a degree in finance and accounting from University of Oregon, and worked as a CPA with Moss Adams, a Controller for McCracken Motor Freight, and as CFO for Industrial Finishes and Systems, Inc. Randy has been the Eugene Mennonite Church treasurer for 40 plus years, and in the past served as PNMC treasurer for 9 years. Currently he serves on the board for Mennonite Village and MSNW.

- *Finance Team - Darrel Wisseman, Bend Mennonite Church*

Darrel has been a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Prineville for just about 20 years. Prior to that he was also a financial advisor for 2 years with Morgan Stanley. He has served on the Prineville hospital foundation board for the last 14 years, and is currently finance committee chair. He is a founding member of Bend Mennonite church and a Prineville Kiwanis board member for 4 years. He was also a Drift Creek Camp board member in the past.

- *PNMC Representative on West Coast MCC Board of Directors – Beth Landis, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship -- term expires 2016*

Beth Landis has served as a delegate to the PNMC meetings and been on other boards. She chaired the 2014 MCC Bike Ride in northern Idaho that raised \$46,000.

“I believe in the mission and purposes of MCC as they work in areas of relief, development, and peace. Many friends have served with MCC and I have visited them around the world to see projects and partners. The West Coast office selects activities that reflect the same values to carry forth in the name of Christ on a regional basis. As a board member, I will promote MCC to our conference and assist with resource development.”