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From the PNMC Office

Conference Communications Council 2016: "Belonging to Christ"

Jan. 9, 2016, 9am-4pm at Salem Mennonite Church

Each congregation is invited to send two persons -- one pastor and one lay leader if possible.

Conference Communications Council is a time for representatives from all PNMC congregations to meet together for worship, dialogue, and discernment. In addition to times of worship and sharing, this year we will explore together what it means to belong -- to a congregation and to a conference and denomination. We will take time to review the outcomes of the church-wide meetings held this summer and reflect on how those experiences are affecting PNMC congregations as well as to discuss individual congregations' practices around membership. Lunch will be provided by donation. Please register your delegates at pnmc.org.

Former pastor of Seattle Mennonite Church, Weldon Nisly, has invited peace-loving friends in the Pacific Northwest to join Erskine Clarke, publisher of *Journal for Preachers*, and others with "An Appeal to Christians in the United States" and encourage you to add your voice and witness for The Way of Jesus countering and confronting the way of fear of and violence against the "other" running rampant in word and deed across the church and country. You are invited to read the appeal [here](#). If you would like to add your name to the list, click on the link at the bottom of the Appeal to raise your voice for peace together. Please share this link with people in your community who desire a different way.

Interested in travel? [Michael and Lisa Bade](#), from Seattle, and former MCC workers, are leading a [tour to Cambodia](#) in February.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization



Oregon Mennonite Women's Retreat

The planning committee for the 2016 retreat is thrilled to welcome **Marlene Bogard**, Mennonite Women USA president, as the guest speaker with the theme, *Experiencing Sanctuary*. The weekend gathering will take place **April 8-10** at Drift Creek Camp. Participants will enjoy relaxation, time in nature, creative outlets, learning from one another, worship and singing together and building community. Need a gift idea for the special women in your life? Contact info@driftcreek.org and a beautifully calligraphed registration certificate will be mailed in time for holiday gift giving.

This is a great "experience" gift for mothers and daughters, friends, sisters, etc.



Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

Marlene Kropf will share stories of her journey at the [PNMHS Annual Meeting, January 16](#). She is an ordained Mennonite minister, retreat leader and spiritual director. She grew up in the Willamette Valley and moved to Indiana in 1983, where she spent most of her professional working life. Marlene is Professor Emerita of Spiritual Formation and Worship at AMBS and served as Minister of Worship and Spirituality with MC USA for nearly 25 years. Guests will gather at **12 Noon** at Zion Mennonite, share a light lunch before the 1:00 meeting. **RSVP by January 8** to [Gloria Nussbaum](#) or 503-645-0616.

West Coast MCC

Leave or stay? Many Syrian families face that question as **international humanitarian assistance dwindles** and the patchwork of resources they used to rely on wears thin. Your gift of money helps Mennonite Central Committee continue to provide food, water, rent assistance and winter supplies so families that decide to stay in the region can survive the cold weather ahead. You can help by [giving online](#) or donating [much-needed supplies](#). (Checks can be sent to MCC U.S., P.O. Box 500, Akron, PA 17501.)

An MCC Resource Center is located right in the Willamette Valley adjacent to Zion Mennonite Church.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Central Committee

If you are a high school student, do not forget to apply for MCC's annual public policy essay contest. This year's themes include climate change, police militarization, and returning from prison. The submission deadline is **January 22, 2016**. Cash rewards of up to \$1000 will be given to essay contest winners. For more information, visit [this link](#). Teachers and youth leaders may find these resources and guidelines useful for Sunday School and small group discussions as well.

Mennonite Mission Network—Two young adults from PNMC are currently serving with Mennonite Voluntary Service.



Hilary Garman of Bellevue, WA, began a one-year term of Mennonite Voluntary Service in August 2015 in San Francisco, CA, as development and communications assistant with Homeless Prenatal Program. A 2015 graduate of Seattle Pacific University, Garman is the daughter of Brenda Ewert and Ted Garman, and is a member of Evergreen Mennonite Church in Kirkland, WA.



Andrea Bachman of Boise, ID, began a one-year term of Mennonite Voluntary Service in August 2015 in Alamosa, CO, as environmental restoration associate with Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project. A 2015 graduate of University of ID, Bachman is the daughter of Paula and Ernest Bachman, and is a member of Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship in Boise, ID. *Rooted in the Spirit of Jesus, MVS invites adults, ages 20 and older, to join together in Christian ministry for one- to three-year terms living in intentional community and working in a wide range of fields. Since the program began more than 60 years ago, thousands of volunteers have had the opportunity to live out their faith through this program of Mennonite Mission Network. Mennonite Mission Network is the mission agency of Mennonite Church USA and exists to lead, mobilize, and equip the church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ in a broken world. Mission Network envisions every congregation and all parts of the world being fully engaged in mission. More information about MVS is available [here](#).*

Mennonite Women USA

Carolyn Heggen and Rhoda Keener led Sister Care seminars in Camaguey and Havana, Cuba **November 23-28, 2015**. The events were hosted by the Cuban Council of Churches with 90 women from 17 denominations attending. They began each seminar by asking women to work in small groups to compile a list of the challenges faced by women in Cuba. Many noted economic difficulties; while each adult receives a monthly financial and food allotment, the amounts do not last for a month. Equally difficult is the scarcity of needed items; Cubans think of the USA blockade often because of the resultant severe shortages of medicine, food, parts for machinery, soap, and other necessities.

Responses to the seminars included:

- “I have felt loved in this workshop. I didn't want to face before how much pain I have hidden in my heart. I thank God that you created an atmosphere where I felt safe to look at the wounds I have carried for many years.”
- “Come back soon. If you come back you will see how we have put into practice these skills you have taught us about how to help others heal.”
- “Life for women here is very difficult and you have helped us with some tools to know how to help others and to help ourselves.”



Carolyn Heggen listening to Noyma Gonzalez in Havana.

Carolyn says: “While Cubans have been raised to see the US government as the cause of their shortages and problems and to see Americans as their enemies, I was touched by the warm response of the Cuban women to us and our presentations. I learned much from these women about courage and perseverance in difficult situations and have an increased appreciation for our global faith community.”

The Mennonite

Are you curious about what's happening across Mennonite Church USA? Do you wonder what Anabaptists are thinking and writing about? Then sign up for **TMail**, the weekly e-zine from The Mennonite, Inc. Each Monday, you'll receive a round-up of the week's five top Anabaptist news stories and blogs from across the country and around the world. TMail is a free resource. [Sign up today](#). If you want more in-depth coverage, you can also subscribe to receive *The Mennonite* magazine, a monthly periodical featuring profiles of people across Mennonite Church USA, as well as theological perspectives, opinion pieces and news.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Jan 4 (submissions due by 12/28)
Jan 18 (submissions due by 1/11)
Feb 1 (submissions due by 1/25)
Feb 15 (submissions due by 2/8)

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

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