



Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference

January 18, 2016

e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

Please share widely. If you receive this e-bulletin via more than one address, let us know which address you prefer. To submit announcements or manage your subscription, email brenda@pnmc.org. See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

From the PNMC Office

Thank you to Salem Mennonite Church for hosting the **2016 Conference Communications Council**. Thank you to everyone who took time to attend, and to the folks in Idaho who participated by video link. *It was good to have time together again!*



Want to know what our Executive Conference Minister is up to? Check out **Katherine's blog** at pnmcconferenceminister.tumblr.com to join her in visiting congregations, attending meetings, and searching for signs of God's reign among us. In addition to conference happenings, she promises occasional theological reflections and comments on the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.

The PNMC Board invites you to join them in **praying for the congregations that belong to our conference**. Each edition of the e-Bulletin will include the name of a congregation or two for which to pray. We begin 2016 praying for **Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita** and **Western Mennonite Church**. Both congregations serve the Salem community, and both have pastors who were trained through Hesston College's Pastoral Leadership Program! *May this be a year of growing in faith and ministry for both congregations.*

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Drift Creek Camp

Are you a quilter? Interested in learning? The **Drift Creek Quilters** host an annual spring retreat and this year's event is coming up **March 10-13, 2016**. There is still room for you, but registration is due by **February 1**. Information and registration form can be found on the Drift Creek Camp website [at this link](#).



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.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

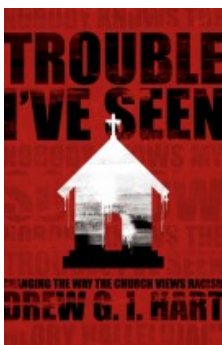
[Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth](#) gives young people in the 11th and 12th grades the chance to develop leadership gifts by engaging in the world of theological ideas and fostering a call to vocation in the church. During the 16-day Group Experience (**July 5-20, 2016**), youth worship, serve and study. Participants become church with and for each other while exploring their own places in their congregations and in the church they imagine for the future. The Congregational Experience comes before, after, or on both sides of the Group Experience. Participants serve in their congregation for 100 hours over a period of five or more weeks, working along side their pastor in a mentoring relationship.

Mennonite Church USA

Follow the link for the January 2016 edition of [Equipping](#).

Follow the link for the latest additions to the [#We Are Menno](#) campaign.

MennoMedia



What if racial reconciliation doesn't look like what we expected? The high-profile killings of young black men by white police officers, and the protests and violence that ensued, have convinced many white Christians to reexamine their intuitions when it comes to race and justice. [Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism](#), a provocative new book by Drew G. I. Hart, was recently released to coincide with the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, anti-black stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy from a distinctly African American viewpoint. He argues that white Christians have repeatedly gotten it wrong about race because dominant culture and white privilege have so thoroughly shaped their assumptions. He also challenges black Christians about neglecting the most vulnerable in their own communities. As he points readers toward Jesus, Hart offers concrete practices for churches seeking both solidarity with the oppressed and commitments to racial justice. Hart's passion for engaging the church on issues of race and justice stems from his own life and story:

I have a brother who is one year older than me. For much of my young life we shared a bedroom. We often played and fought together. Others have frequently told me that we look alike. As young black men and as brothers, my life was deeply bound up and connected with his. Late one night, my brother was hanging out with friends. They were just minding their business and having a good time. A police car drove by while my brother and his friends were outside and enjoying each other's company. The cop car drove by again. Once more the car drove by, but this time the police officers stopped and got out. They immediately arrested my brother for "fitting the description" of someone who had recently committed a crime. I am still troubled by the lack of description that my brother apparently fit. The only description they had of the guy they were looking for was "black male with a black T-shirt and blue jeans." My brother and his friends were not even at the scene of the crime, nor were they doing anything suspicious at all. But that description was evidently enough for these police officers to arrest and take him to the station. I later found out that the police also initially claimed that my brother had a bloodstain on his shirt. However, when the lab results came back, they learned that it was just a ketchup stain. My brother was eventually put into a lineup before the victim in the case. Of course he was not chosen, and finally he was released. But not before he had spent four months locked up in the county correctional facility. His crime? Being a young black man in a white-controlled society.

Mennonite Mission Network

The latest issue of [Anabaptist Witness](#), "[Taste and See: Anabaptism, Food, and Mission](#)" is now available!

Topics include: *the history of food in the UK Anabaptist movement; stories of constructive dialogue in Indonesia between Mennonite communities and Hezibollah; the early history of the Mennonite Brethren churches in the Chocó region of Colombia and how believers incorporated images of food into theology.* Enjoy original poetry, artwork, and articles from around the world!

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Feb 1 (submissions due by 1/25)

Feb 15 (submissions due by 2/8)

March 7 (submissions due by 2/29)

March 21 (submissions due by 3/14)

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>