

PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE

# TELL ME THE STORY



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Psalm 107: 1-3

2016 ANNUAL MEETING / ZION MENNONITE CHURCH / JUNE 23-25

22nd Annual Meeting

# DELEGATE HANDBOOK



Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite  
Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA

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# Welcome to Zion, 2016

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.  
Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south. -- Psalm 107: 1-3*

Dear Delegates of the PNMC,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we welcome you to the 22nd annual assembly at Zion Mennonite Church. This congregation traces its beginnings to 1893, a very long history in our region. We are grateful they are hosting our two days of worshiping, fellowshiping, and **discerning God's will together.**

Our Scripture theme from the 107th Psalm focuses on the goodness of God, who redeems and gathers from distant lands. We are excited and grateful to all of you traveling to be here from across our broad conference, eager to renew and begin relationships with one another. We have inherited the marvelous story about Jesus Christ's life and resurrection that informs our identity as Christians, and relationships with each other as brothers and sisters. For this very reason, our Board looks forward to our annual meeting each June, so that we might gain inspiration and courage as we hear from and learn about each other.

So come from east and west, from north and south, to share, sing, listen, learn, fellowship and love. This is our time to take our turn bearing witness to God's unchanging nature of goodness, creativity, majesty and love. Read the reports contained herein that tell the stories of the wonderful work of our church agencies. Depart from our meeting refreshed and renewed, with stories to bring back to your congregation. May God be glorified during our time together!

Grace & peace,

Jennifer Delanty  
PNMC Moderator

# Report from Executive Conference Minister

*Submitted by Katherine Jameson Pitts ~ April 2016*

*May grace and peace be lavished on you as you grow in the rich knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord!  
I can pray this because God's divine power has bestowed on us everything necessary for life and godliness through the rich  
knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and excellence. (2 Peter 1:2-3 NEB)*

This year has been one of wrestling with how to be the church together for our national church, and our conference has not been exempt from the struggle. We came away from our 2015 Annual Meeting in Lebanon acutely aware of some of our sharp differences. We met with other conferences at the MC USA Convention in Kansas City and passed two resolutions – one to treat each other with forbearance as we minister to and with LGBTQ persons in our congregations, and one to uphold the traditional teachings of the church on marriage. The PNMC Board has worked with how to live out those resolutions while being faithful to the spirit of both, as have a number of our congregations. The denomination has seen the withdrawal of several conferences in the past year. One congregation in PNMC, Iglesia Menonita Pentecostés, Woodburn, has withdrawn from the conference.

God has given us everything we need for our life together as God's people. This year one of my primary goals has been to meet with the Leadership Team of each congregation. As I do so, I am encouraged by the gifts and growth that are evident. In the life of the congregations of PNMC there is much evidence of grace and peace as we grow in the knowledge of Jesus our Lord! We have the gifts we need to be who we are. I look forward to continuing to develop ways to share these gifts with each other.

We are rich in the gift of generosity. This is the fourth consecutive year that PNMC ended our fiscal year in the black, even after running a deficit for much of the year. We are grateful for the unexpected gift this year from the estate of Linda Bartel, a long-time member of First Mennonite, Aberdeen. Congregations and individuals in PNMC continue to live lives of generous giving in so many ways.

We are rich in the gift of leadership. Central to our conference ministry are the District Pastors. This year, two District Pastors, Dave Stutzman and Al Lind, have retired from this ministry. In addition, Victor Vargas resigned his position. The combined wisdom of these leaders will be missed. Several current District Pastors have taken on additional congregations and Samuel Moran is joining Wendell Amstutz to serve the congregations of CIHAN. In local congregation pastoral leadership transitions, Seattle Mennonite Church welcomed Megan Ramer as their new lead pastor in September. Other congregations in pastoral transition are being served by interim pastors: Lyn and Jeanie Hershey at First Mennonite, Aberdeen, Jim Corley at River of Life, Jessica Wright at Evergreen Mennonite, and Brie Kruger at Portland Mennonite. We continue to pray for more permanent leadership for these congregations as well as for Prince of Peace, Alaska, as they engage the process of pastoral search.

We are rich in the desire to discern the moving of the Holy Spirit. Our congregations take seriously the call to be communities of discernment – discerning what God desires in our fellowship and discerning where God is at work in the world. I am so grateful to see our congregations finding ways to talk with one another about difficult topics, to worship together across differences, and to work together in our various contexts as the body of Christ.

*Giving thanks for the lavish gifts of God and in praise of the glory of Christ.*

# **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.

# 2015 PNMC Delegate Session Minutes

PNMC Annual Delegate Session – June 19-20, 2015  
Lebanon Mennonite Church, Lebanon, OR

## Delegate Session #1 Friday 10:45 am

### **Jennifer welcomed the delegates and introduced guests:**

Marlene Bogard – Executive director of Mennonite Women USA

Iris de León-Hartshorn – MC USA Director of Transformative Peacemaking

Ken Hawkey – Anabaptist Mennonite Bible Seminary, Associate Director of Development

Duncan Smith- Director for Corinthian Plan

Marisa Smucker- Mennonite Mission Network, Church Relations Associate

Joshua Janzen – Ministry Inquiry Program Student from Bethel College serving at Salem

Halle Steingass Ministry Inquiry Program Student from Goshen College serving at Zion

PNMC Affiliated Organizations

Karen Litwiller – OR Mennonite Residential Services

Ron Litwiller – Mennonite Village

Table groups were given time to get acquainted with each other, review the table group covenant, and pray.

The minutes of the 2014 Kalispell, MT delegate session were approved as presented in the Delegate Handbook.

**MSC: Linda Dibble, Jack Swaim**

### **ECM Report**

#### **Katherine Jameson Pitts**

Katherine named examples of ways our mission statement-- “make strong connections throughout the conference” – was lived out this year.

- Anawim applied for a Seed NorthWest grant for a storage shed and laundry facilities to be used by the homeless population. The matching portion was raised quickly from among other PNMC congregations
- Many congregations held joint worship services with other PNMC congregations, many congregations participated in service projects with each other, and congregations had speakers from other PNMC congregations.

A focus for the year was to revisit and renew our relationships with affiliated Mennonite organizations to support their missions in the Pacific Northwest. Conversations with Western Mennonite School regarding the lawsuit and the nature of our relationship are ongoing.

Nurturing healthy congregations remains a priority, especially assisting in pastoral transitions.

- Two new pastors were called this year:  
Victor Fuentes (Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva)  
Larry Moskwick (Spring Valley)  
Katherine gave each of them a flask of anointing oil to represent their anointing as pastors and our blessing as a conference.
- Seattle Mennonite completed a pastor search, calling Megan Ramer to join them in the fall of this year.
- Prince of Peace, Alaska and First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen, Idaho are starting pastoral searches.
- There was no turn over in District Pastors this year. Katherine prayed for the District Pastors.
- Marc Schlegel-Preheim, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise ID, was approved for ordination. Katherine prayed a prayer of blessing for him.

Katherine was appointed as Vice-chair of Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA) Constituency Leadership Council (CLC).

Looking ahead, Katherine hopes to promote personal spiritual development and work at ways for us to call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world. The world needs us to be deeply rooted in our relationship with Christ.

## **Treasurers Report**

### **FY 15**

The year ended with a \$10,916 budget surplus instead of a \$23,615 deficit as budgeted.

Income exceeded expectations: congregational giving was \$5943 over budget and the 2014 Annual Meeting brought in \$4441 more than expected.

Expenses were under budget overall including staff expenses and Annual Meeting expenses. Administrative expenses were the one category over budget due to translation expenses and insurance costs coming in higher than expected.

### **FY 16**

The budgeted deficit of \$29,283 reflects an expected decrease in congregational giving of \$3796 as well as a \$5684 increase in budgeted expenses due to increases in staff costs, travel reimbursements, and translation services.

Questions from delegates:

How is the budget YTD? – The timing of congregational giving varies, but seems to be comparable to other years at this time.

It was noted that the balance statement is not in the Delegate Handbook. The balance statement as well as YTD for FY16 will be sent to delegates via email attachment.

Jennifer introduced interpreters: Danny Arguello and Felix Rosales

### **Jennifer introduced the ballot:**

#### Nominees for Affirmation by Delegates

Tom Breneman, Zion Mennonite Church – Secretary

Kathleen Aeschilman, Albany Mennonite Church – At-Large Member

Bob Buxman – Portland Mennonite Church – Gift Discernment Team

Brent Kauffman, Lebanon Mennonite Church- Gift Discernment Team

#### PNMC Board of Directors appointments:

Matt Yoder, Menno Mennonite Church – completing 4 year term for exiting Director

Gloria Nussbaum, Portland Mennonite Church – Conference Historian

Beth Landis, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship– PNMC Representative on West Coast MCC Board of Directors

Gerry Langstraat, Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship—Sanctuary Property Management Chair

Randy Friesen, Eugene Mennonite Church – Finance Team

Darrel Wisseman, Bend Mennonite Church – Finance Team

### **Delegate Session #2 Saturday 8:30am**

### **Jennifer opened with prayer and a devotional from “Jesus Calling.”**

Dwelling in the Word -- Leo Hartshorn

Luke 24: 44-49 with prayers and readings from session 5 “The word for the Journey” from “On the Way,” a spiritual discernment guide written by Leo Hartshorn for MC USA churches in preparation for convention.

### **Action Item**

Delegates were asked to fill out the ballot presented in yesterday’s delegate session. Ballots were completed and collected.

### **Discernment**

Jennifer and Samuel introduced the discernment process.

Iris de León-Hartshorn led the group in the discussions and survey completion.



- Each person filled out “snap shot” survey with seven questions about personal views regarding same-sex orientation. People were asked to describe their personal view using a scale of 1 (more traditional view) to 5 (more inclusive view). During the break, board members compiled this data by transferring this individual information to seven large papers on the walls (one for each question) using sticky dots to illustrate the range of individual opinions.

Table groups were asked to discuss their observations about the compiled “snap shot” information. Some table feedback shared with the larger group includes the following:  
Polarity exists as the majority of dots on every paper were at either 1 or 5 with fewer dots between. This polarity reflects our culture’s polarity. Our differences arise from differences in how we read and interpret scripture

Iris shared that the 6 member MC USA cabinet took this survey and their result showed the same spread of opinion. The breadth of views in the PNMC is reflective of the larger church.

- A second question was distributed – “Can we be church together in the midst of our different views on how the church should respond to same gender attraction?” People answered individually and turned them in. Results were again reflected on a piece of newsprint with dots.

Table groups discussed the above question and “snap shot” of responses. Some table feedback shared with the larger group includes the following:  
Responses to this question were polarized also. We need to continue to converse. Have we lost confidence with each other? How does so much polarity affect ministry?

- Discussion Question: “How do we remain church together with these differences?”  
Table groups were asked to come up with three ideas in response to this question. Ideas are written on papers that are placed on the wall for consideration by the entire group.

During break, the idea papers were put into groups with others of similar content. Each person was given 3 dots to place on the groups they felt would be most helpful for PNMC to remain together.

### **Delegate Session #3 Saturday 3:30pm**

Jennifer announced the affirmation of the ballot.  
Jennifer introduced Nancy Kauffmann, MC USA Denominational Minister.

Iris continued to lead the discernment process.

The four responses to “How do we remain church together?” that got most dots are as follows:  
Listen and share stories, Practice forbearance, Emphasize fellowship, Rely on the Holy Spirit and prayer

Iris gave an opportunity for final sharing:

Miguel Castillo stated he speaks for six CIHAN churches and Warden Mennonite. CIHAN churches share the belief that the Bible teaches that marriage is to be between one man and one woman, and they support the Mennonite Confession of Faith that states this. He stated that if conference is leaning toward the inclusion of homosexuals, CIHAN will contemplate withdrawing from PNMC. They have formed a commission of five people to give attention to this.

Jennifer Delanty referred to the PNMC Policy on Termination of Membership and asked that any churches who choose to withdraw follow this policy.

John Beechy inquired as to what efforts CIHAN has made to understand the more inclusive viewpoint.

Meg Lumsdaine, pastor of Evergreen Mennonite, speaking for herself, said that while she is comfortable with monogamous same sex relations, she is troubled that including this minority will cause the loss of the minority voice of people of color.

Pat Hershberger noted the efforts made in the past to bring groups in to the PNMC. She referred to Paul's teaching that calls factions to work together, suggesting that God calls us to a greater unity than the issues of our day.

Kevin Schumacher, of Calvary Mennonite stated he stands with CIHAN. He shared his personal perspective on homosexuality and that he believes the Bible is clear that homosexuality is a sin, calling leaders and pastors to take a loving stand.

Halle Steingass, Ministry Inquiry Program Student from Goshen College serving at Zion, stated that arguments where people do not have mutual respect for each other do not go over well with her generation. She suggested that finding common ground amidst disagreement is important if the church is to be passed on to the next generation.

To close the Discernment Process, the group sang "You are all we have."

#### Moderators Report      Jennifer Delanty

1. The Board set priorities that supported congregations.
2. Significant time was given to discerning a way forward with the Sanctuary property. A new agreement between the tenants, Bethel and Anawim, and PNMC is in progress.
3. The Gift Discernment team worked hard to fill the ballot.
4. Board members and staff enjoyed visiting congregations.
5. Board members and staff had involvements beyond the Pacific Northwest including MC USA's CLC, the Israel/Palestine tour hosted by MC USA, a Doctrine of Discovery seminar, and in a couple weeks, the national conference in Kansas City.
6. A finance team was created to give attention to financial health.
7. Board members committed themselves to working together and centering their discernment in Jesus even though they have different convictions regarding homosexuality.
8. Katherine signed a contract for a second term.

Jennifer invited new and returning board members forward for prayer.

The meeting was closed at 4:20.

Zion invited the conference to their church for next year's Annual Meeting, June 24, 25, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Dorsing,  
PNMC Secretary

## 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 **Zion 2016**, 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 2015 Financial Results and 2016 Budget**

The fiscal year that ended January 31, 2016 saw PNMC with an unexpected budget surplus of \$4638; \$22,404 more than the budgeted deficit of \$17,767.

*Detailed notes from financial statements for the year are below.*

#### **Income Statement**

- Giving from congregations was below expectations, with some support being withheld because of disagreement in the recent conversations on sexuality.
- Giving from individuals far exceeded expectations due largely to a gift from the estate of Linda Bartel of Aberdeen, Idaho.
- Income from our annual meeting was below expectations but expenses were far lower so the gathering stayed in the black. The same was true for income and expenses related to the Peace Mennonite property.
- Other income was down due to PNMC's investment accounts, which fell in value in 2015 along with the rest of the broader market.
- Staff expenses came in under budget because employees did not work as many hours as had been expected.
- Translation expenses were \$2200 over budget but this was offset by travel expenses coming in \$3800 under budget.
- The pastoral leadership team line was over budget due to costs of the annual pastors' retreat.

#### **Balance Sheet**

When Peace Mennonite Church in metro Portland closed in 2010 its property was given to the conference. At that time the conference board did envision administering property long-term so it was not added to PNMC's balance sheet. Five years later PNMC continues to own the land and should therefore see it included on the balance sheet. The amount listed on the balance sheet is the value of the land at the time of its acquisition in 2010. (Adding only the value of the land simplifies the accounting by avoiding the need to calculate a value on and then depreciate the structures.) Recording the property in PNMC's financials significantly impacted the balance sheet by increasing equity and assets by \$434,470 but had no effect on net income or cash flows.

As of January 31, 2016, net assets available totaled \$209,535.

#### **Statement of Cash Flows**

During the fiscal year, net cash increased by \$1133.

**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**  
**Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2016**  
February 2015 - January 2016

	Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4101 Member Church Contributions</b>				
410101 Albany	9,500.00	9,600.00	(100.00)	98.96%
410102 Anawim Christian Community	200.00	0.00	200.00	
410103 Calvary	1,250.00	5,000.00	(3,750.00)	25.00%
410104 Centro Cristiano Pentecostes	700.00	700.00	0.00	100.00%
410106 Corvallis	3,200.00	3,200.00	0.00	100.00%
410108 Emmaus	720.00	720.00	0.00	100.00%
410109 Eugene	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.00%
410110 Evergreen	2,060.00	2,000.00	60.00	103.00%
410112 Evergreen Heights	1,070.00	2,000.00	(930.00)	53.50%
410114 Filer	1,852.10	1,400.00	452.10	132.29%
410118 First - Aberdeen	4,375.00	3,500.00	875.00	125.00%
410120 First - McMinnville	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	0.00%
410122 Hyde Park	6,499.56	6,201.00	298.56	104.81%
410126 Iglesia Men. Roca De Salvacion	900.00	900.00	0.00	100.00%
410127 International Bethel City Church	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
410130 Lebanon	6,000.00	7,200.00	(1,200.00)	83.33%
410132 Logsden	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	100.00%
410133 Menno	5,477.92	5,500.00	(22.08)	99.60%
410135 Mountain View	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	100.00%
410137 Pacific Covenant	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00%
410142 Portland	21,239.81	20,500.00	739.81	103.61%
410143 Prince of Peace (AK)	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00	100.00%
410146 Bend Mennonite Church	0.00	400.00	(400.00)	0.00%
410148 River of Life	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	100.00%
410150 Salem	15,719.00	15,262.00	457.00	102.99%
410152 Seattle	13,775.00	13,275.00	500.00	103.77%
410154 Shalom	770.00	750.00	20.00	102.67%
410156 Spring Valley	183.00	280.00	(97.00)	65.36%
410160 Warden	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.00%
410162 Western	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00	100.00%
410164 Zion	17,500.00	16,600.00	900.00	105.42%
<b>Total 4101 Member Church Contributions</b>	<b>127,541.39</b>	<b>130,988.00</b>	<b>(3,446.61)</b>	<b>97.37%</b>
<b>4200 Other Contributions</b>				
			0.00	
4206 Contributions-Individuals	21,403.28	1,000.00	20,403.28	2140.33%
4208 Affiliated Mennonite Groups	4,450.00	4,200.00	250.00	105.95%

4210 Contributions-Others	89.08	0.00	89.08	
<b>Total 4200 Other Contributions</b>	<b>25,942.36</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>	<b>20,742.36</b>	<b>498.89%</b>
<b>4400 Annual Meeting Income</b>			0.00	
4401 Registration, Housing, Meals	11,757.29	13,400.00	(1,642.71)	87.74%
4402 Delegate Assistance Fund	50.00	500.00	(450.00)	10.00%
4403 Offerings-Annual Meeting	1,630.70	683.00	947.70	238.76%
4404 Pastor Dinner Contributions	742.38	700.00	42.38	106.05%
4408 Other Income-Annual Meeting			0.00	
440802 Reimbursements	269.25	0.00	269.25	
<b>Total 4408 Other Income-Annual Meeting</b>	<b>269.25</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>269.25</b>	
<b>Total 4400 Annual Meeting Income</b>	<b>14,449.62</b>	<b>15,283.00</b>	<b>(833.38)</b>	<b>94.55%</b>
<b>4700 Interest/Dividend Income</b>			0.00	
4701 Checking/Bank MM Interest	26.03	12.00	14.03	216.92%
4703 Investment Interest Earnings			0.00	
470302 MMA Praxis Money Market	405.71	432.00	(26.29)	93.91%
<b>Total 4703 Investment Interest Earnings</b>	<b>405.71</b>	<b>432.00</b>	<b>(26.29)</b>	<b>93.91%</b>
<b>Total 4700 Interest/Dividend Income</b>	<b>431.74</b>	<b>444.00</b>	<b>(12.26)</b>	<b>97.24%</b>
<b>4800 Investment Gains/Losses</b>			0.00	
4802 MF Stock/Bond Fund Income	308.58	410.00	(101.42)	75.26%
4804 Market Value Change-Investments	(779.51)	750.00	(1,529.51)	-103.93%
<b>Total 4800 Investment Gains/Losses</b>	<b>(470.93)</b>	<b>1,160.00</b>	<b>(1,630.93)</b>	<b>-40.60%</b>
<b>4820 Peace Mennonite Properties</b>			0.00	
4821 Rental Income			0.00	
482101 Church Rent	35,120.00	35,784.13	(664.13)	98.14%
<b>Total 4821 Rental Income</b>	<b>35,120.00</b>	<b>35,784.13</b>	<b>(664.13)</b>	<b>98.14%</b>
<b>Total 4820 Peace Mennonite Properties</b>	<b>35,120.00</b>	<b>35,784.13</b>	<b>(664.13)</b>	<b>98.14%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>203,014.18</b>	<b>188,859.13</b>	<b>14,155.05</b>	<b>107.50%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>5100 Exec. Conf. Minister Support</b>			0.00	
5101 Salary/Housing	59,106.96	56,767.00	2,339.96	104.12%
5104 FICA Support	555.04	2,220.00	(1,664.96)	25.00%
5105 Corinthian Plan Premiums	13,615.41	15,183.00	(1,567.59)	89.68%
5106 Retirement	4,719.00	4,721.00	(2.00)	99.96%
5107 Medical HRA	803.99	3,000.00	(2,196.01)	26.80%
<b>Total 5100 Exec. Conf. Minister Support</b>	<b>78,800.40</b>	<b>81,891.00</b>	<b>(3,090.60)</b>	<b>96.23%</b>
<b>5170 District Pastor Expense</b>			0.00	
5171 District Pastor Stipends	16,650.00	18,000.00	(1,350.00)	92.50%
5172 District Pastor Annual Gathering	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.00%
5173 District Pastor Non Travel Expense	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 5170 District Pastor Expense</b>	<b>16,650.00</b>	<b>19,100.00</b>	<b>(2,450.00)</b>	<b>87.17%</b>
<b>5240 Administrative Asst</b>			0.00	
5241 Salary Admin Asst	11,007.50	13,000.00	(1,992.50)	84.67%
5242 FICA Admin Asst	1,055.44	994.00	61.44	106.18%
<b>Total 5240 Administrative Asst</b>	<b>12,062.94</b>	<b>13,994.00</b>	<b>(1,931.06)</b>	<b>86.20%</b>

5250 Communications Coordinator			0.00	
5251 Salary Communications Coordinator	3,258.38	4,048.00	(789.62)	80.49%
5252 FICA Support	320.45	312.00	8.45	102.71%
<b>Total 5250 Communications Coordinator</b>	<b>3,578.83</b>	<b>4,360.00</b>	<b>(781.17)</b>	<b>82.08%</b>
5500 Pastoral Leadership Team			0.00	
5501 Pastors' Retreat	4,631.54	2,400.00	2,231.54	192.98%
5506 Non-Travel Expenses	246.00	250.00	(4.00)	98.40%
<b>Total 5500 Pastoral Leadership Team</b>	<b>4,877.54</b>	<b>2,650.00</b>	<b>2,227.54</b>	<b>184.06%</b>
5530 Theological Education Team			0.00	
5532 Theological Education	0.00	400.00	(400.00)	0.00%
5535 Ministry Inquiry Program	500.00	500.00	0.00	100.00%
<b>Total 5530 Theological Education Team</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>900.00</b>	<b>(400.00)</b>	<b>55.56%</b>
5814 Mexico Work			0.00	
581415 Leadership Exchange	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 5814 Mexico Work</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>(3,000.00)</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
5900 Board of Directors			0.00	
5901 Non-Travel Expenses	369.33	0.00	369.33	
<b>Total 5900 Board of Directors</b>	<b>369.33</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>369.33</b>	
5950 Contracted Services			0.00	
5958 Translation Services	6,195.60	4,000.00	2,195.60	154.89%
<b>Total 5950 Contracted Services</b>	<b>6,195.60</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>2,195.60</b>	<b>154.89%</b>
6000 Conference Office	69.19	0.00	69.19	
6004 Handbook	384.45	400.00	(15.55)	96.11%
6010 Office Supply	1,292.53	1,200.00	92.53	107.71%
6011 Conference Office	980.60	0.00	980.60	
6014 Misc Expense	0.00	400.00	(400.00)	0.00%
6015 Office Communication	2,056.05	2,100.00	(43.95)	97.91%
6019 Rental/Lease Expenses	200.00	0.00	200.00	
<b>Total 6000 Conference Office</b>	<b>4,982.82</b>	<b>4,100.00</b>	<b>882.82</b>	<b>121.53%</b>
6112 Travel Pool & Meeting Expense			0.00	
611201 Travel - Board	4,429.98	6,000.00	(1,570.02)	73.83%
611202 Travel - Exec Conf Minister	8,319.54	8,000.00	319.54	103.99%
611203 Travel - District Pastors	10,556.91	14,400.00	(3,843.09)	73.31%
611204 Travel - Teams/Committees	308.69	750.00	(441.31)	41.16%
611205 Travel - Churchwide Events	4,360.92	2,500.00	1,860.92	174.44%
611206 Travel - PNMC Office	509.86	500.00	9.86	101.97%
611207 Travel - Communications Coordinator	31.32	200.00	(168.68)	15.66%
<b>Total 6112 Travel Pool &amp; Meeting Expense</b>	<b>28,517.22</b>	<b>32,350.00</b>	<b>(3,832.78)</b>	<b>88.15%</b>
6220 Professional Development Expenses	1,658.49	1,000.00	658.49	165.85%
6290 Annual Meeting			0.00	
6291 Facilities-Annual Meeting	0.00	500.00	(500.00)	0.00%
6292 Food-Annual Meeting	3,000.00	5,000.00	(2,000.00)	60.00%
629205 Food-Pastor Dinner	728.00	0.00	728.00	
<b>Total 6292 Food-Annual Meeting</b>	<b>3,728.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>(1,272.00)</b>	<b>74.56%</b>

6293 Assistance Fund Expenditures	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.00%
6294 Conference Speakers	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
629401 Conference Speaker	0.00	1,350.00	(1,350.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 6294 Conference Speakers</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>1,350.00</b>	<b>(350.00)</b>	<b>74.07%</b>
6295 Translating/Interpreting	2,492.70	2,700.00	(207.30)	92.32%
6297 Other Annual Meeting Exp	415.69	300.00	115.69	138.56%
<b>Total 6290 Annual Meeting</b>	<b>7,636.39</b>	<b>10,850.00</b>	<b>(3,213.61)</b>	<b>70.38%</b>
6300 Conference Communications Council	325.00	500.00	(175.00)	65.00%
6301 CCC-translation	253.90	0.00	253.90	
<b>Total 6300 Conference Communications Council</b>	<b>578.90</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>78.90</b>	<b>115.78%</b>
6400 Other Expenses			0.00	
6402 Investment/Checking Fees	663.83	500.00	163.83	132.77%
6406 Workers Compensation Insurance	(2.44)	130.00	(132.44)	-1.88%
6408 Property, Liability Insurance	3,029.20	4,500.00	(1,470.80)	67.32%
6409 Accounting, Legal, Professional Fees	0.00	300.00	(300.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 6400 Other Expenses</b>	<b>3,690.59</b>	<b>5,430.00</b>	<b>(1,739.41)</b>	<b>67.97%</b>
6510 Peace Mennonite Property			0.00	
6511 Management Fees			0.00	
651106 PNMC Staff Expense	0.00	(2,400.00)	2,400.00	0.00%
<b>Total 6511 Management Fees</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(2,400.00)</b>	<b>2,400.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
6512 Utilities			0.00	
651201 Utilities-Sanctuary	16,998.38	12,300.00	4,698.38	138.20%
651203 Utilities-Annex/Barn	640.25	600.00	40.25	106.71%
<b>Total 6512 Utilities</b>	<b>17,638.63</b>	<b>12,900.00</b>	<b>4,738.63</b>	<b>136.73%</b>
6515 Maintenance and Repair			0.00	
651501 Maintenance-Sanctuary	10,638.33	11,000.00	(361.67)	96.71%
651503 Maintenance-Annex/Barn	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 6515 Maintenance and Repair</b>	<b>10,638.33</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>(1,361.67)</b>	<b>88.65%</b>
<b>Total 6510 Peace Mennonite Property</b>	<b>28,276.96</b>	<b>22,500.00</b>	<b>5,776.96</b>	<b>125.68%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>198,376.01</b>	<b>206,625.00</b>	<b>(8,248.99)</b>	<b>96.01%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>4,638.17</b>	<b>(17,765.87)</b>	<b>22,404.04</b>	<b>-26.11%</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
7000 Designated Contributions				
700001 NW Mexico Project Fund	3,575.00	0.00	3,575.00	
700002 Seed NW	500.00	0.00	500.00	
700003 Mennonite Women	50.00	0.00	50.00	
<b>Total 7000 Designated Contributions</b>	<b>4,125.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,125.00</b>	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>4,125.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,125.00</b>	
<b>Other Expenses</b>				
8000 Designated Expenses	4,125.00	0.00	4,125.00	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>4,125.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,125.00</b>	
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>4,638.17</b>	<b>(17,765.87)</b>	<b>4,638.17</b>	



# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

## Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2016

	Total			
	As of Jan 31, 2016	As of Jan 31, 2015 (PY)	Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
110201 Checking Account (US Bank)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
110202 General Fund Checking (US Bank)	\$165,195.68	\$162,579.14	\$2,616.54	1.61%
Total 110201 Checking Account (US Bank)	<b>\$165,195.68</b>	<b>\$162,579.14</b>	<b>\$2,616.54</b>	<b>1.61%</b>
110205 Sharing/Resrv Fund (US Bank MM)	\$11,568.52	\$13,457.50	-\$1,888.98	-14.04%
110302 Money Market Fund (MMA Praxis)	\$271,157.20	\$270,751.49	\$405.71	0.15%
Total Bank Accounts	<b>\$447,921.40</b>	<b>\$446,788.13</b>	<b>\$1,133.27</b>	<b>0.25%</b>
Total Current Assets	<b>\$447,921.40</b>	<b>\$446,788.13</b>	<b>\$1,133.27</b>	<b>0.25%</b>
Fixed Assets				
130002 Peace Mennonite & Parsonage Parcels	\$434,470.00		\$434,470.00	
Total Fixed Assets	<b>\$434,470.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$434,470.00</b>	
Other Assets				
110600 Endowment Funds			\$0.00	
110603 Stock & Bond Fund (Menn Found)	\$12,712.06	\$13,245.48	-\$533.42	-4.03%
Total 110600 Endowment Funds	<b>\$12,712.06</b>	<b>\$13,245.48</b>	<b>-\$533.42</b>	<b>-4.03%</b>
Total Other Assets	<b>\$12,712.06</b>	<b>\$13,245.48</b>	<b>-\$533.42</b>	<b>-4.03%</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$895,103.46</b>	<b>\$460,033.61</b>	<b>\$435,069.85</b>	<b>94.57%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
2000 Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$3,517.00	-\$3,517.00	-100.00%
Total Accounts Payable	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,517.00</b>	<b>-\$3,517.00</b>	<b>-100.00%</b>
Other Current Liabilities				
200100 Miscellaneous Pass-Through	\$3,583.25	-\$291.75	\$3,875.00	1328.19%
200105 Mexico Project Fund	\$7,361.64	\$4,966.65	\$2,394.99	48.22%
210000 Payroll Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2102 Federal Withholding	\$1,062.88	\$1,074.19	-\$11.31	-1.05%
2104 State Withholding (OR)	\$383.23	\$377.82	\$5.41	1.43%
210401 Oregon Unempl	\$139.16	\$109.60	\$29.56	26.97%
Total 210000 Payroll Liabilities	<b>\$1,585.27</b>	<b>\$1,561.61</b>	<b>\$23.66</b>	<b>1.52%</b>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<b>\$12,530.16</b>	<b>\$6,236.51</b>	<b>\$6,293.65</b>	<b>100.92%</b>

<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$12,530.16</b>	<b>\$9,753.51</b>	<b>\$2,776.65</b>	<b>28.47%</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$12,530.16</b>	<b>\$9,753.51</b>	<b>\$2,776.65</b>	<b>28.47%</b>
<b>Equity</b>				
300105 Peace Rental Funds	\$104,352.31	\$104,352.31	\$0.00	0.00%
300106 Peace Campus Funds	\$18,824.02	\$18,824.02	\$0.00	0.00%
300107 Peace Mennonite Church Land Equity	\$434,470.00		\$434,470.00	
320700 Loan Funds			\$0.00	
320702 Memorial Loan Fund (Equipment)	\$3,160.34	\$3,160.34	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Total 320700 Loan Funds</b>	<b>\$3,160.34</b>	<b>\$3,160.34</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
320800 Ministry Funds			\$0.00	
320801 Seed Northwest	\$91,728.00	\$95,000.00	-\$3,272.00	-3.44%
320805 PNMC Mennonite Women	\$82.00	\$82.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Total 320800 Ministry Funds</b>	<b>\$91,810.00</b>	<b>\$95,082.00</b>	<b>-\$3,272.00</b>	<b>-3.44%</b>
34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds			\$0.00	
34001 Sharing Fund - Ins Premium	\$5,520.31	\$6,720.31	-\$1,200.00	-17.86%
34002 Sharing Fund - Catastrophe	\$4,297.74	\$6,722.74	-\$2,425.00	-36.07%
<b>Total 34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds</b>	<b>\$9,818.05</b>	<b>\$13,443.05</b>	<b>-\$3,625.00</b>	<b>-26.97%</b>
3500 Net Assets Available	\$209,534.50	\$209,534.50	\$0.00	0.00%
3900 Retained Earnings	\$5,883.88	-\$5,032.60	\$10,916.48	216.92%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$4,720.20</b>	<b>\$10,916.48</b>	<b>-\$6,196.28</b>	<b>-56.76%</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$882,573.30</b>	<b>\$450,280.10</b>	<b>\$432,293.20</b>	<b>96.01%</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$895,103.46</b>	<b>\$460,033.61</b>	<b>\$435,069.85</b>	<b>94.57%</b>

**BALLOT 2016**  
**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**  
Hubbard, Oregon  
**June 24-25, 2016**

Nominees for Affirmation by Delegates:

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderator-Elect – 4 year term<br/>Todd Lehman, Salem Mennonite Church</li></ul>  | Term expires 2020 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board of Directors, At-Large Member – 4 year term<br/>Janet Szabo, Mountain View Mennonite Church</li></ul>                          | Term expires 2020 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gift Discernment Team – 1 year term<br/>Brent Kauffman, Lebanon Mennonite Church<br/>Joseph Penner, Salem Mennonite Church</li></ul> | Term expires 2017 |

# TEAM / MINISTRY REPORTS

## Pastoral Leadership Team

*Submitted by Rod Stafford, PLT Chair*

March 30, 2016

The Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) is responsible primarily for the credentialing of pastors and other church workers in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC).

In the past year this has included the following:

- Victor Fuentes, pastor of Comunidad Cristiana de Vida Nueva, was interviewed for licensing toward ordination on October 14, 2015. He was affirmed as a candidate and granted licensing. Todd Lehman, Pastor of Salem Mennonite Church, will serve as a mentor for the next two years.
- Jennifer Gingerich, a hospital chaplain, was interviewed for ordination for pastoral ministry in Mennonite Church USA and affirmed on February 18, 2016.
- Victor Vargas' credential was withdrawn as a result of the withdrawal of Iglesia Menonita Pentecostés from PNMC.

Other actions of the PLT have included:

- An annual review and update of the roster of credentialed people in PNMC.
- Planning for a mandatory session on sexual ethics and boundaries at the annual conference at Zion Mennonite Church in June 2016. The session will be translated into Spanish. For those unable to attend, an alternative will be provided.

At the PNMC annual meeting in Lebanon in June 2015, Rod Stafford was affirmed for another term as chair of the PLT. Meghan Good, 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 work as recorder.

- Submitted by Rod Stafford (March 30, 2016)

## Historian's Report

*Submitted by Gloria Nussbaum, PNMC Historian, April, 2016*

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society (PNMHS), the repository for all of the documents for the congregations in the PNMC, is thriving but needs more visitors, a higher profile and better participation with our member congregations. One of the things that I hope to work at during my tenure as conference historian is to have a “congregational historian” in every congregation that is part of the PNMC. To date I am aware of only a few congregations that have such a person designated. If your congregation has not yet identified your congregational historian, I hope you could find such a person and let me know who she/he is ASAP.

A highlight each year is the PNMHS Annual Meeting held in January at Zion Mennonite Church. The 2015 speaker was Marisabel Gouverneur who spoke about how she discovered Mennonites and her experiences with us in her talk entitled, *“The ‘M’ People.”*

In October the Society hosted a free Sunday afternoon workshop entitled *“Your Story Matters.”* Twenty people attended and were given tips on how to preserve personal and faith stories. We hope to have other events that will bring people to the Center.

We ended 2015 with 2,912 books and pamphlets in our library of which 267 were added this year.

One of the advantages of our Annual Conference being held at Zion Mennonite Church this year is that the Ivan and Pearl Kropf Heritage Center, which is the home of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society, is located on the same campus in Hubbard, OR. The PNMHS is a treasure trove of information re the Mennonite church in the Northwest. During the conference, the PNMHS will be presenting several workshops, one specifically aimed at helping congregational historians better understand their roles and providing guidelines to help them understand what is worth saving and what is not. There will also be opportunities to tour the Center during the conference.

To learn more about the wealth of resources at the PHMHS, check out the website: [www.pnmhs.org](http://www.pnmhs.org)

# CIHAN

*Submitted by Nelly Moran Ascencio*

April 20, 2016

Greetings to all of you, from CIHAN and PNMC Hispanic congregations.

The resolution discussion brought to us lots of anxiety, and disagreements among us, after attending our PNMC Annual meeting and MCUSA Convention 2015. CIHAN's Council decided to appoint a "Discernment Committee," in order to guide CIHAN leadership and congregations, to practice autonomy, and independent decision-making regarding their membership with PNMC. The Discernment Committee sent a letter to each congregation, requesting a final decision of whether or not they would continue their alliance with PNMC. The following was the conclusion: 5 congregations will continue with their membership for the next four years, unless there are changes to the Confession of Faith. Moreover, 1 congregation is still in discernment, and 1 congregation determined to separate from PNMC and CIHAN. As you can imagine, many of our congregations lost numerous members due to remaining with PNMC. The Council will continue to work for 6 more months; then after the PNMC Annual meeting, the Council will reevaluate whether it will continue to exist. Lastly, we would like to inform you that CIHAN lost 6 leaders, 2 Board members (Moderate Elect and Treasury), and 4 members from the Men and Women Committee, as they were all members of the congregation that separated.

Iglesia Menonita Pentecostes (Woodburn) officially announced their separation with PNMC and CIHAN through a declaration letter. This letter brought many misinterpretations. Due to these misunderstandings, our PNMC Hispanic pastors re-summarized Pentecostes' separation decision, to clarify their decision, in which was read publically at each congregation (see attachment).

Even though we went thru challenging times, we are looking forward to our upcoming events: Confraternidades (united worship service), Committee events (children, youth, men and women ministry), the pastoral meetings, and the EBAFOM theological courses by Pastor Samuel Moran.

May the peace of God be with you.

Nelly Moran-Ascencio  
Large At CIHAN  
2014-2016

*"Be Strong and of a good courage."* Joshua 1:9

# **Concilio de Iglesias Hispanas Anabautistas del Noroeste CIHAN**

March 5, 2016

As pastors: Ángel Campo, Miguel Castillo, Víctor Estrada, Víctor Fuentes, Samuel Morán, Simón Rendón and Wendell Amstutz, we express together:

- First, our sadness at the decision of Iglesia Pentecostés of Woodburn to leave PNMC and as a consequence, also deciding to break the fellowship that for over 20 years has united us as Hispanic churches in CIHAN.
- Second, we lament that this decision of our brothers in Iglesia Pentecostés of Woodburn has generated rumors and negative comments saying that the Hispanic churches and pastors that decided to remain in CIHAN are contaminated with sin, have strayed from the truth of the Word of God, and are “tolerating” sin in the lives of other persons.
- Third, we lament that the word “forbearance” in English has been mis-translated as “tolerancia” in Spanish because this has led to the assumption that the churches of CIHAN agree to tolerate or share in sinful behavior.

For these reasons we, as pastors, declare and affirm:

- That at no time or circumstance have we shown any intention to retract or negotiate what we firmly believe, practice and teach about the Bible, the Word of God. As concerns marriage, we believe and teach that “the intention of God is that marriage be a lifetime covenant between one man and one woman”, which is a Biblical affirmation also expressed in Art. 19 of the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective 1995.
- That our mission as pastors is to proclaim to all persons to whom we have the opportunity the transforming message of the Gospel, inviting all to repentance and to live a new lifestyle and, as with all believers, learn the Christian life and show with our example how to live it.

We invite the members of our congregation to keep a spirit of prayer, asking God to keep us united as one body and to those who have questions, to approach their local pastor with those doubts and concerns.

The peace of the Lord to you all.

# PNMC AREA ORGANIZATIONS & SCHOOL REPORTS

## Drift Creek Camp

The 2015 camp season will be remembered as "the dry year." Low rainfall resulted in a burn ban that started in late June and ended in October. Low water levels affected the rhythm of activities. There were no campfires, cabin cookouts were cancelled, and tubing became more of a wet hike. Conditions were so dry that indoor fires were even prohibited. DCC campers were flexible, but rental groups were sorely disappointed.

November 6-8 marked the 2015 Annual Members' Meeting. Guests gathered to make apple cider, enjoyed with homemade donuts, hikes and table games. Children enjoyed crafts offerings and an outdoor scavenger hunt. Participants gathered in the chapel on Sunday for a hymn sing led by Emily Grimes, Music Director at Western Mennonite School. Special music was included by members of the group Soul Cake from Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship as well. The auction raised funds for capital improvements.

In 2015 DCC was the recipient of a \$35,000 grant from the Gray Family Foundation. The grant is set up for camps that host outdoor schools. To receive the funds, DCC had to raise an additional 50% or \$17,500 in cash or volunteer hours. The money could only be used for maintenance projects. Projects funded by the grant included replacing the exterior lodge stairs, installing base board on the second floor of the lodge, replacing inefficient light fixtures with LEDs, and painting the lodge's exterior. The Gray program has extended the grant and Drift Creek will be eligible for the same matching grant in 2017. After that the GFF is shifting its structure and will likely focus on a few high-dollar projects at just a few camps, rather than distributing the funds across Oregon's 26 camps.

The Forest Service reviewed Drift Creek's Operating and Master Plan proposals in 2015, but the plans have not yet been approved. A group of specialists met at DCC in March to evaluate camp's environmental impact. More studies will determine when and how the cabin will be rebuilt, but we're hopeful that work can start in the fall of 2016.

Unfortunately, the culvert and fish wiers at North Creek are deteriorating and pose a threat. The Forest Service is currently developing plans and working to allocate funds to replace the culvert and remove the defunct fish ladder. The work, and impending road closure, will likely take place during the summer of 2018.

Women gathered April 8-10 for the 2016 Women's Retreat featuring guest speaker, Marlene Bogard, President of Mennonite Women USA. The topic "*Seeking Sanctuary, Experiencing Sanctuary*" resonated positively with participants who came hungry to find ways to carve out space for the holy and sacred in our busy, complicated lives. Marlene provided practical ideas that women could easily adopt. She included prompts for prayer and corresponding mantras. The weekend afforded opportunities to connect with others and take time for meaningful conversations, either while hiking the trails, at mealtimes, while discussing Diana Blackstone-Helt's book *When Sparrows Fall*, or filling in lines around a table coloring Trudy McKinnell's designs that benefit MW USA. This was the largest gathering yet for the Women's Retreat. We continue to be 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, Dawn Lehman and Jaqui Eicher.

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 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 2016 summer camp theme is about Discovery--both about learning new things about Jesus, but also about seeing the world with fresh eyes.

**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 2016*





## OREGON MENNONITE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, INC.

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### OFFICES

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5353 Columbus SE  
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June 2016

With two new homes, OMRS is now operating 13 group homes for adults with intellectual / developmental disabilities in Linn and Yamhill Counties in Oregon. Last fall we broke ground for a new group home in Albany. This house will allow our staff and residents from Sweet Home to locate closer to other OMRS homes. It is difficult to experience community when there is such a distance between programs, especially for persons for whom transportation is a challenge. We are very excited about this transition and hope to be able to make the move in early summer 2016. Not only will the move enhance community interaction, but it will reduce mileage and drive time between our programs.

We have also committed to developing another three person group home in McMinnville. The County has been asking us to do so. We have located a house that will meet our needs once we make the changes that allow us to better serve people with disabilities – an accessible bath, entrance ramp, an interior sprinkling system, and office space. OMRS is fortunate to have direct support staff and managers who are willing to take on new challenges, allowing us to serve persons with a wide variety of individual support needs.

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 who aren't paid to be there is a significant gift. Thanks to all of you for the meaningful ways in which you help OMRS carry out its mission.

We 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, not so in God's eyes.

Blessings to the caring people of the PNMC.

Submitted by Karen Litwiller

# **Mennonite Village**

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE JUNE 2016**

Submitted by Ron Litwiller, President/CEO

Mennonite Village is growing and expanding services. The “barn raising” of our Picnic Pavilion was completed last summer and is much appreciated by residents. It serves as a gathering place for neighborhood groups and families and as a place to play Pickleball. A Wellness Center addition has been completed and a warm water pool will be added this summer. Several duplexes in the Village are under construction.

Our plans to replace the nursing home are being adjusted. It will likely be much less costly to build an addition onto our current nursing home and renovate current space than to relocate the entire nursing home to the South Campus. Our plan is to offer everyone a private room and bathroom. The State of Oregon is especially pleased that we will have private rooms for Medicaid residents also. Most continuing care retirement communities in Oregon do not accept Medicaid residents. Our mission has included serving seniors from all faiths and life experiences. We expect to start construction next spring with completion in 2018. Our Capital Campaign has raised \$12 million to date.

Our Chaplains, Teresa Moser and Eric Martin, are appreciated by residents, families, and staff. They provide Bible studies, worship services, and support for families during times of grief. We value our relationship with the PNMC and area congregations. We attempt to fulfill our Mission Statement daily – to be a Christ-centered community providing life enriching services.

Ron Litwiller



# MennoDisasterService

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## 2015 AT A GLANCE

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2892	Volunteers
330	Long-term
2390	Short-term
172	Summer Youth
200	Clients Served
Clean ups	5
Minor repairs	157
Houses rebuilt	37
Bridges built	1

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### What Does Service with Compassion Look like?

MDS volunteers are amazing. Throughout the year they are busy responding, rebuilding and restoring the lives of people who have been impacted by disasters. We praise God for their willingness to muck out basements, hammer nails, saw wood, paint walls and equally important, listen to the stories of disaster survivors.

But often, their acts of service with compassion come with little extras that tend to go under the radar. I keep in my files, clips of stories throughout the year where volunteers serve with an extra bit of compassion.

- *(Pensacola, FL) As we were cleaning up after work one day, Ivan took out his harmonica and offered to play "Amazing Grace" for Mr. Joe. It was touching to see him sing along and comment on how beautiful that song is. He then was quite thrilled when we picked him up Sunday morning and worshiped with him in his home church.*
- *(High River, Alberta) As the volunteers put the finishing touches on a house they began the work site cleanup. They could have cleared the site, but instead, took some time to leave behind a pile of wood blocks – all suitable for children as building block toys.*
- *(Lititz, PA) In October a group of special needs students were stuffing envelopes, assisting MDS with its fund appeal letter. A staff member explained to them that MDS provides disaster relief services to people and gave specific examples – helping those who need homes rebuilt after hurricane, earthquake, tornado disasters, etc. In response, one of the student volunteers remarked "I feel like a hero today."*
- *(Griffithsville, WV) While working on the finishing touches of building a new driveway bridge in WV, the volunteers realized they had extra sand, so they built a sandbox for the neighbor's three children.*

In numbers, 2,892 volunteers served 19,852 days with compassion, a value of more than \$3.6 million (based on a volunteer rate of \$23.07/hour\*). Additional volunteers served in many Unit and Regional responses lending a hand to those in their local communities.

We thank God for all the gifts MDS volunteers bring to situations desperately in need of hope. I pray that that these acts of service with compassion will bring honor and glory to God as we claim Hebrews 6:10: *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

*Kevin King, MDS Executive Director*

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## Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

West Coast MCC board met in Reedley, California in February 2016.

Highlights of the meeting include –

1. The **Restorative Justice** leaders in Reedley in cooperation with schools, law enforcement, and the judicial system provide exciting and redemptive ways to deal with crime and offenders.

The Victim Services program gave hundreds of people referrals and resources.

2. The MCC sponsored **Borderlands** tour in Arizona along the Mexican borders provides education and dialogue about the issues. All participants have been deeply moved. **PNMC** should consider a **tour group** from our conference.

3. **GAP Institute** – Global Anabaptist Peacebuilders at Fresno Pacific University – open to **young adults** ages 18 – 26. June 16 – 24. The classes offered are restorative justice, creation care, migration, and food security. Coarse content is unusual in its depth and integration of important issues.

4. A group of MB and BIC pastors planned a **learning tour** to **Israel and Palestine** to learn more about the issues and MCC work.

5. The Mennonite Quilt Center has added a **long arm quilting** machine for custom quilting and will add a **website** with many of the fabrics available to all.

6. **Migration and resettlement** continue to be a strong ministry with offering legal assistance advice and immigration information to hundreds, mostly in California but also through others in the Canby Oregon area.

Submitted by Beth Landis, Eagle Idaho PNMC appointee to board



*"The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow" Psalm 146:9*

***Mennonite Central Committee seeks to reveal the compassionate heart of God by providing relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ.***

#### **Providing relief and peacebuilding education on the border**

West Coast MCC continues to be significantly engaging in responding to the migration issues keenly felt at the U.S./Mexico border. Working primarily through our partners (Frontera de Cristo, Shalom House, Cafe Justo, and Shalom Mennonite Church), we help provide support to those caught in unjust detention, encourage sustainable income to address root migration causes, and raise awareness through border tours.

February 2 - 6, 2016, a group from First Mennonite Church in Reedley, CA participated in a Borderlands Learning Tour.

Pastor Steve Penner, from First Mennonite Church, offers this reflection of the tour: *"Political and social dynamics at the United States/Mexico border are complex. The Border Learning Tour served to put a human face on the various players on the borderland stage. Migrants, border patrol agents, and a host of ordinary folks all have a story to tell, a human wisdom that deserves respect."*

If your church is interested in the transforming experience of a Borderlands Learning Tour, please contact our office.



*Caption: photographed from left to right: Bob Jost, Carolyn Hoover, Juan Montes, Don Linscheid, Stephen Penner, Crystal Fernandez and Larry Harder. Borderland Learning Tour team stands outside the border wall of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico.*

#### **Providing Relief in the Face of War**

Today the world is faced with a refugee situation as severe as World War II. 50% of the population of Syria is displaced due to conflict. 25% of the population of Jordan are refugees from neighboring countries.

In this context, here is one story of how MCC is sharing the love of Christ:

*When war forced a Damascus, Syrian family from their home, they moved first to several other parts of Syria, but "the bombs kept following" them. They eventually ended up in Lebanon, where friends of their family live. The family of four includes two boys, ages 10 and 6. The youngest was just three years old when they left their home. The boys miss their home in Syria, where they could run and play. Now they live in a crowded neighborhood, with no place to play.*

*One piece of support that the family has been able to count on is food vouchers from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), which helps them to buy basic staples such as sugar, rice and oil each month. MCC's response to the Syria crisis has totaled more than \$34.6 million to families just like this.*

*"I want to say to people who donate to MCC, their money is making a difference. Their money is protecting the Syrian people." - Rashid El Mansi, Popular Aid for Relief and Development, an MCC partner in Lebanon.*

#### **Pacific Northwest Conference Support:**

PNMC churches have contributed \$101,588.25 over the past year, in addition to generous donations of material resources like comforters and relief, health, and school kits. The WA relief sale raised 97,813.80, the OR sale raised \$100,000, and the ID sale raised \$41,000. The Et Cetera Thrift Store in Lebanon has contributed \$12,115.14.

#### **Currently serving with MCC internationally from PNMC:**

- Derek Hostetler & Soleakhena So: serving as the Country Reps in Cambodia – Portland Mennonite Church, OR
- Kurt & Wanda Hildebrand: serving as the Country Reps in Haiti – Seattle Mennonite Church, WA
- Jacob & Annalisa Brenneman: serving as Exchange Coordinators in Cambodia – Portland Mennonite Church, OR

#### **Current PNMC representation on the West Coast MCC board of directors:**

Beth Landis – Hyde Park Mennonite ▪ Galen Martin – Eugene Mennonite ▪ Pedro Olvera – Salem Mennonite

***Your financial gifts, prayer support, and volunteer hours enable MCC to share the love of Christ with some of the most needy people in our world. Thank you for helping us extend God's grace, mercy, and peace to all!***

West Coast MCC • 1010 G Street, Reedley, CA 93654 • 559.638.6911 • westcoast.mcc.org • westcoast@mcc.org



## REPORT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

Mennonite Men, an organization of the Mennonite Church, is a jointly owned partnership of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. It is an organization that aims to provide an Anabaptist perspective on manhood that speaks to current issues.

The priorities of Mennonite Men are three fold: to help men develop fellowship groups, to develop spiritual resources for men, and to raise funds to help young congregations build or purchase their first meeting house through the JoinHands Church Grant Program. A board of twelve regionally chosen members meets annually to manage the work of Mennonite Men.

A quarterly electronic newsletter with resources for men's groups is available upon request. Use [mm@mennonitemen.org](mailto:mm@mennonitemen.org) to request the newsletter. Use the same email to report on the activities of your men's group.

A book on men's spirituality authored by Gareth Brandt titled Under Construction, made possible through the support of Mennonite Men, is being translated into Spanish and is available from MennoMedia.

JoinHands, the service component of Mennonite Men has given more than \$1.8 million to 68 congregations since 1985. Nations Worship Center of Philadelphia PA received a \$40,000 grant in December. Several applications for grants are pending.

Mennonite Men enlists individuals and groups willing to contribute \$100 twice a year to support JoinHands Church Grants. Grants are given to new congregations building or buying their first meeting house.

Perry Krehbiel, Newton KS, joined the board of Mennonite Men as treasurer in November replacing Paul Classen.

Don Yoder, coordinator for Mennonite Men since 2010, works out of the Mennonite Men office located in the MennoMedia building in Harrisonburg VA.

The regional contact person for PNMC is Todd Lehman 333 Hollyhock Place N Keizer, OR 97303 [smcpastor@qwestoffice.net](mailto:smcpastor@qwestoffice.net)

Check our website and Facebook page for information and resources. [www.mennonitemnen.org](http://www.mennonitemnen.org)

Don Yoder  
2016

# **Mennonite Conference**

## **Mennonite Women Report**

**June 2016**

*Submitted by Kathy Bilderback*

The Mennonite Women organization of PNMC is an informal group to support and encourage the women and women's groups of our conference. For the past number of years, we have been meeting as a group for about an hour of inspiration, fellowship, resourcing and prayer during the conference's annual meetings. These are important opportunities to keep women connected in addition to the annual state-wide women's retreats.

As is the case across US and Canada, the once vibrant "sewing circles" of Mennonite sisters has evolved into less regular gatherings for women not only around quilts but for fellowship, book studies, and inspiration. Many churches in our conference no longer have an organized Mennonite Women's group.

However, might it be time to create a more formal connection for resourcing and support? Let's plan our meeting this year to be a beginning point to establish a structure for the future. Look for the handout/invitation with your registration material.

### **Connecting with Mennonite Women USA**

There continues to be a strong desire for women in PNMC to stay connected with Mennonite Women USA. The national organization provides annual Bible studies, publishes the quarterly *Timbrel* magazine, offers annual scholarships for women seminarians, leads Sister Care workshops; encourages and empowers women by listening and sharing stories; and seeks to be a prophetic bold voice for women.

All women are invited to attend the PREP resource gathering and networking retreat to be held August 12-13, 2016 at Peace Mennonite Church in Aurora, CO. The theme is Empowering Women: Money, Health and Faith. On-line registration for this event will be available soon! We are hoping several from our conference will attend.

**Centennial Celebration – 2017 – Big plans are in place for our 100 year celebration in 2017.** A historical book about Mennonite Women will be released and will be a treasure trove of women's stories. Look for other stories and events that will take place as we celebrate God's work among Mennonite Women.

# **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

**Everence**

**Mennonite Church USA**

**Mennonite Education Agency (MEA)**

**Mennonite Health Services (MHS) Alliance**

**MennoMedia**

**Mennonite Mission Network (MMN)**

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# Common ground

## Everence 2016 report

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
Annual Meeting  
June 24-25, 2016

*Let us then pursue the things  
that make for peace and  
build up the common life.*

– Romans 14:19 (NEB)

### **Everence values its strong congregational partnership**

For more than 70 years, Everence® has worked with congregations and their members, helping people of faith “build up the common life” through their financial decisions. These connections are vital to us, and we look forward to many more years of focusing on the best interests of your members – helping them create and implement plans tailored for their needs and aspirations to share with others.

As we have since 1945, we will continue to serve the Anabaptist community as partners in stewardship throughout 2016 and beyond.

### **Sharing Fund is helping congregations extend their reach**

The Everence Sharing Fund encourages churches to aid individuals and families in their congregations and communities by providing matching grants. Thousands of people benefit each year in all kinds of ways, including a homeowner in Pennsylvania whose roof (pictured) was replaced by a church's volunteers.

Even though the congregation is quite small, members pitched in when they



learned that water was leaking into the house of a man who had to retire early because of an illness. One church member was even ready to pay for materials and do all of the work himself before the pastor suggested that it become a congregational project. It's another example of doing better together, combining gifts of time, talents and financial resources.

### **Everence can help you offer financial coaching**

Everence recently launched a program to train congregational financial coaches, who will encourage, guide and help members of your community put financial goals into action. This ministry is for congregations wanting to take the next step to help people deal with budget, debt and savings habits.

Becoming a congregation that provides financial coaching is about identifying people with a passion to walk with and help others with their finances. Our coaching resources include a training manual and balanced money workbook to help participants allocate their resources in a healthy and sustainable way. Contact your Everence church relations representative to learn more.

### Spanish-language website offers Everence information

A new Spanish-language website offers foundational information about Everence at [everence.com/espanol](http://everence.com/espanol) and [everence.com/spanish](http://everence.com/spanish). Designed to provide an overview of what Everence offers its members, the website also includes contact information for Spanish-speaking staff available to answer questions about Everence products and services.



Martin Navarro, Church Relations Representative, is developing relationships with people and communities

whose primary language is Spanish. Martin, who is bilingual, meets with pastors, Everence advocates, small groups, individuals and families to talk with them about their financial stewardship journeys.

### Gospel of Luke curriculum focuses on 12 key passages

Luke highlighted stories from Jesus that address issues of wealth, poverty and generosity in his gospel. Everence now offers *The Gospel of Luke: the relationship between salvation, discipleship and wealth*, a new curriculum that focuses on 12 key passages. Many of Luke's stories were not included in the other gospels.

The lessons are designed to be versatile enough to be used by teachers in a classroom setting or pastors as sermon starters. Each of the 12 lessons includes teacher tips, introductory commentary on the key texts and discussion questions. You may download the lessons at [everence.com](http://everence.com), or contact Stewardship Education Director Beryl Jantzi at [beryl.jantzi@everence.com](mailto:beryl.jantzi@everence.com) for

### Using our credit card aids more charitable groups

Everence Federal Credit Union donated \$16,200 to The Mennonite and MennoMedia in 2015 from our unique Rebate for Missions program. Rebate for Missions is supported by the credit union's 10 percent tithe of income generated when people use their Everence Visa credit cards.

In addition to these awards to national agencies, our credit union branch offices share Rebate for Missions money with charities in their communities. Since the program started in 1995, the credit union has given nearly \$400,000 in grants to churches, missions and relief organizations. Learn more at [everence.com/banking](http://everence.com/banking).

### Virginia couple honored with National Journey Award

Marvin and Sarah Slabaugh are generous with their time and financial resources, supporting their congregation, Weavers Mennonite Church, and a variety of mission- and education-related organizations.



Everence recognized the Slabaughs, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, with its national Journey Award for 2015. As part of the award, Everence donated \$5,000 to charities Marvin and Sarah chose. In addition to the national award, seven regional Journey Award winners chose charities to receive \$500 Everence donations. The

Journey Awards highlight how people are living out their faithful stewardship of their God-given gifts.

### Being generous is easier than you think

Everence Asset Management services help people increase their capacity for charitable giving through planned gifts, retirement security and investment services. You can grow your ability to make an impact on the people and causes you care about through professionally managed portfolios, access to faith-rooted investment choices and a personal relationship with a financial advisor.

We'll help you simplify your finances into a streamlined strategy, so you can spend time on what matters to you. Visit [everence.com/asset-management](http://everence.com/asset-management) for complete information.

### Lilly Endowment awards \$1 million grant to Everence

Everence learned in November 2015 that it was approved for a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, aimed at improving the financial lives of pastors. The grant allows Everence to launch a new program through Mennonite Foundation.

The three-year program – aimed at pastors who are part of Mennonite Church USA and Conservative Mennonite Conference – will include grants to help pastors experiencing financial difficulties. It also includes an education program designed to improve personal financial skills.



## Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" (1 John 3:18).

Through its ministries, Mennonite Church USA seeks to demonstrate the love of God to one another and our world. Below, we've invited people to share how they've experienced love in action through Executive Board initiatives.

### The Gathering Place website

Through this website and virtual meeting space, youth leaders can connect, learn, support and inspire one another by participating in learning circles, webinars, peer groups and spiritual direction.

"The Gathering Place is a place to interact with others, increasing our own spiritual and life understandings, so that we can share love in a more comprehensive manner with the youth around us. This is a wonderful opportunity to establish relationships beyond our local community, helping us to become the persons we want to be in our communities!"



—**Merv Stoltzfus**, Smoketown, Pennsylvania  
Conference minister/youth, Atlantic Coast Conference

### Sexual abuse prevention

In 2015, the Discernment Group on sexual abuse and the church wrote a Churchwide Statement on Sexual Abuse, passed by the KC2015 Delegate Assembly. The group also created the Care and Prevention fund, which received nearly \$61,000 in contributions — approximately \$42,000 to go to victims of sexual abuse, and \$19,000 to be divided among Mennonite Women USA's Sister Care ministry; the Women in Leadership Project of Mennonite Church USA; and Dove's Nest, a church organization that works to keep children and youth safe from abuse.

"Love means that while we love each other like family, we acknowledge that we are capable of doing harm to one another. We don't live in denial that abuse happens in our midsts — and in church. The Churchwide Statement on Sexual Abuse calls churches to make sure that child protection policies are in place and that reporting guidelines are followed. To me, this practical recommendation for all is love in action."



—**Anna Groff**, Tucson, Arizona  
Executive director, Dove's Nest

### Ministry with veterans

Resources for congregations supporting veterans as they seek healing for their emotional and spiritual wounds include a monthly newsletter, a Sunday school curriculum and a congregational training on relating to veterans. These are provided by the Peace and Justice Support Network (a partnership of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Mission Network) and Mennonite Central Committee U.S.



"Our group that used the *Returning Veterans, Returning Hope* Sunday school materials included veterans, relatives of veterans and two people with no military connections. Everyone contributed freely and listened respectfully and with great interest. Sometimes there were tears as stories from the battlefields were shared.

Even though there was a biblical setting for each study period, most of our time together was spent in telling and listening to personal stories. I want to thank Mennonite Church USA for taking the initiative to create this study for the church. It was needed."

—**John Kreider**, Newport News, Virginia

Retired minister; member of Huntington Mennonite Church, Newport News

### Doctrine of Discovery educational initiatives

Since the 15th century, the Doctrine of Discovery (DoD) and the laws based on it have legalized the theft of land, labor and resources from Indigenous Peoples across the world and systematically denied their human rights. The Christian church has historically supported the DoD. Through partnerships with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the DoD Working Group, Mennonite Church USA seeks to raise awareness, educate and involve the church in denouncing and dismantling the doctrine. See [dofdmennon.org](http://dofdmennon.org).

"The Doctrine of Discovery is aggressively exploiting and dehumanizing people every day. Through education and activism, we show what it means to love actively 'in a world that is very rapidly losing its understanding of being human' (to quote John Trudell)."



—**Erica Littlewolf**, North Newton, Kansas

Program coordinator, MCC Indigenous Visioning Circle

### Immigration justice work

Resources available to congregations and individuals include the free Bible study, *Radical Hospitality: Responding to the issue of immigration*, and the DREAMer Fund, which helps undocumented young adult immigrants with tuition fees and supports other immigration justice initiatives.

"In the upheaval around Pastor Max Villatoro's detention and subsequent deportation, the outpouring and organization of community support were unprecedented. We found excellent support from a high-profile immigration attorney who came alongside our conference. This was expensive, however, and we wondered if we had the capacity to meet the costs of this action. We reached out to Mennonite Church USA staff, and it was a major show of support when the denomination immediately offered a grant to get us started in the fundraising campaign to cover legal costs and ongoing support for Max's wife, Gloria, and their four children, who remain in the U.S."



—**Shana Peachey Boshart**, Wellman, Iowa

Conference minister for Christian formation, Central Plains Mennonite Conference



## ***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 **11,517 students** are enrolled at Mennonite institutions – 25 Mennonite School Council (MSC) schools, 5 colleges/universities, 2 seminaries and 2 Hispanic Ministries 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:

- MEA staff is presently involved in two presidential searches for Eastern Mennonite University and Hesston College. Both searches are on track. As part of the transition time, Dr. Lee Snyder was jointly approved by the boards of MEA and EMU to serve as interim president beginning July 1, 2016.
- Planning is underway for the joint MEA/ Mennonite Health Services board governance conference scheduled for March 9-11, 2017. The event will not only bring the boards from Mennonite educational and MHS institutions together, but is also open to conference leadership and boards to participate in board development training.
- Over 475 registrants participated “In the Image of God: Faith Community, Reconciliation” Mennonite Educators Conference 2016 February 4-6, 2016. Registrants came from the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Benin.
- MEA is providing leadership for the planning for a Hispanic Anabaptist Academy Pastor and Spouse Spiritual and Training Retreat to take place this June. MEA is partnering with Goshen College and Everence in this event.
- Entered into conversations with the MEA board and committees on the current landscape of the denomination and its implications.

***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  
*We regret any omissions or errors. Please send corrections to [info@MennoniteEducation.org](mailto:info@MennoniteEducation.org).*

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

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015    \$18,200.02

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

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**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

## 2016 REPORT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE

The mission of MHS is to strengthen and extend Anabaptist-affiliated health and human service organizations. The following organizations belong to our network of 77 ministries and are located in the core regions of Pacific Northwest Conference:

- 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

### Our 2015 activities

- The 2015-2016 Values-based Leadership Program began in October and ended in February with 36 participants. The program is committed to promoting intercultural competency, through diverse resource team members and participants, the Intercultural Development Inventory, videos and cohort work.



- In March, we launched a new website – [ValuedLeadership.org](http://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. The resources on the website are free and available to anyone interested in building, reinforcing, aligning, and integrating Anabaptist values into practice.
- A successful international gathering of more than 90 healthcare leaders was held in conjunction with the Mennonite World Conference Assembly in July. At the end of two days of speakers and fellowship, attendees agreed to explore creating a Global Anabaptist Health Network.
- Tim Ficker was hired as Managing Director for MHS Consulting to oversee a team of consulting associates.
- The 2015 Mennonite Health Assembly met in Cincinnati, Ohio in March. A fundraising activity was held to support Community Meal, a ministry of Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship. The 2016 Assembly in Sacramento, California explored the theme *Finding Abundance in Scarcity*.
- A survey of member organizations showed that boards and executive leadership are less diverse than employees and people served. We are exploring goals and resources to support member efforts to strengthen diversity and intercultural competency.
- The MHS board affirmed current priorities 1) extend reach to new organizations and networks that share Anabaptist Christian values; 2) support organizations through both struggle and opportunity; 3) build a system for identifying, recruiting and retaining strong leaders; and 4) achieve a consulting business model that generates resources to support our mission.

As the conferences and congregations of Mennonite Church USA navigate what it means to be faithful to our Anabaptist beliefs and values, the member organizations of MHS are also discerning what evangelical faith means in their context. MHS is supporting leaders with resources to be faithful ministries and also effective nonprofit structures. MHS is committed to walking with each of our member organizations as they seek to make decisions that express with their faith and align with their local communities.

Submitted by Rick Stiffney, President/CEO

[www.mhsonline.org](http://www.mhsonline.org)





**MennoMedia**

An agency of Mennonite Church USA  
and Mennonite Church Canada

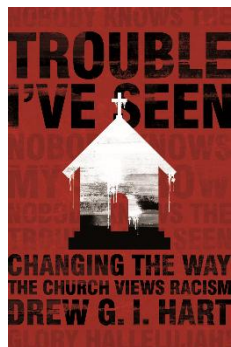
1251 Virginia Avenue  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
800-245-7894 (USA)  
800-631-6535 (Canada)  
info@MennoMedia.org  
www.MennoMedia.org

## Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference March 2016

### MennoMedia plans a new hymnal

Mennonites sing together as a way to express our faith. This past year, a team from MennoMedia, Mennonite Church Canada, and Mennonite Church USA planted seeds for a new song collection to be released in 2020. It will be more than a printed hymnal, with electronic versions and other supporting products. Next year, a 10 to 12 member hymnal committee will be appointed and MennoMedia will hire a project director to oversee the process. We are eager to see this new song collection serve and nurture Anabaptist Mennonite believers as well as shape our common identity as followers of Jesus. To receive updates about the project, or to nominate a person for one of the committees, send an email to [hymnalinfo@mennomedia.org](mailto:hymnalinfo@mennomedia.org).

### Two new resources for the whole church



**What if racial reconciliation** doesn't look like what you expected? The high-profile killings of young black men and women 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.

In this provocative book, *Trouble I've Seen*, theologian and blogger Drew G. I. Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, antiblack stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy. Leading readers toward Jesus, Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice. What if all Christians listened to the stories of those on the racialized margins? How might the church be changed by the trouble we've seen?



**Should I sign up our seven-year-old son** for the travel team? What should we do about our daughter's Sunday morning games? Am I the only one longing for a sane balance between children's sports, family time, and church commitments?

In *Overplayed*, David King and Margot Starbuck offer good news for Christian parents stressed out by these questions and stretched thin by the demands of competitive youth sports. Join King, athletics director at a Christian university, and Starbuck, an award-winning author and speaker, as they investigate seven myths about what's best for young athletes. Listen in as they talk to parents, pastors, and coaches about the peril and promise of children's sports. Learn practical ways to set boundaries and help kids gain healthy identities as beloved children of God—both on and off the field.

### Resource Samplers

Resource Samplers are a new kind of lending library from MennoMedia and Herald Press, designed to help you make curriculum choices. Each Resource Sampler contains five to six titles for Sunday school classes and small groups to sample, free of charge, for up to 60 days. Call customer service at 800-245-7894 for information on the five types of samplers available.



Russ Eanes  
Executive Director, MennoMedia  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

*MennoMedia seeks to engage and shape church and society with resources for living the Christian life, from an Anabaptist perspective.*

**Herald Press • Third Way Media • Faith & Life Resources**

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



## Thank you!

In recent decades one thing has become clear:

Mission is all about relationships and partnership—with God, with congregations, and with

global partners. God's mandate inviting us to be partners in mission remains valid, our global partners' interest in working together continues to grow, and Mennonite Mission Network's commitment to extend the

witness of local congregations is unwavering. Thank you for your partnership and sharing in God's global mission. We appreciate the prayers, the people, and the generous financial resources that Pacific Northwest Conference

and its congregations have shared. With deep gratitude!

*Stanley W. Green*

Stanley W. Green  
Executive Director  
Mennonite Mission Network

## Pacific Northwest Conference + Mennonite Mission Network

### Worker support

The following Pacific Northwest Conference congregations help support three Mission Network long-term international workers/families: Albany Mennonite, Mountain View Mennonite, Evergreen Mennonite, Salem Mennonite, and Seattle Mennonite churches.

### Service participants from Pacific Northwest Conference

#### SOOP participants

SOOP participants from PNMC include Gene and Judy Gascho from Zion Mennonite Church and Maurice and Joan Imhoff from Portland Mennonite Church, who served in Glendale, Arizona, and Richard and Karen Kropf from Zion Mennonite Church, who served in Kykotsmovi, Arizona.

(SOOP also offers international opportunities!)

### Mennonite Voluntary Service participants



Andrea Bachman from Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, serves in Alamosa, Colorado



Hilary Garman from Evergreen Mennonite Church, serves in San Francisco.

### Youth Venture participant

Rudy Graber of Zion Mennonite Church participated in Youth Venture in France.

### Three Christian service programs sites and host congregations:

MVS Seattle—Seattle Mennonite and Evergreen Mennonite churches  
Service Adventure Albany—Albany Mennonite Church  
Service Adventure Anchorage—Prince of Peace Mennonite Church

### Prayer partners

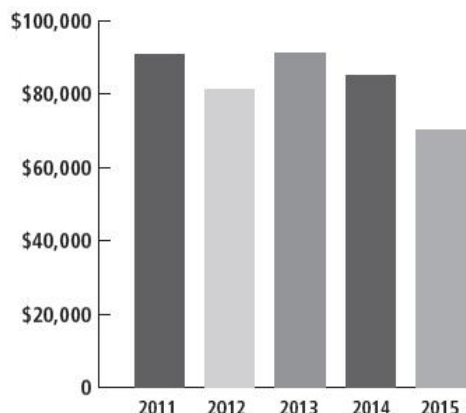
31 people have committed to pray daily for Mennonite Mission Network ministries.

### Globe bank gifts

\$2,277.63 was raised from the children of the following Mennonite churches: Zion, Calvary, Spring Valley, and Evergreen Heights.



## Pacific Northwest congregational giving to Mission Network



**Thank you for your continued partnership in God's mission!**

[www.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.MennoniteMission.net) Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872

## **COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY REPORTS**

**Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

**Bethel College**

**Eastern Mennonite Seminary**

**Eastern Mennonite University**

**Goshen College**

**Hesston College**

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# AMBS

Report to Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite Conference

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary; Sara Wenger Shenk, president

## Conference Connections

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

**Students:** Students from the conference who took classes in the 2015-16 year include **Terry Gallagher** and **Delvin Hershberger**.

## This year at AMBS

**Graduates:** Fifteen students graduated from AMBS in May 2015. Eleven students received the Master of Divinity degree. One student earned the Master of Arts: Peace Studies, and one the Master of Arts in Christian Formation. Two students received Certificates in Theological Studies.

**Faculty:** **Janna Hunter-Bowman**, PhD, is a new asst. professor of Peace Studies and Christian Social Ethics.

**Lifelong learning:** In the 2014-15 year, there were 667 enrollments in AMBS Church Leadership Center events and offerings. This includes webinars, workshops, online Anabaptist Short Courses, Pastoral Studies Distance Education, Pastors Week, Business Leaders and Pastors Workshop, 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](http://www.ambs.edu/academics/Online-Courses.cfm).

**Pastors Week:** *The Bible Says What?* was the topic for this year's Pastors Week, held January 25-28, 2016. 175 people attended. Sessions considered how Jesus read and interpreted Scripture as he preached, taught and healed people of his day.

## 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](http://www.ambs.edu/practicingreconciliation)

**Anabaptist Short Courses**, online and non-credit, for people wanting to explore topics of Anabaptist faith and theology. Visit [www.ambs.edu](http://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](http://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](http://www.mennovision.org)

**Anabaptist Witness**, co-published with Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Church Canada, fosters a global Anabaptist and Mennonite dialogue on key issues facing the church in mission:

[AnabaptistWitness.org](http://AnabaptistWitness.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 2016 - 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517 [www.ambs.edu](http://www.ambs.edu) 574.295.3726

The 2015-2016 academic year at Bethel College is well under way, and we already have much for which to be grateful. We thank God for the following (and much more):

- An increase in enrollment, with an exceptionally enthusiastic Freshman class.
- A dramatic increase in Chapel attendance and spiritual life involvement.
- A strategic plan that is beginning to unfold.
- *Daily* campus ministries opportunities for students, including:
  - Bible Studies
  - Centering prayer
  - Tough Talks and Tasty Treats (discussing faith questions)
  - Navigator Bible Study
  - Weekly Chapel Services
  - Bedtime Prayers
  - Fellowship of Christian Athletes with vastly increased participation
  - Local church tour group
  - Special events, like 24-hour prayer and packaging 25,000 food packs.
- Eight wonderful student chaplains who help monitor and lead spiritual life activities on campus. Two of these students participated in the Ministry Inquiry Program this past year, **in Salem, OR**, and in North Newton, KS.
- A beautiful campus with well-maintained facilities.
- The women and men of our excellent faculty and staff, who give of themselves tirelessly, who teach and instruct carefully, who model Christian character daily.
- The new members of our staff and faculty, including Bob Milliman, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean; and Andy Johnson, Vice President for Admissions. Both of these VPs have graduate theological degrees and have served as pastoral leaders of Anabaptist congregations.
- The Constituency Leaders Council held meetings on the Bethel College campus. The meeting was chaired by the now-moderator of Mennonite Church USA, Bethel College's own Dr. Patricia Shelly.
- Providing ten seminars and two worship speakers for the Mennonite Church USA convention in Kansas City.
- A release of *Mennonite Life* with major articles on Vincent Harding and John Howard Yoder, among others.
- Commissioning and hosting important research on Mennonite/s Writing, presented by Jeff Gundy of Bluffton University.
- Hosting Michelle Armster of MCC as our MLK Celebration speaker.
- Providing speakers and musicians for congregations roughly two-thirds of the Sundays while classes are in session.
- Working closely with AMBS-Kansas Center to provide courses for seminary credit and continuing education.

In gratitude for the prayers and good wishes from the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, we humbly ask for your continued support, as we seek to build, for generations to come, upon the foundation that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.



EASTERN MENNONITE  
SEMINARY

*Prepared to serve and  
lead in a global context*

SUMMER 2016

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

Seminary Annual Report

### New hybrid class options at EMS

In the 2015-16 academic year, EMS began offering hybrid classes. This class format includes a combination of online study and a one-week intensive on the Harrisonburg campus. They will count towards residency requirements for our degree program. The highly successful hybrid courses for the fall semester were Formation in God's Story I, and Pastoral Care. The spring semester hybrid courses are Formation in God's Story II and Genesis. Plans are in place to expand the hybrid course offerings in 2016-17. Please contact us if you have further questions.

### 2016 School for Leadership Training: January 18-20

In the desert of church and cultural divisions and contentious discussions our 2016 SLT was an oasis for pastors and other church leaders – a place of rest, renewal and hope. Nearly 200 participants heard stories of faith in adversity, learned helpful spiritual practices, remembered the value of church sacraments, and were given tools to develop resilience in their ministries.

### Save the date! SLT 2017 January 16-18

SLT 2017 will be focused around the question, "Why can't we all just get along?" In answering this question, we will identify ways we practice "othering" instead of "neighboring." We will explore healthy ways to navigate our interactions with the "other" while wearing our own world-view glasses. Ultimately our circle of neighbors will expand, and we may all find insight and gifts. Christena Cleveland, author of *Disunity in the Church*, and Drew Hart, author of *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* will be featured keynote speakers.

### 20 Graduated from EMS This Spring

EMS awarded 16 degrees and 4 certificates on April 30 to the graduating class of 2016. The ceremony was held at 2:30 p.m. in Lehman Auditorium on the campus of Eastern Mennonite

University in Harrisonburg, Va. Dr. John D. Roth, professor of history at Goshen College was the commencement speaker.

### Fall Semester 2016 Distance Learning Classes

*Formation in God's Story I (hybrid)*

- Dr. Emily Peck-McClain

*Psychology of Religious Experience (hybrid)*

- Dr. Lonnie Yoder

*New Testament: Text in Context*

- Dr. Dorothy Jean Weaver

*Race and Religion in America*

- Dr. David Evans

For more information:

<http://emu.edu/seminary/distance-learning>

### **Statement of Purpose**

*Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepares men and women to serve and lead in a global context. In response to God's saving grace, we educate students to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God's Spirit as wise interpreters, mature practitioners, discerning communicators, and transformational leaders.*

**Loren Swartzendruber**, University president

**Michael King**, Seminary dean

**Phil Helmuth**, director of church relations

**Laura Amstutz**, interim director of seminary admissions

**Les Horning**, associate director of seminary development, admissions and church relations

For the most up-to-date information on EMS, give us a call, visit us on the web, "Like" us on Facebook!

[www.emu.edu/seminary](http://www.emu.edu/seminary)

540-432-4260

**Latino Student Alliance's beautiful 'alfombra' is the centerpiece for a Holy Week chapel service**

More than 150 members of the Eastern Mennonite University and Eastern Mennonite Seminary community gathered Wednesday for a Holy Week service around the "alfombra," or carpet, a colorful tradition of Central America and Mexico.

The four sections of the alfombra, made of rice, flour and other materials and created by EMU's Latino Student Alliance (LSA), represented immigration and refugees, salvation, hope and suffering. Celebrants formed a processional around the artwork, walking for brief periods of silent meditation between scripture readings and hymns sung in both Spanish and English.

A wider Holy Week event and bilingual worship service could be a possibility for next year, with community groups and congregations invited to design and create their own alfombra.

**Photography class photos helped efforts to block Atlantic Coast Pipeline on sensitive sections of national forestland**

Striking photos taken by an Eastern Mennonite University professor and his students of a rarely seen, endangered salamander supported citizen lobbying that may have influenced a U.S. Forest Service decision to reject a proposed gas pipeline across the salamanders' fragile, limited habitat.

"My students and I were very involved in the public awareness campaign about the Cow Knob Salamander," said photography professor [Steven David Johnson](#), who chairs the Department of Visual and Communication Arts at EMU. "This campaign was spearheaded by a constellation of

dedicated conservation nonprofits and advocacy groups in the region."

The salamander photos emerged from a class in conservation photography launched by Johnson several years ago. He sought to encourage students to "think about broader ecosystems, the environment, human culture and how they relate to the natural world, as well as about helping to protect nature."

**How can EMU be of service to your congregation and conference?**

Contact the church relations office to schedule an EMU student worship team in your congregation, as well as the president, dean or a faculty guest speaker. [ChurchRelations@emu.edu](mailto:ChurchRelations@emu.edu) or 540-432-4589.

- **Loren Swartzendruber**, *president*
- **Phil Helmuth**, *director of church relations*
- **Tim Swartzendruber**, *associate director of church relations*
- **Matt Ruth**, *director of admissions*

(540) 432-4000    [www.emu.edu](http://www.emu.edu)  
[ChurchRelations@emu.edu](mailto:ChurchRelations@emu.edu)

***Our Vision***

*EMU envisions a learning community marked  
by academic excellence, creative expression,  
professional competence, and passionate  
Christian faith, offering  
healing and hope  
in our diverse world.  
To this end, we commit ourselves  
to do justice,  
love mercy and walk humbly with God.*



## Goshen College Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, April 2016

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### President opens year with message on Christ-Centered Servant Leadership

During the 2015-16 school year, the college is focusing on its core value of "servant leadership." President James E. Brenneman opened the year by asking students and staff to consider what it means to be a Christ-centered servant leader. Saying that it sounds like an oxymoron and is difficult to define, Brenneman pointed out that "we know what servant leadership is when we see it." He added that as Christians, our primary understanding of servant leadership comes from the life and teachings of Jesus himself, as well as from God attaching God's very self to creation. "The servant leader God is motivated by love, pure and simple. The servant leader God of love is affected by our wrongs, woos us with infinite love – an honest-to-God real love filled with pathos, whimsy, mirth, limitation, creativity, agony and ecstasy." Brenneman, a 1977 graduate of Goshen College, is in his third term as President.

### Conference connections

This academic year we have 8 students enrolled from 3 Pacific Northwest Conference congregations. Those churches generously pledged \$26,000 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.

Students from the conference are involved on- and off-campus in many edifying ways but we particularly recognize David Pauls from Salem Mennonite Church, who studied and served for a semester in Nicaragua this past year through GC's Study Service Term program.

### 2015-16 Campus ministries theme

The Campus Ministries theme this year is "Centered in Christ." Eleven Ministry Leaders, eight Worship Assistants, and countless other Goshen College students provide leadership as we explore what it means to center ourselves before God in the midst of a busy world. In the first chapel of the year, Campus Pastor Bob Yoder shared that Jesus's spirituality, portrayed in the Gospel of Luke, was one of both "doing" and "being." He often went to the "deserted places" after his "good deeds" to spend time in prayer with God. Students were then invited to write down a hope or a prayer for the upcoming year on mirrors. Students and employees were also invited to engage the theme through the GC Prayer Book, which includes twelve devotions written by students as well as over a dozen different ways to pray. This material is available to people in both print and electronic formats. Visit [www.goshen.edu/faith/campus-ministries](http://www.goshen.edu/faith/campus-ministries) 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](mailto:churchrelations@goshen.edu).

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA REPORT

April 2016

**2015-16 enrollment** – Official fall enrollment numbers show a greater percentage of students returned to Hesston College in the fall of 2015 as compared to returning students a year prior. The increase is about 10 percent in nearly all primary areas. Total enrollment for the year is 409 students from 31 states and 13 countries, including 46 percent from Kansas, 43 percent from other U.S. states and 11 percent international. Mennonite students make up 31 percent of the student population.

**Campus theme** - The 15-16 First-year Experience course invited the local community to participate in its "common read" with the theme, "Be the Change that Matters." Regina Calcaterra's memoir *Etched in Sand* traces her childhood experiences of abandonment, physical abuse and fear of the foster system she and her four siblings endured. The common read serves as a catalyst for a series of student projects, campus forums, community discussions and service activities. Calcaterra visited campus Oct. 5.

### **Homecoming 2015** - Campus

Transformation was the theme for A Hesston College Homecoming Sept. 24 to 27. The weekend celebrated a new north entryway to campus, renovations to the Northlawn performing arts building and the first official chiming of the new alumni carillon bells. A scale replica of Green Gables, the campus' first visual marker, was unveiled, emeritus faculty were recognized and outstanding performers who got their START at Hesston College participated in a Performing Arts Showcase following the Saturday evening alumni banquet.

### **AVDS conference encouraged vibrant faith practices every day** - Ordinary Radical and follower of Christ, Shane Claiborne, founder and board member of *The Simple Way*, joined other peacebuilders, youth leaders and social justice advocates at the college's Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series conference Feb. 19 to 21, 2016.

The conference theme, "Not Just on Sunday" helped attendees explore what it looks like to live a vibrant Sunday through Saturday faith - to live as if Jesus meant what he said and he was talking to us. Claiborne is the author of over a dozen books and was a worship speaker at MCUSA Convention 2015.

**Presidential transition** – Hesston College President Howard Keim announced that he will transition away from his role at the college at the end of the 2015-16 academic year, concluding 11 years of leadership as the college's eighth president. "I have always viewed myself as a steward, not an owner of the office of president, and it has been my goal to ensure students are well-served and the mission of the college was advanced and strengthened and for the future," said Keim. A search for the college's next president began in January with Ken G Kabira, Hesston College Board of Directors member, as search committee chairperson.

**Congregational student aid** – Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by students' churches. During the 2014-15 year, 87 churches contributed \$195,193 in congregational aid to 121 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of \$127,621. The average church aid per student was \$1,613 while the average church-and-college aid per student was \$2,667. **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](http://hesston.edu). For questions or more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations toll free at 866-437-7866.

### **2015-16 campus theme verse**

"The Greatest Commandment"

Mark 12:30-31 (New International Version)

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

**2015-2016 Academic Year Students** – 7

**Congregational Student Aid** – 6 congregations provided \$4,000.00 in tuition assistance for 6 students as of April 15, 2016.

**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

Mike Zucconi, Director of Development

Bethany Miller, Admissions Representative



## **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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