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## From the PNMC Office

*From Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson Pitts:* This Christmas remember the children who flee . . . from war, from poverty, from drought, from hatred, from Herod. Consider donations to [Mennonite Central Committee](#) as part of your giving this season. Recently, at Portland Mennonite Church, the congregation was reminded that Mary's song, the Magnificat, is in the tradition of the blues. PMC member Gerry Leatherman re-arranged the traditional carol, *Away in a Manger*, in that same tradition. May your hearts be stirred by this powerful song and beautiful, though haunting images, of the world's refugees [here](#).

This week we join together to pray for [Lebanon Mennonite Church](#). LMC has a unique history. It began in 1957 when voluntary service people serving at Lebanon Community Hospital (LCH) and local constituents began meeting. Throughout the life of LMC it has had a strong connection with health care and the local community owned hospital. Pacific Coast Conference of the Mennonite Church provided leadership of the hospital. When the new hospital was opened in 1952, Mennonite Board of Missions was contracted to have oversight. By the 1970s Mennonite Health Services was hired to provide governance coverage for LCH with numerous members serving on volunteer governing board and today congregational members serve on the Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital (SLCH) Board of Directors. LMC is a Christ-centered congregation of sisters and brothers united together in a faith journey seeking a life of service to each other and their community. We believe that God calls us to a life of servanthood modeled after the life and teachings of Jesus as depicted in the Bible. We also believe that the **biblical story brings us hope** and that Jesus' teachings are applicable in our culture.

A summer gathering at LMC.



**Partner Congregation relationships** – If your congregation would like to learn to know another congregation from a different cultural or geographic setting more deeply, Executive Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson Pitts, is happy to match congregational pairs. Such partnerships provide opportunities for sharing stories and praying for one another in meaningful and personal ways. Partnering congregations might also consider pulpit exchanges or perhaps a joint meeting of Leadership Teams, as well as the potential for a shared retreat or service project. Contact [Katherine](#) to participate.

PNMC congregations are invited to participate in the [Conference Communications Council](#), which will include guest Alex Award, former Dean at Bethlehem Bible College. Dialogue will focus on the proposed resolution on Israeli-Palestine issues which will be voted upon at the MC USA Delegate Session in Orlando. The gathering will begin at 9:00 a.m. on **Saturday, February 4**, at [Albany Mennonite](#). Each congregation is invited to send one lay leader and one pastor, or two lay leaders if there is no pastor. *If you don't fit that criteria, and would still like to attend, please contact Barb to see if space allows for additional participation.* Register [here](#).

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

### Lebanon Mennonite Church

Join Lebanon Mennonite Church for an evening of music with Dale and Gwen Kropf and Bethel Mountain Band. The concert, hosted by LMC, 2100 S. 2nd St., will be **Saturday, December 31 at 7pm**. More information [here](#).

### Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The 2017 PNMHS Annual Meeting is **Saturday, January 21**

beginning at 12:00pm at Zion Mennonite Church. "[Crossing the Loange: Congo Pax Service and the Journey Home](#)" will be presented by Larry Graber of Dallas, OR. The program and lunch is \$20/person. Please contact [Gloria Nussbaum](#) to RSVP by Friday, January 13.

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

### Franconia Mennonite Conference

Stephen Kriss, PhD, will begin as the new Executive Minister for Franconia Mennonite Conference on January 1, 2017. This appointment comes after a six month search process following the resignation of current Executive Minister, Ertell Whigham. He has served within Franconia Mennonite Conference for over 10 years, his most current role being as Director of Leadership Cultivation and Congregational Resourcing. He brings academic leadership continuing as the Associate Director of Pastoral Studies for the Lancaster, Pennsylvania campus of Eastern Mennonite Seminary. Steve is a collaborative, energetic, and creative leader who has a deep love for God and the Church. He is able to listen to all points of view while staying grounded in Anabaptist theology and practice.

### Mennonite Disaster Service

Registration for the 2017 All-Unit meeting is open. The gathering will take place **February 10-11** at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in Asheville, North Carolina. The two-day meeting will include speakers, workshops, an auction, local tour, and fellowship. This year's theme is "Someone Who Cares: We know what we are to do" referencing 1 Chronicles 12:32.

Visit the [MDS website](#) for more information as well as updates on current projects.

### Mennonite Church USA

The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board has developed [updated guidelines](#) for proposed resolutions that serve as "Church Statements." These statements, which "receive broad support across the church and give direction for Christian faithfulness" often speak to a current issue and provide a vehicle for witness, study, discussion and awareness. *Changes include:*

- making the Executive Board's Resolutions Committee a standing committee of the board,
- providing greater online access to proposed resolutions and more opportunities for feedback,
- limiting the number of resolutions that can be adopted at any given Delegate Assembly,
- allowing proposed resolutions to be brought to an assembly for discussion only, and
- encouraging the development of resolutions at any point during a biennium, not just immediately before an assembly.

The last change is perhaps the most important, Mennonite Church USA executive director Ervin Stutzman says.

*"The most significant advantage of these proposed changes is to remove the time crunch that tends to produce hurried last-minute submissions and revisions, undue pressure to fit it into a crowded delegate agenda and lack of time for genuine discernment," Stutzman says. "Further, the proposed process will likely garner greater participation in the churchwide discernment process, resulting in better preparation for a deciding vote by the delegates."*

Read the latest edition of *Equipping* [here](#).

### The Mennonite

The Mennonite magazine **welcomes original submissions** of feature articles, poems, original artwork and photos for our **February 2017** print magazine issue and corresponding online content focusing on Mennonites, race, identity and faith. More details available [here](#). Submissions are due to [Editor@TheMennonite.org](mailto:Editor@TheMennonite.org) by **January 5**.

### West Coast MCC

Pastors are invited to gather on **Monday, January 30 at 11:00am** at **Salem Mennonite Church** to meet with West Coast MCC leaders. Please RSVP to [Bob Buxman, 503-502-5402](#), by **January 16th**.

#### CALENDAR CORRECTION:

The Idaho Relief Sale is actually a two-day event and will be held **April 21 and 22**.

The sale will take place at the NNU campus in *Nampa*, ID, and not in Boise as previously noted.

*We apologize for the confusion.*

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#### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Jan 2 (submissions due by 12/26)

Jan 16 (submissions due by 1/9)

Feb 6 (submissions due by 1/30)

Feb 20 (submissions due by 2/13)

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

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

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