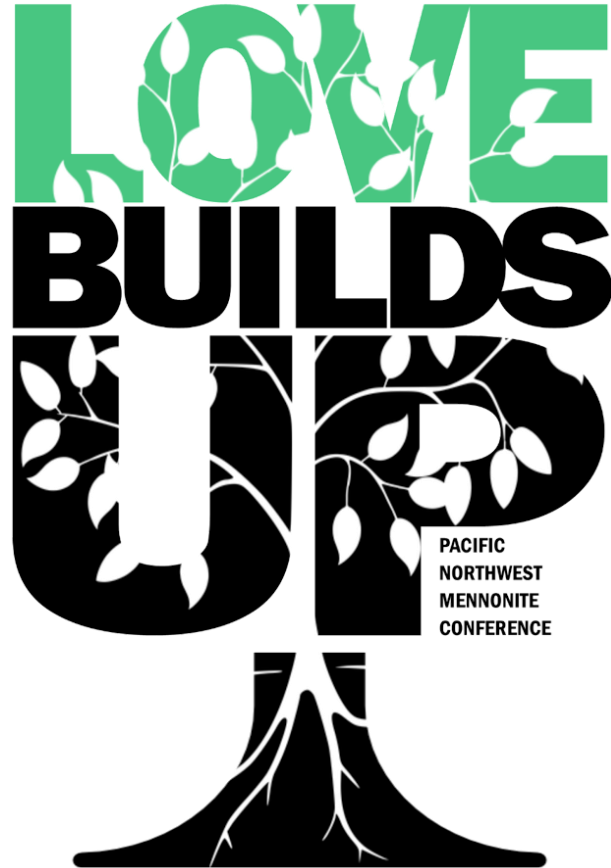


2017 ANNUAL MEETING / MENNO MENNONITE CHURCH / JUNE 23-24



23rd Annual Meeting

# DELEGATE HANDBOOK



Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite  
Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA

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# Welcome to Eastern Washington, 2017

*“...but love builds up.” 1 Corinthians 8: 1*

Dear Delegates of the PNMC,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we welcome you to the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual assembly in Eastern Washington at Menno Mennonite Church. Early families located in the Menno/Schrag area in the late 1800's, with Menno Mennonite Church being established in 1900. We are grateful to the Menno and Warden congregations for hosting our time of worshiping, fellowshiping, and discerning God's will together.

Our Scripture theme from 1 Corinthians emphasizes that **love** (Greek “agape”) is the **constructive force** of **Christian community**. 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—in other words, *building community*. We have inherited the marvelous story about Jesus Christ's life and resurrection that informs our identity as Christians, as well as our relationships with each other as sisters and brothers. 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 and peace,

*Jack Swaim*

PNMC Moderator

# Report from Executive Conference Minister

*Submitted by Katherine Jameson Pitts ~ May 2017*

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: . . . a time to break down and a time to build up . . .”*  
(Ecc. 3:1, 3b)

Some years feel like building seasons and others a bit more like a time of breaking down. This year has been one of many transitions in and for our congregations. And yet, even in the process of change and loss, we discover that building is also happening among us. Our theme for our Annual Gathering proclaims that “**love builds up**” and the acts of love happening in many congregations continue to build a witness of God’s presence among us here in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference.

River of Life Fellowship, Sweet Home, OR, and Logsden Neighborhood Church, Logsden, OR asked to be released from membership this year. We will miss the contribution of their pastors in the life of the conference, but know that these congregations have been moving away from conference involvement for several years. After over 90 years of ministry in far northeastern Washington, Spring Valley Mennonite Church has announced that it will be closing. Anawim Christian Community is moving away from life as a worshipping community to life focused on service to those who are homeless.

Many of our congregations are in the midst of pastoral transitions, something that always seems to take longer than we hope it will. We currently have 5 pastoral openings, with two more expected in 2018. sYour prayers are invited for Prince of Peace, Anchorage, AK, Menno, Ritzville, WA, Albany, OR, Evergreen, WA, and Salem, OR as they seek new pastoral leadership, and Eugene, OR and Filer, ID as they prepare for the retirement of their pastors in 2018. We are grateful for the ministry of interim pastors at all the congregations currently in the search process.

And yet, life in PNMC is not only about these changes and the breaking of old relationships. Over the past year I have heard many stories of congregations building bridges with love to their communities and to other congregations in PNMC. Changes in immigration policy in the US have called out a response to love our neighbors across the conference. We have responded to the recent rise in hate crimes by standing with our neighbors. In response to growing religious pluralism in our region we are finding ways to listen to our neighbors of other faiths. As our focus shifts from the differences between us, to the stories of those around us, God calls us to build each other up through acts of love and words of encouragement.

As we prepare to gather at Menno be aware of ways that you are being built up in love and be open to share the stories of your congregation so that we may encourage one another as we participate in the building of God’s kingdom in the Pacific Northwest.

*“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”* (1Thess. 5:11)

# Board of Directors Report

## 2017 PNMC Annual Meeting

*Submitted by Jack Swaim, PNMC Board Moderator*

The role of the Board of Directors is to give leadership to and act on behalf of PNMC. This role is in the context of our shared vision to follow 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. Directors are accountable to Member Congregations, who are the core organizational units of PNMC.

During the past year, the Board's primary focus has been on discerning the direction of the Holy Spirit for the future of our conference. Here are some of the discernment activities:

- During the June 2016 annual gathering at Zion Mennonite Church in Hubbard, OR, we convened delegate workshops to brainstorm ideas for the future of the conference—including ideas for future annual gatherings. Themes that emerged included what congregations value most about PNMC, what we'd like to see conference look like in ten years, what we're afraid of losing, and what we'd like to see changed. The crosscutting ideas centered on joy of community and relationships, unity amidst our diversity, and mutual support—especially in times of congregational crisis.
- During the February 2017 Conference Communications Council (CCC) meeting at Albany Mennonite Church, we worked in table groups to build on the “future” work done earlier. We invited and discussed specific ideas from congregations about possible areas of focus that could enable healthier congregations in the future. Among many great ideas, a theme began to emerge that congregations would like to share ideas and to seek mutual support in terms of how we stand with neighbors in our respective and collective communities who have the greatest needs.
- The Board itself also met four times. In each of these meetings, we began with prayer and worship. As part of our governance responsibility, we reviewed how our Board and staff are nurturing healthy congregations by supporting them during pastoral transitions, strengthening the ministry of our pastors, helping lay leaders share ideas, and supporting congregations who are developing their own future vision. We also pay attention to conference policies, and to fiscal responsibility. As part of our discernment for the future, in each meeting we shared updates and dialogue involving PNMC congregations, other conferences, and the denomination as a whole.
- Delegates from PNMC participated in each of the meetings of church leaders from across the country. These meetings are held twice a year and provide an opportunity for networking with other conferences and constituencies to share ideas and thus to influence policies and direction.

The Board is grateful to our congregations for supporting congregational members to serve on the Board and to serve in many other ways through committees, teams, and related organizations. The Board also highly values the work done by PNMC staff to support and nurture congregations.

# **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.

# 2016 PNMC Delegate Session Minutes

PNMC Annual Delegate Session – June 24-25, 2016  
Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR

Friday, June 24, 2016

Delegate Session 10:30 A.M.

- Moderator Jennifer Delanty welcomed everyone to the delegate session. She led us in reading Psalm 107: 1-3 and followed with prayer.
- Storytelling at tables:
  - Jennifer assigned each table group to talk about the question: Where have you experienced hope and healing in the church? Jennifer shared a brief example of her story as an example for the group. Tables were allowed 30 minutes to tell their stories.
- Approval of 2015 Minutes:
  - Harold Nussbaum and Brent Kauffman moved and seconded the approval of the minutes. The group approved the motion.
- Reports to Delegates:
  - Soul of the Conference — Katherine Jameson Pitts
    - Katherine acknowledged that it has been a difficult year for the Mennonite Church.
      - Three conferences and several congregations have left MCUSA.
      - PNMC Board has wrestled with how to live as a diverse conference. We have reaffirmed that we will be a member conference of MCUSA and will work to support the individual congregations.
    - Katherine has committed to visit all of our member congregations. She has met with 28 congregations and has 6 to go. She has found that all congregations care deeply about worship, about our children, about filling the needs of less fortunate persons. We care deeply about each other, our differences and concerns. We seek to connect member congregations with each other and resources to meet their needs and support their missions. She sees that we have the gifts to be God's people in the Pacific Northwest.
    - District pastors Dave Stutzman and Al Lind have retired. Samuel Moran will work with Wendell Amstutz with CIHAN congregations. In the next year we'll look at the District Pastor model for evaluation and possible change for even more effectiveness.
    - Megan Ramer is welcomed as a pastor at Seattle Mennonite Church.
    - Jennifer Gingerich is welcomed as a newly ordained minister.
    - Pastor Clusters: We'll try having an on-line pastoral cluster beginning this fall
    - Katherine will begin a sabbatical on July 1. Gary Jewell and Bob Buxman will share in Katherine's duties until she returns. Also, Barb Buxman can direct any questions/problems to the appropriate person(s).



- Pastoral Transitions:
  - First Mennonite of Aberdeen—seeking pastor
  - Portland Mennonite—seeking associate pastor
  - Prince of Peace Mennonite in Alaska—seeking pastor
  - River of Life and Albany Mennonite Churches are hiring transitional pastors.

#### Financial Report — Brett Tieszen

- Brett shared his vision of using the Peace Mennonite (Sanctuary) property in Gresham to develop the property as housing for the poor. Gresham, however, is not interested in this type of housing, but a satisfactory agreement was reached with the 4 congregations/groups who use the facility, so at this time there is no further need for change.
- A gift from an estate was made to PNMC helping to balance the budget once again last year.

#### CIHAN Report — Nelly Ascencio

- Nelly reported that after the Kansas meeting in July 2015, there was much anxiety in the CIHAN churches. Each congregation was encouraged to make their own decisions. Four congregations decided to stay in the PNMC as long as no changes are made to the adopted resolutions. One congregation has left PNMC (Woodburn) and also CIHAN membership. Another congregation is still in the decision process.
- Leaders of CIHAN will be meeting in August to discuss further how to respond to the decisions made in Kansas. Nelly asks for our prayers as CIHAN continues to deal with decisions made in Kansas.

#### Gift Discernment Committee Report-Presentation of the Ballot — Jennifer Delanty

- Jennifer explained how each position is elected or appointed and why this is an affirmation ballot and there are no “choices” on the ballot.
- Jennifer presented each person on the ballot and read a short biography about each one. She also shared biographical information about persons who were appointed to positions by the board. **(Ballot attached)**
- The ballot will be voted for approval at our session tomorrow.

Matt Yoder blessed our lunch and dismissed us from our morning session.

## Saturday, June 25

### Delegate Session 1 p.m.

- Vote on Ballot - Ballots were dispersed to delegates, marked, and collected.
- Breakout Groups and Sharing—The following groups were formed and a short summary of each group’s report to the delegates follows.
- **Using the SEED fund**
  - Communication from and to churches about what they are doing would help us to know how to use the existing framework for the fund.
- **Education and Equipping**

- Need for leadership training for elders/deacons within congregations on a regular basis since new persons are moving into these positions often
- Resourcing smaller congregations is a need
- Communicating better the resources available to congregations and pastors
- **Re-imagining Annual Meeting**
  - Improved communication would be helpful in the future
  - If we want this to be more than a place to do business, we need to re-brand the whole thing
- **Looking into the Future**
  - An appreciation of our community together was expressed
  - Don't want to lose our diversity
  - Want more youth and young people involved as well as the many "gray hairs"

Sharing from Pat Shaver about the prayer team

- Pat shared the following:
  - She was very thankful for the thoughtful recommendations from pastors for the team.
  - The team felt very nervous at first but felt God's presence as they prayed for us and our time together.
  - Many of the team felt how much God loves us all as they were praying.
  - The team heard from different persons and different languages on the team and it was an experience similar to Ruth and Naomi (*2 persons from different cultures united in love and devotion to each other*).
  - Pat also shared how she was healed after 2 knee replacements and 14 months of recuperation. She was miraculously able to walk at the Kansas City convention in 2015 as a member of the prayer team. She encourages us to tell the story when we feel that God has guided us and astonished us in answering our prayers.

Leadership Transition:

- Jennifer's Report
  - The Board studied 4 scriptures during meetings this past year: John 9 (who caused this man to be born blind) ; Matthew 11: 28-30 (discussed loss of congregations from MCUSA and some other individuals) ; Luke 9 (transfiguration —PNMC has witnessed transformation in our midst this past year—how do we maintain unity of spirit in today's differences) ; I Peter 5 (we discussed how we can fulfill this scripture as leaders of the conference)
  - Jennifer also reported on a good meeting with CIHAN leadership in which she and Katherine listened and shared about how to balance forbearance and following the guidelines decided by MCUSA.
  - Iris de León-Hartshorn prayed for the Board.
  - New moderator Jack Swaim was given a prayer shawl made by Joann Miller as a gift.
  - Jack presented Jennifer with a book of poetry as a gift of appreciation for her service.
- Results of Ballot - new board members have been approved by the delegates
- Announcements
  - Next annual meeting will be **June 24-25, 2017** (tentatively)
  - **February 4, 2017**, is Conference Communications Council in Albany

- **December 4 & 5, 2016** will be a pastor/spouse retreat sponsored by Everence
- Closing Prayer - Jack Swaim, our new moderator, led us in prayer to close the delegate session.

### **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 Brenneman, 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 **Eastern Washington 2017**, 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 Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2017

Imagine you scrimped and saved for three years so that in the fourth year you could buy a new house or go on an overseas vacation. You would not be dismayed to learn you spent more than you earned in the fourth year—that was the whole reason for your saving in those first three years! PNMC's fiscal 2017 is akin that fourth year, as reserves built up from years of rent surpluses at the former Peace Mennonite Church property were spent on maintaining and improving the property.

The amount of rent paid by tenants of the Peace property was set high enough to produce a surplus most years. However, it was not the intent of PNMC to profit from the property, so such surpluses have been placed in the Peace Campus Funds account where they accumulated over the years to periodically pay for larger facility repairs. In fiscal year 2017 income on the property was below expectations, utilities far exceeded budget, and the property management committee undertook facilities projects including replacing lighting, re-reroofing the parsonage house, and replacing carpeting. The combination of those expenses caused the Peace property to single-handedly skew PNMC's 2017 financial results.

The chart below breaks out FY 2017 income, expenses, and net income from the Peace property as contrasted with all other accounts.

	Peace Property			All Other PNMC Budget Classes		
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	Actual	Budget	over Budget
Income	32,156.25	36,300.00	(4,143.75)	147,563.84	147,054.00	509.84
Expenses	47,069.97	22,500.00	24,569.97	146,856.60	173,533.00	(26,676.40)
Net Income	(14,913.72)	13,800.00	(28,713.72)	707.24	(26,479.00)	27,186.24

In non-Peace property accounts income slightly exceeded budget, buoyed by individual contributions which made up for a shortfall in budgeted congregational giving. Expenses were lower than expected due to all staff pay coming in under expectations and travel expenses coming in far below expectations. This was despite a \$6000 grant to the Pacific NW Mennonite Historical Society which was not in the in the budget. However, the \$707 surplus from those accounts (especially impressive considering the budget was a deficit of \$26,479), was more than offset by the Peace property expenses. On the balance sheet the \$14,913.72 decrease in Peace Campus Funds and corresponding increase in Net Assets Available show the amount of money earmarked for the Peace property being reduced to offset what would otherwise be a reduction in Net Assets Available.

Although PNMC ended fiscal year 2017 with fewer assets than at the start of the year such a decrease is understandable as the spending of reserves on the purpose for which they had been accumulated over multiple years.

Submitted by PNMC Treasurer, Brett Tieszen  
April 2017



# **BALLOT 2017**

## **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**

### **Ritzville, Washington**

#### **PNMC Board of Directors positions**

**At Large -- Jenna Schlegel-Preheim** – Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship – Jenna is married to Marc, pastor of Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship where they attend. Jenna is a therapist at a community mental-health clinic. She enjoys being outdoors and riding her bike.

**Treasurer -- Brett Tieszen** – Portland Mennonite Church – Brett has been part of Portland Mennonite Church since 2010 and was employed as the church administrator from 2011 to 2016. In March he completed an accounting program at Portland State University and currently works as the accountant for an association of food processors. He enjoys reading and board games, but with wife Karen and two sons, Oliver 3, and Henry 11 months, doesn't get to spend much time on hobbies.

#### **Gift Discernment Team**

**Joseph Penner** -- Salem Mennonite Church – Joseph is married to Erin Boers and he owns and operates a small coffee roasting company in Salem, OR 'Steel Bridge Coffee, LLC.' He enjoys jogging, cycling, and playing soccer.

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

#### **Pastoral Leadership Team**

**Linda Dibble** – Albany Mennonite Church – Linda is a graduate from George Fox Evangelical Seminary with an MA in Spiritual Formation; has a BS in Business Management; and a Certificate in Human Resources Management. Linda works as a special projects chaplain assistant at Mennonite Village in Albany, is currently on Western Mennonite School Board of Directors, has served on the PNMC Pastoral Leadership Team, and manages the small farm she, her husband, and parents live on. Linda and Rob have six grandchildren, worship at Albany Mennonite Church, and enjoy going to the Oregon coast for refreshment.

**Amy Epp** – Seattle Mennonite Church – Amy Marie Epp has been a pastor at Seattle Mennonite Church for 12 years, working with children, youth and their families as well as in worship and preaching. Both at church and in life outside of work, Amy enjoys engaging the creative arts, especially textiles and quilting and more recently hand-lettering. This time of year, Amy is planting her garden and hoping the slugs won't eat the zucchini. She shares her life with her spouse Joe Hamilton and her children Naomi and Orie, aged 10 and 2.

#### **Sanctuary Property management – board appointment –**

**Barb Buxman** – Portland Mennonite Church – Barb is married to Bob Buxman and they attend Portland Mennonite Church. Barb has been Administrator for PNMC for eight years. She works from home where she enjoys entertaining, baking, and sharing time with her children and 4 grandchildren, Megan, Sam, Anika and Eli who live nearby.

#### **West Coast MCC Board representative from PNMC – board appointment –**

**Pedro Olvera** – Salem Mennonite Church – 3 year term – Pedro is a Mortgage Broker in Salem, Oregon. Pedro is married to Ninet and has two daughters, Amanda and Cesia. Pedro enjoys playing various types of musical instruments at church. He and his family also enjoy volunteering at Drift Creek Camp.

# TEAM / MINISTRY REPORTS

## Pastoral Leadership Team

*Submitted by Rod Stafford, PLT Chair*

March 30, 2017

The primary responsibility of the Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) is the credentialing of pastors and other church workers in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC). In the past year this has included the following:

- Beth Miller Kraybill, of Seattle Mennonite Church, was licensed for specialized ministry (chaplaincy) on June 23, 2016.
- Brianne Kruger, of Portland Mennonite Church, was licensed for pastoral ministry on October 31, 2016. She is currently in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at the VA hospital in Portland. Jennifer Gingerich will serve as a mentor for the next two years.
- Angel Campo's license was extended to October 5, 2018.
- Miguel Castillo's license was extended to October 5, 2018.

Other actions of the PLT have included:

- An on-going discussion of possible responses to credentialed pastors who preside at same-sex weddings.
- The suspending of Todd Lehman's ministerial credential for six months for disciplinary reasons; after six months, the PLT will decide what further actions to take.

In the past year, Simon Rendon's term on the PLT ended, Meghan Good moved to a new pastoral position in Phoenix, AZ, and Cathy Passmore resigned from the Team. We are very grateful for the wisdom and care they brought to their work on the PLT. Linda Dibble, Angel Campo and Mathew Swora have been appointed to the PLT. Gary Jewell and Rod Stafford (Chair) continue their terms. Katherine Jameson Pitts sits on the Team as PNMC Executive Conference Minister. And we continue to be very grateful for Barb Buxman's work as recorder.

- Submitted by Rod Stafford (March 30, 2017)

# Historian's Report

*Submitted by Gloria Nussbaum, PNMCH Historian, March, 2017*

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society (PNMHS), the repository for all of the documents for the congregations in the PNMCH, continues to be a wonderful resource to the congregations of the PNMCH, the local community and all who discover this gem. Much of this is due to the work of our dedicated volunteers. We ended 2016 with more than 3,000 books and pamphlets in our library.

The PNMCH Annual conference was held at Zion Mennonite in 2016, and the Historical Society, whose Kropf Heritage Center is next door, took the opportunity to invite attendees to come and explore our facility and resources. A workshop entitled "Your Congregation's Story Matters" was offered at the conference and a video recording of the workshop may be viewed [at this link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqrTbqRzss4&feature=youtu.be).  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqrTbqRzss4&feature=youtu.be>)

A highlight each year is the PNMHS Annual Meeting. The 2016 speaker was Marlene Kropf who shared some of her life story in a presentation entitled "Full Circle: Leaving Home and Returning." You may view a video recording of Marlene's presentation [at this link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXnPmgnsPPI&feature=youtu.be).  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXnPmgnsPPI&feature=youtu.be>)

In October the Society hosted a free workshop entitled "*Where in the World Did I Come From? – researching and writing your genealogy*" led by Jerry Barkman. We plan to have other events that will bring people to the Center. You may view the slide show to Jerry's presentation [here](http://www.pnmhs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Genealogy-Seminar.pdf).  
(<http://www.pnmhs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Genealogy-Seminar.pdf>)

Also in October, after affirming Margaret Shetler's decades of work with the society going back to its inception, the board of the PNMHS empowered Mike Barber from the Eugene (OR) Mennonite Church to be the new archivist. Mike has training in this field and we are pleased that he is willing to take on this role.

Last fall, the PNMCH gave the Historical Society a grant of \$6,000. We are very grateful for this generous show of support for the work we do for all of you.

It is still my goal as conference historian to have a "congregational historian" in every congregation that is part of the PNMCH. If your congregation has not yet identified your congregational historian, I hope you identify find such a person and let me know who she/he is ASAP. We also requested that congregations, in addition to sending their important documents to the archives, add the Historical Society to their budgets since your ongoing support is critical to our work.

To learn more about the wealth of resources at the PNMHS, be sure to pick up our new brochure and check out the website: [www.pnmhs.org](http://www.pnmhs.org).

# CIHAN

*Submitted by Nelly Moran Ascencio*

April 2017

**November (2016):** CIHAN's congregations had a joint worship service with Calvary Mennonite Church. Roca de Salvación's worship band sang in English and Spanish during the service; Pastor Kevin Schumacher, gave the sermon. Following the service, we had a shared dinner. Having a bilingual service was a blessing.

**December (2016):** CIHAN's pastors and leaders gathered for our "Cena de Fin de Año" at Zion Mennonite Church (End of the Year Dinner). We are thankful to Zion for letting us use their facilities. The purpose of the dinner is to gather all the leaders with their pastors for fellowship and give grace to God for all the things He did during the year. CIHAN's Board, shared the 2017 scripture based on **1st Corinthians 15:58** **"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."** The CIHAN Board selected this bible verse to remind church leaders to always keep in mind that God's work is abounding. We also encouraged them to continue working in God's work and to never give up. The evening ended with prayer for each of our pastors.

**January 2017:** We had our first CIHAN's Council meeting in which the subject of Immigration was brought up. CIHAN's Council decided to nominate a committee. They appointed: Pastor Angel Campo, Wendell Amstutz and Luz Maya De Campo. The committee's work is to give each of our Hispanic congregations' resources and information concerning immigration. In March of 2017, CIHAN's Board and the Immigration Committee worked on **"Recommendations of Actions"**. (See below). We are requesting your prayers. Please pray for our Hispanic congregations and for our immigrant communities. There are families in our congregations who are suffering depression and anxiety; other families do not want to leave their homes. Some families are taking the initiative to talk to their children in case of any emergency and they were to become separated. *On a personal note, it is heartbreaking to hear that parents have to talk to their young children about this issue, especially knowing that there is a possibility that children can be left behind. Again, we ask your prayers.*

**March 2017:** CIHAN congregations had our first "Confraternidad" 2017 (Joined Worship Service) with Warden Mennonite Church. Pastors and church members from the five CIHAN churches traveled to participate in this service. This was a blessing for all of us; we were able to sing from the hymns books. It was wonderful to be able to sing and hear beautiful hymn songs (without instruments except for the piano). The experience was wonderful. If any of the PNMC congregations would like to participate in our joined worship services, please contact me.

**Sister Care:** During a visit with Marisa Smucker (Mennonite Mission Network) in Oregon, we shared with her our desire to perform a seminar of Sister Care in Spanish; for our PNMC Hispanic Women. As a result the Mennonite Women USA and Hispanic Mennonite Church got interested in this project. We now have the honor to share that we are going to have a Sister Care Seminar in Spanish in Oregon. This is the first time that they are doing this seminar in Spanish domestically. I am so excited that we will have it in our area. We have 28 participants who are coming from Pennsylvania, Texas, California, Florida, and Indiana. Also we have 8 participants from CIHAN's congregations, (including myself). This is going to be a great opportunity for our women to have this training and enrich their lives. Not only will each woman's life be enriched, but they will also be able to train other women in their congregations. We are very grateful to Portland Mennonite Church for letting us use their facilities for this event and to the families in their congregation who will host participants. *Thank you, for blessing us.*

**EBAFOM/IBA:** From December 2016 to February 2017, the class "Introducción al Estudio Bíblico" (Introduction to the Biblical Study) developed. The class included 15 three-hour sessions on Fridays and Wednesdays. This class took place at Iglesia Roca de Salvación in Aurora and at Centro Cristiano Pentecostés in McMinnville. Eighteen students participated in the class at McMinnville and six in Aurora. Currently 12 students have completed their registration. We are thankful to God for Pastor Samuel Moran's passion in leading these classes as well as for his interest in training the leaders in our Hispanic congregations.

Blessings to you!

# **Recommendations for Action:**

An open letter to our churches from the

## **Commision on Immigration Matters! Of CIHAN**

(Concilio de Iglesias Hispanas Anabautistas del Noroeste)

The **Commission on Immigration Matters!** for the Council of Hispanic Anabaptist Churches of the Northwest (**CIHAN**) first recognizes that, facing the political changes in the country, neither our churches nor our institutions can offer legal solutions for our immigrant families, but we urge these actions in our churches to prepare and defend our families facing the threat of mass deportations.

1. **Prayer:** Together, let us cry out to GOD to give strength to His people, that we do not give ground to fear and desperation.

2. **Declaration:** Let us confess our need to one another in the church so we can support each other openly and in solidarity.

3. **Preparation:** Let us encourage and help families to get documents that may keep families together: passports for their children—American-born or foreign-born — and to designate temporary guardians for the care of their children in case of parents' absence. We can look for resources to help those in need.

4. **Organization:** Let us organize church networks of first responders for aiding our families in the moment of emergency with: childcare, transportation, information on attorneys and how to contact a loved one who has been detained, etc. Let us organize information sessions to provide our families with critical information and contacts.

For the Commission,  
Pr. Angel Campos

Luz Maria Maya De Campos

Pr. Wendell Amstutz

The commission welcomes your response or questions.

# Northwest México Ministries Report

*Submitted by Curt Dorsing*  
April, 2017

For nearly 60 years the Pacific NW Mennonite churches have had an intentionally focused outreach in NW Mexico. Congregations sent missionaries who started churches and encouraged new groups of believers. Through the years church buildings have been constructed. Recently emphasis has been on seminars for training of pastors and lay leaders.

The Mexico support team is the only passion based ministry of PNMC that continues outreach beyond the Pacific Northwest to reach lost souls for Christ. Over the past year, our team helped with pastoral training seminars, church construction and person-to-person counseling. In February of 2017 it was quite interesting to see seminars being held inside the new unfinished church building at Las Lajitas while outside concrete was being poured for the entryway.



Come join our Mexico team. We are looking for willing folks to help pray, encourage, share wisdom or maybe lay a few bricks. It takes about \$25-35,000 to build a new church and there are two groups waiting for help. You can send contributions to PNMC ear-marked for the Mexico Outreach.

Curt Dorsing for the Mexico Ministries Committee

# **PNMC AREA ORGANIZATIONS & SCHOOL REPORTS**

## **CAMP CAMREC UPDATE SPRING 2017**

*Submitted by Saralyn Jantzi*

This year is an exciting one for Camp Camrec as we are celebrating our 50th anniversary. At our Annual Fundraiser and 5k we will be partying the way good Mennonites do by sharing stories, pictures, and fellowship as we remember where Camrec has been and dream about where it is going! The event is happening over Labor Day weekend, September 1-3, 2017. All are welcome to join in on the fun, food, and gathering! The weekend is all by donation.

Another exciting thing is new developments on the trail systems around camp property. We've created a friendly 5k course here that can be used during our Annual Fundraiser weekend. It includes a few hills here and there but overall is fairly level which makes it enjoyable for all ages! We've also continued working on our older existing trails to make them more user friendly in hiking up the ridge lines.

Camp Camrec had some staff transitions within the past two years. Saralyn and David Jantzi joined in June 2015 and are serving as Co-Directors. In May 2016, Maurice and Joyce Briggs retired from being Caretakers after nine years of faithful service. In January 2017 Camrec welcomed Jesse and Amanda Parker. They, together, share the Facilities Manager role.

Last spring we connected with SOOP, Service Opportunities with Our Partners, to become part of their volunteer network. Summer 2016 we had our first SOOPers and they couldn't have been more of a blessing! Bob and Twila came at a transition time when we didn't have as many staff. Their contribution to camp was invaluable! We hope to continue partnering with volunteers to achieve Camrec's mission and better serve our constituents. If you have any interest in volunteering for a couple hours, a weekend, a couple months, or even a year please contact camp. We would love to talk more with you!

You can support us at Camrec by:

- -Praying for staff and volunteers as we together seek to nurture children in the love of God, the love of others, and the love of Creation this summer.
- Joining us in creating a place and spiritual framework for rest and restoration through your sustaining financial donations.
- Helping us care for this beautiful part of Creation and the extended landscape around us by volunteering time, working on erosion control on our trails and grounds.
- Holding us accountable and partnering with us as we seek to embody Anabaptist/Mennonite values of peacemaking, simple living, service, and community.



# Drift Creek Camp

*Submitted by Brenda Hostetler Kauffman*

*2016 was especially busy with our family's trip to Nepal. It was a beautiful gift to connect with our children's birth family. We are forever changed and deeply grateful. I suppose that we returned with both joy and the freshly re-opened wound of separation. We probably entered the summer with more vulnerability than usual, but the summer staff rose to the challenge and truly served as the hands and feet of Jesus...*

The summer staff worked well together and came with a willingness to serve. There was definitely a "Yes, and..." attitude among the counselors. The leadership team was strong with Gabe Barnes and Bethany Chupp in the office, Brandon Chupp leading worship and Skye McKinnell and Tessa Yoder working with Nature Activities, along with hike-leader Ken Kauffman. *Skye participated through Goshen College's Camping Inquiry Program.* It was great to have a broad mix of students from Oregon, EMU, Goshen and Hesston. Though many counselors were new, the group connected easily and there was a sense of being team-focused from day one. In my post-summer camp reflection, I shared:

*"DCC's summer camps wrapped up yesterday. The season was filled with many joys and moments of wonder; belly laughs and tender exchanges. There were challenges to wrestle with and thoughts to ponder; quiet times to revel and evenings of enthusiastic worship under the night sky, encircled with love. It was a sweet, sweet summer....and none of it would have been possible were it not for a fabulous summer staff who came to serve. I kept finding myself in tears on my quiet drive home as my heart swelled with gratitude for each one on staff. We are grateful for the way God's love flowed through you to hundreds of campers. The camp community was so blessed by your generous spirits, humble hearts, keen awareness, and affirmations for one another. Each day we had the privilege of watching the summer staff share grace, knowledge and wisdom with one another in ways that were hopeful, gentle, loving and kind. I am inspired by each one of you."*

We also had a great team of pastors! Curt Weaver (PMC) helped with some initial strengths-identification work during orientation; John Regier (PMC) served for the third year as high school camp pastor. He has been able to build relationships with campers every year. Gary Jewell (AMC) worked with 7/8 grades. This was his first time at DCC. Cynthia Hockman-Chupp (Zion) was pastor for 5/6 grade campers. Christine van Belle (CMF) returned to work with 3 & 4 graders. We are so grateful to have had these pastors serve. They each brought unique gifts for each week and made the summer program meaningful! Each pastor applied their creativity to make content meaningful! Thankfully all of the many volunteer needs were covered throughout summer camp! We were grateful for all the medical professionals who gave generously of their time: Denise Diller, Mary Raudebaugh, Janette Wisseman, Sarah Acosta and Dianna Eshleman. We managed to piece together enough kitchen help. Some weeks the volunteers were spread more thinly than others, but we survived and all the donations from Bob's Red Mill, including Gluten-Free baking mixes, eased that strain.

We are excited to welcome new caretakers! Josh and Anna McLaren and their two daughters, Maddie (4) and Ruby (2) joined the team this past January and have quickly made camp their home. There are SOOP volunteers lined up for the spring to assist with summer camp preparations, but the to-do list still seems daunting!

- Dismantling the Caretaker Cabin has been a huge project. It was torn down slowly in hopes of salvaging as much as possible; the rebuilding has just begun. *We are in search of a volunteer(s) willing to serve as the lead project manager.*
- DCC is again eligible for a \$35,000 grant from the Gray Family Foundation this year. While the grant is a blessing, it also adds pressure in that all maintenance work addressed by the funds need to be completed this calendar year. The grant is set up for camps that host outdoor schools. DCC also must raise an additional 50% or \$17,500 in cash or volunteer hours as our matching portion. One major project we hope to address is updating the Bath house!

We are happy to share that the Forest Service reviewed Drift Creek's Operating and Master Plan proposals which were initially submitted in 2015 and camp was granted a **20-year lease!** Meanwhile the culvert and fish wiers at North Creek continue to deteriorate. The Forest Service has partnered with several local organizations in hopes of allocating funds to replace the culvert and remove the defunct fish ladder. However, estimates are coming in much higher than initially planned so the work and **pending road closure, have been postponed until the summer of 2019!**

Women gathered April 21-23 for the 2017 Women's Retreat featuring guest speaker, Marlene Kropf. The topic "*Springtime for the Soul*" focused on finding ways to integrate spiritual practice into daily life. Marlene's approach 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 encouraged women to look to the natural beauty that surrounds us to see God. DCC looks forward to partnering with Steve Thomas from Mennonite Men to host a **Men's Retreat September 28-30, 2017.**

**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**

April 2017





## OREGON MENNONITE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, INC.

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April 2017

With the addition of one more group home in October 2016, OMRS now operates 14 homes for adults who experience intellectual / developmental disabilities (I/DD). Eleven of the homes are in McMinnville and three are in Albany. OMRS was able to move our group home in Sweet Home to Albany this past year, giving the persons in that home the opportunity to experience community in a new way. The current location allows us to be more efficient with our resources, reducing mileage and drive times between homes - and at the same time, offering opportunity to share staff between homes.

There continues to be unmet need for residential placements for adults with I/DD. Though OMRS would like to do more to help address this issue of capacity, the uncertainties of future funding raise questions about how to manage our growth. We count on God's guidance as we discern next steps for our organization.

OMRS is 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 - for the people who serve and for those who are served. For many, individuals with challenging disabilities are out of sight and out of mind. Fortunately, this is 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 2017**

Submitted by Ron Litwiller, President/CEO

Mennonite Village is continuing to grow. Several duplexes are being built. The nursing home project is under construction. This 42 private room addition will replace current semi-private rooms. Nearly \$15 million has been donated for the \$19 million project. Completion is scheduled for the fall of 2018.

The Wellness Center program is growing in popularity as is the new warm water pool. The Picnic Pavilion completed in 2015 has allowed us to offer Pickleball for year-round play. The adjacent outdoor activity areas include a putting green, horseshoes, Petanque and shuffleboard.

Competitors seem to think that retiring Baby Boomers will increase housing needs for seniors. Since some only accept private pay residents, we see increasing challenges to our commitment to serve Medicaid residents. We constantly face the issue of Mission or Business. We know we are both. This will become a greater challenge as Federal and State governments reduce their payments to us.

We appreciate seeing the interest in Bible study groups on campus. Some are led by our Chaplains but most are resident led.

Our off-campus management services have allowed us to serve facilities in Corvallis and in downtown Portland, as well as our Affiliates – Hope Village and Oregon Mennonite Residential Services.

We appreciate our relationship with PNMC and area congregations as we attempt to fulfill our Mission Statement – **to be a Christ-centered community providing life enriching services.**

We invite you to join us in July as we celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. July 28 will be our Older American's Day event. We expect 1,000 visitors on campus for this annual party. We will also have a special worship service in honor of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, July 30 at 2:30 pm. We invite you to join us for this service.

You are welcome to visit us anytime. You might want to come view the total solar eclipse with us on Monday, August 21 beginning around 9:00 am.

Ron Litwiller



## 2016: The Year of Fires and Floods

Our 2016 report theme is “Someone Who Cares”.

We all want to be known as people who care about others. To be someone who cares we need to know what is going on around us and what is required of us. In I Chronicles 12:32, we are called to understand the times, and then act. *Perhaps you could call 2016 the year of fires and floods.*

The Fort McMurray fires in Alberta, Canada, captured headlines as more than 2,400 structures and nearly 600,000 hectares (1.48 million acres) of forest burned. This fire was the most costly wildfire in Canadian history with an estimated \$3.58 million (Cdn) in damage. MDS is collaborating with other NGO's and disaster response agencies to begin rebuilding in spring 2017.

In the U.S., seven of the top 10 weather events involved extreme rainfall and several one-in-1,000 year flood events.<sup>2</sup> Hurricane Matthew was a major storm that hugged the East Coast from Florida to North Carolina, unleashing flooding rainfall, damaging winds and an ocean surge up to eight feet above normal. More than 15 inches of rain fell in some areas.

In April, the greater Houston, TX area experienced record flooding. Likewise in June, West Virginia experienced major flooding in over 40 out of 55 counties, including a deadly flash flood in White Sulphur Springs.

In August nearly 30 inches of rain fell in parts of Louisiana, inundating neighborhoods and towns. Caused by a no-named tropical low pressure that drew record-setting amounts of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico inland, this system produced three times as much rain in Louisiana as Hurricane Katrina.<sup>3</sup>

A lack of rainfall that persisted over many months in interior portions of the Southeast resulted in extreme drought conditions from central Mississippi to western North Carolina. The tinderbox conditions helped wildfires spread rapidly in October and November. The worst fire, by far, ravaged Gatlinburg, Tennessee in late November, killing 14 people and destroying more than 2,400 structures. The resulting damage is estimated at over \$500 million.

In 2016, over 2,466 volunteers responded giving over 18,113 hardworking volunteer days.<sup>4</sup> This is a value more than \$3.41 million. Many were cared for in 2016, and with the continued help of our wonderful volunteers and donors, we know more lives will be touched in 2017.

I love the story coming out of Pasco County, FL where our volunteers rebuilt homes from flooding there.

The volunteers reported:

After we finished the house of a homeowner, it was a blessing to see the happiness on the homeowner's face as we presented her with a new Bible, wall hanging, and prayer shawl. She shared that she had come to the place of being desperate and had decided that she would get in her car and just drive off to “who knows where.” That's when God intervened and she got the call that MDS was coming to help her. She said, “It literally changed my life.”

I give thanks to God for volunteers and donors who understand the times and are a people who care.

Kevin King  
Mennonite Disaster Service  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> The term “one-in-1,000-year flood” is a statistical way of expressing the probability of something happening in a given year. This term signifies that a major flood event has a 1-in-1,000 chance of happening in one year. See “How Often Does a 100 Year Flood Occur? *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* (NOAA). Online: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/ctl/resource100.html>.

<sup>2</sup> The term “one-in-1,000-year flood” is a statistical way of expressing the probability of something happening in a given year. This term signifies that a major flood event has a 1-in-1,000 chance of happening in one year. See “How Often Does a 100 Year Flood Occur? *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* (NOAA). Online: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/ctl/resource100.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Jason Samenow, “Year of the flood: The nation's 10 most extreme weather events of 2016,” *Washington Post*, December 27, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Based on a volunteer rate of \$23.56 per hour.

*"...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ...Love your neighbor as yourself."  
Matthew 22:36-39, NIV*

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

### **Sharing God's Love with Syrian War Survivors**

Since 2012, MCC has provided over \$42 million (including 61 shipments of material resources) in response to the Syrian crisis. At the March 2017 MCC U.S./Canada Board Meeting in Akron, PA, Riad Jarjour, former Secretary General of the Middle East Council of Churches and an MCC Partner, reported on the impact of this support. Riad's ministry supplies food to 9,000 families. He shared how a Muslim man came to him with tears in his eyes and said, "We were warned to avoid the Christians because you might harm us. But without your support, my family would have starved. Thank You!" Your generous support enables this ministry to share the love of Christ to those in desperate need.

### **Stepping into the Shoes of the Immigrant**

PNMC churches continue to express deep concern for immigrants crossing into the US over the Southern border. In 2017, three groups from PNMC churches will travel to Douglas, AZ and Agua Prieta, MX to witness the reality of the border and learn about the stories and struggles of those affected by the wall and US policies on immigration. Each trip is organized through West Coast MCC and takes place over five days. Below are the dates for the upcoming borderland tours.

- April 24-28
- July 22-26
- November 11-15

If you are interested in participating in one of the borderland tours listed above please contact Thomas Adlard at the West Coast MCC regional office- [thomasadlard@mcc.org](mailto:thomasadlard@mcc.org) or (559) 638-6911



*Photographed from left to right, Peggy Snyder (Chair of the MCC Canada Board), Riad Jarjour, Leonard Dow (Vice Chair of MCC U.S. Board). MCC board members receiving thank you gifts from Riad Jarjour for MCC's work in Syria.*

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

PNMC churches have contributed \$24,620 directly to MCC in 2016, in addition to generous donations of material resources like comforters and relief, health, and school kits. The Mennonite Country Auction in WA raised \$97,309, the Oregon Mennonite Festival (and the 2016 MCC bike ride) raised \$120,000, and the Idaho Mennonite Festival raised \$60,000. The Et Cetera Thrift Store in Lebanon, OR, has contributed \$12,343. Thank you for your generosity and your prayers!

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

- Derek Hostetler & Soleakhena So: serving as the Country Reps in Cambodia – Portland Mennonite Church, OR
- Jacob & Annalisa Breneman: 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
- Nancy Chupp – Seattle 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 to extend God's grace, mercy, and peace to all!**

West Coast MCC - 1010 G Street, Reedley, CA 93654 - 559.638.6911 - [westcoast.mcc.org](http://westcoast.mcc.org) - [westcoast@mcc.org](mailto:westcoast@mcc.org)

# **Western Mennonite School**

## **PNMC Annual Report 2017**

Mission: Western Mennonite School exists to offer Christ-centered education that prepares students for a life of faith and learning. We do this through four key distinctives: academic excellence, nurturing community, enrichment opportunities, peace building & service.

Current Enrollment: WMS currently serves about 175 students in grades 6 through 12. Only about 10 kids come from Mennonite churches and therefore Western has become a real mission to the families of Salem and McMinnville (and beyond) sharing with them God's love, the Christian faith, and our Anabaptist values and heritage.

Challenges in 2016-17: At the beginning of the school year, we faced a large budget deficit due primarily to an unexpected drop in enrollment. Through the summer months, it appeared we would have 205 students but only 175 ended up enrolling. Early in the school year, our Executive Director, Robby Gilliam, had to step down for health concerns. Andy Kauffman, a 1979 graduate of Western, had recently become a board member and agreed to step in as Interim Executive Director while the Board conducted a search for a permanent head of school. We made an offer to a good candidate but he declined the offer. Therefore, the search for a leader continues.

Through reduction in expenses and extraordinary giving from Western's supporters, we have been able to reduce the deficit to about \$120,000. We can cover this remaining deficit with funds that can be accessed from our endowments but that will be done only as a last resort. We are confident that we will be able to meet the deficit with the help of our community but, more importantly, with God's help.

Accreditation: This year was Western's accreditation year. We are accredited by both AdvancedEd and Mennonite Education Agency, and they conducted a joint accreditation review. Every member of our external accreditation team was from a faith-based school and they were therefore able to conduct the review with prayer and in a spirit of Christian fellowship. They reviewed the evidence we provided and made their own assessment. Overall, Western "scored" very well and was above national averages in all categories. However, there are always areas in which improvement can be made. Our Principal, Chad Rush, and a teacher, Denise DeGroot, spent many hours overseeing and guiding the accreditation process and both did an outstanding job.

Sports Highlights: Western's girls' basketball team ended up winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the state basketball tournament and the boys' team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Our boys lost in the semi-finals to Santiam, a public school in our league, but then joined Santiam's fan section and cheered for them during the championship game. A shining example to Santiam's team and fans.

There are many good things happening at Western as kids are being taught not only academic courses but about Jesus and his kingdom.

Andy Kauffman  
Interim Executive Director

# **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

**Everence**

**Mennonite Church USA**

**Mennonite Education Agency (MEA)**

**Mennonite Health Services (MHS) Alliance**

**MennoMedia**

**Mennonite Mission Network (MMN)**

**Mennonite Men**

**Mennonite Women USA**

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# A shared tomorrow

## Everence 2017 report

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
Annual Meeting  
June 23-24, 2017

*Look out for one another's  
interests, not just for  
your own.*

– Philippians 2:4  
(Good News Bible)

### **Everence® values our strong congregational partnership**

For more than 70 years, Everence has worked with congregations and their members to help 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 faith community as partners in stewardship throughout 2017 and beyond.

### **Congregations do more good with help from Everence Sharing Fund**

The Everence Sharing Fund encourages churches to help people in their communities by providing matching grants. Thousands of individuals and families benefit each year, including a former pastor and district minister in Virginia.



Several congregations pitched in to help Randy Coblentz when his doctor prescribed medications to treat a disease that affected his speech and mobility. The disease wasn't responding to an oral medication, and a different form of medication often works better in situations like Randy's when an infection affects the brain.

But his insurance didn't cover the type of long-term treatment prescribed, and the cost topped \$30,000. Grants from the Sharing Fund supplemented the congregational assistance.

### **Reaffirming our commitment to strengthen the broader church**

Everence is reviewing our church relations programs and activities to find ways to strengthen our focus on helping congregations remain healthy during a time of shifting member participation and changing patterns of giving.

We are reaffirming our commitment to the broader church and evaluating how Everence can be most effective in supporting the faith community.

Our five-year plan includes a priority to strengthen our church relationships. We will continue to partner with congregational leaders on lifting the faith community through stewardship, mutual aid and generosity.





### **Generous living in a self-centered world**

A new Everence curriculum, *Generous living in a self-centered world*, is designed to help us live counter to our culture through biblical models of generosity. The curriculum starts with Cain and Abel and ends with the Apostle Paul, exploring biblical stories and the connections with our modern-day American context.

The six-lesson study is an exploration of the biblical world to help first-world Christians wrestle with how to embody generosity while living as citizens of the most privileged and wealthy nation in the world. It takes a sense of purpose and discipline to not get caught in the riptide of culture that draws us into the world's flow.

Download the leaders guide at [everence.com/resources-for-adults](http://everence.com/resources-for-adults).

### **Using our credit card aids more charitable groups**

Everence Federal Credit Union donated \$16,200 to Friends United Meeting and Christian Peacemaker Teams (\$8,100 to each organization) in 2016 from our 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.

Our members voted online to choose the recipients, and we had a record of nearly 2,000 votes cast – more than triple our number from previous years.

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, Everence Federal Credit Union has given more than \$400,000 in grants

to churches, missions and relief organizations. Learn more at [everence.com/banking](http://everence.com/banking).

### **MCC volunteer honored with National Journey Award**

Johanna Sutter of Goshen, Indiana, received the Everence National Journey Award for 2016 because of the ways she models Christian stewardship. As part of this recognition, Everence donated \$5,000 to Mennonite Central Committee in her honor.



Johanna has volunteered for years at the MCC Great Lakes Material Resource Center in Goshen, collecting items for school kits and relief kits and assembling them for distribution to people in need throughout the world.

Johanna grew up in Germany during a time when food, clothing and other essentials were in short supply after World War II. Her family received a bundle from MCC, and she later worked at an MCC children's home in Germany. She moved to the United States in the mid-1950s and started volunteering for MCC after a long teaching career.

### **Pastoral Financial Assistance Program helping in a variety of ways**

Our Pastoral Financial Assistance Program, overseen by Stewardship Education Director Beryl Jantzi, has been more successful than imagined,

strengthening the financial health of pastors and building capacity for their ongoing financial support from their congregations.

In 2016, more than 100 financial assistance grants for pastors were approved. Half of the assistance money came from a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Indianapolis, and half in matching dollars raised by congregations and church conferences.

In addition to direct financial support, Everence is hosting educational events across the country for pastors and their spouses. And we're offering financial planning subsidies to help pastors and their families get the support they need for long-term financial stability.

### **Stewardship education resources for all ages are available from Everence**

If you need a good topic for study for a Sunday school class or another setting, visit [everence.com/resources-for-adults](http://everence.com/resources-for-adults) to see all kinds of adult education resources. Leaders guides and curriculum resources are available for you to download. We offer a variety of topics related to stewardship, including discipleship and Jesus' stories about money.

Everence also offers educational resources for church leaders at [everence.com/resources-for-church-leaders](http://everence.com/resources-for-church-leaders), featuring tools for increasing generosity within your congregation and ways to assess stewardship initiatives you already have in place.

Stewardship-related resources for youths and children are available at [everence.com/resources-for-youth](http://everence.com/resources-for-youth), including materials on how real-life topics relate to biblical perspectives about how we use our gifts of time, talents and money.





## MENNONITE CHURCH USA EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT TO AREA CONFERENCES 2016

*“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.”—1 John 4:18 (NRSV)*

The theme for Mennonite Church USA this biennium—which will also be the theme for the 2017 Convention coming up in Orlando, Florida, in July—is **“Love is a Verb.”** It suggests that love is a kinetic concept, one that is only realized when it is put into action. Amid a challenging year for the church, the nation and the world, Mennonite Church USA continues to seek ways to live out God’s love in a variety of settings. Following are some glimpses of that work in 2016:

The **“Hope for the Future”** gathering held in Hampton, VA, looked at issues of racial/ethnic diversity and created an Intercultural Competence Call to Action to encourage continued transformation and undoing of racism in the church.

The **Gathering Place** ([thegatheringplace.us](http://thegatheringplace.us)) has continued to grow, offering a virtual space for youth workers to network and find resources and support. More than 40 youth workers met in person, as well, at “The Gathering 2016.”

**Ervin R. Stutzman** was appointed by the Executive Board to a third three-year term as executive director, through 2018. The board praised his “non-anxious style of leadership and his ability to listen well.”

The **Mennonite Church USA Archives** made the move from Goshen College (Indiana) to the denominational office in nearby Elkhart. Jason Kauffman was named full-time director of archives and records management.

The Executive Board’s Leadership Development office and Everence are partnering to make **debt reduction grants** available to pastors. With matching funds from the congregation, individual grants can be for as much as \$5,000. About 115 grants have been issued so far.

The **Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)** is now widely available across the church, with 16 people qualified as IDI administrators. Mennonite Church USA provided 10 scholarships for training.

More than 100 Mennonite church planters, coaches and other leaders met for a national church planting summit titled **“Sent 2016”** in New Orleans.

**Culture Shock**, Mennonite Church USA’s first leadership conference for youth of color, took place in Hampton, Virginia.

The Mennonite Church USA **Panel on Sexual Abuse Prevention** continues to refine and prioritize its work as the church grapples with this important topic. The panel’s term runs through 2017.

A **reconciliation process** begun in 2010 bore further fruit this year when the annual assembly of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America welcomed 25 local Mennonites to continue that story of repentance and forgiveness related to the historic persecution of Anabaptists.

Plans continued for the **2017 Convention**. A new model for the Delegate Assembly is envisioned, largely clearing the agenda to make space for consideration of church identity and mission.

The **“Deep Faith”** conference was a cooperative venture of several US and Canadian Mennonite entities, including Mennonite Church USA. It energetically looked at faith formation for all ages.

**Joy Sutter**, a hospital administrator from Harleysville, Pennsylvania, was nominated as moderator-elect of the church beginning in 2017.

A team of Mennonite Church USA scholars began a **series of conversations with Pentecostal counterparts in the Church of God** (Cleveland, Tennessee) to seek mutual understanding and common witness.

The **Mennonite Church USA Offices in Elkhart, Indiana**, are debt-free thanks to the generous giving of 23 donors, years ahead of schedule. The building was completed in January 2012.

Women from across the country gathered in Leesburg, Virginia, for the **Women Doing Theology conference, “I’ve Got the Power,”** exploring power at work in people and systems.



## MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY 2017 REPORT TO AREA CONFERENCES

*Greetings from MEA! In this report, you can get a glimpse of some of the work we do in cooperation with five colleges and universities, two seminaries, two Ministerios Hispanos programs, more than two dozen primary and secondary schools in the Mennonite Schools Council (MSC), Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN), and others. In 2016-2017, a total of 10,787 students are enrolled at Mennonite institutions (not including Ministerios Hispanos).*

*By providing networking, support, collaboration, resources, professional growth opportunities, scholarships and more, we ensure the opportunity to provide exceptional academics with Anabaptist values. Our distinctives include: following Jesus Christ, being peacemakers, intentionally building community, developing dedicated and disciplined learners, serving others, and embracing differences. Some of the particular activities and initiatives of the past year include the following:*

- MEA staff assisted with the search for and **calling of two new presidents** for Mennonite higher education. Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, VA) called Dr. Susan Schultz Huxman, and Hesston College (KS) called Dr. Joseph Manickam. Both are beginning their terms in 2017. In addition, MEA continues to work with Goshen College (IN) as it seeks a successor to Dr. Jim Brenneman and also is supporting Bethel College (North Newton, KS) in its presidential search.
- MEA staff worked with Eastern Mennonite University through the **investigation process** into allegations against former EMU Vice President of Enrollment Luke Hartman and a review of EMU policies related to Title IX and the Clergy Act.
- Planning and preparation took place for the March 2017 **Education Leaders Gathering**, “Beyond Buried Treasure,” which is being held in partnership with MHS. This will be the second joint conference for Mennonite Health Assembly and MEA.
- The annual **Hope for the Future** event, co-sponsored by MEA, brings together people of color who are leaders in Mennonite churches and institutions to network and generate change. About 60 people participated in 2016.
- MEA executive director Carlos Romero continues to assist with administration of the **Intercultural Development Inventory**, providing the training for Mennonite college, university and seminary boards and other Mennonite Church USA organizations.
- A monthly calendar of **Prayers for Faith and Learning** is sent out to help people focus their prayers for schools affiliated with MEA.
- MEA expanded its advertising and outreach with a **four-page color insert** in the January 2017 issue of *The Mennonite*, which can be used as an ongoing promotional piece.
- A group of 36 people began training in this year’s **Values-Based Leadership** program in October. The program, co-sponsored by MEA, has seen more than 500 people take part since it began in 2001.

**Finally, from all of MEA, we want to say THANK YOU!**

Thank you to members of your conference who are serving on Mennonite educational boards and committees, and thank you to the 13 congregations who supported Mennonite education with total giving of \$16,936 from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016\*.

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

## 2017 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 76 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
- Rock of Ages/Valley View, McMinnville, Oregon

### Activities

- The Values-based Leadership Program, a collaborative of eight Mennonite groups, had 29 leaders in the 2016-2017 class. Participants gain self-awareness and an Anabaptist perspective on leadership. Registration is open for the next class at [www.vblp.org](http://www.vblp.org).
- Mennonite Health Assembly met in Jacksonville, Florida in March 2017 along with the Education Leaders Gathering. In addition to keynote speakers and workshops, an all-boards meeting facilitated by Mennonite Church USA executive leadership introduced plans for the Future Church Summit this summer in Orlando.



- ValuedLeadership.org is a website framed around themes of Character, Collaboration, Culture and Change to help leaders explore what it means to be an Anabaptist organization today. Webinars and resources on the website are free and available to anyone who is interested.
- Around the Globe - We partner with China Christian Council for workshops and an Executive Residency Exchange program to support developing senior care services. We also participate in an interfaith eldercare conference in Lebanon. Ron Litwiller from Mennonite Services Northwest serves on a committee that guides our international initiatives.

### For Thanksgiving and Prayer

- We're pleased to welcome Rock of Ages/Valley View into MHS membership this year.
- We are grateful for the significant contribution of hundreds of volunteer board members and staff leadership who carry out the missions of the organizations listed above.
- We pray for wisdom for our elected leaders in Washington as they consider changes to Medicaid and Medicare, which are critical programs that provide services for vulnerable people in our communities.

Submitted by Rick Stiffney, President/CEO

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

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## Report to Pacific Northwest Conference from MennoMedia

### Spring 2017

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#### New Resources for the Entire Church, from Herald Press

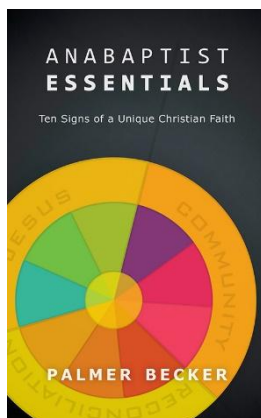
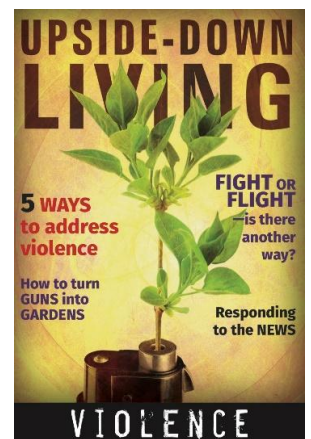


#### Smart Compassion

When is doing good not good enough? When does “doing outreach” actually do harm? In the vein of *When Helping Hurts*, Wesley Furlong’s *Smart Compassion* calls Christians to strategic, prayerful, and biblically based approaches to compassion. With evangelical Anabaptist conviction and psychology-informed insight, Furlong guides readers through three aspects of smart compassion needed for the flourishing of families and neighborhoods: community empowerment, radical hospitality, and healing presence. Discover wise strategies that bring Jesus’ love to your neighbors. Shift your paradigm from fixing everybody’s problems to loving, listening, discerning, and responding. Learn to “suffer with” someone without burning out. *\$15.99/available Feb. 2017*

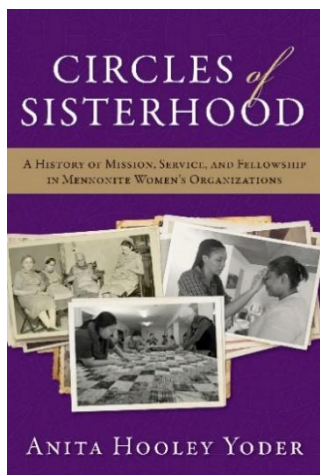
#### Upside-Down Living

Weary of Christian faith wrapped in a flag and trapped in your heart? Tired of faith as usual? Live out your Christian faith through the lens of Jesus. Follow values that seem so countercultural they appear to be upside down. Each compelling six-session Upside-Down Living Bible study helps us encounter the teachings of Jesus and wrestle with living out the kingdom here and now. The Bible isn’t a cookbook with solutions for every ethical dilemma, but it helps us raise the right questions, encounter the teachings of Jesus, and discover new ways of faithful living in the world. Ideal for Sunday school or Bible study sessions, each topical study covers a specific theme or issue and comes with thought-provoking discussion questions and activities. Live upside down. Topics include Sabbath, technology, money, identity and aging, violence, and sharing faith. *\$9.99 each/available beginning Feb. 2017*



#### Anabaptist Essentials: Ten Signs of a Unique Christian Faith

Jesus. Community. Reconciliation. These sum up the core values of Anabaptist faith and life, writes pastor Palmer Becker in this concise new resource. In *Anabaptist Essentials*, Becker introduces readers to the key convictions and practices of Anabaptism, the Christian tradition of the Amish, Mennonites, and Brethren in Christ. From the believers within a 16th-century movement to those today who try to follow Jesus, create community, and practice peace, Anabaptists have a rich witness to offer the wider world. Designed for study by small groups and for use as a resource for Christian formation and conversation, this clear, readable guide to what makes Anabaptism unique will equip readers to live out a more radical commitment to Jesus. *\$12.99/available March 2017*



## Circles of Sisterhood: A History of Mission, Service, and Fellowship in Mennonite Women's Organizations

The saga of Mennonite women's organizations is a story of struggle and triumph, productivity and misgivings, questions and celebrations. During the 20th and 21st centuries, women's groups have offered Mennonite women a means of serving others by sewing clothing, laboring over quilts, rolling bandages, and packing school kits. Women's groups have also provided Mennonite women the opportunity to test their skills as leaders and give voice to callings they felt in a church that has not always valued their gifts for ministry. In this vibrant portrait of Mennonite Women USA, Anita Hooley Yoder paints with both broad and subtle strokes the one-hundred-year history of an organization that nurtures local church women's groups and connects Mennonite women across the world.

## Hymnal Project Update

What songs connect you to God and your community and empower you to serve? What songs do you turn to in joyful or difficult times? What are your heart songs?

These are questions the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee is asking and is inviting Mennonites to respond to in a survey at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MWSC\\_Heart\\_Song](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MWSC_Heart_Song) as it embarks on a listening and study phase toward developing a new hymnal collection to be released in 2020.

"We want to hear from people across the church about the music and worship practices that sustain them," said project director Bradley Kauffman. "We are developing intentional ways of listening and are asking what existing content has the durability to enhance worship in coming decades."

The new worship and song collection is being designed to succeed Hymnal: A Worship Book (1992) and its supplements Sing the Journey (2005) and Sing the Story (2007). This new collection will take into account the breadth of the Mennonite church and the diverse ways Mennonites sing and worship, will be available in bound and digital formats, and will include an accompaniment volume. The collection is to be owned by and available throughout the denominations. The survey is open to everyone who has specific ideas for a new collection. Those filling out the survey can recommend songs from existing Mennonite collections and beyond for inclusion in the new collection. The survey will remain open throughout 2017.

Another important element is a call for new and original content. Authors, songwriters, composers, and artists can submit their original work online at <http://mennoniteworshipandsongcollection.org>. This online submissions portal will be active throughout 2017.



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**



## REPORT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

What's Mennonite Men? If you were to google "Mennonite Men", you would find these images.



Mennonite Men promotes groups and resources for men and provides grants for young churches to acquire their first building, as seen on the right. If you guessed the picture on the left or on the right, you are correct. We're not the ones in the center.

As a partnership of Mennonite Church Canada and Mennonite Church USA, Mennonite Men is about...

### Promoting fellowship

We encourage men to join or form groups to connect with one another on their spiritual journey. Check out our website. The resource tab provides models of what men can do together. In partnership with Mennonite camps and centers, we offer retreats for men to engage issues such as masculinity, sexuality, conflict, wilderness, sports, and generativity from an Anabaptist Christian perspective.

### Providing resources

Beyond work and weather, what can men talk about? Mennonite Men helped to bring about the *Closer Than a Brother* booklet series and *Under Construction: Reframing Men's Spirituality*, the latter of which is being translated into Spanish. We are now in process of developing online resources that can be downloaded for men's groups and *Peaceful at Heart: Embracing Healthy Masculinity*, an in-depth exploration of masculinity from an Anabaptist perspective.

### Extending grants

Mennonite Men is known for extending grants to young congregations for their first meeting place, granting over 1.8 million dollars through our JoinHands program. Last year we gave \$40,000 to West Hills Mennonite Fellowship in Baden, Ontario and have other pending grants. As a fund-raising arm for the Mennonite Church, we invite individuals and congregations to support JoinHands. We especially ask churches pursuing building projects to give to JoinHands as a way of sharing resources and serving "fair balance" with congregations in need (2 Corinthians 8.13-15). Look for our church display on the right at this or a future conference.



Following six years of fruitful ministry with Mennonite Men, our board said farewell to Don Yoder when he retired last July as Coordinator. The board is happy to welcome Steve Thomas of Goshen, Indiana in this role.

To learn more, support or engage Mennonite Men, visit [Mennonitemen.org](http://Mennonitemen.org) or contact: Steve Thomas (Coordinator) at [SteveT@MennoniteMen.org](mailto:SteveT@MennoniteMen.org) or 574.202.0048

## Greetings from Mennonite Women USA!

*This year marks 100 years of ministry, friendship, service, spiritual growth and empowerment of Mennonite women.  
Join in the excitement by connecting with us through resources, training and support.*



*Note our Centennial Logo!*

We have been busy uploading Centennial resources on our website so everyone can access them for use in gatherings, worship, celebrations.

[Visit mwusa.org/centennial](http://mwusa.org/centennial)

We are excited about the following events:

- ❖ April 7-8 - ***Sister Care for Hispanic Women*** leadership training was held at Portland Mennonite Church.
- ❖ June 30 – we anticipate the release of our commissioned history book: ***Circles of Sisterhood: 100 years of mission, service and fellowship in Mennonite Women's organizations*** by Anita Hooley Yoder, published by MennoMedia.
- ❖ July 5 – It's Mennonite Women Day and Celebration at the Orlando Convention.
- ❖ Sept. 28-30, 2018 - plan to attend ***Sister Care Level 2 training*** in Oregon.

**Grow our endowment, secure our future:**

- Honor your mother, daughter, sister, aunt, pastor or friend by making a donation in their honor or memory
- Plan to include Mennonite Women USA in your estate planning
- Make a monthly contribution to our general fund to keep our wheels turning

**Keep in touch by:**

- Subscribing to our inspiring quarterly magazine :: ***Timbrel***    [mwusa.org/timbrel](http://mwusa.org/timbrel)
- Subscribing to our monthly email :: ***Postcard and a Prayer***    [mwusa.org](http://mwusa.org)
- Following us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest
- Calling or emailing one of us (see below).

Marlene Bogard, Executive Director // 316-285-2438 // [marleneb@mwusa.org](mailto:marleneb@mwusa.org) // Salem, Oregon  
Kathy Bilderback, Board Chair // 208-860-6446 // [kabilderback@cableone.net](mailto:kabilderback@cableone.net) // Boise, Idaho

# Be local. Be global. Be the Gospel.



God's healing of creation and reconciliation of all things in Jesus.

One day we will celebrate with sisters and brothers from every culture, tribe, tongue and nation

We not only anticipate that day with joy, we are also invited to be partners and co-laborers with Christ in inviting and welcoming people from every tribe and tongue to be a part of that celebration, which will gather around the throne of

God. We celebrate the brothers and sisters, and each congregation in Pacific Northwest Conference, who have shared their lives, their prayers, and their resources to realize God's dream of healing the nations and of a world redeemed through Jesus

Christ. Thank you for your generosity and partnership with Mennonite Mission Network in God's project. With sincere appreciation!

*Stanley W. Green*  
Stanley W. Green  
Executive Director

## Pacific Northwest + Mennonite Mission Network

### Partnerships



**Mary Beyler**—Accompanies the Mennonite congregations in Hokkaido, where she teaches, preaches, and leads music in addition to serving on several conference committees.  
» Albany Mennonite Church  
» Salem Mennonite Church

**Dan and Kathryn Smith Derksen**—Provide logistical support, develop peacebuilding programs, and engage partners in program development.  
» Evergreen Mennonite Church  
» Seattle Mennonite Church

### Service



**MVS site**  
**Seattle**, Washington

**Service Adventure site**  
**Anchorage**, Alaska

**SOOP site**  
**Drift Creek Camp**, Lincoln City, Oregon

### SOOP participants

**Carleen Elliott**, Reedley, California  
**Jerry and Nancy Friesen**, Glendale, Arizona  
**Phillip and Elizabeth Hestand**, Glendale, Arizona  
**Kathy Howell**, Glendale, Arizona

### Congregational giving to Mission Network



During Mission Network's last fiscal year, August 1, 2015, through July 31, 2016, 21 of 34 Pacific Northwest Conference congregations (62 percent) gave **\$91,968**, or an average of **\$4,379**.

### Mission banks



The children from Zion Mennonite, Salem Mennonite, Evergreen Heights Mennonite, and Spring Valley Mennonite churches gave a total of **\$750.69** to missions.

### Prayer partners



**29** people have committed to pray daily for Mission Network ministries.



*May the seeds that have been planted through giving, prayer, and participation continue to grow and be a blessing to many around the world.*

*Marisa Smucker*

Marisa Smucker  
Church Relations Representative

**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**

**Bluffton University**

**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

## Area conference connections

**PNMC Students:** Rachel Joy of Portland Mennonite Church and Brian O’Leary of Seattle Mennonite Church are both pursuing Master of Divinity degrees.

## This year at AMBS

**Commencement:** At the time of this report, 21 students are anticipating graduating from AMBS in May 2017. Eleven graduates will earn the **Master of Divinity** degree, a three-year program of study for leadership in the church. Three will earn the **Master of Arts in Christian Formation**; two the **Master of Arts: Peace Studies** and one the **Master of Arts: Theological Studies**. Four students will receive a **Certificate in Theological Studies**, representing one year of study.

**MDiv Connect:** Are you feeling drawn to deepen your understanding of Scripture, Anabaptist theology and faith — without relocating? Through AMBS’s **Master of Divinity (MDiv) Connect** program, you can earn a seminary degree in your current setting. By taking 12–14 credit hours per year in online and hybrid formats, you can complete the 80-hour program in five and a half years. Connect students can receive the full amount of need-based tuition aid by taking at least 12 credit hours per academic year. [ambs.edu/mdivconnect](http://ambs.edu/mdivconnect)

**Schedule a visit:** Those interested in learning more about AMBS are invited to attend a Seminary Preview Day or Evening in the fall or spring, or schedule a personal visit on another date. Meet students and professors in person, attend classes, join us in worship and get first-hand information about financial aid and scholarships. Explore how we educate leaders for God’s reconciling mission! [ambs.edu/admissions/visit](http://ambs.edu/admissions/visit)

**Lifelong Learning:** The AMBS Church Leadership Center offers many opportunities for you to continue your education and strengthen your leadership skills: webinars, short courses (both on campus and online), workshops, Pastors Week, Leadership Clinics and more. (These are non-degree options.) [ambs.edu/lifelong-learning](http://ambs.edu/lifelong-learning)

**Host a “Reading the Bible with Jesus” workshop:** Encourage your congregation or area conference, or join with other area congregations, to host itinerant Bible teacher **Bryan Moyer Suderman** for 1–2 days of digging deep into one of the Gospels to gain tools for reading and interpreting Scripture like Jesus did, in light of today’s world. These workshops are available in English and Spanish. [ambs.edu/workshops](http://ambs.edu/workshops)

**Pastors Week:** Participants in the 2017 event, held Jan. 23–26, focused on *Cultivating Intercultural Leadership for Diversity-Oriented Churches*. Save the dates for **Pastors Week 2018:** Feb. 26 – March 1.

**!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** This program gives students in grades 10, 11 and 12 an opportunity to explore ministry, develop their leadership gifts and listen for God’s call through a Congregational Experience and a Group Experience (July 11–26, 2017). Encourage someone you know to apply for 2018! [ambs.edu/explore](http://ambs.edu/explore)

*We thank God for your support and ask for your prayers as we prepare leaders for the church through programs that are biblically, spiritually, ethically and theologically grounded.*

Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ

June 2017 • 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517 • 574.295.3726 • [ambs.edu](http://ambs.edu)

The 2016-2017 academic year at Bethel College is nearly over, and we have much for which to be grateful. We thank God for the following (and much more):

- A strategic plan that is beginning to unfold.
- Campus ministries opportunities for students, including:
  - Centering prayer
  - Tough Talks and Tasty Treats (discussing faith questions)
  - Navigator Bible Study
  - Weekly Chapel Services
  - Threshers for Christ Bible Study
  - Fellowship of Christian Athletes with continually increased participation
  - A newly launched small group initiative
  - 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.
- 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.
- A newly formed Anti-Oppression Task Force, which seeks to address issues of oppression and intercultural competence on our campus.
- A release of *Mennonite Life* with major articles on performing in prison, on Mennonite/s writing, and in memoriam of Robert Kreider.
- Commissioning and hosting important research on American Mennonites and social engagement for the common good, presented by Perry Bush of Bluffton University.
- Hosting the Mennonite Faculty Conference, which focused on the theme “Fidelity of Place,” inspired by Robert Kreider.
- Hosting this year’s Intercollegiate Peace Fellowship, around the theme, “Uniting for Social Change,” with keynote speaker David Anderson Hooker of Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.
- Hosting Drew G.I. Hart of Messiah College as this year’s Staley Distinguished Scholar, for presentations on racism and the church.
- Hosting Arli Klassen of Mennonite World Conference for a pair of speaking engagements during her tour.
- Hosting Palestinian and Jewish Voices for peace, with extended interaction with Palestinian human rights lawyer and chairperson of the Bethlehem Bible College board of trustees, Jonathan Kuttab.
- A concert choir tour, which traveled as far north as Winnipeg. The tour was a benefit for Mennonite Central Committee, and raised over \$20,000 for MCC’s work of relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ.
- 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.



## 2017 Report to Pacific Northwest Conference

### Spiritual Life Week

Spring semester's Spiritual Life Week took place April 2-8 and featured **Pastor Paula Snyder Belousek** of Salem Mennonite Church in Elida, Ohio. Mennonite minister and author **Todd Wynward** led a week-long series of activities during fall semester's Spiritual Life Week, Nov. 6-12.

### Bluffton offering faith-based master's degree for educators

Master of Arts in Education students in Bluffton's new faith-based concentration of study will learn to ground their work in Anabaptist faith and values while refining their philosophy of teaching with other faith-driven professionals.

The concentration is an outgrowth of the Mennonite Education Agency's Anabaptist Learning Institute program which features 10 credit hours of Christ-centered graduate-level coursework.

"Faith is often seen as something you add on to education or is really the purview of the chaplain or the pastor. However, this program will explore how faith connects with the way disciplines are taught," said Dr. Gerald Mast, professor of communication.

Mast teaches two of the classes in the program. All classes are offered online or through Zoom video-conferencing technology, meaning classes can be taken from the convenience of the participant's home.

For more information, contact **Adult and Graduate Studies** at Bluffton by calling 419-358-3897 or emailing [adulthood@bluffton.edu](mailto:adulthood@bluffton.edu).

## SIMPLY INNOVATE | THE CAMPAIGN FOR BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY

Simply Innovate, the Campaign for Bluffton University, launched in September to provide students and teaching faculty with a new science building and the resources to sharpen program delivery to move Bluffton confidently into the future. The five-year campaign includes a comprehensive goal of \$26 million with a priority on opening a new science building. So far, more than \$12 million has been raised.

Students from  
**22** states



and **6** countries

### #BeaversAll

**Alicia Rodriguez '16**, Phoenix, Ariz., spent two months in Bangladesh where she developed nutrition modules for Mennonite Central Committee. Topics ranged from affordable nutrition to preventing diabetes.

Read more about Alicia and other Bluffton students, faculty and staff at [www.bluffton.edu/beaversall](http://www.bluffton.edu/beaversall)

Find us on the web  
and social media!  
[www.bluffton.edu](http://www.bluffton.edu)

For more information, contact  
**Robin Bowlus**  
Senior director of advancement  
operations and public relations  
[bowlusr@bluffton.edu](mailto:bowlusr@bluffton.edu)



## EASTERN MENNONITE SEMINARY

*Prepared to serve and  
lead in a global context*

Summer 2017

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

Seminary Annual Report

### Seminary alums making a difference, “Welcoming the Neighbor.”

During the divisive election season, **Matt Bucher** (2014 grad), pastor of Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg created a simple wooden sign that read, in Spanish, English, and Arabic, “No matter where you are from, we’re glad you’re our neighbor. This sign was planted in the church lawn. Some months later, **Nick Meyer** (2014 grad), pastor at Early Church in Harrisonburg, suggested that this message needed to be broadcast to a wider audience. A graphic artist helped Matthew and Nick develop a colorful version of the sign that could be easily printed and displayed.

These signs have now appeared in all 50 states, and are starting to show up around the world. Information about ordering signs can be found at the “Welcome your neighbors” Facebook page.

### 2017 School for Leadership Training: January 16-18

In a time when it seems dividing differences are becoming more and more pronounced, both in the church, and in broader society, nearly 250 participants at EMS’ SLT explored ways to counter this trend.

Led by keynote speakers Christena Cleveland and Drew G.I. Hart, participants explored healthy ways to navigate interactions with the “other,” while owning our own particular world-view lenses. The biblical story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37 was a focal point in the worship services.

### EMS Commencement

Seminary commencement was held on Saturday, April 29. Nine students received the Master of Divinity degree, one student received the Master of Arts in Religion degree, and three students received certificates in ministry leadership. The commencement speaker was Erin Dufault-Hunter, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary.

### Fall semester distance learning options:

#### Online:

- New Testament: Text in Context, 3 SH, Dorothy Jean Weaver
- Christian Tradition I, 3 SH, David Evans

#### Hybrid:

- Leadership and Administration, 3 SH, Lonnie Yoder
- Christian Ethics, 3 SH, Mark Thiessen-Nation

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.*

**Susan Schultz Huxman**, University president

**Michael King**, Seminary dean

**Phil Helmuth**, Executive director of church relations

**Les Horning**, Interim director of seminary admissions, associate director of seminary development 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



**Prepare for civic engagement and tough  
conversations in polarized times at 2017  
Summer Peacebuilding Institute**

The skills taught for 22 years at Eastern Mennonite University's Summer Peacebuilding Institute have always been relevant to people in the United States, but now they have a renewed significance. Learning how to communicate in polarized communities, turning conflict into connection, recognizing and analyzing systems of oppression, taking steps in your community toward dismantling those systems — these are some of the peacebuilding skills that more than 3,000 people from 124 countries have learned since SPI began in 1994.

Now there's a heightened awareness among many living in this country — citizens and non-citizens alike — that participation in marches and protests, and even the fuzzy concept of "resistance," isn't enough to solve the serious challenges the country faces.

Throughout May and June of 2017, SPI offers 23 five- and seven-day courses, with several focused on strategic organizing, nonviolent resistance, coalition-building and tough conversations.

**Undergrads publish research on using the  
'Judas technique' to track pest beetle in Guam**

Research on the Coconut rhinoceros beetle by two Eastern Mennonite University students and one professor was recently published in the scientific journal *Environmental Entomology* featured on the news site of the Entomological Society of America, *Entomology Today*. Modern advancements in the miniaturization of radio transmitters allowed Professor Matthew Siderhurst and biochemistry majors Diego Barahona and Kat Lehman to employ the "Judas technique" in following tagged beetles to breeding sites on Guam.

"Because adults tend to aggregate at the places where they lay their eggs, we speculated that it would be possible to find areas with dense populations of this

pest insect by tracking individual beetles," says Lehman.

Siderhurst has worked on several agricultural pest projects in Hawai'i, Guam, and Australia since earning his PhD in entomology from Colorado State University. He and his students were joined by University of Guam researchers in August 2015 for this endeavor, funded by a USDA Forest Service grant. Siderhurst has taken students researchers to Hawai'i and Guam almost every year since he came to EMU a decade ago.

**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 540-432-4597

*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.*

- Susan Schultz Huxman, president
- Phil Helmuth, executive director of  
development and church relations
- Lindsay Martin, associate director  
of development
- Matt Ruth, director of admissions  
(540) 432-4597 [www.emu.edu](http://www.emu.edu)  
[ChurchRelations@emu.edu](mailto:ChurchRelations@emu.edu)

## Goshen College Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, April 2017

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### **President opens year with message on Christ-Centered Passionate Learning.**

During the 2016-17 school year, the college is focusing on its core value of "passionate learning." President James E. Brenneman opened the year by sharing three descriptions of what it means to be a passionate learner. He said "A passionate learner, first of all, never stops asking 'why,' and is the most excited, most curious, nosiest person in the room," sharing examples of Youtube videos that show children discovering things for the first time. He added that passionate learners are first and foremost listeners, encouraging everyone to listen most closely to those who think and act differently than us. "Make a friend, a real friend, this year, of someone with whom you have major ideological, religious, cultural or political differences," he said. Lastly, he said passionate learners are lifelong learners, as demonstrated by his father-in-law, who, with an 8th grade education, built a successful HVAC company, learned to fly an airplane, built computers, started an accounting business, and recently became an Uber driver, all by figuring it out on his own. He encouraged all to keep learning up until our dying breath. Brenneman, a 1977 graduate of Goshen College, will resign as President following the 2016-17 school year.

### **Conference connections**

This academic year we have 10 students enrolled from 5 Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference congregations. Those churches generously pledged \$28,500 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 specifically recognize students who studied and served abroad for a semester through GC's Study Service Term (SST) program. Nathan O'Leary and Malcolm Stovall from Seattle Mennonite Church

spent a semester in Senegal on SST. Reuben Leatherman from Salem Mennonite spent a semester in Peru on SST.

### **2016-17 Campus ministries theme**

The Campus Ministries theme this year is "Learning Through Stories." Eleven Ministry Leaders, six Worship Assistants, and countless other Goshen College students provide leadership as we explore what it means to learn about "the other," given the world we live in oozes with pain and injustice often brought on by a lack of understanding. In the first chapel of the year, Campus Pastor Bob Yoder shared that we might be tempted to rely on what we already know rather than to learn something new. We should not be lazy. Learning the "story behind the story" requires patience, time and perseverance. 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. *To learn about campus ministries, see [www.goshen.edu/faith/campus-ministries](http://www.goshen.edu/faith/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 2017

**Hesston Presidential Transitions** – The Hesston College Board of Directors and Mennonite Education Agency appointed Dr. Joseph Manickam as Hesston's ninth president. Manickam assumes office on July 1, 2017, and an inauguration celebration will be held September 22-24 as part of college homecoming activities. Dr. Manickam is currently director of the Institute of Religion, Culture and Peace and faculty member for peace studies at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The search committee praised Dr. Manickam's relational abilities and his strong intercultural competency, which have been common threads in his work. He is a 1987 Hesston College alumnus and served five years as the associate director of Admissions. His undergraduate degree is from Goshen (Ind.) College and he holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in intercultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, Calif.). The board and agency previously appointed Benjamin E. (Ben) Sprunger as interim president at Hesston. Sprunger has served the college community well over the Fall '16 term and will continue through Spring '17.

**RN to BSN** – Starting January 2017, Hesston College launched a RN to BSN program for registered nurses looking to complete a bachelor's level degree with 28 new students. The associates degree program (ADN) expanded in August 2015 to include a four-year bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program. The RN to BSN program is offered as both a one-year or two-year option and courses will be online and on-campus. [www.hesston.edu/nursing](http://www.hesston.edu/nursing).

**Starting the year** – Campus kicked off the 2016-17 year during Opening Weekend Aug. 19 to 21 and the first day of classes Aug. 22. Hesston College's official fall 2016 enrollment numbers give a total student headcount enrollment of 401. Included in total enrollment is a four percent increase of new students who started at Hesston of 215 in 2016, as compared to 206 in fall 2015. Retention of students from Fall '16 to Spring '17 semester was at a very strong level and above previous fall to spring term levels.

**2016 Community Read** – The 5th Hesston book selection for the 2016 read was "Spare Parts" by Joshua Davis. The book tells the true story of four undocumented teenagers, born in Mexico but living in Phoenix, who were inspired by their high school science teachers to build an underwater robot out of "spare parts" and compete against corporate-sponsored collegiate teams. Davis shared about his work in a presentation on Oct. 4.

**Homecoming 2016: Home Sweet Hesston** – Hesston College and over 450 alumni and friends celebrated homecoming 2016, "Home Sweet Hesston," Sept. 29- Oct. 2, along with Hesston High School and the larger community. Homecoming 2016 marks Hesston High School USD 460's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which transitioned from the former Hesston

Academy. More than 265 HC alumni attended 12 class reunions. Dual alumni that attended both Hesston High School and Hesston College resourced the weekend as presenters and performers. Many events throughout the weekend were shared and open to the community including, the keynote presentation, "Compassion and Integrity in an Age of Fragmentation" by 1973 HHS and 1975 Hesston College graduate John Paul Lederach and the "Promise of Living" Gala concert.

**AVDS Conference** – HC's 2017 Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series (AVDS) event **When The Unthinkable Happens**, worked to answer the question, "How can congregations and our communities work together to be ready for traumatic events and to build resilience and bring healing and hope in the immediate aftermath and in the days and months following?" On Feb. 17-19 Kate Wiebe, director of the Institute for Congregational Trauma and Growth, gave keynote presentations on campus along with STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resiliency) trainer Donna Minter, Mennonite Disaster Service(MDS) Executive Director Kevin King and area resource persons.

**Congregational student aid** – Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by students' churches. During the 2015-16 year, 65 churches contributed \$176,880 in student scholarships to 108 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of \$112,885. The average church aid per student was \$1,637 while the average church-and-college aid per student was \$2,683. **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 [www.hesston.edu](http://www.hesston.edu). For questions or more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, Director of Alumni and Church Relations toll free at 866-437-7866.

**2016-17 campus theme verse** - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord....-- Jeremiah 29:1-13 (NIV)

### Statistics and Connections

**2016-2017 Academic Year Students** – 4

**Congregational Student Aid** – 2 congregations provided \$4,000 in tuition assistance for 4 students as of April 1, 2017.

**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.

Ben Sprunger, Interim President

Dallas Stutzman, Director of Alumni and Church Relations

Mike Zucconi, Director of Development

Tony Brown, Development Officers

Allie Shoup, 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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