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From the PNMC Office

A Reflection on the Conference Communications Council Meeting, February 10, 2018



Written by Pastor Samuel Adams, he has been serving at Bend Mennonite Church since its beginning in 2006. Bend Mennonite Church meets at 595 SW Hillwood Court on Saturday afternoons at 4:30pm. *If you find yourself in Central Oregon, please consider joining the congregation for worship.*

On a crisp and sunny winter day, pastors and delegates from congregations from around the Pacific Northwest gathered (in person and virtually) at Zion Mennonite Church in Hubbard, OR for the Conference Communication Council meeting. The meeting involved worship led by Wendell Amstutz, updates from each congregation in the form of both thanksgivings and prayer requests, and reports from the PNMC Board Moderator, Jack Swaim, and Treasurer, Brett Tieszen. After lunch the group, seated in table clusters, was led by Conference Executive, Katherine Jameson Pitts, in a review and follow-up discussion of the **Future Church Summit** that took place in Orlando last summer.

The Future Church Summit in Orlando was part of a two-year “**Journey Forward**” process that MC USA is currently going through in an effort to discern the present identity of our denomination and where we’re headed together. The goal is to provide guiding documents that set forth core commitments that can serve as a sort of rudder as we navigate the future direction of the Mennonite Church USA.

The meeting at Zion was the first step in the continuing process of discernment that brought the results of the Future Church Summit to the local, conference level. Over the next year conferences around the country will be going through the process that we went through in Hubbard.

The discussion centered around a document that a writing team composed called, “**Renewed Commitments for MC USA: [A Living Document for the Journey Forward Process](#)**.” This document, accessible [here](#), is the first attempt at a summary of results from the Future Church Summit. It will be followed this summer by a study guide for congregations, Sunday schools, or small groups. Pastors and delegates discussed this document, the process it is part of, previewed early formats for the study guide, and suggested in writing our reaction to it and the questions it raises.

The document is a “**living document**” and in response to feedback through conversations in conferences and local congregations, it will most certainly change to reflect with increasing accuracy who Mennonites are and who we think we are called to be. On this Saturday in Oregon, conversations around the tables reflected both the differences that exist between us and the common convictions that bind us to one another. By ending with prayers that each table group composed together, we submitted our hopes and our dreams for the Mennonite Church to the One in whom we ultimately trust for the journey forward.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

PNMC to Host Goshen College Men’s Choir

Don’t miss the following opportunities to hear the [Goshen College Men’s Choir](#) while they tour the Pacific Northwest:

Saturday, February 24—Portland Mennonite Church, 7pm

Sunday, February 25—Portland Mennonite Church at 10:30am

Sunday, February 25—Zion Mennonite Church at 6pm *(There will be an alumni & friends reception with President Stoltzfus at 4pm.)*

Monday, February 26—Salem Mennonite Church, 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 28—Western Mennonite School, 9:40am

Wednesday, February 28—Mennonite Village, 2pm

Wednesday, February 28—Albany Mennonite, 6:30pm

Friday, March 2—Seattle Mennonite Church, 7:30pm

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES, *continued*

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Disaster Service

All are invited to attend the **2018 Mennonite Disaster Service Oregon Unit Annual Meeting** at Calvary Mennonite Church, **March 17th, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Reports will be given about the MDS Saipan project, Wildfire response and the Oregon Unit MDS Trailer Project. Guest speakers will be Dan Moseler and Larry Johnson, United Methodist Committee on Relief, regional disaster coordinators. Lunch will be provided and an offering will be taken to support the Unit's mission. **RSVP by March 11, 2018** to Clyde Hockman (503-263-1210).

Drift Creek Camp

The date for the **2018 Work Weekend at Drift Creek Camp** has been changed to **May 11-12**. Helping hands are needed to "spruce up camp"! Projects will include trail maintenance, deep-cleaning and Caretaker Cabin construction. Watch www.driftcreek.org for details!

PNMC women of all ages are invited to the **2018 Women's Retreat!** DCC is excited to welcome Megan Ramer as she shares her passion and reflections on **cultivating a life of gratitude, April 13-15**. In addition to the group gatherings for worship, sharing and reflection with Megan, guests will enjoy opportunities to explore DCC's beautiful surroundings, practice yoga, experiment with glass etching, participate in a book discussion, hike, knit, connect with others and more! Online registration is available [here](#).

Zion Mennonite Church

There will be more details coming soon, but please mark your calendars!

April 20 – 22, Bryan Moyer Suderman, AMBS "Reading the Bible with Jesus" and a Saturday evening concert on **April 21** at ZMC.

Seattle Mennonite Church

Seattle Mennonite Church, a progressive Mennonite church in the Lake City neighborhood, invites applications for a permanent, part-time Administrator. The Administrator works in close collaboration with Stewardship Council, the pastoral team, other employees, and relevant members of the leadership team in order to carry out the position's wide-ranging responsibilities. A job description is available [here](#).

West Coast MCC

[Register online](#) with a \$50 non-refundable donation to MCC for the [2018 West Coast MCC Bike Ride, July 29-August 3](#) in Kellogg, ID! **Total Cost:** \$465 total. (\$50 donation on the MCC website at time of registration.) Remaining \$415 due to IMWRF (Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival) by May 1, 2018. **Youth rate:** First ten registered under age 25, cost is \$230. Any unused fees or additional funds will be given to MCC's Empowering Women Project in South Sudan. *Ride questions can be directed to [David Mathews](#).*

Western Mennonite School

Introducing K-5: WMS is excited to add grades k-5 starting next school year! This move to pioneer an elementary program is predicated on two desires: one, to provide families a consistent place for a K-12th grade Christ-centered education, and second, to provide students with a comprehensive program that focuses on character, cultural literacy, and higher level skills necessary for success in the 21st century. Find out more [here](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Health Fellowship

Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) offers **educational grants** to learn and serve in cross-cultural mission/service settings in developing countries. The program is designed for students in health-care related fields at the masters or doctoral level. Areas of study include medical, nursing, dental, physical therapy and social work. Deadline for 2018-19 academic year is **May 15, 2018**. Look [here](#) for details. *Questions?* Contact info@mennohealth.org or [1-888-406-3643](tel:1-888-406-3643). *While the SET program is for graduate students, funding is available for any student, practitioner, or retiree in any healthcare field for projects which grow out of an Anabaptist Christian faith commitment. See the [Grant Program page](#).*



Mennonite Women USA

Two years after Sister Care seminars were first presented in Cuba, Carolyn Heggen, psychotherapist specializing in trauma healing, and Rhoda Keener, Sister Care director for Mennonite Women USA, returned to Havana, this time to bring the level 2 Enrichment materials and training for women who had attended the previous seminar. It was inspiring to hear that since 2015, these 28 women had taught over 600 others. Carolyn and Rhoda also traveled to Palmira in central Cuba (in a '58 VW van) to teach Sister Care level 1 to an Anabaptist group of 36 Brethren in Christ women who had not participated in 2015. Following the seminar one woman wrote: "What most touched me was visualizing Jesus by my side comforting me and loving me. The chronology of my life helped me clarify the flow of my life and it helped me learn to know myself better."

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

March 5 (*submissions due by 2/26*)

March 19 (*submissions due by 3/12*)

April 2 (*submissions due by 3/26*)

April 16 (*submissions due by 4/9*)

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

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