



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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

From the PNMC Office

"Come walk with us, the journey is long" are words from a South African hymn. It is also the calling as we move into the Journey Forward process. The Journey Forward is invitational – it's about all of us sharing our stories, our experiences of God, our dreams for the future of the church. But it's not just an invitation to gather together, it's also an invitation to **move out into God's future for the world as Christ's witnesses**. It's an invitation to walk together on this journey, *wherever God leads us*.

In PNMC we celebrate the many ways that "we stand with our neighbors". At last summer's gathering we heard the amazing stories of how our congregations come alongside others and stand with them in a variety of ways. This year we hope to hear how we don't just stand, **we also join in journey** with others and invite them to share our journey as well. ([Click here for details on this year's gathering.](#))

Glen Guyton, Executive Director of MC USA, will share at the Thursday evening Pastor Appreciation Dinner and our morning worship services on Friday and Saturday. Glen was a major force behind the development of the Future Church Summit at Orlando and in planning for the Journey Forward as an outgrowth of that gathering. While serving in the US Air Force, Glen began attending a Mennonite church, and has an inspiring story of coming to **embrace the gospel of peace** in a way that transformed his life.

We have heard folks talk about how working together is a way to get to know one another more deeply. On Friday afternoon there will be several **service project options** for a mix of working in the Boise community as well as workshops to develop skills to strengthen the health of your congregation and encourage you in your journey.

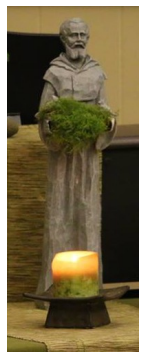
On Friday night, [RawTools](#) will be with us. We are inviting the Boise community to come walk with us through an interactive worship experience where weapons of violence are literally turned into gardening implements. At a time when our country is struggling with how to stop gun violence, the witness of RawTools is powerfully relevant. We are excited to join with them and the Boise congregations on a journey of peacemaking in their city.

We hope to see you at the **2018 Annual Meeting!** The gathering will take place at the **First Presbyterian Church, 950 W. State St., Boise, ID**. To learn about Boise-area lodging options, click [here](#). The cost for attending is \$100 per person. If that exceeds what your budget allows, please do not let the cost prevent you from attending and pay what you are able. If you would like to help cover the expenses for others to attend, please consider an extra contribution. **We look forward to seeing you in Boise!** To register, click [here](#).

Following this summer's gathering in Idaho, it will again be time to produce an updated conference **Directory**. Now is the time to check your listing. If your contact information or details regarding your assignment have changed, please send updates to Brenda@pnmc.org.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization



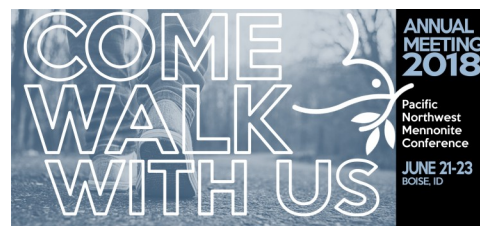
Drift Creek Camp

Nearly 50 women gathered at Drift Creek Camp for the 2018 Oregon Mennonite Women's Retreat where Megan Ramer, pastor at Seattle Mennonite Church, shared her well-articulated thoughts on **Cultivating Gratitude**. Together the participants spent time studying scriptures and singing. They spent time in personal reflection and conversing in small groups about all that there is to be grateful for in this big, beautiful world, and how to live out gratitude during the times in life when it may be difficult to recognize. Lois Gearhart, of Portland Mennonite Church, reflected, "I had such a relaxing time with *"my people"* - new friends and people who have known me since I attended DCC as a teen. Our speaker Megan left me with **meaningful reflections and feeling very inspired.**" In addition to the group gatherings, women had free time to explore the towering forests and walk along the creek. Some contributed to MCC by tying a comforter, many participated in the yoga classes offered by Linda Dalke. Others engaged in the book discussion while many expressed their creativity through the art of glass-etching. People explored unique ideas for table centerpieces and arranging flowers with Florence Gingrich and Sharon Stutzman. Many volunteers came together to prepare the meals and make the retreat possible, *there is much to be grateful for!*

Remember DCC's **Work Weekend**, this **Friday - Saturday, May 11-12**. Your helping hands are always appreciated! Please register [here](#).

Filer Mennonite Church

Filer Mennonite Church, Filer, ID, will celebrate Pastor Tim Gascho's ministry on **Sunday, June 3**, during the morning services. A noon fellowship meal will follow the service. *More details coming soon.*



MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

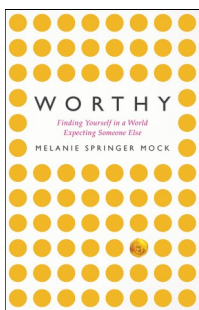
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary



The AMBS Board of Directors has appointed **Beverly Lapp**, Ed.D., of Goshen, IN, as the seminary's new vice president and academic dean, beginning **July 1**. Lapp succeeds Rebecca Slough, Ph.D., who will retire after having served 11 years as vice president and academic dean and 20 years on the AMBS faculty. "Dr. Lapp brings outstanding administrative gifts, an exceptional background in pedagogy, a strong abiding faith and a deep commitment to the Mennonite Church. These will serve AMBS's mission very well into the future," said Erv Bontrager of Goshen, IN, an AMBS board member who served on the search committee for the position. Lapp has a Doctor of Education from Columbia University Teachers College in New York City; a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, NJ; and a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Goshen College. For the majority of her career, she has been employed by Goshen College (GC), serving as professor of music (1995–present), Piano Preparatory Program director (1999–2003), Core Curriculum director (2013–17) and Music Department chair (2003–05, 2012–17). In addition, she has served as a faculty leader for GC Study-Service Terms (SST) in China (2017), Peru (2005) and the Dominican Republic (1998 and 1999).

International Guest House

The practice of hospitality for those who come as strangers and leave as friends grows out of our faith as Mennonites and Anabaptists. IGH volunteers in Washington, DC live this teaching of Jesus in their interactions with guests from all over the world. The work involves running a household – cooking, maintenance, cleaning, and meeting the needs of the guests. Short-term volunteers (two months service) are needed beginning this summer. (*Those who have volunteered previously are welcome to come for shorter periods.*) Volunteers receive free room and board, two days off per week and the enriching experience of living in community with others holding similar values. Visit igh-dc.com for more details.



MennoMedia

Growing up a preacher's kid, **Melanie Springer Mock** often felt the strain of expectations to be perfect. Even though her mother told her that she needed to grow into her own person, Mock says, "For much of my life, I never truly believed my mom." Now a professor, author, and book reviewer, Mock takes on the cultural and religious messages that have formed her and many others in book just released from Herald Press, *Worthy: Finding Yourself in a World Expecting Someone Else*. By plumbing Scripture and critiquing the ten-billion-dollar-a-year self-improvement industry, Mock offers life-giving reminders that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Set free from the anxiety to conform to others' expectations, we are liberated to become who we are, created in God's image. Accepting ourselves means "swimming against expectations that would tell us to be something, or someone, else," Mock writes. "It's about recognizing that embracing our inherent worthiness is much more than a self-help enterprise;

instead, it is part of a justice movement that recognizes every person as an image-bearer of God, already, just as they are." Through lively and often humorous prose, the author challenges messages both from popular culture and the Christian marketplace, which Mock says "is flooded with self-improvement products that have a Jesus-flavored vibe." She debunks ideals of Christian womanhood, dramatic conversion narratives, and what it means to be "blessed." *Worthy* helps readers embrace their own unique, God-created selves rather than trying to live up to standards or molds set out by the world, Christian culture, or peer groups. Available [here](http://www.heraldpress.com).

Mennonite Church USA



At last month's meeting of the Executive Board and Constituency Leaders Council, the Panel on Sexual Abuse Prevention, presented guidelines for MC USA congregations and organizations to respond when non-credentialed individuals are accused of sexualized violence. The panel created a document, titled "Prevention and Response: Sexual Abuse and Non-Credentialed Individuals," which is [currently available online](http://www.mcnorthamerica.org). The presenters offered observations and recommendations for congregations, conferences and institutions in the prevention of sexualized violence and presented guidelines for response when non-credentialed individuals are accused. Read the full article [here](http://www.mcnorthamerica.org).

MC USA has several [staff transitions](http://www.mcnorthamerica.org) in process. **Iris de León-Hartshorn** is transitioning into the new role of associate executive director for Operations. She has served the denomination in various roles since 1996, most recently as director of Transformative Peacemaking. In her new role, she will serve as chief of staff and key advisor to the executive director. She lives in Portland, OR.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

May 21 (submissions due by 5/14)

June 4 (submissions due by 5/28)

June 18 (submissions due by 6/11)

July 2 (submissions due by 6/25)

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>