



# e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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## From the PNMC Office

Our time together in Boise, ID for the PNMC Annual Meeting was a blessing for all who participated! Enjoy some highlights below:



*"This year for our PNMC annual meeting, we gathered at First Presbyterian in downtown Boise. The church is two blocks away from the state capitol, so during a session, a group of us walked to meet with Nikki Wallace, an aide to U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson to talk about immigration and the children and family crisis currently happening at the border. It was a learning experience for me as I had never met with a politician or aide before, but Anne, a member at Hyde Park, set up the meeting and was a great teacher. This wasn't Anne's first visit to Nikki. Anne has faithfully been meeting with her local congresspeople to encourage compassionate, Christian responses. Every time she shows up she brings a bag of Cafe Justo fair trade coffee as a gift and reminder. Anne wasn't combative or us-vs-them with Nikki. Instead she was direct and specific in what she wanted Rep. Simpson to do (ensure this crisis won't happen again in 20 days and get a clean DACA passed) and acknowledged Simpson's tireless support to create and protect an Idaho scenic area and his reasonableness over the years. Being a part of PNMC means that we are connected to people like Anne—that we can learn from them and partner with them to bring God's love, justice and mercy to all creation in a more powerful way than we could ever do on our own."*

—Britt Carlson, Pastor of Community Life, Portland Mennonite Church



To view more images from the Annual Meeting in Boise, ID, follow [this link](#). And a gallery of photos from the Raw Tools demonstration is available [here](#).



## Reflections From Annual Meeting

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference held its annual meeting June 21 – 23 in Boise, ID. With a theme of “Come Walk with Us”, the delegates met to consider the ways in which we can move forward when the journey feels long and tiring. Glen Guyton, Executive Director of MC USA, was the guest speaker and injected his message with enthusiasm for young people and the reality that we need to leave behind that which is dead while continuing the journey of sharing healing and hope. The local planning committee provided opportunities for service and visiting with Idaho’s congressional delegation on Friday. The latter was very relevant considering the issue of immigrants’ children being detained at the border, giving PNMC voices the occasion to express our concerns for the stranger in our midst based on our faith. Other service work was done at the Idaho Food Bank and Corpus Christi House (a day shelter for the houseless) which is under the direction of local Emmaus Mennonite pastor, Rick Bollman.



The worship included communion and anointing to lift PNMC congregations up for the journey. Betty Good of Emmaus Mennonite Church in Meridian provided artwork to help worshippers focus on the journey. Good said that her inspiration came from a 2016 MCC photo of hikers on the Migrant Trail. Many participants expressed gratitude for the focus of the worship and the message of Guyton, which was based on Luke 9 & 10. In his messages, Guyton voiced the need for being on the journey with those who will help and guide us along the way as we move forward for life, and to make sure that the things of the past that no longer help the church be left behind. Using stories from his time in the military, Guyton illustrated the need to forget what is dead and move forward in faith and hope.

A special worship service was planned for the delegates and the wider community on Friday night with Raw Tools, the father/son team of Fred and Mike Martin (Colorado Springs, CO), who use their blacksmithing skills to turn guns into garden tools. The worship included singing, the reading of scripture, and the sharing of two stories by women whose lives and families were dramatically changed because of gun violence. During the worship service, Fred and Mike took a donated gun and created a garden tool that would be used to bring life rather than death. The service and stories were touching and encouraging to those in attendance.

The closing worship included the stories of four congregations and the ways in which they shared “the journey” with others. Kevin Chupp shared the way in which the Aberdeen Mennonite congregation engages with the camp ministry at Camp Palisades enabling young people to spend time “device free” in God’s creation where they can pay attention to God’s love for them. Jonathan Neufeld, Seattle Mennonite, expressed how they became “co-conspirators” as they walked with a woman, first helped by Shalom Mennonite (Tucson, AZ), through the immigration maze. Rick Troyer, Western Mennonite, shared the journey his congregation has taken in walking with congregations of Northern Mexico. Harold Nussbaum told of the way saying “yes” to give a kidney to someone who needed a transplant opened the way for another person in the Portland Mennonite congregation to begin the journey of being an organ donor.



Delegates had the opportunity to consider ways to use \$50,000 from the sale of the Peace Mennonite Church property in Portland. Suggestions were given to the PNMC board, which had a moderator change from Jack Swaim of Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship (Boise) to Jeryl Hollinger, Mountain View Mennonite (Kalispell, Montana). New pastors to the PNMC, Kevin & Jessica Chupp (Aberdeen, Idaho) and Ken & Stephanie Hawes (Anchorage, Alaska) were welcomed. Currently there are six congregations leading pastoral searches so the need for pastors to come to the PNMC was lifted up for prayer. The meeting ended with the invitation to attend the Annual Meeting next year in Albany, Oregon and thanking the Treasure Valley churches for their gracious hosting of the annual meeting.

-Karla Morton, Emmaus Christian Fellowship, Meridian, ID

## From the PNMC Office

Our time together in Boise, ID for the PNMC Annual Meeting was a blessing for all who participated. In our desire to think globally and act locally, an offering was taken for [Casa De Paz](#), an organization in Denver, CO, that supports people affected by immigration detention. It offers hospitality to people with family members being held captive as well as for folks who are released from immigration detention without a place to go. In the current family separation crisis they are raising funds to pay for bonds, to pay transportation cost to reunite families, and to provide support of those remaining in detention. Learn more about this organization by watching an interview with its director, Sarah Jackson, by the CBC news [here](#). We are grateful to be able to support this ministry in a small way.

*Look for more highlights and reflections from Annual Meeting in upcoming issues of the e-Bulletin.*

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

*Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization*

### Idaho Mennonite World Relief Sale

The Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival was held Saturday, April 20, 2018. It was a great day of bidding and buying to benefit general relief needs through MCC. Guest speaker, Nate Yoder, Executive Director of West Coast MCC, brought updates on events and conditions among our friends throughout the world. The musical talents of Les Gusftson Zook, *Constituent Relations Coordinator for MCC Great Lakes*, were also enjoyed. The one-day sale featured 65 quilts and many other auction items. Additional features included a My Coins Count booth, the County Store, the silent auction, gently used and an array of items from Dunia Market Place (*the Boise Ten Thousand Villages Boutique*). Participants assembled school and health kits while Bob Buxman provided MCC resources to share. The delicious food included sausage sandwiches, soup with homemade bread, bierocks, fresh pie and homemade ice cream churned by bicycle power from hungry participants!

The organizing churches include First Mennonite - Aberdeen; Filer Mennonite - Filer; Hyde Park Mennonite - Boise; Evergreen Heights Mennonite - Caldwell and Emmaus Mennonite - Meridian. Thanks to their efforts and generous community support, the sale raised \$58,136. Of that, the live auction brought in \$40,365; the Silent Auction \$2,030; the Country Store \$5,271; Food Booths \$3,078; Gently used \$1,267; MCC Kits \$148; Children's Auction \$175; General Donations \$3,569; and My Coins Count \$223. Plan to join us for the **2019 Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival, April 13**, on the campus of College Church of the Nazarene, Nampa, ID.

### West Coast MCC

There is room for you! Sign up for the [West Coast MCC bike ride](#)! All are welcome! **July 30 - August 3**. Gather in beautiful Kellogg, ID. Family friendly on mostly bike trails. Support [women empowerment in South Sudan](#) through MCC.

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

*listed alphabetically by organization*

### Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

[Rooted and Grounded Conference](#): Calling practitioners of creation care, scholars, food justice activists, urban gardeners, environmental justice practitioners, farmers and church members! You're warmly invited to the fourth Rooted and Grounded Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship, **September 27-29** at AMBS.

### Mennonite Central Committee

Did you know that short-term service assignments are available through a collaboration with MCC? Click [here](#) to learn more about [Anabaptist Service Opportunities](#).

### Mennonite Church USA

Registration is open for the **2018 Women Doing Theology (WDT)** conference organized by MC USA's office of Women in Leadership (WIL). It will take place at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN, **November 8-10**. It will explore the theme, *Talkin' Bout a Revolution: Dialogue, Practice and the Work of Liberation*, through large group sessions, worship, workshops and paper presentations. WDT is a gathering that centers the theological work of women, creating space for women to speak into the existing body of theological work and shape it based on women's expertise and experiences with God in community and in life, according to planners.

Click [here](#) for the latest edition of *Equipping*, an MC USA monthly publication.

### Mennonite Women USA

The upcoming **Sister Care II** seminar at Drift Creek Camp, **September 28-30** is coming soon. Registration materials and additional information are attached and posted on the [PNMC website](#). ([English Registration](#); [Spanish Registration](#))

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### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Aug 6 (submissions due by 7/30)  
Aug 20 (submissions due by 8/13)  
Sept 3 (submissions due by 8/27)  
Sept 17 (submissions due by 9/10)

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

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

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