



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

Mark your calendar now for the 2019 Conference Communications Council at Zion Mennonite Church on **February 2** from 9:00am until 4:00pm. All congregations are encouraged to send a pastor and a lay leader. *Additional persons who are interested in the topics are also welcome to attend.* (There will be a video link available for those at a distance.) Michael Danner, MC USA Associate Director for Church Vitality and Engagement, will be present and will lead us in thinking about how we can **grow as both followers of Jesus and congregations engaged in mission to our community.** This annual gathering is a fantastic opportunity to fellowship with old friends, meet pastors who are new to our conference and to learn about new ventures in PNMC. We are eager to connect with you! So please join us and share what is going on in your congregations and your local community!

The 2019 PNMC Annual Meeting will be held in Albany, OR, **June 21-22.** *Make plans now to participate!*

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

CIHAN

The Council of Hispanic Anabaptist Churches of the Northwest have been offering an educational opportunity to its members called EBAFOM which is a Spanish acronym for Anabaptist Bible School of Ministerial Education. The program is a joint effort under the supervision of CIHAN and IBA or Instituto Biblico Anabautista, a division on Mennonite Education Agency. Participating students have reflected about how the course has enriched their understanding of the Bible, expanded gifts of leadership and provided a better understanding of the roots of the Mennonite Church. For years, Pastor Samuel Moran has been leading this course in Portland and McMinnville on a voluntary basis. However, the CIHAN congregations are hoping to raise \$19,500 over the next two years to support the ministry as it grows in numbers and impact. Students pay for their own materials and take turns bringing meals to share in class. Donations can come from congregations and individuals. Checks can be written to EBAFOM and sent to treasurer, Jesus Muñoz at 11665 SE 92nd Ave., Tigard, OR. 97233.

Drift Creek Camp

DCC extends a deep thanks to all who participated in its 2018 Annual Meeting and Family Camp. The event was a meaningful **celebration of hope and resilience.** Generous supporters made the benefit auction a success and Ed Peachey's Sunday morning presentation left folks feeling grateful and inspired. A weekend highlight was opening the "Time Capsule" that was inspired 25 years ago by Caleb Heppner. DCC plans to continue the tradition and will collect items such as photos, drawings, stories, etc. to include for another time capsule dedication. Watch for details!

Evergreen Mennonite Church

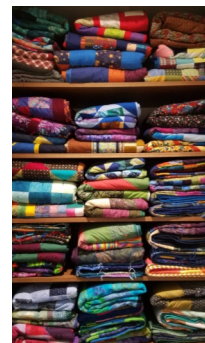


Photo by
Tony Dean

About 80 people gathered for worship and to commemorate 25 years of ministry at Evergreen. It was a joyous time celebrating the family of EMC and the ways God has and will continue to "Move in our midst" (hymn 418). It was a blessing to have all 5 who have served as pastor in attendance, as well as friends from Seattle Mennonite and former attendees. Members of the Kirkland Congregational Church, from whom sanctuary space is rented, joined for the celebratory potluck as well. In photo: John Waltner, Meg Lumsdaine, Jeanne Rempel, *current pastor* Jessica Wright, and Andy Wade. To view more images of the celebration, visit Evergreen Mennonite Church on Facebook.

Seattle Mennonite Church

In early November, Seattle Mennonite Church celebrated 50 years of seeking to follow in the Way of Jesus in an urban context. The weekend celebration included fellowship, storytelling, collective meals, a variety show, hymn singing, a concert set with Erin Rae Murray and choral concert by Melodious Accord. In honor of its 50 years of ministry, 50 comforters were collected for Mennonite Central Committee. *About a year ago Pastor Megan Ramer wrote a few quilters in the congregation and wondered if we might consider creating and donating "50 Comforters for 50 Years"? Astoundingly, they all seemed to think it was a good idea. Folks from all over participated in this project - what a joy to have done this sacred, creative, fun work together! #smc50for50.*



MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Central Committee

MCC's meat canning program is experiencing difficulty carrying out its mission of preserving meat in cans for people in crisis because the canning crew is not full. Only two people have committed to serve on the four-member crew for the whole season and one more just agreed to begin working in January. Four are needed to operate the mobile cannery at capacity. As a result, less meat will be canned this year than the 643,067 cans that were filled at 31 locations across the U.S. and Canada last year.

Plans for the second half of the season, which has the fullest schedule, are uncertain, said John Hillegass, MCC's canning and trucking manager. Hillegass said that it's hard to pin down exactly why finding volunteers for the canning crew has been so difficult. Whether it's the healthy job market, a decreased interest in long-term service, or some other reason, he still hopes people will be attracted to the unique experience that canning provides. As a canner from 2004 to 2007, Hillegass says he values the **connections and friendships** he made that have lasted beyond his time of service. But the purpose of canning, **bringing help to suffering people**, is what really motivates him.



The canners sometimes visit people who receive the meat, to see the impact of their labor. While visiting Ukraine in 2017, Hillegass met Nikolai Proshak, (*in photo*) a pastor who directs Believing, Hoping, Loving, an organization that uses MCC's canned meat to feed children staying at orphanages and those living with foster families. Many of the children have been displaced because of political hostilities and their parents can no longer afford to care for them. He remembers Proshak's surprise when he learned about the volunteers who can the turkey. "He told me he always assumed that MCC had a factory where turkey goes in one end and the cans of meat come out the other," Hillegass said. "Once he heard the story of how all these people come together to volunteer their time, money and labor, he was blown away." Hillegass invited Proshak to come to the U.S. and help, which he did six months later. At a canning site in Virginia, Proshak ran the machine that seals the lids on the cans and met many volunteers. The experience brought **tears of gratitude** because he was so thankful. "It is a privilege to work alongside the numerous communities in the U.S. and Canada who host the mobile cannery every year. My prayer is it can continue," he said. "It has taken me years to fully understand the depth of this good work. By serving with each other we not only help transform others, but we also transform ourselves. It is through service that we all become closer to the love and grace of Jesus Christ."

To view a day in the life of an MCC canner, visit mcc.org/canning.

Mennonite Church USA

The latest edition of *Equipping* is available [here](#). Publication highlights include many peacebuilding opportunities such as [Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience](#) at EMU's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding as well as online and in-person resources at [AMBS](#).

Mennonite Economic Development Agency

Looking for ways to improve the world in lieu of gifts this Christmas? Explore these opportunities to [invest in the lives of entrepreneurs](#) around the world through MEDA.

Mennonite Women USA

Update: In total there were **29** women who attended the Sister Care retreat at Drift Creek Camp in late September. In the last e-Bulletin, the phrase "several attended" was misleading. We want to celebrate that there were 29 who participated!

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Dec 3 (submissions due by 10/26)
Dec 17 (submissions due by 12/10)
Jan 7 (submissions due by 12/31)
Jan 21 (submissions due by 1/14)

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>
