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PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Disaster Service, Oregon Unit

The Mennonite Disaster Service Oregon Unit Annual Meeting is planned for **March 23, 2019**, beginning at 10:00 am at Zion Mennonite Church, 6124 S Whiskey Hill Rd., Hubbard, OR 97032. Elizabeth Soto Albrecht, Professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary and MDS Coordinator for Puerto Rico, will be a guest speaker. She is the author of *Discipleship and Mission*, the current Adult Bible Study Quarterly. She will be reporting on the recovery efforts in Puerto Rico. Michelle Hamrick, American Red Cross Senior Disaster Program Manager and ORVOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) President, will also be a guest speaker. She will share about the role of ORVOAD and its members in disaster response in Oregon. Reports from 2018 service projects will be shared and the new MDS Oregon Unit Tool Trailer will be on display. Please RSVP today to [Clyde Hockman](mailto:Clyde.Hockman@pnmc.org), 503-263-1210.

Mountain View Mennonite Church

The Mennonite Disaster Service Unit at MVMC in Kalispell, MT, is planning to travel to Wharton, TX, **March 24-31**, to assist on MDS project. A few spots are still available for additional volunteers. If you have interest in traveling with the MVMC team, please contact info@mountainviewmennonite.org. You may also be interested in checking out the church's new website at mountainviewmennonite.org.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Reshaping unjust systems: pastors and church leaders at the helm, *By Marlys Weaver-Stoesz*



Featured speakers at AMBS's [Pastors and Leaders 2019](#) conference encouraged attendees to imagine and proclaim new narratives that embrace marginalized communities and counter oppression in today's society. More than 145 people from eight denominations, 14 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces came together Feb. 25–28 to explore the theme of "Loving Our Neighbors in Tense Times." Worship and teaching sessions throughout the event continually noted the necessity of changing the narratives that shape beliefs and oppressive systems. Keynote speaker **David Anderson Hooker**, M.Div., J.D., Ph.D., (left), associate professor of the practice of conflict transformation and peacebuilding at the University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs, explained that churches are one of the few groups in society that have permission and authority to approach injustice at all of its levels: from the individual to the relational, communal, national and international levels. Churches are "well positioned to do it," he said, "and yet so utterly ineffective." He noted how churches often focus on the "fruit work" — helping with immediate needs in a community — and overlook the "root work" or "soil work" that endeavors to undo oppressive histories and systems. "If everybody is feeding the hungry and visiting the imprisoned," he posed, "then who's doing the work so we don't have hunger, so that we don't have prisons, so that we can stop organizing our lives around the disposability of the being? That's our work."

Read more [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 23: OR MDS Annual Meeting
Zion Mennonite, Hubbard, OR
- April 5-7: Washington Mennonite Fellowship Women's Retreat,
Camp Camrec, Leavenworth, WA
- April 12-14: Oregon Mennonite Women's Retreat, featuring Melanie Springer Mock, DCC
- April 13: Idaho MCC Sale, NNU, Nampa, ID
- May 10-11: DCC Work Weekend, Lincoln City, OR
- June 21-22: PNMC Annual Meeting,
Albany Mennonite, Albany, OR
- July 2-6: MC USA Convention
Kansas City, MO

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Mission Network

A reflection by Naomi Graber Leary

When people ask about [Service Adventure](#), I've got my answer down pat: "I lived in Anchorage, AK, with a group of five young people ages 18-20 with a young adult leader sponsored by the local Mennonite church, Prince of Peace. I volunteered with a Salvation Army homeless shelter for single fathers and two-parent families." Usually that fulfills any interest they had in my experience, but every once in a while, someone needs a further response. *"Actually, it wasn't as cold as you'd think! The ocean keeps the temperature reasonably mild. The dark and light seasons were far more dramatic. I chose Anchorage because it was the furthest away I could get without learning a new language, which I find valuable but extremely difficult."* I haven't found anyone that was so interested they asked me about how the experience shaped my later adulthood. So when asked for a reflection, I unexpectedly found myself searching for words on a topic I typically find easy to talk about.

As I look back on my young adulthood, I think a lot of the selfishness of this time of life. We are taught by society to focus on ourselves, on our education, on our career, on our growth. Success is not defined by how you contribute generally, but how you end up. As I look back at Service Adventure, I realize how far outside of this individual and selfish focus that experience was, and the paradox of how much I personally developed by focusing on things outside myself.

I wish I had a great story to encapsulate my meaning. But I think the deeper truth is that the short, easily told story isn't the experience that changes you fundamentally. I was able to learn what it meant to truly live in community because day in and day out I lived with people who had different preferences and made different choices than I did. I was able to learn what service meant because even when it was cold and dark, I forced myself out of bed to work beside others for a cause I respected and supported.

So much of my life has been shaped by my own desires. And I'm not so selfless that I regret that. But I'm also deeply grateful that I chose to start my young adulthood by setting aside my own ambitions and goals to embrace the world around me. I'm now on the other end of my young adulthood - married, steadily employed, and expecting a new baby. As my life shifts away from focusing only on my own goals, and instead the future of my growing family, I see the promise ahead as well. The promise lived out by our own Christ Jesus: *"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus . . . who emptied himself of self . . . and being bound in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross."* Philippians 2:4-5, 7-8



Sister Care

After nearly four years of planning, **Carolyn Heggen** and **Rhoda Keener** led a **Sister Care leadership training seminar January 28-30**, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, the epicenter of the 2006 earthquake that left over 5,700 dead, tens of thousands injured, and hundreds of thousands homeless. It was a fitting location for the Sister Care seminar which helps women **heal their own trauma and trains them to help others heal**.

The 89 women who attended came from the islands of Java, northern and southern Sumatra, Bali, and Papua. They represented two of the three major Anabaptist groups in Indonesia – GKMI and GITJ – as well as 4 women from local evangelical congregations. They traveled by boat, plane, train, bus and car, some for days, to get to the retreat center.

Women were particularly touched by the exercise of writing their life timeline. They said that they have never been asked to think about the chapters of their lives and who was the face of Jesus for them at difficult or painful times.

Indonesia is the 17th country where Mennonite Women USA's Sister Care seminar has been shared. The manual: *Sister Care: Equipping Women for Healing Ministry* by Carolyn Heggen with Rhoda Keener has been translated into 13 languages.

Above: Pastor Wara Widuri (front left) and Anielle Santoso, an MCC worker, were the primary planners for the Indonesian Sister Care seminar. They are pictured with Rhoda Keener (back left) and Carolyn Heggen.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Apr 1 (submissions due by 3/25)

Apr 15 (submissions due by 4/8)

May 6 (submissions due by 3/29)

May 20 (submissions due by 5/13)

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!*

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