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From the PNMC OFFICE

After gathering with other MC USA leaders in Phoenix, AZ, **October 17-18**, for the **Constituency Leaders Council**, PNMC Conference Minister, Katherine Jameson Pitts and PNMC Moderator-elect Dianna Eshleman, left for Tucson with 20 others for a **learning tour** about how local ministries there are supporting immigrants. The tour was organized by Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference and West Coast MCC. Shalom Mennonite Church in Tucson hosted the group.

PNMC Board member, Dianna Eshleman reflected on the experience saying, “We came away with our hearts touched by persons telling stories of injustice and inhumane acts, pictures that helped clarify the migrant situation at the border, face to face meetings with asylum seeking families, and seeing the massive Eloy Detention center as we drove by.” Four aid organizations presented information to our group, including:



Casa Alitas: a shelter that offers hospitality to recent migrant families seeking asylum. West Coast MCC partners with Catholic Social Services who run this shelter. Some of the [backpacks](#) we prepared earlier this fall went here!

Florence Immigration & Refugee Rights Project (FIRRP): a nonprofit organization providing free legal services to men, women and unaccompanied children in immigration custody in Arizona.

The Casa Mariposa Detention Visitation Program: provides support, friendship and encouragement to immigrants in detention in hopes of breaking the cycle of isolation. Rocio, who was detained for 2 years at Eloy Detention Center before receiving a visa, is the program coordinator. Shalom Mennonite Fellowship is the fiscal sponsor to the Casa Mariposa Detention Visitation Program.

Samaritans: a faith-based organization whose mission is to save lives in the Arizona desert by making water drops and placing other life-saving supplies in the desert.

Dianna continued, “The experience was both overwhelming AND hopeful. There are ways to help, even from here. Children and adults can [make hope-giving cards for people in detention](#). Additionally, all of these programs welcome monetary donations to help in their work.”

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Portland Mennonite Church

We Own This Now: A Ted & Co. Show will be presented at PMC, **Saturday, November 16, 7pm**, doors open at 6:30. *More details on page 2.*

Peace on Your Journey

A [Mindfulness & Meditation Retreat](#) is being offered **November 22-24, 2019** at Harbor Villa Retreat Center in Rockaway Beach, OR. The gathering will be led by Juel Yoder Russell. It is open to anyone interested in practicing awareness of God in the present moment.

First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ID

Kevin Chupp will be ordained at First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen in Aberdeen, ID, on **Sunday, November 24, 2019**.

Albany Mennonite Church

An evening workshop: “Making a World of Difference Now and in the Future through Charitable Giving” will be held **November 7, 7pm**, at Albany Mennonite, Albany, OR, with Colin Saxton and Dennis LeFevre of Everence, and Alan Claassen Thrush of MCC.

Drift Creek Camp

DCC's Annual Meeting is **November 8-10**. Galen Martin of Eugene Mennonite will share on Sunday. Register [here](#).

Zion Mennonite Church

The 2019 Sing Your Own Messiah will be **Saturday, December 21, 7pm**, at ZMC.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS is looking for workshop proposals for the upcoming [Shaping Faith in a Digital Culture: A joint conference of Deep Faith and Pastors and Leaders 2020](#), which will be held on the AMBS campus in Elkhart, IN, **March 2–5**. Proposals should speak to the topic, “Shaping Faith in a Digital Culture,” and describe a compelling one-hour workshop session. Learn more [here](#).

Mennonite Disaster Service

Volunteers completed work in Grand Forks, BC this month after repairing 13 homes and building a new one in response to a major flood event last year. The basement of Donna Lester, who is legally blind, flooded and water came up into her house through the toilet. “I got out of bed one night and felt water on the floor,” says Lester, who lost her sight in an industrial accident six years ago. Although the upstairs wasn’t flooded, the house was unlivable—there was no water or heat. For over a year she lived with family, friends or in a motel, waiting to return home. She is now home thanks to MDS volunteers. For MDS, Lester’s house was what’s known as a “filler job,” a small project volunteers could do when there were breaks at larger jobs due to waiting on materials or inspections. “It’s just a small thing for us, but it’s huge for her,” said Susan Thiessen, who co-directed the Grand Forks project with her husband, Peter. “Now she can be home again, **feeling safe** in familiar surroundings, and get back to her life,” reported Thiessen.

Plan to attend MDS’ **All Unit Meeting (AUM) February 7-8, 2020** in Goshen, IN. The AUM is a time for volunteers, leaders, donors, and staff to come together and explore this year’s theme “**Seeing Jesus Among Us**.” Speaker Brenda Phillips, from Indiana University, will discuss the question: What have MDSers packed in their suitcases when departing to serve over the last 60 plus years? Workshops on topics such as volunteer engagement, construction practices, case management, and communicating the MDS story will be available. Sign up to join friends—old and new—for tours of the Goshen and South Bend on Friday. [Registration is now open](#).

Mennonite World Conference

The October edition of *Courier* is now available at [this link](#).

Ted & Co.

We Own This Now: A Ted & Co. Show, Portland Mennonite Church, Saturday, Nov 16, 7pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)

Starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne, *We Own This Now* is a play by Alison Casella Brookins that looks at love of land, loss of land, and what it means to “own” something.

Chris has farmed the land his grandmother found as a home in Kansas after fleeing Russia almost 100 years ago; his daughter Riley is learning about who was on that land before her Oma arrived, and the jarring connections she has to the fate of those people. We follow Chris and Riley as they navigate their changing relationship to each other and to the land their family has farmed for several generations. Diving into historical documents, absurd situations, and extended metaphors, the audience discovers alongside Riley and Chris how the **Doctrine of Discovery** (*the legal framework that justifies theft of land and oppression of Indigenous Peoples*) is still being used and causing harm today.

The Mennonite, Inc.

The Mennonite, Inc., invites original submissions for the January 2020 issue focusing on **Education: Restorative justice**.

Restorative justice as an area of study and practice has been growing among Mennonite colleges and universities in recent years. By way of definition, Howard Zehr has said that “rather than obsessing about whether ‘offenders’ get what they deserve, restorative justice focuses on repairing the harm of crime and engaging individuals and community members in the process.” In addition to being studied, restorative justice is increasingly used in educational institutions themselves as an alternative to more retributive forms of justice when responding to harms done on campus. Many graduates of Mennonite schools are now employing restorative justice practices in their workplaces. God’s justice is restorative, not retributive, as seen among the prophets Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and others. Jesus’ understanding of what today could be considered restorative justice is on display at the very beginning of his public ministry, when he quotes Isaiah, saying God sent him “to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4).

Submissions are due no later than November 25. Learn more [here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

November 18 (submissions due by 11/11)

December 2 (submissions due by 11/25)

December 16 (submissions due by 12/9)

January 6 (submissions due by 12/30)

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>
