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From our Executive Conference Minister, *Katherine Jameson Pitts*

Due to growing concerns of COVID-19, our congregations may not be able to be physically near to each other in the ways we are accustomed in the weeks ahead. And so, we need to think about **how to be community when we cannot gather in the same ways**. We need to think of how to help everyone feel connected and how to love our neighbors when things feel shaky. Seattle Mennonite Church and Evergreen Mennonite Church have already been working to do this. Last week they both met online, using Zoom, to hear scripture, to share concerns, and to pray together. Pastor Megan Ramer, of Seattle Mennonite Church, wrote to the congregation, “One of our considerations in making the tough call to cancel worship has been to think in terms of the collective and not just in terms of individuals - a thing that we in the church are hopefully especially equipped to do. The decision to cancel worship altogether removes the burden from individuals within our congregation to have to choose to exclude themselves from the embodied community that carries on without them, and instead spreads the burden, loss, and grief to all of us. Indeed, WE will all share the sorrow of missing the embodied community experience, instead of that sorrow being unduly borne by only our at-risk-ier members. . . While we want the spread of this virus to end, and we want to do our part, we also don't want any of you to feel isolated. May we know the presence of God's Spirit with us, especially now. And may we keep (creatively!) claiming connection and care for one another in a time of anxiety, social distancing, not touching.”

I encourage you all to be aware of the situation in your communities, pay attention to the directions of public health officials, and care for one another. Currently, different areas of our conference are being impacted in very different ways, so even if COVID-19 is not a current issue for you remember those at the epicenter of this crisis and pray for one another.

From the PNMC OFFICE

We have several new **District Pastor assignments** – Terry Rediger will be serving Zion and Salem, Sylvia Shirk will be serving Seattle and Evergreen, Merritt Welty is serving Aberdeen, Filer, and Emmaus. Gary Jewell has added Mountain View to his assignment, and Marlene Bogard has added Western. You may not know all these folks yet, but they bring a wealth of ministry in MC USA to these roles and we are grateful that they have come to the Pacific Northwest and are willing to serve in this way! Cecil Miller, who was one of the original DPs, ended his service as of last fall after many years of wise and caring service. Bob Buxman has also ended his time as a DP. He built, and we trust will continue to build, many relationships within the conference. They will be missed in this role.

The local [Girl Named Tom](#) performances **HAVE BEEN CANCELLED**. But feel free to find them on YouTube to enjoy their acoustic sounds, light instrumentation and tight harmonies. The group has been making music ever since they can remember, which is evident in their beautiful melodies and blended sound. The group is made up of three musically talented siblings from Archbold, Ohio, taking a year off to tour the country. Caleb and Joshua Liechty are recent grads of Goshen College and Bekah Liechty is taking a gap year before starting college. Find them on YouTube at [this link](#).

The MCC and Everence estate planning workshop: “Making a World of Difference Now and in the Future through Charitable Giving” has been cancelled at both Portland Mennonite on April 6 and Zion Mennonite on April 7.

ALL MDS projects are cancelled until further notice.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Albany Mennonite Church

Boots, Buckets, and Barrows (BBB) is a Ted & Co. show that features (and fundraises for) Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS). The show was scheduled to be at Albany Mennonite March 28, at 7:00 p.m. but **HAS BEEN POSTPONED** until further notice.

Mennonite Disaster Service Oregon Unit

The Mennonite Disaster Service Oregon Unit's Annual Meeting that was scheduled for **Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at Lebanon Mennonite Church **HAS BEEN CANCELLED**. For questions, contact [Clyde Hockman](#).

Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival

The Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival was schedule for **Saturday, April 18** but has been postponed until **August 8**. This year marks MCC's centennial! Additional special events and auction items are being planned to commemorate MCC's 100-year celebration. The IMWRF Board has chosen projects for **Blessing Bids** that will support the three Centennial projects of Water, Education & Food. Opportunities will be given during the live auction to make contributions toward each of these projects: 1.) Providing clean water around the world, 2.) Providing education around the world and 3.) Providing food around the world. This year's speaker will be Alan Claassen Thrush. He is the donor relations director for West Coast MCC, based in Upland, CA.

A few "save the date" announcements, with hope that we will be able to gather safely and in good health!

June 26-28 PNMC Annual Meeting in Seattle

We are planning for sessions from 1:00 pm on the 26th through 5:00 pm on the 27th. However, on Friday morning there will be an optional Intercultural Competency Workshop. *Participants will need to register early in order to take the Intercultural Development Inventory prior to the workshop.* Participants are invited to join Seattle Mennonite Church for worship on Sunday morning.

November 21, 2020: *Voices Together* Workshop and Hymn Sing at Salem Mennonite Church. Bradley Kauffman, the general editor of the new hymnal, will be with us on Saturday during the day for a workshop especially for song leaders and worship leaders. Even if your congregation is not planning to buy the new hymnal, you can learn a lot about leading a congregation in worship through music from Bradley! In the evening there will be a Hymn Sing open to all.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS online short course: Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: **April 15 – May 26**. Join Betty Pries, Ph.D., to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online course. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Save \$50 if you register by March 25. ambs.edu/shortcourses.

Mennonite Church USA

Follow [this link](#) for the latest edition of *Equipping* and [here](#) for the latest edition of PeaceMail.

Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship

Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) is seeking a half-time Executive Director to start between May and September 2020 who is committed to Anabaptist values and the mission of MHF, has proven skills in administration, communication, and networking, and has an intergenerationally compelling vision for MHF. Interested persons are invited to send a resume and statement of intent, including the broad strokes of your vision and thoughts about a strategic plan, to president@mennohealth.org. More information at www.mennohealth.org.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

April 6 (submissions due by 3/30)
 April 20 (submissions due by 4/13)
 May 4 (submissions due by 4/27)
 May 18 (submissions due by 5/11)

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>