

2020 CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

Portland Mennonite Church

February 1, 2020

9:00 Welcome and prayer, Rod Stafford

We come from a variety of cultures and places, speaking different languages, having different experiences, living among people who also have different cultural backgrounds and experiences. Today we want to explore what that means for us and our congregations as God's people. A Scripture we often use when we speak of unity among God's people and across differences is Gal. 3:26-28. ***"In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus,"*** but perhaps we need to do some work before we can embrace that kind of unity. I invite you to see today as a part of that work, and perhaps at the end of the day we will reflect on this scripture in a new way.

9:05 ROLL CALL –I invite you to share ***one way your congregation has related to people from a different culture than yours in the past year.***

- Albany Mennonite Church: Immigration conference planned at AMC for April 24-25, 2020.
- Centro Cristiano Pentecostas: Pastor of English-speaking church.
- Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva: youth working with Salem Mennonite, Missionary family from Baja, CA, serve food for different cultures in community.
- Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship: Help with homeless shelter.
- Hyde Park: Volunteers at Corpus Christi House and helping refugees.
- Iglesia Mennonite Roca de Salvacion: volunteer at faith-based nonprofit to work with food distribution. Merge with Calvary Mennonite.
- Jerusalem Iglesia Menonita: English-Spanish worship
- Lebanon Mennonite: connecting with homelessness and mental health resources. Collecting food for food bank.
- Menno Mennonite: MCC Sale reaching into community connecting with Hutterites, sharing congregational culture with Warden Mennonite.
- Ministerios Restauracion: people from Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize sharing meals and worship.
- Mountain View: Ten Thousand Villages help fund organizations to resettle refugees, indigenous, and native women vigils.
- Portland: Menno Pin partner with organization in Gaza.
- Prince of Peace: Individuals working in schools and community with many different cultures and classes of people represented. German members of Service Adventure unit.
- Salem: Community Center meals for safe space for anyone; SS class on immigration. Youth on border trip.
- Seattle: Jubilee celebration through relationships with homeless, asylum seekers, indigenous tribes, anti-racial training.

-Shalom: Catholic charities grants for help with poverty, mental health. Worshipping with college students, center for children, legal rights and Border Angels.
-Western Menno: Currently have interim pastor and still grieving loss of former pastor and seeking direction. Working with immigration conference, refugee resettlement, Maintain contact with Mexico churches.
-Zion: Congregational diversity with German roots, farming, education. Bridging Cultures (Anglo-Hispanic legal immigration help). Language and class—partner with other congregations.

9:50 Break

10:00 Input from Michelle and Karen

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Input from Michelle and Karen

3:00 Break

3:20 Updates on PNMC / MC USA

PNMC Pastoral transitions

- Bryce Miller began as pastor at Menno Mennonite in August. Ask for continued prayers as his wife, Emily Toews, navigates immigration issues.
- Jesus Fuentes resigned from pastorate at Vida Nueva on December 26, 2019.
- Matthew Swora retiring from pastorate at Zion on February 17, 2020.
- Ron Hershey, who has been providing interim support at Filer will begin as called pastor this summer.
- Terry Rediger began serving as interim at Western in September, 2019.
- Merritt Welty will begin serving as District Pastor for Filer, Aberdeen and Emmaus beginning February 1, 2020.
- Bob Buxman will retire from work as a District Pastor effective February 29, 2020.
- Terry Rediger will begin work as a District Pastor on March 1, 2020.

Pastoral Leadership Team Actions

- Approved Kevin Chupp, First Mennonite, Aberdeen, for Ordination (November, 2020)
- Approved Angel Campoz, Jerusalem Iglesia Mennonita for Ordination
- Approved Jerrell Williams, Salem, for Licensing (October 2020)
- Accepted a transfer of ordination credentials this fall
 - From Mountain States Mennonite Conference for Merritt Welty
 - From Western District Conference for Terry Rediger
 - From Mennonite Church Manitoba for Bryce Miller

Healthy Congregation Grants—Because our core mission as a conference is to nurture healthy congregations, the PNMC board wanted to support you in doing things that would nurture your health, so we have established a Healthy Congregation grant program to promote projects that help your congregations strengthen its mission, witness, outreach to your community and/or life together as the body of Christ. Any member congregation or constituency group of PNMC may apply for a grant. Requests may be for amounts up to \$3000/year. We have given 9 grants from 12 congregations. This fall we approved for:

- A congregational visioning retreat
- To assist with immigration legal expenses
- For Interim Pastor Training

Financial Update—Dave
Q and A regarding PNMC or MC USA

4:00 Worship

Singing—led by Angel

Dwelling in the word – Gal. 3:27-28

Read once—silence—share word or phrase that jumped out

Read second time – silence—how do you hear this in a new way after today's work?

Read third time – silence –what is God's work to us today?

Prayer cards – share and record prayer concerns from tablemates to take with youin)

Lord's Prayer together