

e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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New Beginnings...

PNMC is happy to welcome Emily Toews to her new role. Meet Menno Mennonite's new co-pastor:

My name is Emily Toews, I am married to Bryce Miller and we co-pastor Menno Mennonite Church and co-parent Luke (5) and Anna (soon to be 4).

My family had a small orchard near Leamington, Ontario. I was baptized at North Leamington United Mennonite Church. Prior to pastoring, I attended CMU and the University of Manitoba and graduated with a BTh and a BEd. I first taught three years at the United Mennonite Educational Institute in Leamington, and then attended AMBS. I graduated from AMBS with an MDiv in 2006 and began my pastoral leadership journey at North Star Mennonite Church in Drake, Saskatchewan. I was there until 2015. Bryce and I married in 2014 and I became a stay at home mom in 2015 with the birth of Luke.

We've always been interested in Menno Mennonite Church - since Bryce was here as intern pastor in 2004. When Bryce's term at Jubilee Mennonite in Winnipeg came up for renewal, we knew Menno was looking for a pastor, so we applied - and here we are.

My journey here as co-pastor has not been easy. From the beginning we have been sloughing through bureaucratic immigration hoops. Last year the children and I had to move back to Canada and wait for movement on my visa file. What a hard 8 months of exile - topped with Covid-19 to make the separation even more painful and the process even more slow.

However, the kids and I returned for a 6 month visit in September and in December my religious non-immigrant worker visa was approved and I am now working. We are still engaged in working for my green-card, but with the pandemic, everything is much more complicated.

Please join us in praying for Emily's transition and remaining immigration process to go smoothly.



2021 Conference Communications Council, A Reflection by Jennifer Delanty

The 2021 CCC brought many wonderful, new and familiar faces to our individual screens via Zoom. After Moderator Dianna Eshleman welcomed the participants, Katherine Jameson Pitts provided an update about our congregations endeavoring to "hold the center" amidst this pandemic. Professor Safwat Marzouk from AMBS engaged the gathering in a spirited presentation about what it means to be God's people in this time of chaos and disorientation. Noting the Bible is a text telling the stories of migrants, sojourners and exiles throughout the diaspora, Professor Marzouk focused on the story of Joseph, who was forced to flee to Egypt.

Professor Marzouk noted that God is a migrant as well, traveling with those going into exile. What do we experience together with migrants who come to live amongst people already settled? What do we experience of God together? Re-settled in Egypt, Joseph and Pharaoh, two wholly different people, experienced a deep encounter of **seeing God in each other**. Likewise, we are formed and transformed in the presence of each other, blessed by God in these encounters.

Professor Marzouk encouraged us to not assume a monolithic narrative in our church spaces. He asked us to remember **we have an ethical commitment to the marginalized**. Remember our Anabaptist martyrdom to inform our empathy for the other; hearing stories of resilience of people God brings to us is deeply transformative. An invitation for dismantling injustice provides an opportunity to use our power for advocating for and seeing others as fellow spiritual beings. Recognizing that God is present in the midst of alienation and dislocation also helps us understand the "us vs. them" impact that has been so detrimental to our society and collective well-being. Finally, Professor Marzouk challenged us of the settled, white majority to deeply consider what it means to be an ally in a society that names non-white people as "other" and accordingly stratifies privilege and opportunity.

Representatives from our 30+ congregations next took turns sharing their blessings and challenges in their settings. We are grateful for PNMC leaders planning this gathering amidst pandemic restrictions. As always, it was a blessing to listen, learn, and pray together.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Zion Mennonite Church

Due to the continued risk of infection from the novel corona virus Zion will NOT be holding the 2021 Quilting Workshop in February.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES, cont.

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

PNMHS will hold its annual meeting **February 20, 2021** beginning at 1:30 p.m. [here via ZOOM](#). "The Path to Acknowledgement: Mennonite Settlement in the Pacific Northwest" will be presented by Sarah Augustine of Yakima, WA and Jonathon Neufeld, from Seattle Mennonite. *Who were the indigenous people here before settlers and Mennonites came to this land? What influenced our decisions in how and where we live?* This "virtual" gathering is the perfect opportunity for congregations at a distance to be able to attend and learn more about your Pacific Northwest Historical Society! The luncheon and program usually provide operating funds. Please consider PNMHS in your giving.

Salem Mennonite Church

They sleep under bridges, live in cars and camp in parks. They are victims for various reasons - abuse, addiction, mental illness, prison release, and poverty. They all have one thing in common - the lack of an adequate home. About 1200 Salem residents are designated as homeless. Many are served by [Church @ the Park](#). The founding mission of this small outreach church is to serve the homeless. After working on the sock project and providing cookies for the 12 Days of Christmas project, SMC is now supporting Church @ the Park's mission by providing a meal the fourth Thursday for at least six months. This is one way we can follow the message of Matthew 25:35-40, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS is offering a new **Ecumenical Student Scholarship** which supports students from other-than-Anabaptist Christian traditions who want to engage with people from the Anabaptist tradition while sharing the theological perspectives of and growing in their own tradition. Recipients can pursue their seminary studies either at a distance or on campus. The application deadline is **March 1**.

Mennonite Church USA

Due to uncertainty around COVID, MC USA's biennial Delegate Assembly will meet virtually on **Saturday, July 10, from 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. ET**. For more MennoCon21 details, visit: www.convention.mennoniteusa.org.

Mennonite Mission Network

[Speak the truth in love](#): In honor of Black History Month and in response to MC USA's denominational mandate to support, build and cultivate peace across our denomination, MMN is excited to host *Speak the truth in love*. We desire to speak the truth in love, while celebrating relationships, to mend divides that caused primarily by fear and racial stereotyping. The leaders of this webinar claim this desire because of their commitment to the Gospel of peace.

What: Webinar, with Pastors Kevin Himes and Vikki Pruitte-Sorrells, hosted by Ann Jacobs

When: Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 7 p.m. EST | 6 p.m. CST | 5 p.m. MST | 4 p.m. PST

Where/How: [Visit the registration page to sign up for the Zoom!](#)

A reflection on her Service Adventure assignment by Elyse Burton of Portland Mennonite Church:

Service Adventure is a great opportunity for high school graduates to experience the world around them, live in community with others who have different backgrounds, and grow in faith. These are the things which attracted me to the program during my senior year. I was unsure of what I wanted to do regarding college and I wanted to gain knowledge of life outside of my hometown. I was placed in the Colorado Springs unit and volunteered in a shelter for families experiencing homelessness. **These months helped me solidify my values and learn what was important.** I learned so many skills including cooking, cleaning, assisting families at work, using computer programs, even crocheting. Colorado Springs offers amazing outdoor activities and beautiful mountains. Some of my favorite memories were the hikes with church members, especially climbing Pikes Peak! Being close to nature helped me feel closer to God. Participating in Service Adventure during COVID brought so many external challenges and that unfortunately was the reason our unit ended early. The pandemic made it hard to juggle our safety with community interactions. Even with this disappointment, it was amazing to see everyone's understanding and supportive reactions to this decision. I am grateful that this experience helped me solidify what I want to do in the future, and I am so glad I made such good friends and connections while I was there.



Learn more about MMN's programs on **February 23 at 7:30 p.m. (EST)**. Drop in to hear about Service Adventure, Youth Venture, Voluntary Service, SOOP, and international service opportunities. Find the program that works for you! Contact EricFM@MMNWorld.net to register!

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

March 1 (submissions due by 2/25)

March 15 (submissions due by 3/8)

Apr 5 (submissions due by 3/29)

Apr 19 (submissions due by 4/12)

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>