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From the PNMC Office

The dates for the PNMC Annual Meeting have changed from traditionally meeting in late June. The plan is to hold the delegate assembly by Zoom and to gather in person for worship and fellowship at Zion Mennonite Church, **August 20-21**. *Watch for details coming soon!*

Pray for one another...

Our brothers and sisters at **Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva** are rejoicing that they have been able to gather in person for outdoor worship services. The congregation seeks prayers for those in their group who have lost both jobs and loved ones due to Covid 19.

CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

Mennonite Disaster Service, Oregon Unit

The MDS Oregon Unit is proposing a Zoom meeting for **May 22, 2021** to update volunteers about what has been happening as a result of local disasters. All persons wanting to connect via Zoom **need to register** by contacting Unit Secretary, [Clyde Hockman](#) (503-263-1210) with the following information: Name, email, address, and telephone number. Please register no later than **May 15, 2021**.

Additionally, It's not too late to **get involved with MDS this summer!** There are [Summer Youth Program](#) opportunities at Camp Mennoscah in Kansas as well as opportunities in Paradise, CA. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization

Glen Gnyton, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, has responded to the Derek Chauvin murder trial:

Numbness was my reaction to the verdict in the George Floyd murder case. Maybe there was a moment of jubilation mixed with disbelief as the three guilty verdicts were read. What can I add to the conversation that has not already been said? Let's be clear, like the Obamas said in their statement, "In this case at least, we have our answer. But if we're being honest with ourselves, we know that true justice is about much more than a single verdict in a single trial." So, I do not accept the Chauvin verdict as the fulfillment of justice.

I am not celebrating that a murderer was convicted and held accountable for his crimes. That is what is supposed to happen in a just legal system. Before the verdict was announced, I called my son and said, "Get somewhere safe. They are about to announce the verdict. I don't want you driving around." Two days before, I texted him, "Do you have air fresheners hanging from your mirror? Take them down now. I don't want to give anyone an excuse to stop you." I am sighing with relief that maybe this verdict will cause those "bad apples" in the system to pause and think twice about killing someone that looks like my son.

I am unfilled because I have sat in meetings with church leaders who are more concerned with not offending the police than standing firm, readied in the gospel of peace. (Ephesian 6:15). As members of MC USA, "We are called to extend God's holistic peace, proclaiming Christ's redemption for the world with our lives. Through Christ, God frees the world from sin and offers reconciliation. We bear witness to this gift of peace by rejecting violence and resisting injustice in all forms and in all places." We heeded this call even when the state sanctions violence and injustice.

As Anabaptists, we have long looked for a **third way**. We have studied the impact of war, stood against the military-industrial complex and searched for alternatives to military service. As our police force adopts the tools and tactics of our military, we as peacemakers, need to think deeply about the intersection of our theology and our view of community policing. What hope, what fulfillment can I find in secular judgment when members of the body of peacemakers I belong to struggle to call out the sin of both racial and socio-economic inequity in our mass incarceration system?

There is work yet to be done. No, I am not satisfied with one murderer being found guilty. Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice rolling through our cities and churches. I want the good cops to root out the bad cops. I call on systems of injustice to be abolished. But more than that, I want the people of MC USA to live into our call, to **#BringthePeace**. I want more churches **requesting Justice Fund grants**, flooding their communities with hope. I want people to educate themselves through our [abolition curriculum](#) and take action. I want us to move past political ideologies that divide the church and corrupt the gospel. I want more. *Most of all, I want my Black son and daughter to come home safely without the fear that some "bad apple" thinks they are judge, jury and executioner. The kind of justice I want is life.*

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

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Anabaptist World



Cases of anti-Asian discrimination, including physical and verbal assaults, surged after COVID-19 gained a foothold in the United States. **Stop AAPI Hate** received nearly 3,000 firsthand reports by last year. Language and cultural barriers, along with a lack of trust in law enforcement, suggest the true number of incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders is far higher.

Sue Park-Hur, Mennonite Church USA denominational minister of transformative peacemaking, said layers of trauma have been building for decades, and now second- and third-generation citizens are amplifying voices of victims who can't speak for themselves. A collective trauma is resurfacing that impacts different people in different ways. For Park-Hur, videos of people being verbally assaulted in restaurants and supermarkets compound with virus fears and build on memories of childhood bullying by white neighbors.

Read more [here](#).

Mennonite Church USA

It is time for congregations to begin naming individuals for the [2021 Delegate Assembly](#). There will be youth delegates through the "Step Up" program. (If there are teens who would like to do this together, contact Katherine.) MC USA will host the gathering **July 10, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT**. Though some will meet physically in Ohio, the 2021 Delegate Assembly *will be virtual*. The Assembly is your opportunity to not only speak to the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies, but also an opportunity to connect with and listen to the various members in our great and diverse denomination. More details [here](#).

MennoMedia

dear
white
peacemakers

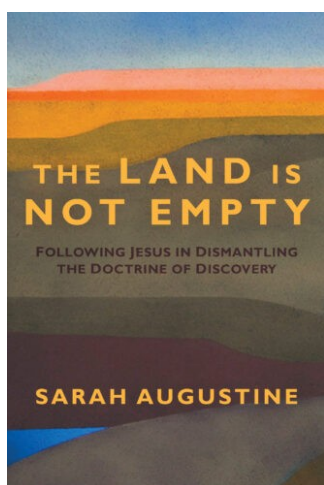


Newly released: A breakup letter to division, a love letter to God's beloved community, and an eviction notice to the violent powers that have sustained racism for centuries.

Race is one of the hardest topics to discuss in America. Many white Christians avoid talking about it altogether. But a commitment to peacemaking requires white people to step out of their comfort and privilege and into the work of anti-racism. *Dear White Peacemakers* is an invitation to white Christians to come to the table and join this hard work and holy calling. Rooted in the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus, this book is a challenging call to transform white shame, fragility, saviorism, and privilege, in order to work together to build the Beloved Community as anti-racism peacemakers.

Written in the wake of George Floyd's death, *Dear White Peacemakers* draws on the Sermon on the Mount, Spirituals, and personal stories from author Osheta Moore's work as a pastor in St. Paul, Minnesota. Enter into this story of shalom and join in the urgent work of anti-racism peacemaking. Order information [here](#).

Be sure to check out all the new releases at MennoMedia, including:



The Land is Not Empty, Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, by [Sarah Augustine](#)

NOTE: Sarah Augustine attends Seattle Mennonite and she was the speaker at the PNMHS annual meeting.

In *The Land Is Not Empty*, author Sarah Augustine unpacks the harm of the **Doctrine of Discovery**—a set of laws rooted in the fifteenth century that gave Christian governments the moral and legal right to seize lands they “discovered” despite those lands already being populated by indigenous peoples. Legitimized by the church and justified by a misreading of Scripture, the Doctrine of Discovery says a land can be considered “empty” and therefore free for the taking if inhabited by “heathens, pagans, and infidels.”

In this prophetic book, Augustine, a Pueblo woman, reframes the colonization of North America as she investigates ways that the Doctrine of Discovery continues to **devastate indigenous cultures**, and even the planet itself, as it justifies exploitation of both natural resources and people. This is a powerful call to reckon with the root causes of a legacy that continues to have devastating effects on indigenous peoples around the globe and a call to recognize how all of our lives and our choices are interwoven.

What was done in the name of Christ must be undone in the name of Christ, the author claims. The good news of Jesus means there is still hope for the righting of wrongs. Right relationship with God, others, and the earth requires no less.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

May 17 (submissions due by 5/10)

June 7 (submissions due by 5/26)

June 21 (submissions due by 6/14)

July 5 (submissions due by 6/28)

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>