



# e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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## From the PNMC Conference Moderator, *Dianna Eshleman*

The PNMC Annual Assembly & Delegate meeting will take place on Zoom, **August 21, 2021** from 9 – 12 AM (Pacific Time).

We have reluctantly abandoned our hopes for a safe in-person annual assembly yet a second year. It seems wisest to avoid a large gathering yet in August 2021. However, with the rising rates of persons vaccinated against Covid 19, we are very optimistic about a “normal” PNMC annual assembly in 2022.

More information, reports and expectations will soon be available regarding this year’s ZOOM gathering on **August 21**. Currently, we are asking two things:

1. Please advise us who will be attending and who the delegates are from your church by registering online at <https://pnmc.org/delegate-meeting-2021/>. We need each attendee’s email so meeting information is sent directly to those who need it. The registration form is online.

2. Please submit a written paragraph and a photo of some aspect of your congregational life for this year’s Handbook. Please send these reports to the [PNMC office](#) by July 1, 2021.

After opening worship, the PNMC Board looks forward to hearing each other as congregations respond to a roll call. PNMC will report on the ministry and finances of the past year. A link to the delegate book will be sent electronically by the PNMC office about 2 weeks before the meeting. We look forward to hearing about those who have received **Healthy Congregation Grants** from PNMC in the past year and how those monies were used to nurture their congregational life. Being together in our relationship as PNMC Mennonite congregations is an important time. *Sharing how Christ is working among us is a time to celebrate together.*

## Pray for one another...

Please pray for our brothers and sisters who are part of our congregations that share the building that is home for **First Mennonite Church of McMinnville** and **Centro Cristiano Pentecostés de McMinnville**. Pastor Simon Rendon oversees both congregations with support from Byron Shenk. The pandemic has posed difficult challenges for these small congregations. Covid closed operations for more than a month and some folks have not returned. However, the groups are holding steady and are hoping for growth as things start returning to normal operations. English services take place on Sunday mornings and Spanish services on Sunday evenings.

## CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization

### Seattle Mennonite Church



The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions (CSCS) is a collaborative initiative of Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College and Mennonite Central Committee to lead Anabaptist efforts to respond to the challenges of climate change. Seattle Mennonite Church partnered with CSCS to kick off the **Climate Ride** in Seattle. Riders are planning to reach Washington DC in July. The 501(c)(3) organizes life-changing charitable biking, running and hiking events to raise awareness and support sustainability, active transportation and environmental causes. Each partner brings a long and distinguished history of working for sustainability within their respective contexts and missions. Climate Ride began its cross-country journey on Sunday, May 30. They took a day ride from SMC to downtown Seattle for the traditional “dipping of the wheel” in the Pacific Ocean. To follow the group and join their virtual town halls along the way, follow: [“Moving the Story: Our Obligation to Respond”](#).

Search Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions on Facebook to follow the journey.

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

listed alphabetically by organization



### Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS has appointed Deanna A. Risser, M.B.A., of Goshen, IN, as vice president for administration and chief financial officer, beginning Aug. 1, 2021. Risser, who currently serves as vice president for finance at Goshen College (GC), will succeed Ron Ringenberg, M.B.A., M.S., who will retire in August after 18 years of service.

"Deanna's references praised her for her character and integrity, attention to her own spiritual growth, deep commitment to church/nonprofit organizational leadership, strong financial management skills and collaborative work style," said David Boshart, Ph.D., AMBS president and chair of the search committee for the position. "We are excited about the gifts and experience that Deanna brings, and we're eager for her to join us in building on Ron's legacy and carrying out AMBS's mission."

Risser earned a Master of Business Administration from Indiana University South Bend and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Bluffton (Ohio) University. She is a graduate of Bethany Christian High School in Goshen. Between 2014 and 2018, she also took courses in Christian formation at AMBS.



### Everence

Elyse Burton, of Tualatin, OR and Portland Mennonite Church, has received a scholarship of \$1,000 to pursue a degree at Goshen College. Nearly 200 students from across the country applied for scholarships – a benefit of being an Everence member – for the coming academic year. Recipients were chosen based on academics, leadership, community involvement and responses to an essay question. As part of the grant application, Elyse wrote an essay on how her faith influences her attitudes around money and faith. Elyse said "A faith driven force of mine revolves around spending wisely for the earth. I am passionate about reducing my overall waste by buying reusable products. I support small businesses which helps fund companies with mission statements I resonate with even though it may be pricier. Making small swaps like buying coffee locally instead of Starbucks or hanging your clothes to dry instead of using a machine are some ways I feel my faith encourages me to help make the world a better place."

Everence helps individuals, organizations and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Everence is a ministry of Mennonite Church USA and other churches. To learn more, visit [everence.com](http://everence.com) or call (800) 348-7468.

### Mennonite Men

This spring Anabaptist communities have been enthusiastically planting trees, with over 2,250 trees planted in April alone. Congregations, farmers, men's groups, and schools have partnered with Mennonite Men to plant trees as part of Mennonite Men's campaign, **JoinTrees**, with the goal of planting one million trees by the year 2030. Steve Thomas, Mennonite Men U.S. coordinator and certified arborist, has encouraged JoinTrees partners to be creative in their planting projects. The results have been intergenerational events at a variety of sites, including tree plantings at churches, farms, retreat centers, and more.

In addition to the various planting events, Mennonite Men's board of directors also approved \$8,247.00 for 5 grants to congregations, farms, and environmental education projects to assist them in tree planting projects they're undertaking this spring and fall. "We have three goals with this campaign to restore God's earth," said Steve Thomas. "Doing our part to care for God's creation, we aim to mitigate global warming, serve climate justice, and sustain biodiversity."

"We continue to receive inquiries about how to participate in our campaign," said Thomas. "People are seeking to join this campaign by offering land to plant, making contributions to fund tree planting, and helping to plant seedlings. We are excited by the strong, positive response across the church." To date, 9,151 trees have been planted through the JoinTrees campaign.

To learn more about JoinTrees and how you and your community can get involved, visit [www.mennonitemen.org/jointrees](http://www.mennonitemen.org/jointrees).

### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

June 21 (submissions due by 6/14)

July 5 (submissions due by 6/28)

Aug 2 (submissions due by 7/26)

Aug 16 (submissions due by 8/9)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto: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>