



27th Annual Meeting

# DELEGATE HANDBOOK

August 21, 2021



Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite  
Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA

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# Welcome to the 2021 PNMC Virtual Gathering

June 2021

**To congregations and delegates of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference,**

We are announcing a 3 hour ZOOM PNMC Annual Assembly & Delegate meeting on **August 21, 2021** from 9 – 12 AM (Pacific Time).

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

Currently, we are asking two things:

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

2. Please submit a written paragraph and a photo of some aspect of your congregational life. This year's annual booklet will include a section on congregational life. Please send these reports to the PNMC office by July 1, 2021. ([office@pnmc.org](mailto:office@pnmc.org)).

After a 20 minute opening Worship service, 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.

Dianna Eshleman  
PNMC Moderator

# Report from Executive Conference Minister

*Submitted by Katherine Jameson Pitts ~ June 2021*

*With your unfailing love you lead the people you have redeemed.  
In your might, you guide them to your sacred home. (Exodus 15:13 NLT)*

A year ago we were preparing for our first on-line PNMC Annual Meeting. Congregations had settled into on-line ways of meeting for worship, education, and doing business, and we had no idea how long this would last. Now, as vaccines are widely available and public health restrictions are being lifted, our congregations are returning to their physical “homes”. Some folks are returning to their emotional “homes” with travels to friends and family who haven’t been seen in over a year. I hope that we all have discovered that our spiritual “home” doesn’t depend on a place or whether we are in person or not, but has been with us all along on the journey of the past year. As we emerge from the pandemic, we know that **God’s love has been with us and will guide us home, wherever that may be.**

I am grateful for the brief sabbatical I was able to take last summer following our Annual Meeting. The time apart was restorative as I took long walks and sorted through boxes in our garage. It was also a good time to take a deep breath after those first chaotic days of the pandemic. Out of that time came an online pastor cluster that met through this year, a schedule of one-on-one visits with each of our pastors, and “visits” to a number of our congregations through the medium of Zoom. Zoom also enabled a wonderful Conference Communications Council, where we gathered to hear from AMBS professor, Safwat Marzouk, as well as to share with one another. The Zoom format may not be as good as being together in person for some meetings, but for a mid-winter educational event it worked well.

Even with pandemic disruptions, new things continued to grow in PNMC. Healthy Congregation Grants were given to provide laundry services for those without homes, to support a women’s retreat, and to enable pastoral education for a current pastor. These grants continue to be available if your congregation has something you are dreaming about doing but need a little financial boost to accomplish. In addition, two new church plants are relating to PNMC. Both Community of Hope, Bellingham WA and Iglesia Anabautista Ebenezer, Salem OR, were in the very early stages of church planting when the pandemic struck. Through this year they have taken root and grown as online communities, reaching those without church connections.

Pastoral transitions continued. Working through the US immigration process during a pandemic was not easy, but Emily Toews was finally able to join her husband Bryce Miller as co-pastors at Menno Mennonite Church. Zion Mennonite Church called Steve Bomar to be their lead pastor through a search process that was almost entirely online. Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship’s search committee has also had to work at a search in this new way. Lebanon Mennonite Church said goodbye to Brent Kauffman after 27 years of ministry in a parking lot service. They, Western Mennonite Church, and Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva, continue to discern pastoral leadership needs.

We have been through a wilderness where our path was not always clear. But a year later we can say that God led us there, and the love of God continues to lead us. **Love will lead us home.**

Katherine Jameson Pitts  
Executive Conference Minister

# Board of Directors Report

*Submitted by Dianna Esbleman, PNMC Board Moderator, Spring 2021*

For all of us, starting in mid-March 2020, there were MANY unanticipated and dismaying disruptions to our life routines caused by the pandemic. My term as moderator of the PNMC board, which began in June of 2020, was no exception. Fear, grief, depressed moods and loss of security for housing and jobs swirled around us. We all mourned the insecurity and isolation. Many people died. Now in retrospect, from the vantage point of Summer 2021, we are emerging from those dark days. As a nation, we are able to protect not only ourselves, but also each other with the blessing of vaccine availability. Praise God!

Surprisingly, there are some positive gains from the pandemic experience. The conference and congregations have learned new skills to communicate, worship and think creatively about maintaining “community” in the presence of barriers. This information can become part of the toolkit for reaching out to include people unable to be physically present for church worship services in the future. We learned that meetings on ZOOM can happen more easily without travel disruption to life routines. This allows for full participation by persons located widely geographically. At this time, the PNMC board plans to utilize this new knowledge into the future with only one in-person quarterly meeting annually. The remainder of meetings will be conducted electronically.

PNMC board ZOOM quarterly meetings were conducted on **August 29, 2020; November 21, 2020; January 23, 2021; May 15, 2021**. We adapted to virtual discussions in order to conduct the routine board business of monitoring policies and financial oversight. The PNMC conference has been blessed with adequate revenue and financial gifts to continue funding at budgeted levels in the past year. The minutes of quarterly meetings are available for anyone to read on the PNMC website, as well as minutes of additional virtual board meetings that are called throughout the year.

The 2020 conference wide **review** of Katherine’s services as our full-time **Executive Conference Minister (ECM)** demonstrated a wide appreciation for her skills and affirmation for her services in this role. February 1, 2021, she agreed to a renewed contract for services at least until after the annual PNMC assembly meeting in 2022. I very much appreciated the participation and helpful comments from all of you who responded to my ECM survey request.

The board began the **education process in Antiracism individual awareness and training** led by Duncan Smith in 2021. The findings of the audit will continue to be processed at our first quarterly meeting after new board members join in September 2021.

**PNMC annual assembly** will be held virtually on **Saturday, August 21, 8:30am-12:30pm**. The board decided regretfully, that out of an abundance of caution for health safety of primarily our unvaccinated members in conference, that we would have one more electronic meeting for annual conference assembly this year. We anticipate when the national goal of 70% vaccinated persons is achieved for “herd immunity”, that it will be safe to return to “normal”.

The **PNMC board Gift Discernment Team (GDT)** searched in Spring 2021 for a people to fill the upcoming vacant positions. The GDT consisted of the board moderator, moderator elect, ECM and 2 members elected by delegates, Joseph Penner & Renee Johns. We are happy to bring the names of these gifted persons, who have agreed to serve, for your review on the ballot.

The **Healthy Congregation Grants program** of PNMC is administered by a committee (made up of the ECM, board moderator and a PNMC board member) with oversight by the PNMC board. It is exciting to see how various congregations have imagined useful purposes for these available funds to further their ministry.

The **Conference Communications Council** Meeting, a gathering of PNMC pastors and leaders, was held virtually on February 6, 2021. Katherine arranged for an Old Testament learning opportunity about Joseph’s story as well as conducting business when the group of congregational leaders and interested persons met together. The board affirms the future possibilities of using ZOOM in a hybrid in-person meeting to allow more persons to participate in this type of learning experience while meeting together annually.

The Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) **Constituency Leadership Council (CLC)** bi-annual meetings were held electronically on ZOOM in October 2020 and April 2021. Katherine Pitts, Kevin Chupp (moderator elect) and I attended. The MC USA plan now is for proposed retirement of the Membership Guidelines, which do not align with existing practices, to be submitted to an in-person national Delegate Assembly for deliberation in 2022, along with some other resolutions not yet processed fully.

I also attended new **monthly ZOOM MC USA moderator meetings** during the pandemic to share and discuss issues with other Mennonite USA moderators. I found this very helpful to understand issues and positions held in other MC USA conferences. There is wide affirmation for positive benefits among the moderators to continue virtual meetings every two months even after pandemic restrictions are completely lifted.

As this board year comes to a close, I especially want to thank Twila Lehman as she completes her service terms as a board member and the board secretary. I look forward to my second year as PNMC moderator to be less challenging perhaps, due to the eagerly anticipated return to “normal”. I pray for all of us in the conference to find our way forward in the spirit of love and concern for each other, with an openness to hear each other’s stories and life experiences. Jesus is our model of including everyone he met into his circle of love and caring for them as an individual.

# **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**

## **DELEGATES: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO**

*(March 2013)*

### **WHO IS THE PNMC DELEGATE BODY?**

1. Each PNMC member congregation is entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five of its members, or fraction thereof. (PNMC bylaws, Article III, 3, g)
2. All ordained or licensed ministers, whose ministerial credentials have been recognized by PNMC and who are considered active, with charge are entitled to be delegates. (PNMC Bylaws, Article III, 3, g)

### **WHO SHOULD CONGREGATIONS CHOOSE TO BE THEIR DELEGATES?**

1. Congregations have the freedom to choose who will best represent their congregation in the PNMC delegate body.
2. Delegates should be members of the congregation they represent. Preferably, some of a congregation's delegates will bring a congregational leadership perspective having continuity with the congregation, understanding the range of views in the congregation and their own views respected within their congregation.
3. Delegates should hold to the vision and commitments of PNMC (Bylaws Article III, 2):
  - a. The vision and mission statements of Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
  - b. Common Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, as updated from time to time, as their “statement of faith for teaching and nurture in the life of the Church”
  - c. Commitment “to seek to understand and interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit in the Church”
  - d. Commitment to participate in discerning and living out statements of Christian faith and life made by Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
  - e. Commitment to participate in the life and mission of PNMC and Mennonite Church USA through delegate representation and financial support.

### **WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?**

1. **Fulfill the role as defined in the PNMC bylaws:** (Article IV, 2):

**Purpose:** Delegates appointed by the Member Congregations have the authority to transact the business of PNMC, including but not limited to the following actions:

- a. Discuss and decide major issues of policy for PNMC, and discern the voice of the Spirit in the midst of the Member Meeting.
- b. Provide opportunity to speak to the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies.
- c. Receive reports from the Board, PNMC staff, teams and other conference activities. Reports shall be presented in writing and shall include financial accounting.

## **WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?, CONTINUED**

d. Elect the following as needed:

- (1) Moderator Elect.
- (2) Board members to fill new terms and vacancies.
- (3) Secretary and Treasurer.
- (4) Gift Discernment Team members. This team identifies and recommends persons to the Board to fill elected positions which need to be affirmed by the delegates at the annual Member Meeting.  
*(There may also be other elections as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.)*

### **2. Gathered Discernment:**

PNMC is comprised solely of Mennonite congregations in the Pacific Northwest. These congregations meet in annual assembly the fourth weekend of June. The delegate body assembly is a forum for these congregations to talk together and to discern together the voice of the Holy Spirit. This forum helps the church move beyond its usual congregational ways of thinking and acting. Discernment happens as delegates together dwell in the Word, meditate, pray, share, discuss and listen to one another. The value of this discernment is not realized primarily in formal actions. It is realized in the worship and dialogue itself as it informs, inspires and builds up our conference, denominational and congregational life.

### **3. Communication channel:**

It is our intent that delegates help the conference stay focused on the value of PNMC to congregational life: 1. guiding through pastoral transitions; 2. helping plan for the future; 3. resourcing lay leaders; and 4. strengthening the ministry of pastors. This is accomplished by:

- a. Delegates represent their congregation's voice into the PNMC body. They receive PNMC staff and board reports and interact with the board and staff to provide counsel and direction.
- b. Delegates represent the PNMC body to their home congregations by relaying annual delegate session discussions.
- c. Throughout their term as delegate each provides a primary interaction service between PNMC staff and board and their home congregation. They may be sought for counsel or communication between the annual delegate sessions via email or snail mail.
- d. One congregational delegate shall serve on the Conference Communications Council.

## **THE DELEGATES' TERM OF SERVICE**

In the fall of each year, the PNMC office will request a list of its delegates from each congregation. One of the delegates should represent the congregation, along with a pastor, at the winter Communications Council meeting. We hope that all the delegates shall represent the congregation at the summer annual assembly. Delegates shall serve in that role until a different list of delegates is requested the following fall.



# 2020 PNMC Delegate Session Minutes

June 27, 2020, via ZOOM

1. Welcome and prayer
  - a. Jeryl called the delegate session together at 9:15 a.m. PST via a ZOOM Webinar platform.
  - b. After going over procedures, Jeryl opened in prayer.

*(If there is no objection we will consider the minutes of the 2019 meeting approved. If you have an objection please use the chat box to raise it and we will address it during the Q and A session.)*

2. Executive Conference Minister (ECM) Report – Katherine Jameson Pitts thanked the PNMC congregations for their resilience and creativity during these challenging times.
  - a. New pastors – **Bryce Miller** at Menno Mennonite Church and **Ron Hershey** at Filer Mennonite Church.
  - b. Interim pastors – **Terry Rediger** at Western Mennonite Church, **Bill Blank** at Zion Mennonite Church, and **Gary Jewell** will begin at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship in July.
  - c. Ordination of **Kevin Chupp**, First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, Idaho. **Angel Campoz**, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita, Salem, Oregon, will be ordained soon.
  - d. New District Pastors – **Sylvia Shirk** for Seattle MC and Evergreen MC, **Merritt Welty** serves First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, Filer MC and Emmaus CF, and **Terry Rediger** serves Zion MC and Salem MC. They join current DP pastors **Marlene Bogard**, assigned to Portland MC, Pacific Covenant MC, and Western MC; **Linda Dibble**, serving Eugene MC and Lebanon MC; **Gary Jewell** connecting with Mt. View, Menno, Hyde Park and Prince of Peace MC; **Renee Johns**, continuing with Evergreen Heights MC; **Brent Kauffman** who serves Bend MC, Corvallis MF, and Albany MC; **Samuel Moran** assigned to Centro Cristiano Pentecostés, Comunidad Christiana Vida Nueva, Iglesia Menonita Roca de Salvación and Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita; and **Mathew Swora** who is continuing with International Bethel City Church and Ministerios Restauración. First Mennonite McMinnville, Calvary MC and Shalom Church are served by Katherine Pitts.
  - e. **Healthy Congregation Grants** are available to congregations. Grants given recently this year included support for pulpit supply during a pastoral sabbatical and for preparing a hospitality suite for overnight guests in the church building.
3. Treasurer Report- Dave Hockman-Wert went over PNMC financials. Overall, PNMC is on solid footing. He shared charts and graphs of the following (see Delegate Handbook for a hard copy):
  - Income/Expenses vs Budget FYE 2020 – we have a net operating Income of \$8,268
  - Budget vs Actual – Net Operating Income of \$5,258 (due to lower expenses than anticipated).
  - Investment Gains/Losses (Line 7900) -49,000 – Finance Team has been created and is monitoring investments. Showed a line graph of history of fund.
  - Graphs showing Income/Expense History and Asset History
4. Moderator Report – Jeryl Hollinger explained how the Board operates. The Executive Conference Minister is the lead staff person. The treasurer oversees the finances and the PNMC Moderator is the chairperson of the Board. The Board establishes policy and gives guidance to the staff. The minutes of the Board meetings are available on the PNMC website. This year the **2019 Annual Minutes are approved** (without a motion and vote) due to having our meeting on ZOOM. There were no objections.

Introduction of the ballot prepared by the Gift Discernment Team. The GDT consists of ECM Katherine Jameson Pitts, Moderator-elect Dianna Eshleman, Joseph Penner (Salem) and Renee Johns (Hyde Park).



## BALLOT

**Moderator-Elect: Kevin Chupp** pastor of First Mennonite in Aberdeen

*(The moderator-elect serves 2 years in that role and then serves 2 more years as moderator.)*

**Treasurer: David Hockman-Wert.** David has been our treasurer for the past two years, completing the term of Brett Tieszen.

**4-year Board position: Megan Ramer**, lead pastor at Seattle Mennonite

**Pastoral Leadership Team** – (this is the group that gives guidance to our ministerial credentialing process) – **Angel Campo** – who is presently on the team and has agreed to another term.

**Gift Discernment Team - Renee Johns and Joseph Penner**

**Positions filled by the Board (listed on page 20 of the handbook):**

**Two-year Board positions: Nelly Moran Ascensio** – taking another term on the Board representing the CIHAN congregations and **Kiara Yoder** - Zion congregation

**Vacant Board position:** Deren Kellogg of the Seattle congregation has agreed to serve the one year remaining on that term.

Jeryl reported on the Constituency Leaders Council (CLC). The CLC consists of 3 leaders from each conference as well as MC USA staff and program leaders. A primary issue under conversation with the larger church is the membership guidelines. PNMC Board has tried to stay up-to-date on that conversation and participate as we are able. Our Board has felt that it is time to re-think those guidelines and some folks in our conference have participated heavily in those discussions.

We have re-fashioned our finance team. Our organizational documents call for a Finance Team, but we have not had a functioning group. Our Board decided that because we have investment funds, and many of us on the Board do not have a lot of experience in managing such funds, we needed the help of an active Finance Team. So we re-wrote the expectations and guidelines for a finance team and then formed the team.

The team includes the following people:

**Janet Szabo**, completing her 4th year on the PNMC Board, has chaired this team – **Deren Kellogg** will replace her next year

**David Hockman Wert**, current PNMC Treasurer

**Jack Swaim** – previous PNMC Moderator who helped establish our funds

**Brett Tieszen** – previous PNMC Treasurer

Jeryl thanked PNMC for allowing him to serve and gave gratitude to the PNMC Board. He thanked Janet Szabo and Gary Martin who have completed their terms on the Board. He gave appreciation for our staff: Brenda Kauffman, communications; Barbara Buxman, Administrator; and Katherine Pitts, Executive Conference Minister.

5. Q & A – Questions or comments for ECM, Treasurer or Moderator
  - A. What is the total value of PNMC Investment Fund? Answer: A little over 1 million.
  - B. What does “rethink the guidelines” mean? Answer: The current guidelines include three parts as to what it means to be a part of MCUSA. A committee of 40 people worked on changing these guidelines.
  - C. What is the PNMC Policy booklet? Answer: The Policy Notebook is provided to Board members. It lists all the necessary documents to help us operate effectively. It concludes policies, bylaws, structure, and guidelines. It can be made available to congregations for transparency reasons, but probably would not be useful beyond that.
6. Affirmation Ballot – responding to the GDT recommendations. Gary Martin shared a poll with the ZOOM members and then you needed to choose to “affirm” or “oppose” each person on the ballot. Ballots were received by Gary over ZOOM and reported to Jeryl at the meeting. New appointees were confirmed and welcomed.

7. Congregational Check-in: **"One thing we are thankful for is....."**

**Kathy Mark**, Corvallis Mennonite, ...continuing to gather together with grace and goodwill for each other.

**Rebecca Allen**, Seattle Mennonite, ...the call from Black organizers to deepen our commitment to "Just" peace through financial and other support for police abolition and black-led uprising. The beginning of an ongoing journey for Seattle Mennonite.

**Ron Hershey**, Filer Mennonite, ...new beginnings.

**Kevin Chupp**, First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ...flexibility, resilience and learning new ways to be together.

**Laz Martinez**, Hyde Park Mennonite, ...all the ways we have been able to connect through drive-by graduations, ZOOM church, staying together and drawing strength from one another across the country.

**Samuel Adams**, Bend Mennonite, ...growth and adding new members and to see a thriving congregation.

**Travis King Weaver**, Anchorage Mennonite, ... reconnecting with people all around the world through ZOOM.

**Elaine Kauffman**, Mountain View Mennonite, ...faithful financial contributions even in this time when we have not been able to meet together.

**Bryce Miller**, Menno Mennonite, ...creativity and connecting across distance.

**Ray and Kay Nussbaum**, Western Mennonite Church, ...Pastor Terry Rediger for his care and teaching, support and leadership while we are separated and to Katherine, ECM, and Bob Buxman for their support during pastoral transition.

**Trudy McKinnell**, Salem Mennonite, ...for Jerrell Williams, pastor, and adopting an Inclusion Resolution for the congregation.

**Amy Hoing**, Evergreen Mennonite, ...unexpected passion for racial justice. Supporting each other through learning and activism.

**Peter Epp**, Albany Mennonite, ...ZOOM book club reading *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad.

**Karyn L Angell**, Eugene Mennonite, ...sustained sense of humor during this time.

**Brie Kruger**, Portland Mennonite, ...compassion and responsiveness in our congregation the past few months. Sincere concern for those who are suffering. A commitment to stand for justice. Education on racial justice. Our values are rooted in love of neighbor and faith in Christ.

**Janice Yoder**, Shalom Mennonite and UCC combined, ...technology to be connected with others both near and far. Also grateful for an anonymous donation to be used for racial and economic justice during COVID and to be able to give money to good works.

**Jerry Barkman**, Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church, ...for our small church to have love for each other and to be able to meet in each other's homes through ZOOM and e-mail. Support each other and others through this pandemic.

**Pat Hershberger**, Zion Mennonite, ...for people with technology skills to be able to make connections. For the financial resources to be able to respond to those who need help during this time.

**Julia Todd**, Lebanon Mennonite, ...relationships that extend beyond physical distancing and for God's grace.

**Craig Morton**, Emmaus Christian Fellowship, ... be part of the initial cohort of church planters and been able to engage in replanting. To be able to support low income and homeless students through a local school district giving program and involved in BLM vigil and "Inclusive Idaho" organization.

**Kathy Bilderback**, Evergreen Heights, ...to connect with others outside the area. For love and respect and grace among members and to seek peace and welfare of church and community.

**Angel Campoz**, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita, ...support from family, friends and conference through this difficult time of loss.

**Nelly Moran-Ascencio**, (on behalf of Samuel Moran) Ministerios Restauración, ...good health, support from PNMC.

**Lucy (Matanda Lucy Masakadi)** Bethel City, ...no cases of COVID until now, gathering by ZOOM, for PNMC and we pray for PNMC and the congregations.
8. Introduction of new Board and prayer for Board and staff: The Board members were introduced.
  - Dianna Eshleman – New Moderator
  - Kevin Chupp – Moderator-Elect
  - David Hockman-Wert -- Treasurer
  - Twila Lehman – Secretary

4 -year terms: Jan Yoder  
Leonard Nolt  
Deren Kellogg  
Megan Ramer

2-year terms: Nelly Moran Ascencio  
Kiara Yoder

Linda Dibble, Moderator-Elect of MCUSA gave an update from MCUSA. MCUSA has been responding to needs here and around the world with conferences, congregations and communities as we learn to be church during the difficulties faced in this pandemic. Approx. 190 leaders attended a webinar on race relations in the church, MCUSA is working on 2021 Convention in Cincinnati (a decision will be made this fall if it will be remote or onsite). Conversation around Membership Guidelines: there is a CLC planning team to create a recommendation for the delegates.

Linda led in prayer for the new PNMC Board.

9. Transition to New Moderator – Jeryl welcomed Dianna Eshleman as the new PNMC Moderator. A prayer shawl will be given a later time to stand as a reminder that we stand with you in prayer in this leadership responsibility.
10. Invitation to 2021 Annual meeting – Dianna thanked Jeryl for his service over many years. The 2021 meeting place and format is unknown at this time. We hope to know more at the Conference Communications Council on February 6th, which will be held as a Webinar. As a conference, we have learned some new skills and ways to include people who are not always able to be at conference-wide gatherings in person.
11. Closing  
Dianna thanked those people who planned and made this virtual group meeting happen, with a special thank you to Jeryl Hollinger, Katherine Pitts, Gary Martin & Dave Hockman-Wert as well as others who shared advice and expertise with online meetings.

Dianna led in a closing prayer. The delegate session ended at *10:00 am Alaska time; 11:00 am Pacific time; 12 noon Mountain time.*

Everyone was invited to join a PNMC informal Zoom gathering immediately after this meeting ended.  
Twila Lehman  
Secretary

## Treasurer's Report / Financial Reports

### PNMC Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year Ending 2021

It's been an odd year, as we all know. As I write this, the Covid-19 pandemic is waning thanks to the amazing success of the vaccines and their rollout. (I'm not sure there has been such a positive nationwide collective effort in my lifetime.) But the aftermath of job losses, business closures, and financial distress caused by the pandemic continues to ripple through the economy. Churches, especially those not meeting in person, may have had trouble receiving enough donations to keep up with expenses. We haven't heard of any financial crises within PNMC congregations, but that doesn't mean we aren't experiencing struggles.

Even with the effects of Covid-19, conference finances continue to be in a very good place, thanks to the faithful contributions of member congregations and the investment account we have with Everence. We are grateful that our congregations are healthy enough to continue to contribute. Since the "conference" only exists as the "web" that connects individual congregations, so the health of the parts affects the health of the whole. In other words, we want you all to be healthy – spiritually, socially, and financially! (If these words sound familiar, that's because I included them last year as well. I think the message bears repeating!)

The Healthy Congregations Grant Fund has been well-used this year (six grants totaling almost \$10,000), but it still has plenty of funds. If your congregation has ideas that might fit with this program, please review the guidelines (<https://pnmc.org/resources/documents/>) and apply.

While Covid-19 had negative effects on parts of the economy, the stock market has grown rapidly this past year (almost as if it has no relationship to reality! – a topic for another time). Given this continued growth and the sufficiency of our bank balances, we once again chose not to withdraw anything from the investment fund account. After recovering by June 2020 to just over \$1 million, the investment fund has grown nearly 25%, to \$1,247,000 as of May 31, 2021.

Overall, our actual operating income in FY 2020-21 fell short of our budgeted income by almost \$16,000, owing primarily to no annual meeting income. Actual congregational giving was only \$6000 short of budgeted, even with the effects of Covid-19. Expenses were \$39,000 less than budgeted, thanks to much lower travel expenses and no annual meeting expenses. This led to a net operating income of about \$13,500 (compared to a budgeted loss of \$9,800). So as I've written for the past two years now, for yet another year, PNMC's budgeted bottom line of a small operating loss has been turned into an actual small gain. Overall, we are in good financial shape as a conference.

Submitted by PNMC Treasurer, Dave Hockman-Wert  
June 2021

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Budget vs. Actuals: FY2022 budget - FY22 P&L

February 2021 - January 2022

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
4101 Member Church Contributions				
410101 Albany	4,800.00	9,500.00	-4,700.00	50.53 %
410104 Centro Cristiano Pentecostes		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
410105 Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva		100.00	-100.00	
410106 Corvallis	1,600.00	3,200.00	-1,600.00	50.00 %
410108 Emmaus		350.00	-350.00	
410109 Eugene	500.00	1,000.00	-500.00	50.00 %
410110 Evergreen	1,127.50	2,000.00	-872.50	56.38 %
410112 Evergreen Heights		1,600.00	-1,600.00	
410114 Filer		4,000.00	-4,000.00	
410118 First - Aberdeen		3,500.00	-3,500.00	
410120 First - McMinnville		100.00	-100.00	
410122 Hyde Park	3,347.50	6,500.00	-3,152.50	51.50 %
410126 Iglesia Men. Roca De Salvacion		500.00	-500.00	
410128 Jerusalem Iglesia		100.00	-100.00	
410133 Menno		7,000.00	-7,000.00	
410134 Ministerios Restauracion		100.00	-100.00	
410135 Mountain View	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	100.00 %
410137 Pacific Covenant		150.00	-150.00	
410142 Portland	10,750.00	21,500.00	-10,750.00	50.00 %
410143 Prince of Peace (AK)	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.00 %
410146 Bend Mennonite Church		100.00	-100.00	
410150 Salem	3,692.50	10,000.00	-6,307.50	36.93 %
410152 Seattle	7,550.00	14,000.00	-6,450.00	53.93 %
410154 Shalom	600.00	750.00	-150.00	80.00 %
410162 Western	500.00	1,500.00	-1,000.00	33.33 %
410164 Zion		17,500.00	-17,500.00	
<b>Total 4101 Member Church Contributions</b>	<b>40,967.50</b>	<b>112,550.00</b>	<b>-71,582.50</b>	<b>36.40 %</b>
4200 Other Contributions				
4206 Contributions-Individuals	100.00	1,500.00	-1,400.00	6.67 %
4208 Affiliated Mennonite Groups	2,100.00	4,500.00	-2,400.00	46.67 %
4210 Contributions-Others		500.00	-500.00	
<b>Total 4200 Other Contributions</b>	<b>2,200.00</b>	<b>6,500.00</b>	<b>-4,300.00</b>	<b>33.85 %</b>
4300 Other Income				
4305 Miscellaneous Income	250.00		250.00	
<b>Total 4300 Other Income</b>	<b>250.00</b>		<b>250.00</b>	
4400 Annual Meeting Income				
4401 Registration, Housing, Meals		10,000.00	-10,000.00	
4403 Offerings-Annual Meeting		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
4404 Pastor Dinner Contributions		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
4408 Other Income-Annual Meeting				

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Budget vs. Actuals: FY2022 budget - FY22 P&L

February 2021 - January 2022

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
440802 Reimbursements		250.00	-250.00	
<b>Total 4408 Other Income-Annual Meeting</b>		<b>250.00</b>	<b>-250.00</b>	
<b>Total 4400 Annual Meeting Income</b>		<b>12,250.00</b>	<b>-12,250.00</b>	
4700 Interest/Dividend Income				
4701 Checking/Bank MM Interest	43.63	150.00	-106.37	29.09 %
<b>Total 4700 Interest/Dividend Income</b>	<b>43.63</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>-106.37</b>	<b>29.09 %</b>
4800 Investment Gains/Losses				
4802 MF Stock/Bond Fund Income	726.30	200.00	526.30	363.15 %
4804 Investment Fund Income	26,191.11	40,000.00	-13,808.89	65.48 %
<b>Total 4800 Investment Gains/Losses</b>	<b>26,917.41</b>	<b>40,200.00</b>	<b>-13,282.59</b>	<b>66.96 %</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$70,378.54</b>	<b>\$171,650.00</b>	<b>\$ -101,271.46</b>	<b>41.00 %</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$70,378.54</b>	<b>\$171,650.00</b>	<b>\$ -101,271.46</b>	<b>41.00 %</b>
Expenses				
5100 Exec. Conf. Minister Support				
5101 Salary/Housing	38,972.52	72,406.00	-33,433.48	53.82 %
5104 FICA Support	10.29	5,539.00	-5,528.71	0.19 %
5105 Corinthian Plan Premiums	7,087.71	12,150.00	-5,062.29	58.34 %
5106 Retirement	3,637.41	6,236.00	-2,598.59	58.33 %
5107 Medical HRA	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	100.00 %
<b>Total 5100 Exec. Conf. Minister Support</b>	<b>51,207.93</b>	<b>97,831.00</b>	<b>-46,623.07</b>	<b>52.34 %</b>
5170 District Pastor Expense				
5171 District Pastor Stipends	7,887.52	16,000.00	-8,112.48	49.30 %
5173 District Pastor Non Travel Expense		150.00	-150.00	
<b>Total 5170 District Pastor Expense</b>	<b>7,887.52</b>	<b>16,150.00</b>	<b>-8,262.48</b>	<b>48.84 %</b>
5240 Administrative Asst				
5241 Salary Admin Asst	3,300.50	12,000.00	-8,699.50	27.50 %
5242 FICA Admin Asst	254.10	924.00	-669.90	27.50 %
<b>Total 5240 Administrative Asst</b>	<b>3,554.60</b>	<b>12,924.00</b>	<b>-9,369.40</b>	<b>27.50 %</b>
5250 Communications Coordinator				
5251 Salary Communications Coordinator	943.95	3,500.00	-2,556.05	26.97 %
5252 FICA Support	72.79	266.00	-193.21	27.36 %
<b>Total 5250 Communications Coordinator</b>	<b>1,016.74</b>	<b>3,766.00</b>	<b>-2,749.26</b>	<b>27.00 %</b>
5500 Pastoral Leadership Team				
5501 Pastors' Retreat		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
5506 Non-Travel Expenses	252.00	500.00	-248.00	50.40 %
<b>Total 5500 Pastoral Leadership Team</b>	<b>252.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>-2,248.00</b>	<b>10.08 %</b>
5530 Theological Education Team				
5535 Ministry Inquiry Program		500.00	-500.00	
<b>Total 5530 Theological Education Team</b>		<b>500.00</b>	<b>-500.00</b>	
5900 Board of Directors				

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Budget vs. Actuals: FY2022 budget - FY22 P&L

February 2021 - January 2022

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
5901 Non-Travel Expenses	1,819.00	3,000.00	-1,181.00	60.63 %
<b>Total 5900 Board of Directors</b>	<b>1,819.00</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>-1,181.00</b>	<b>60.63 %</b>
5950 Contracted Services				
5958 Translation Services	2,949.55	6,200.00	-3,250.45	47.57 %
<b>Total 5950 Contracted Services</b>	<b>2,949.55</b>	<b>6,200.00</b>	<b>-3,250.45</b>	<b>47.57 %</b>
6000 Conference Office				
6004 Handbook		350.00	-350.00	
6010 Office Supply	179.99	1,500.00	-1,320.01	12.00 %
6011 Conference Office	438.67	500.00	-61.33	87.73 %
6015 Office Communication	916.48	2,500.00	-1,583.52	36.66 %
<b>Total 6000 Conference Office</b>	<b>1,535.14</b>	<b>4,850.00</b>	<b>-3,314.86</b>	<b>31.65 %</b>
6112 Travel Pool & Meeting Expense				
611201 Travel - Board		3,500.00	-3,500.00	
611202 Travel - Exec Conf Minister	426.90	4,000.00	-3,573.10	10.67 %
611203 Travel - District Pastors	1,912.67	4,000.00	-2,087.33	47.82 %
611204 Travel - Teams/Committees		300.00	-300.00	
611205 Travel - Churchwide Events	198.00	500.00	-302.00	39.60 %
611206 Travel - PNMC Office		400.00	-400.00	
611207 Travel - Communications Coordinator		200.00	-200.00	
<b>Total 6112 Travel Pool &amp; Meeting Expense</b>	<b>2,537.57</b>	<b>12,900.00</b>	<b>-10,362.43</b>	<b>19.67 %</b>
6220 Professional Development Expenses		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
6290 Annual Meeting				
6291 Facilities-Annual Meeting		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
6292 Food-Annual Meeting		1,500.00	-1,500.00	
629205 Food-Pastor Dinner		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
<b>Total 6292 Food-Annual Meeting</b>		<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>-2,500.00</b>	
6294 Conference Speakers				
629401 Conference Speaker		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
629405 Other Honorariums		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
<b>Total 6294 Conference Speakers</b>		<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>-2,000.00</b>	
<b>Total 6290 Annual Meeting</b>		<b>6,500.00</b>	<b>-6,500.00</b>	
6300 Conference Communications Council	500.00	750.00	-250.00	66.67 %
6400 Other Expenses				
6402 Investment/Checking Fees	4,659.84	8,500.00	-3,840.16	54.82 %
6406 Workers Compensation Insurance	265.00	500.00	-235.00	53.00 %
6408 Property, Liability Insurance		750.00	-750.00	
6409 Accounting, Legal, Professional Fees		300.00	-300.00	
<b>Total 6400 Other Expenses</b>	<b>4,924.84</b>	<b>10,050.00</b>	<b>-5,125.16</b>	<b>49.00 %</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$78,184.89</b>	<b>\$178,921.00</b>	<b>\$ -100,736.11</b>	<b>43.70 %</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -7,806.35</b>	<b>\$ -7,271.00</b>	<b>\$ -535.35</b>	<b>107.36 %</b>
Other Income				



# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Budget vs. Actuals: FY2022 budget - FY22 P&L

February 2021 - January 2022

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
7000 Designated Contributions				
700001 NW Mexico Project Fund	250.00		250.00	
<b>Total 7000 Designated Contributions</b>	<b>250.00</b>		<b>250.00</b>	
7100 Gain on Sale of Assets	8,741.83	15,000.00	-6,258.17	58.28 %
7800 Realized Investment Gain/Loss	14,665.13		14,665.13	
7900 Unrealized Investment Gains/Losses	82,228.93		82,228.93	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$105,885.89</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$90,885.89</b>	<b>705.91 %</b>
Other Expenses				
8000 Designated Expenses	250.00		250.00	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$105,635.89</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$90,635.89</b>	<b>704.24 %</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$97,829.54</b>	<b>\$7,729.00</b>	<b>\$90,100.54</b>	<b>1,265.75 %</b>

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

## Balance Sheet

As of August 3, 2021

	TOTAL			
	AS OF AUG 3, 2021	AS OF AUG 3, 2020 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
110201 Checking Account (US Bank)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
110202 General Fund Checking (US Bank)	14,342.73	22,933.31	-8,590.58	-37.46 %
<b>Total 110201 Checking Account (US Bank)</b>	<b>14,342.73</b>	<b>22,933.31</b>	<b>-8,590.58</b>	<b>-37.46 %</b>
110205 US Bank MM	25,456.62	75,451.13	-49,994.51	-66.26 %
110206 Everence MM	75,234.12	25,172.23	50,061.89	198.88 %
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$115,033.47</b>	<b>\$123,556.67</b>	<b>\$ -8,523.20</b>	<b>-6.90 %</b>
Accounts Receivable				
110402 A/R-Spring Valley	0.00	157.90	-157.90	-100.00 %
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$157.90</b>	<b>\$ -157.90</b>	<b>-100.00 %</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$115,033.47</b>	<b>\$123,714.57</b>	<b>\$ -8,681.10</b>	<b>-7.02 %</b>
Fixed Assets				
120100 Office Equipment				
120101 Purchased Costs	224.98	224.98	0.00	0.00 %
<b>Total 120100 Office Equipment</b>	<b>224.98</b>	<b>224.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$224.98</b>	<b>\$224.98</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
Other Assets				
110600 Endowment Funds	1,247,455.54	1,002,055.76	245,399.78	24.49 %
110603 Stock & Bond Fund (Menn Found)	18,447.25	15,216.90	3,230.35	21.23 %
<b>Total 110600 Endowment Funds</b>	<b>1,265,902.79</b>	<b>1,017,272.66</b>	<b>248,630.13</b>	<b>24.44 %</b>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$1,265,902.79</b>	<b>\$1,017,272.66</b>	<b>\$248,630.13</b>	<b>24.44 %</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,381,161.24</b>	<b>\$1,141,212.21</b>	<b>\$239,949.03</b>	<b>21.03 %</b>

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

## Balance Sheet

As of August 3, 2021

	TOTAL			
	AS OF AUG 3, 2021	AS OF AUG 3, 2020 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
200105 Mexico Project Fund	14,337.82	13,237.82	1,100.00	8.31 %
210000 Payroll Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2102 Federal Withholding	1,908.02	1,482.93	425.09	28.67 %
2104 State Withholding (OR)	474.03	438.06	35.97	8.21 %
210401 Oregon Unempl	4.26	4.56	-0.30	-6.58 %
<b>Total 210000 Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>2,386.31</b>	<b>1,925.55</b>	<b>460.76</b>	<b>23.93 %</b>
211112 Payroll Tax Payable	-9.06	-9.25	0.19	2.05 %
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$16,715.07</b>	<b>\$15,154.12</b>	<b>\$1,560.95</b>	<b>10.30 %</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$16,715.07</b>	<b>\$15,154.12</b>	<b>\$1,560.95</b>	<b>10.30 %</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$16,715.07</b>	<b>\$15,154.12</b>	<b>\$1,560.95</b>	<b>10.30 %</b>
Equity				
320700 Loan Funds				
320702 Memorial Loan Fund (Equipment)	2,290.36	2,290.36	0.00	0.00 %
<b>Total 320700 Loan Funds</b>	<b>2,290.36</b>	<b>2,290.36</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
320800 Ministry Funds				
320801 Seed Northwest	79,781.83	79,781.83	0.00	0.00 %
320805 PNMC Mennonite Women	253.00	228.00	25.00	10.96 %
320808 Healthy Congregations Grant Fund	29,942.61	32,817.61	-2,875.00	-8.76 %
<b>Total 320800 Ministry Funds</b>	<b>109,977.44</b>	<b>112,827.44</b>	<b>-2,850.00</b>	<b>-2.53 %</b>
34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds				
34001 Sharing Fund - Ins Premium	-429.69	770.31	-1,200.00	-155.78 %
34002 Sharing Fund - Catastrophe	4,990.49	4,990.49	0.00	0.00 %
<b>Total 34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds</b>	<b>4,560.80</b>	<b>5,760.80</b>	<b>-1,200.00</b>	<b>-20.83 %</b>
3500 Net Assets Available	709,578.43	709,578.43	0.00	0.00 %
3900 Retained Earnings	440,209.60	335,997.07	104,212.53	31.02 %
Net Income	97,829.54	-40,396.01	138,225.55	342.18 %
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,364,446.17</b>	<b>\$1,126,058.09</b>	<b>\$238,388.08</b>	<b>21.17 %</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$1,381,161.24</b>	<b>\$1,141,212.21</b>	<b>\$239,949.03</b>	<b>21.03 %</b>

# **PNMC BALLOT 2021**

## ***Brief Biographies***

### ***Elected by the Delegates:***

#### **PNMC Board Member (4-year term)**

##### **Deren Kellog – Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA - Continuing**

Deren grew up in Urbana, IL attending First Mennonite Church of Champaign-Urbana. He graduated from Luther College in Decorah, IA, and returned to Champaign-Urbana for graduate studies in US History at the University of Illinois. Since meeting at First Menno of CU in 2000, he and his wife, Melissa Kelly, have lived in Santa Cruz, CA (where their daughter Madeleine, now 18 years old, was born); Jackson, MS; Vancouver, BC, and Camano Island, WA. This coming year Madeleine will be leaving to attend Goshen College. They began attending Seattle Mennonite in 2014 and moved to Seattle, Melissa's hometown, in 2015. He works as a Grants Program Administrator at International Community Health Services, a community health center providing culturally and linguistically appropriate medical and dental services in King County. Deren has served as an appointed PNMC board member for one year. He is an active board member and a member of the Financial Team. "I am honored to be continuing on the PNMC board," Deren explained.

#### **Secretary (3-year term)**

##### **Katherine O'Brien -- First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ID**

Katherine O'Brien was born in eastern Wyoming and was raised on the family farm. She moved to Aberdeen, Idaho after graduating from college to work for the University of Idaho at the agricultural experiment station there. She retired from her job as a senior researcher in 2020 after working for the university since 1979.

Katherine has three children, Cody of Boise, Casey (Brandi) of Cheyenne, WY, and Amanda (Brandon) of Laramie, WY and two granddaughters, Sydney, and Bridgette. Since retirement, she stays busy traveling to see the children, sewing and visiting with her friends, and serving as one of the pianist/organists at First Mennonite in Aberdeen as well as her adjunct faculty role teaching Personal Finance at the University of Wyoming. Over the years, Katherine has learned networking skills with colleagues building lasting friendships among working groups. Katherine has held leadership and support positions in work and personal organizations which would be useful to this opportunity.

#### **Gift Discernment Team (1-year term)**

##### **Joseph Penner – Salem Mennonite, Salem, OR - Continuing**

Joseph lives in Salem, Oregon with his wife, Erin Boers, where he owns and operates a coffee roasting company: Steel Bridge Coffee, LLC. He enjoys jogging, cycling, and playing soccer.

##### **Rick Bollman – Emmaus Mennonite Church – Meridian, ID**

Rick is a retired elementary school principal. He and his wife Marj have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Rick is a lay pastor at Emmaus Mennonite Church in Meridian, ID and is the current chairperson for the Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival. He has served on the PNMC Board, Pastoral Leadership and Peace and Justice Committees in the past. Rick is also involved in ministries to the homeless and supports a former death row inmate. He enjoys outdoor sports and traveling. Rick says "I believe that participating in the PNMC brings joy, hope and peace to our lives. It also helps to fulfill a greater calling as Anabaptists and followers of Jesus to connect and stand together with a larger faith community. I believe that working together brings God's love to others."

### ***PNMC Board Appointments:***

#### **Pastoral Leadership Team (4-year term)**

##### **Amy Epp – Seattle Mennonite Church -- Clergy – continuing**

Amy Marie Epp has been a pastor at Seattle Mennonite Church for 15 years, working with children, youth and their families as well as in worship and preaching. Both at church and in life outside of work, Amy enjoys engaging in the creative arts, especially textiles and quilting and more recently hand-lettering. This time of year, Amy is planting her garden and watching the birds at the feeders outside her window. She shares her life with her spouse Joe Hamilton and her children Naomi and Orie, aged 14 and 6.

##### **Rob Hansen – Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, ID – Lay Person**

Rob Hansen and his wife, Annette, became part of HPMF in 1989. While at HPMF he has served on multiple Leadership Teams, two Pastor Search Committees, and as church treasurer. He also taught Sunday School. He leads worship and facilitates congregational meetings as requested. He has been a leader in HPMF's Sister Church relationship with a congregation in Colombia for the past 20 years. He has also been on two Christian Peacemaker Team delegations and two MCC learning tours. Rob's spent his career in environmental remediation as a scientist and then as a manager for cleanup sites that required personnel and contract management as well as public outreach and education.

# TEAM / MINISTRY REPORTS

## Pastoral Leadership Team

*Submitted by Rod Stafford, PLT Chair*

'The offices of ministry are a great treasure of the church. Through careful and prayerful discernment, the church joins God in calling people to leadership ministry. Ordination, then, is an act of the church that confirms those whom God and the church have called to particular roles of leadership ministry – both to build up the local body and to further engage the congregation in the mission of God.'  
(From *A Shared Understanding of Ministerial Leadership*, 18)

The work of the Pastoral Leadership Team of PNMC was significantly scaled- back during the COVID pandemic in 2020-2021. Several actions of note took place:

- **Ron Hershey**, pastor of Filer Mennonite Church (ID), was licensed for pastoral ministry on October 19, 2020.
- The roster of credentialed ministers in PNMC was updated at the PLT meeting on October 19, 2020.
- The PLT began work on revising the Covenant of Pastoral Ethics.

**Linda Dibble** is finishing her term as a member of the PLT. We are grateful for the faith and wisdom she shared in the work of PLT.

Rod Stafford (June 16, 2021)



## Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

*Preserving the past to illuminate the future.*

May 2021

*Submitted by Lin Rush, Board Chair*

Fourteen months after the onset of COVID-19 in the Pacific Northwest, the historical society continues to discover ways to preserve and make available historical materials. Doing this required new approaches to our traditional work on-site at the historical society facility.

In mid 2020, our board authorized joining a consortium of fifteen Anabaptist-related historical organizations. As a member of MAID (Mennonite Archival Information Database), the catalog of our archival holdings is now easily viewable by researchers across the world. We are excited to become a part of this group which enhances our presence on the web with minimal time and investment on our part. We will do additional work in the coming year to add more content to the MAID website.

We also approved participation in a collaborative Anabaptist History Today project with fourteen other historical societies to document the experiences of Anabaptists during the COVID-19 pandemic (and related events of 2020.) The goal of this project is to record for future generations the experience of living through this challenging time, unlike the scarcity of material available from Anabaptist sources who lived through the 1918 pandemic. If you have a compelling story of life this past year, contact us and we may be able to have your story included. Stories already recorded can be found at [Anabaptist History Today Stories](#).

Lockdowns as a result of the pandemic resulted in new ways of staying in touch with members. The annual meeting this winter was held over Zoom and live-streamed to Facebook. The title was “The Path to Acknowledgement: Mennonite Settlement in the Pacific Northwest.” Presenters Sarah Augustine of Yakima, WA and Jonathan Neufeld, from Seattle Mennonite Church shared about the indigenous peoples who lived on the land before the Mennonites arrived and suggested ways that we can acknowledge that presence today. By utilizing Zoom, attendees from across the Northwest were able to participate. You can view their presentation at [Annual Meeting link](#).

For most of the past year, the center was closed to visitors and volunteers. As of May 4, we are open once again. With appropriate COVID-19 protocols, we welcome visitors from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Wednesdays. You are invited to stop by and browse our personal and congregational collections and genealogical resources. We also hold an extensive collection of books and periodicals, many of which can be checked out, or you can view our catalog online at any time at [PNMHS Archives](#).

The archives exist to preserve the stories of Anabaptist Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest. We provide safe, secure and climate-controlled storage for congregational and personal records related to everyday Mennonite life. Attics, garages and closets are poor places for such records. So if you hold some, consider bringing them to the center for safekeeping.

We would like to thank Pat Hershberger for her years of service as board chair. She will continue on the board as Lin Rush takes on the board chair role. We are also happy to welcome to the board, Carol Shank from the Hopewell congregation and Jay Beaman from Portland Mennonite Church.

Board: Lin Rush, Rod Fretz, Jerry Barkman, Gloria Nussbaum, Pat Hershberger, John Goertzen, Carol Shank, Jay Beaman.

Volunteers: John Gingerich, Lynn Miller, Carolyn Gingerich, Shirley Martin.

# PNMC AREA ORGANIZATION REPORTS

## CAMP PALISADES

*Submitted by Kevin Chupp, June 2021*

As we did not operate last Summer, there is not much to report. By the time of the PNMC annual meeting, we will have resumed camps at Camp Palisades, with our Senior Camp July 11-14, and Junior Camp July 14-17. I am taking more of an administration/planning role this Summer and we have a director that will lead more of the campfire teaching and day-to-day wrangling of youths. We have a smaller percentage of campers coming from Mennonite congregations this year, and a larger percentage coming from a small community in nearby Wyoming.

Our grounds remained in decent shape during the fallow year, and those unfamiliar with our camp grounds wouldn't have noticed, but the Forest Service had to remove a significant number of trees from part of our drive up to the camp. We will be inquiring about teaming up with the National Forest and Mennonite Men's "JoinTrees" project in order to replace some of the trees that were lost.

- Kevin Chupp  
Pastor – First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ID  
Director – Camp Palisades



# Drift Creek Camp

*Submitted by Brenda Hostetler Kauffman, July 2021*

As we look back on the summer, it was such a sweet season of vulnerability, healing and much-needed hope. After being closed for two consecutive summers, it was truly a blessing to witness the return of campers to Drift Creek this summer. It felt so good to hear worship around the fire ring and laughter at the tables. It restored my soul to see kids practice being kind. Although we were all nervous about how things would be as we navigated Covid protocols, the need to be back at camp was palpable. Kids seemed so hungry to be together and it was an enormous privilege to create that space for them.

With every year that passes, I am more and more humbled by the fact that we GET to spend a powerful week with such great kids. We GET to witness their growth and watch them learn new skills. We GET to see them discover the joy of God's love, the wonder of creation and the comfort and richness of community. We GET to support them as they develop a sense of belonging. We are so deeply grateful for each camper and for the trust that parents bestow upon us to provide a safe place for their kids. It is truly humbling.

We've been at camp long enough now that our first campers are now old enough to serve on staff. Seeing these young adults invest themselves in the lives of the next generation of campers is a beautiful gift. Being able to watch their faith develop over the years makes the long hours worthwhile. I want to give a shout out to the fine group of counselors who modeled generosity, grace and flexibility again and again, especially while navigating challenging Covid protocols. They gave of themselves with their whole hearts. As dear Carolyn Heggen would say, they practiced "being God with skin on" as they shared love and care for the campers and for one another.

While the fifteen months leading up to DCC's reopening felt like a stressful game of Red Light, Green Light, it was great to finally take solid steps forward. Although we did not accomplish as much as we had hoped during the closure, there were some big projects checked off the list. Covid restrictions and wildfire smoke prevented opportunities for volunteers to come, but there were a handful, and for that we are grateful. By March, things had opened enough that we could focus on some outdoor projects. Volunteers from Fairview Mennonite Church generously helped replace guardrails on the bridge, repaired damage on the pantry roof from a fallen tree, split 4 cords of wood and installed new surface materials on the main floor bathrooms. These projects were funded by a facilities grant received from the Gray Family Foundation.

Looking ahead, there will be many opportunities to volunteer at DCC. With major interruptions from the culvert closure and Covid, there is still trim work to complete in the new cabin. Now that summer programs are complete, Tony has resumed work on the cabin. Regular rental operations have mostly resumed in the lodge. We are planning to host the Fall Quilt Retreat October 14-17 and the Annual Meeting November 5-7. We are always grateful for volunteers to help with projects as well as food service. And speaking of camp food, after many great years of service, Glen Oesch is retiring. His institutional memory and careful planning have been so appreciated and he will be deeply missed. At this point, DCC does not yet have a plan for a successor, but is exploring options. *His will be giant shoes to fill!*

**We are grateful for every volunteer, every donor, each congregation, and each camper, who together, make operations possible! *We ask for prayers and your partnership to sustain DCC for generations to come!***

# Mennonite Village

June 2021

Submitted by Donna BreMiller

Executive Director

Mennonite Village continues to play a significant role in the Albany Community. Currently close to 700 residents are served in all the collective levels of care, and over 400 employees are employed by this organization. Assistance continues to be provided to persons in the greater community through the In-Home Services department.

## Some key highlights over the last year:

1. **Fires:** During the horrific wildfires in September of 2020, several staff were forced to evacuate from their homes. I am grateful that these staff did not lose their homes. The Mennonite Home was able to host several residents from Providence Benedictine in Mt. Angel. Their campus was very close to the fire and many residents were evacuated to different locations. It was a blessing to be able to provide support to them during this crisis and be a part of their ministry.
2. **COVID:** Last year when I wrote my report, we were only 3-4 months into navigating this virus. Little did I know that a year later it would still be with us. Senior Living has been hit especially hard during this pandemic. Staff have had to nimbly respond to yet another new protocol, all while trying to serve the residents behind face shields and masks. Residents have had to adapt as well as many daily routines had to be revised.
3. **Virtual Classes:** Sunday Worship Services, Wellness classes, Resident produced videos and family connections are only a few of the examples of how the role of technology has taken on a more significant level of importance. While I think we would all prefer to have in person gatherings and events, we are all grateful to be able to have the ability to connect virtually.

The last 12 plus months have given us a global pandemic, raging fires and a devastating ice storm. There have been many moments of exhaustion and sometimes tears. Through all of it I have continually been humbled to watch the staff pull together and **find new ways to overcome the challenges** so that the residents could be served. The mission of this organization has been powerfully felt as obstacles were faced and tackled.



**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee**

## 2020 - 2021 West Coast MCC Report

*"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

*Hebrews 10:24-25 (NRSV)*



Volunteers organizing baked goods for Oregon Mennonite festival for World Relief. Left to Right: Ashley Bronson, Shanilka Desowzy, Kati Bronson, and Emily Stutzman.  
MCC Photo/Don Bacher

When COVID-19 put a halt to the majority of inperson gatherings, making it nearly impossible to carry on with relief sales 'as normal'. However, Washington and Oregon relief sales created online platforms to auction off sale items where participants could bid online and donate to MCC projects.

First time volunteer Andrew Simon from Portland, OR says, "I was honored to participate in this unique experience. It brought me joy to see so many happy eyes and masked faces. I appreciate how we came together during these difficult times to make the festival happen."

Both relief sale committees set ambitious fundraising goals that either matched previous years or exceeded them. And due to the generosity of their communities both sales surpassed their fundraising goals by more than \$20,000!

### Special thank you to PNMC West Coast MCC board members:

Beth Landis, Idaho  
Nancy Chupp, Vice Chair, Washington  
Eva Flores, Oregon  
Kiara Yoder, Oregon



### Provide sustainable support for women & girls around the world with Dignity Kits!

The new dignity kit contains hygiene and sanitary items, including eco-friendly, washable menstrual pads and liners. Thousands of dignity kits have already been requested by MCC's partners around the world, and you can be part of the solution for fulfilling this need.

Go to [mcc.org/dignity-kits](https://mcc.org/dignity-kits) to learn how you can put together your own dignity kits.

### 2020 PNMC CONTRIBUTIONS TO MCC

**\$12,176.17** Et Cetera Thrift Shop,  
Lebanon, OR  
**\$218,830** Oregon, Washington and Idaho  
MCC Relief Sales  
**\$91,607** PNMC Congregations  
**1506** School kit donations  
**110** Hygiene kits  
**204** Comforters  
**19** Layettes

**mcc.org**

764 P Street #12 Fresno, CA 93654  
phone: 559-638-6911



# PNMC CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES:

## ALBANY MENNONITE, Albany, OR:



On July 4, Albany Mennonite Church gathered for in-person worship for the first time in fifteen months. While we had entered those fifteen months with many fears about what how switching to online worship could hurt us, we exited those fifteen months feeling profoundly renewed. We could see renewal on the faces of all those who were finally seeing one another in person again. We could see renewal in the pews, where folks who had joined us during the pandemic were now sitting. We could see renewal in the origami birds that had originally been hung in preparation for Easter 2020, but now aptly represented how we were finally spreading our wings in summer 2021. We could see renewal in our order of service, which now included beloved new rituals that had emerged organically from Zoom church. We could see it in presents and congregation-wide belly

laughs that referenced jokes that had developed during the pandemic. We could see it on Albany Pride T-shirts, which reminded us how, even during a pandemic, we had done the hard work to become officially welcoming and inclusive of all sexualities and gender identities. And we could see it on outrageous hats and ties, as the whole congregation surprised their pastor by clothing themselves according to one of his recent sermon analogies. Without question, our last fifteen months have been exhausting. But also, without question, we have come to know more fully that we follow the One who promises: “Those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles.”

## COMMUNIDAD CRISTIANA VIDA NUEVA, Keizer, OR:

For the last whole year we have had church services in the home of Misael Araujo. Thanks to God we already have started having church service at the facility in Keizer for four Sundays. Recently we had a youth worship service with the five CIHAN churches. Thanks for all the support from the Executive Minister. CIHAN is grateful for the \$5,000 which was provided to Vida Nueva during the tough times of COVID-19. We distributed the help to all the congregation as they had needs. In our service we have between 30 and 50 members.



## CORVALLIS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP, Corvallis, OR:

This year Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship met in little boxes stacked together in rows on our home computer screens while others listened in by telephone. We were regularly joined by family, friends and former members from a far. The Corvallis congregation, a group of 40 plus, employs no staff. We were grateful for those who stepped up to provide technology assistance and added zoom host as an additional Sunday morning responsibility. Sunday mornings gave us a time to worship together, hear each other's voices, see each other's faces and feel connected. Pre-Covid CMF Sundays always include a weekly fellowship meal. This year we concluded our zoom meetings with virtual potluck a time to informally chat together.



During advent we shared gifts of poems, artwork, pageants, and special music on Zoom. For Lent we explored living in the deep. Deep in the sea, woods, wilderness, earth, and current calling to healing, growth and hope. For one month we had an in-depth study of our new hymnal Voices Together. Larry Passmore made wood carvings of the new logo which are currently displayed at MennoMedia in Scottsdale PA. In our study we examined the artists and artwork included in the hymnal, we learned new hymns, changed wording, and how to use the index. One member in his report told how he e-mailed one of the new hymn writers and the writer's response. We are about to embark on our summer series curriculum, dismantling institutional racism in your congregation.

CMF meets on Sunday mornings at Westminster House (West M) a Methodist meeting hall adjacent to the OSU campus. This Covid year, West M was closed and our new home became the Owl's Nest, an out building at one of our member's homes which also includes a spacious lawn. The owl's nest hosted weekly small groups, a memorial service for one of our young adults, baby shower, graduation quilt tying, concerts and other masked group gatherings. In the year 2020-2021, we gave each other grace as we learned to adapt to our ever changing world.

## EUGENE MENNONITE CHURCH, Eugene, OR:

We have been steadfastly pursuing community. In worship we have been meeting in person and over Zoom, attracting people to attend from California! We have been seeking diversity by studying books about the Black witness and Indigenous Oregon history, and inviting people to speak about Native Americans, homelessness, domestic abuse and refugees. We have been pursuing justice by giving finances to those in need in our community through loans and grants and by making MCC kits. We have been supporting our houseless neighbors by doing laundry, making and installing storage units for local hut camps and by distributing frozen water during fires and heat waves. Thank you our God for the opportunities to pursue peace!





### EVERGREEN HEIGHTS MENNONITE CHURCH, Caldwell, Idaho:

Our congregation anticipates being able to practice our gifts of hospitality as we build relationships with others. We offer our grounds and facility to enhance faith development and sharing love. We delight in telling God's story through our vacation Bible school program each June. And this fall, we open our hospitality room to pastors and spouses serving in PNMC. We have a room available to come and find respite and renewal on our 5 acres in Caldwell. Please contact us if you would like to be our guests.

### FILER MENNONITE CHURCH, Filer, ID:

As with all, it has been a very interesting year. We have tried and continue to try and learn what we can from all that has happened. We pray we may still our minds and lay our burdens at the feet of God so our hearts may hear his teachings. We have lost two of our long-time members this year who have traveled home after a life well lived on earth in the service of God. We strive to create and maintain an environment in the Church that gives the Holy Spirit free rein. May the Lord guide us in our thoughts. May the Spirit pray and intercede on our behalf so we can get over ourselves and stay under God. *Blessings to all.*

Over the last year, the Filer congregation decided to remove our old pews and replace them with chairs. The Church also bought an old farmhouse we are remodeling and turning into a Parsonage. Those two things came together. We milled down the old pews and that wood is being used to build a beautiful set of kitchen cabinets and window trim. This is Gary and Shirley Eichelberger, hard at work on the install. Pastor Ron and his family will be moving in this summer.



### FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH OF ABERDEEN, Aberdeen, ID:



While I would not want to repeat it, in this past year, our congregation has taken strides in our commitment to each other. Every step we have made through this season has been compromise on all sides. And yet, people showed up, played their part, and we all learned to love each other even when we disagreed—what a novel idea! But there has been beauty all the while. One thing that sticks out to me is our sunrise service on Easter. While many of us were not convinced this was a good idea, the brisk morning spent overlooking the reservoir on the Snake River seemed like a fitting location for such a holiday. Our river, fed by the Tetons, has been the lifeblood of our community since Mennonites came here 114 years ago, and for countless generations before them this river nurtured the Shoshone and Bannock tribes. This water in the desert is a stark picture of grace. That is where we live. In our haughty opinions and impassioned disagreements where life shouldn't be able to flourish, a river flows. AMEN! - Kevin Chupp, Pastor

### HYDE PARK MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP, Boise, ID:

This report on the past year at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship (HPMF) brings two words to mind .... **Adaptation and Transition.** Like most of the other Mennonite Churches in our conference HPMF has learned to adapt to a remote form of doing worship, committee meetings, and weekly fellowship groups. We have relied on Zoom for live worship services, but beginning in June, we went back to meeting in person, with a zoom option. Whether we will make this hybrid style permanent or not remains to be discerned.

Gary Jewell has been the interim pastor since last July (2020), and as with all interims he will be winding down his work with the congregation on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The congregation looks forward to welcoming their new pastor, Christie Dahlin, who will begin her call to serve HPMF the first of September.

In preparation for transitioning from Marc Schlegel-Preheim's ministry (from 2012-2020) to Christie's (beginning in September 2021) the church underwent a thorough congregational introspection period in the fall of 2020. The process took several months as the congregation broke into small outdoor gatherings to reflect on who they are, what their values and priorities are, and what they might be looking for in terms of new pastoral leadership.

HPMF continues to evolve as some of our members move away, and new members show up. We understand ourselves as a welcoming, progressive Anabaptist witness to the Treasure Valley and to the larger concerns of the world.



### JERUSALEM IGLESIA MENONITA, Salem, OR:

We give thanks for all the things that God has done in our lives. This past year, we at Jerusalem have continued to have services online and it's been a blessing because we have been sharing the gospel not only locally but all over the nation from Colorado to Texas to Missouri to Florida and California. We have also have gone into Mexico because relatives, friends, and other people that we don't know, are watching. It has been a blessing. We continue to share the gospel and share Jesus to people that need to hear hope and a word of encouragement. We ask you to just continue to pray for us as we continue to do what God has sent us to do. *Blessings.*



### LEBANON MENNONITE CHURCH, Lebanon, OR:

We are now meeting in person for fellowship and worship. The congregation is grateful and eager to return to normal. Even so, it has been decided to continue online streaming of our worship services. That has presented a challenge because one of the more intimate parts of our worship is to share with each other and either request prayer or offer praise for the work of God. That part of the worship has been moved to the end of the service so that sharing is confined to those in the church building. Online participants are encouraged to share using the chat window on our website, which is consistently monitored.

The search for a new pastor continues. The pastoral search team is just completing the documentation and congregational profile to present to conference. The message each Sunday morning has been shared by either members of the congregation or guest speakers.

Being full of praise and thanksgiving is the phrase that identifies our group of worshippers. We praise the Lord for the strength and discipline to navigate the pandemic. We are thankful because the stress of the pandemic has sparked dedication and the call for renewal among our congregants. The future appears bright – praise the Lord!!



### MENNO MENNONITE CHURCH, Ritzville, WA:

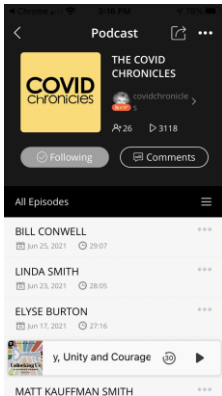
For Menno, these months have been ones of evolution and adaptation, as has been for so many of us. Our pandemic days saw us worshipping in many forms: online with remote leaders, outside on our site, in our fellowship space for the winter, and finally our sanctuary Easter morning. Amid the frustrations of pandemic existence, we remain grateful for the opportunities to meet, worship, and fellowship in these various ways. The Mennonite Country Auction, also online this year, exceeded our internal goals by more than 50 percent. We have seen God's provision through this experience and remain amazed.

Emily Toews began formal ministry with us on January 1 as her immigration status resolved itself after more than 18 months of waiting. We have welcomed several new members and are eagerly looking forward to the Mennonite Country Auction as an in-person event in October 2021. In all this and so much more, God's hand has provided, and we look forward to the next chapters.

### MOUNTAIN VIEW MENNONITE CHURCH, Kalispell, MT:

It's so good to see our congregation's children in church in person again. Since the summer of 2020, we have been worshipping with some folks on Zoom and others in attendance at the church building. Those in attendance have worn masks and we limited singing. As spring turned to summer in 2021 we have slowly relaxed our safety guidelines but we have decided that for now we will continue the Zoom option indefinitely. We continue to long for more singing and a potluck fellowship meal. Other groups have slowly begun meeting again: Mennonite Women, worship leaders, Mennonite Disaster Service. And we can once more have a children's time as part of our worship service.





### PORTLAND MENNONITE CHURCH, Portland, OR:

During the pandemic our church has deeply felt the loss of personal connections within our congregation. We've missed stimulating conversations with each other in Sunday classes, visiting in the pews before worship services, making new friendships during coffee time, and sitting at tables together for potlucks.

To help us better connect with each other during this season in which we've had to keep physically distanced, [COVID Chronicles](#) was created. Gloria Nussbaum, a personal historian in our congregation (and Secretary of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society) hosts a podcast that features conversations with people in our church. To date, fifty-three people have been interviewed by Gloria. They have shared stories of their life, their faith, and their experience of this pandemic. It has been a wonderful way to deepen the ties that bind us together at Portland Mennonite Church.

### SALEM MENNONITE CHURCH, Salem, OR:

We are excited to announce that we had our first in-person/Zoom hybrid service since the beginning of the pandemic on July 4, 2021. We are undergoing a visioning process in hopes of refocusing our congregation as we discern the next steps that God is calling us to. We had our visioning kickoff on June 6<sup>th</sup> where we welcomed six new members into our church. Over the past year we have been able to serve our neighborhood by providing meals and socks for the houseless community in Salem. We have been doing a lot of studying around social justice issues and how we as a community of faith are called to be advocates of peace and justice in our community.



### SEATTLE MENNONITE CHURCH, Seattle, WA:



Seattle Mennonite gathered at a local park on June 13, 2021. It was our first time all together and in-person since March 1, 2020. We blessed and sent our four high school graduates, wrapping them in the quilts made for them by our congregation, *representing our love and prayers for them*. We anticipate additional significant departures of beloveds in the coming months, including two of our pastors, Melanie and Jonathan Neufeld. We give thanks for the incredible companionship with our unhoused neighbors that has been empowered through their ministry and their lives. Our campus redevelopment project continues to gain momentum as we prepare for the next phase in planning for building affordable housing and additional community space, including a place where our church can gather. In short, we are a community in the midst of many transitions, and we bear witness to the movement of the Holy Spirit in it all!

### SHALOM CHURCH, Spokane, WA:

Shalom Church currently meets every Sunday by Zoom and we are looking at meeting in person with Zoom capability this fall so that we can include members and friends far and wide. We have been described as a place where people are welcomed-people who have been hurt by past church experiences, may have suffered great loss, experienced family problems including mental illness, etc. All are welcomed to lead worship and meditation as we gather without paid staff. We have many gifted folks in our midst. We continue to offer a peaceful presence in Spokane.



Photo Credit: Dennis Witmer



## WESTERN MENNONITE CHURCH, Salem, OR:



At Western Mennonite Church worship services were recorded on Fridays and then put on YouTube for the congregation to watch on Sunday mornings. We did do a live zoom Good Friday Tenebrae service and an in-person outdoor Easter Sunrise service as a change of pace. In May we had two outdoor Sunday worship services at a member's home with masks and physical distancing. Since that went well we started in June to have outdoor Sunday worship services on the church grounds, as the photo portrays. We still wear masks for the time being when we gather. It has been so wonderful to worship together in person again. We praise God that none of our members have come down with a Covid infection.

## ZION MENNONITE CHURCH, Hubbard, OR:

God is with us; God is guiding us; Praise be to God! We are so grateful, to be gathering for worship again, after a very hard year. The pandemic didn't keep us from meeting on zoom, with the help of church members, to continue with worship, prayer, teaching and connecting with one other each Sunday. This was very sustaining, as we carried our cares and concerns, trusting in our faithful God to see us through, as a growing community.

We appreciated the ministry of interim Bill Blank, from March 2020 to May 2021. Five baptisms took place in August, 2020. Easter sunrise service was held outside in April. We celebrated our graduating seniors, in May 2021. Visits outside with drive by treats and coffee, helped us see one another and stay connected.

We welcomed our new pastor Steve Bomar on June 1<sup>st</sup>, along with his wife, Anne and two sons, Luke and Dylan (*pictured above*). We have experienced many feelings and perspectives this past year, and anticipate more conversation to share our stories, to grieve our losses and re-affirm God's work and renewal in our lives.



## **Affiliated Church Plants...**

During the past year (in the midst of a global pandemic) two church plants have emerged in the Pacific Northwest that desire to be connected to PNMC. It has been many years since we have had church plants related to our conference, so the Board of Directors is working on a policy and process for supporting these new expressions of God's people. That policy will create a category called "Affiliated Church Plants" and outline what support PNMC will provide and what responsibilities to the conference that the church plant would have. This will be voted on at the Board meeting in September. Until that time we are offering welcome and relationship to these church planters and include their reports for your information and encouragement!

## COMMUNITY of HOPE, Bellingham, WA:



We are a new church starting up in Bellingham, WA! Queer theology is at the center of our church's life, but the call is also to create a nourishing haven for activists, to get involved in structural justice issues as part of our spiritual practice, and to integrate our work for racial, economic and climate justice as an expression of our identity as a church and a natural outflowing from our prayer and life together. We've gathered for worship a few times, done a queer theology book group, and we did a Hold the Line grassroots training. This month we started worshipping regularly on the first Monday evening of each month over Zoom. We have people involved from across the country. Some of them are members of other Mennonite churches who want a place to do a deep-dive into

this queer stuff and integrate it with their religious identity. Long-term we plan to continue online gatherings to include these folks, and offer niche queer ministry to folks whose primary congregational affiliation is elsewhere. This is a place to be both Christian and queer, a warm, medium size church of people not just showing up at worship, but forming real friendships and sharing our lives. When our families of origin don't fully accept us, family of choice is so important for thriving, but also just to survive. Our call is to be a church where full inclusion of LGBTQIA2+ folks is not an issue; it's the starting place. What can happen if we start there? What images of God, what names for God and pronouns in prayer, what devotional art and new traditions and rituals and practices, might emerge in a space where we can explore that? You are welcome to join us as we find out.

EBENEZER ANABAPTIST CHURCH, Keizer, OR: We continue working to spread the Gospel through social networks. Our growth has been very slow due to COVID19. We also do ministry helping to meet the needs of some families. We ask for your prayers, beloved PNMC brothers. God bless you, his brother in Christ, Pastor Jesús Fuentes.



# **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

**Everence**

**MennoMedia**

**Mennonite Church USA**

**Mennonite Disaster Service**

**Mennonite Education Agency**

**Mennonite Health Services**

**Mennonite Men**

**Mennonite Mission Network (MMN)**

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*Commit your work to the  
Lord, and your plans will  
be established.*

—Proverbs 16:3 (NRSV)

# Invest in what lasts

## Everence 2021 report

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
Annual Meeting  
August 21, 2021

### Strong church partnerships a vital part of Everence mission

Everence Financial® works closely with churches and their members, as we have since our organization started as Mennonite Mutual Aid in 1945.

We started our year-long 75th anniversary observance in July 2020 – somewhat differently than planned because of safety precautions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While adapting to changes related to the pandemic, Everence holds true to our commitment to help our brothers and sisters in Christ “build up the common life” through decisions about their money and other resources.

We’ll continue serving the faith community as partners in stewardship throughout 2021 and beyond.

### Sharing Fund is part of special pandemic response

The Everence Sharing Fund has distributed millions of dollars to our partner congregations over the years, and we added COVID-19 relief to the mix in 2020.



Everence doubled the amount of eligible Sharing Fund grant money available to congregations with Everence stewardship advocates for a large portion of last year.

In addition to the Sharing Fund, Everence joined with Mennonite Disaster Service and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. to establish the COVID-19 Congregational Relief Fund, providing grants to help racially and ethnically diverse churches facing financial crises because of the pandemic.

### Broaden your knowledge with informative webinars

Webinars are a convenient way to learn, and they became even more useful when the COVID-19 pandemic kept many of us in our homes.

Even as we hope that gathering in person for seminars or workshops becomes more common again, webinars can inform you anytime you’re ready, day or night.

So grab your favorite digital device and head to [everence.com](https://everence.com), where you can find webinars on stewardship education and other topics – several available in Spanish – designed to help pastors, church leaders and the people who attend your church.

And we introduce new live webinars periodically to help you and your

church, so talk to your Everence stewardship consultant to make sure you’re on the mailing list for invitations.

### You can support your church by using the My Neighbor card

The MyNeighbor credit card from Everence Federal Credit Union has helped people generate money for their favorite nonprofits since the card was launched in the spring of 2017.

Members use the MyNeighbor MasterCard the same way they’d use any credit card, and Everence donates 1.5% of each transaction total to the charity the cardholder chooses from thousands of possibilities, including churches.



“The MyNeighbor card gives people a simple and effective way to support the charities dear to their hearts,” said Kent Hartzler, President and CEO of Everence Federal Credit Union.

Visit [everence.com/myneighbor](https://everence.com/myneighbor) for details.

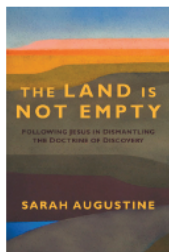


## REPORT TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Summer 2021

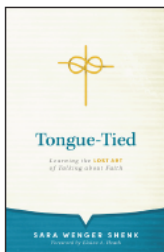
At MennoMedia we publish curricula and books that call readers to follow Jesus in word and deed. We publish resources about Christian discipleship, spirituality, reconciliation, justice, and theology from an Anabaptist perspective. Our curricula, periodicals, and hymnals reach a broad spectrum of evangelical, mainline, and Anabaptist readers and congregations, cultivating passion for faith formation and an active life of discipleship.

## NEW RESOURCES FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH, FROM HERALD PRESS



### The Land Is Not Empty

Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery  
Sarah Augustine unpacks the harm of the Doctrine of Discovery—a set of fifteenth-century laws that gave Christian governments the right to seize lands they “discovered.” Augustine, a Pueblo woman, reframes North American colonization as she investigates ways that the Doctrine of Discovery continues to devastate indigenous cultures and the planet. The good news of Jesus means there is still hope for the righting of wrongs.



### Tongue-Tied

Learning the Lost Art of Talking about Faith  
In an era of dying churches, polarizing cultural arguments, and environmental and humanitarian crises, we long for deep conversations about things that matter. Theologian Sara Wenger Shenk investigates the reasons that people who claim the name of Christ are so reluctant to talk about him. We need a language of faith that is authentic, candid, and robust enough to last.



### How to Have an Enemy

Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace  
Melissa Florer-Bixler looks closely at what the Bible says about enemies and how Jesus and his followers responded to them. The result is a theology that allows us to name our enemies as a form of truth-telling about ourselves, our communities, and our histories. Only then can we invite them to lay down their enmity, opening a path for healing, reconciliation, and unity.



### Dear White Peacemakers

Dismantling Racism with Grit and Grace  
Peacemaking requires white people to step out of their comfort and into the work of anti-racism. Rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus, this book is a call to transform white shame, fragility, saviorism, and privilege. Written in the wake of George Floyd's death, *Dear White Peacemakers* draws on the Sermon on the Mount, Spirituals, and personal stories from Osheta Moore's work as a pastor.



### The Jesus Way

Small Books of Radical Faith

The Jesus Way series delves into big questions about God's work in the world. These concise, practical books are deeply rooted in Anabaptist theology. Crafted by a diverse community of scholars, pastors, and practitioners, The Jesus Way series helps readers deepen their faith in Christ and enliven their witness.

## VOICES TOGETHER

*Voices Together* is a new worship and song collection for the Mennonite church to deepen our lives of faith, available now for congregations and individuals.



### Voices Together offers:

- Pew Edition
- Large-Print Edition
- Projection Edition
- App Edition, available through the Hymnals app
- Accompaniment Edition
- Worship Leader Edition
- Audio recordings featuring choirs from Mennonite colleges and universities

Visit [VoicesTogetherHymnal.org](https://VoicesTogetherHymnal.org) for more information.

MennoMedia. PO Box 866, Harrisonburg, VA 22803. 800-245-7894. [www.MennoMedia.org](https://www.MennoMedia.org)





## 2021 Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference of Mennonite Church USA

*Give strength to your people, God! Bless your people with peace! Psalm 29:11*

**Here are some of the ways Mennonite Church USA worked to #BringThePeace of Christ to our conferences, congregations and communities amid the challenges of 2020.**

**Our Mission:** The mission of Mennonite Church USA Executive Board is to equip and empower leaders to share with others the gift of God's peace and transformative love.

**Our Vision:** God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Dismantling racism was a key focus in 2020 that included a webinar series on race, change and the church, a resource [portal](#) and access to affordable antiracism training for congregations.

MC USA created [several new funds](#) to engage the church in its racial justice work. The Justice Fund assists MC USA congregations working in their communities to address racism, police brutality and poverty. The Grace Fund supports Hispanic congregations and ministries impacted by COVID-19 and natural disasters.

Leaders of color gathered in January 2020 for MC USA's annual [Hope for the Future](#) meeting in Dallas, Texas, to discuss ways to press forward for peace and justice throughout the church.

MC USA urged and equipped congregations to deepen understanding and engagement around climate justice and immigration justice through two ["Learn, Pray, Join" initiatives](#).

The MC USA Executive Board initiated an [eight-step process to gather feedback](#) on a recommendation from the Board-appointed advisory group to retire the denomination's Membership Guidelines.

The [Women in Leadership ministry](#) held its 2020 Women Doing Theology conference online, with a series of webinars that focused on the wisdom and experiences of church elders on dismantling patriarchy and race and intersectionality.

MC USA faith formation leaders gathered in January 2020 for the joint [Pastors and Leaders/Deep Faith Conference](#) at AMBS. The conference focused on "Shaping Faith in a Digital Culture."

MC USA launched a [redesigned website](#) with expanded content, robust search capability and easy navigation. The website now also includes Anabaptist Faith Formation, a collaborative collection of online faith formation resources.

[MC USA Archives](#) provided users with single-point access to an online database of 14 Anabaptist partners by collaborating with the Mennonite Archive Information Database.

MC USA and Hispanic Ministries of Mennonite Education Agency launched [MenoTicias](#), the denominational Spanish-language digital newsletter.

[Subscribe to PeaceMail](#), MC USA's weekly digital news magazine. With the official retiring of *The Mennonite* magazine, MC USA Communications developed PeaceMail to offer the only source for all the denomination's news and blogs.



MDS volunteers served  
**48,480 days**  
 helping  
**487 households**  
 recover from disasters.



# Faith, hope and love abide

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*  
 1 Corinthians 13:7

## MDS ANNUAL REPORT 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

During a year like no other, Mennonite Disaster Service is able to look back with humble gratitude for the volunteers, donors and partners whose faith and love helped so many people find their way back to hope.

More than 6,000 volunteers from across the United States and Canada put their compassion into action by cleaning up after disasters, building bridges, and repairing and rebuilding homes.

From the creative work of local MDS units that positively impacted so many communities, to the steadfast leadership of the MDS board that kept MDS true to its mission, the results have defied the odds during a year of unprecedented challenges.

As Ned Sparks, from Willow, Alaska, said to volunteers who built his new home: "What you've done is tremendous beyond belief."

MDS volunteers helped restore people's belief that there is hope for the future. And this work managed to take place despite the grave challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The many numbers in the Annual Report—especially the 48,480 volunteer days served—are impressive, but even more gratifying is that these figures reflect the abiding love of our entire MDS family. That's the greatest gift of all.

For the full MDS Annual Report 2020 go to:  
<https://mds.mennonite.net/annual-reports/>



## 6,048 volunteers

from across Canada and the U.S. gave their time, skills and compassion to build

**79 new homes,**  
 complete

**280 repairs,**  
 finish

**91 cleanups,**  
 and build

**3 new bridges**

for households who experienced a disaster. This volunteer labor is a value\* of

**\$10.4 million USD/  
 \$13.6 million CDN**

Statistics from Aug. 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020.  
 \* Based on a volunteer rate of \$27.20 USD/hour  
 — [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)

# Respond. Rebuild. Restore.



**Mennonite  
 Disaster  
 Service**

[mds.mennonite.net](http://mds.mennonite.net)

**MDS Binational Office**  
 583 Airport Road  
 Lititz, PA 17543 USA  
 tel: 717-735-3536  
 fax: 717-735-0809  
 toll-free: 800-241-8111  
[mdsus@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:mdsus@mds.mennonite.net)

**MDS Canada Office**  
 200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd.  
 Winnipeg, MB R3P 2J1 Canada  
 tel: 204-261-1274  
 fax: 204-261-1279  
 toll-free: 866-261-1274  
[mdscanada@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:mdscanada@mds.mennonite.net)



**Mission Statement: MEA will strengthen Mennonite education for restorative leadership, work, and service throughout the church and the world.**

## Board of Directors

### **Nathan Alleman**

*Western District Conference*  
Professor

### **Addie Banks**

*Atlantic Coast Conference*  
Pastor and founder/CEO of  
the Groundswell Group

### **Lynette Bontrager – secretary**

*Ohio Conference*  
Registered Nurse, retired

### **Melissa Hofstetter**

*Pacific Southwest Conference*  
Minister and Professor

### **Alicia Manning**

*Virginia Mennonite  
Conference*  
Minister, Educational  
Consultant and Director

### **Linwood Rush – treasurer**

*Pacific Northwest Conference*  
Hospitality Services Director,  
retired

### **Richard Thomas – chair**

*Atlantic Coast Conference*  
Superintendent, retired

### **Roy Williams – vice chair**

*Mosaic Mennonite Conference*  
Pastor

## Executive Search

The search for a new Executive Director/CEO has been MEA's main short-term challenge since November 2020. We hope a new person will be in place this summer. We are deeply grateful for the leadership of Committee Chair **Dick Thomas** and the contributions and dedication of the committee members: **Addie Banks**, MEA Board member; **Jon Carlson**, MC USA Executive Board member and Pastor of Forest Hills Mennonite Church; **Marco Güete**, Director of MEA's Hispanic Ministries Education programs; **Glen Guyton**, MC USA Executive Director (ex officio); **Lisa Heinz**, MEA Staff (non-voting); **Joe Manickam**, President of Hesston College and representing the Mennonite Higher Education Association; **Carol Roth**, Moderator of the Racial Ethnic Council; **Conrad Swartzentruber**, Superintendent at Dock Mennonite Academy and representing the Mennonite Schools Council (preK – grade 12 schools); **Jolene VonGuten**, MEA Staff and Committee Staff (non-voting). **Please join us in prayer for the committee and ask God to call the right person to lead the agency.**

## Hispanic Ministries Education partnerships

MEA operates a Hispanic seminary and a Bible Institute: **Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH)** and **Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA)**. These programs offer strong biblical and Anabaptist-based theological education for Hispanic leaders in the Mennonite church that is both affordable and accessible.

- In the past year, **SeBAH** has secured partnerships with Hesston (Kansas) College and Palm Beach (Florida) Atlantic University (PBA), enabling SeBAH graduates to earn transfer credits and automatic admission. PBA is also offering scholarships of up to \$1,100 per semester.
- SeBAH is pursuing a similar agreement with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, an MEA-affiliated seminary.
- SeBAH is 100% online and affordable to students, many of whom are bi-vocational and pay their own way at great sacrifice.
- The Hesston College Bible department and SeBAH are offering a collaborative course entitled "Jesus and the Gospels," to be taught in both English and Spanish this year to students from both institutions. There are new students enrolled from Venezuela, Honduras, Mexico and the United States. MEA and Hispanic Ministries continue to be deeply thankful for this close partnership with Hesston College.



- **IBA** operates in partnership with local congregations, who provide spaces for in-person study centers. The pandemic forced several study centers to close last year, but we look forward in hope that these centers will be able to re-open as the strain of the pandemic begins to ease. All of these partnerships strengthen the Hispanic Ministries programs and offer Hispanic and Latino students access to broader educational opportunities within the denomination and beyond.

### Theological Education Study Group

MEA is convening a committee of leaders from Mennonite higher education and the church as they analyze the state of biblical and theological education across the denomination. This group was formed in response to concerns voiced by Mennonite Church USA Conference Ministers about the waning interest in ministry studies. They asked, **“From where will our future leaders and pastors come?”** The group is examining barriers and access to strong theological education and looking for new and creative ways to promote church leadership to students and within congregations. We seek ways to make a lasting, adaptive shift rather than short-term, technical changes. The committee includes the following people: **Dave Mishler**, Conference Minister for Allegheny Mennonite Conference and Pastor at Scottdale Mennonite Church; **David Boshart**, President of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary; **Michael Danner**, Associate Executive Director of Church Vitality for MC USA; **Marco Güete**, Director of Hispanic Ministries Education for MEA; **Michele Hershberger**, Professor and Department Chair of Bible and Ministry at Hesston College; **Sarah Nahar**, doctoral student of religion and environmental studies; **John Powell**, Pastor and Teacher; **Tom Stuckey**, Interim Executive Director and CEO for MEA; **Jolene VonGunten**, Executive Assistant for MEA (recorder and administrative support).

### Higher Ed Board Chair Gatherings

At their request, MEA is facilitating quarterly virtual gatherings of the higher ed Board Chairs for brainstorming and mutual support and counsel. These conversations have been rich and edifying. MEA is uniquely positioned to offer connection and support to this group, both individually and collectively.

### Mennonite Schools Council (MSC)

The administrators for preK-12 schools are being regularly resourced by MEA Interim Director for preK-12 Schools Dawn Graber. Dawn offers a background in executive coaching to help leaders clarify their values and vision and to test and discern next steps to meet their personal and organizational goals. There has been strong interest in individual coaching sessions with Dawn. In addition, she has helped plan and coordinate virtual professional development experiences on a bi-monthly basis about relevant and emergent subjects, such as navigating polarization on campuses, emotional Intelligence, and how self-aware leaders can help create effective and influential relationships. Dawn has also led virtual gatherings of Board Chairs for relationship-building, connection and counsel.

### Washington Community Scholars' Center (WCSC)

MEA is partnering with the Washington Community Scholars' Center to draw more interest and enrollment from students across Anabaptist-Mennonite education. WCSC is a cross-cultural urban studies, internship, and community living experience located in the nation's capital, operated by Eastern Mennonite University. For a semester or the summer, the Center offers career building and vocational reflection through local internships, interactive coursework engaging with the city and the forces that shape it, living in intentional community and building social leadership skills, and navigating new experiences in a diverse urban setting. **The WCSC program is not limited to EMU students;** in fact, Bethel College and Bluffton University regularly send students to WCSC. MEA is helping to extend the invitation to all of the Anabaptist-Mennonite higher ed schools as well as high schools.

### Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression

The MEA staff and board are committed to dismantling racism, oppression and white privilege within our systems. As a step in our individual journeys and to broaden our understandings collectively, the MEA staff studied the book ***Who Will Be A Witness?*** by Drew Hart and published by Herald Press. Studying this book together has been meaningful and illuminating for the MEA staff, and we would encourage your congregations – small groups, Sunday school classes – to consider a similar book study.

### Spring it Forward campaign

MEA collaborated with MennoMedia and the Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA to encourage constituents to donate the third wave of federal stimulus dollars to the Spring it Forward campaign, an initiative to nurture faith formation in our church youth. MEA awarded grants of \$1,000 each to Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, VA; New Holland (PA) Early Learning Center; Peace Academic Center, Kykotsmovi, AZ; and Quakertown (PA) Christian School. The grant applications ranged from tuition assistance, professional development projects, and the purchase of a washer and dryer. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of these gifts.

### Jobs in Mennonite Education

MEA recently initiated a weekly newsletter to highlight job opportunities in the schools. This initiative was in response to the plethora of job postings on social media and direct requests from some schools to help promote their openings and searches. The newsletter is functioning as a communication hub that schools can utilize at no charge. MEA is well-positioned to provide this service to the schools. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, contact Jolene VonGunten at [JoleneV@MennoniteEducation.org](mailto:JoleneV@MennoniteEducation.org).

### Prayer for a Weary Land

As we all know, the hardships from 2020 have shaken us deeply. Race-based brutality and injustice, political unrest and violence, and a year of quarantine, masks, sickness and death. Our very souls cry out in fear and weariness. For Anabaptist Christians, Jesus is our rock in a weary land, a chorus I remember well from my childhood. In these weary times, we are more grateful than ever for the Anabaptist-Mennonite ties that bind us together as a community of believers. Our schools are forming students in ways that are distinctively Anabaptist, following the ***Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*** and the ***Shared Convictions of Global Anabaptists***. We believe these foundations will be a rock in a weary land for our students throughout their lives. Join us in prayer for our students and schools, that they would seek God, our shelter in this time of storm. To join us in praying in specific ways for our schools, consider subscribing to MEA's monthly ***Prayers for Mennonite Education*** by emailing [JoleneV@MennoniteEducation.org](mailto:JoleneV@MennoniteEducation.org).

**On behalf of the MEA board and staff, thank you for the many ways you support Mennonite education.**

Submitted by Tom Stuckey  
Interim Executive Director and CEO  
June 2021



## 2021 REPORT TO PNMC

### Mennonite Health Services (MHS) Vision

MHS is the go-to leader for integrating faith and work in health and human services.

### Mennonite Health Services (MHS) Mission

Anchored in Anabaptist values, MHS inspires and strengthens health and human service ministries to fulfill their missions.

These PNMC organizations belong to the MHS network of ministries:

- Mennonite Services Northwest *Albany, OR*
- Hope Village (an MSNW affiliate) *Canby, OR*
- Mennonite Village (an MSNW affiliate) *Albany, OR*
- Oregon Mennonite Residential Services (an MSNW affiliate) *Albany, OR*
- Rock of Ages - Valley View *McMinnville, OR*

### Activities

- Our 2020 Mennonite Health Assembly had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and our 2021 Mennonite Health Assembly was held online from Tuesday, March 9 – Thursday, March 11. Sessions were from noon to 3:00 p.m. daily. Plans are in place for an in person Health Assembly March 24-26, 2022, in Greenville, SC.
- The pandemic has been a disruptive force for everyone, but our member organizations have been hit particularly hard. They have faced increased costs for personal protective equipment, testing and changes in staffing. They have also faced challenges in staff retention and recruitment as well as the stress of constant vigilance. In some places, they've faced cases of COVID including deaths of residents and/or staff.
- In 2020, MHS added a strategic initiative to advance diversity, equity and inclusion.
- MHS Consulting continues to serve MHS members and nonmembers in the health and human services arena; primarily providing resources in governance, executive search, executive coaching, interim placement, strategic planning and positioning and operational, financial and market assessments.
- MHS provides monthly webinars on a variety of topics. These webinars are free and open to anyone that is interested [in the topic](#).
- In 2020, MHS began a monthly video podcast *on Leading*, and added a monthly emailed periodical called *The Brief* which provides resources for professional development.

### For Thanksgiving and Prayer

- Continued prayer for staffing retention and recruitment in the pandemic environment. Finding and keeping qualified and compassionate employees is a significant concern for MHS member organizations and the vulnerable populations they serve across the country.
- We are grateful for the financial gifts, gifts in kind, prayer and volunteer support of community members who have supported our member organizations during this incredibly challenging time of pandemic.

Submitted by Karen Lehman, President/CEO

[www.mhsonline.org](http://www.mhsonline.org)



## 2020 Annual Report to Area Conferences

Mennonite Men is the men's organization of Mennonite Church USA. All men in MC USA congregations are members of this body and are invited to participate in our ministries. Through the COVID-19 pandemic we found ways of joining God's restorative work in the world.

### Supporting New Churches with *JoinHands*

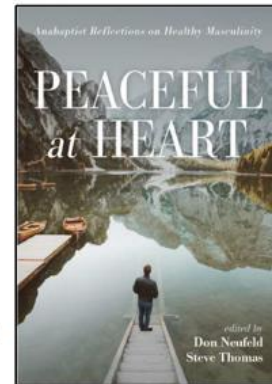
Despite the pandemic, we had our biggest year ever with JoinHands to help new churches acquire their first building. Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our donors, we extended \$170,000 to five congregations! Mennonite churches we assisted this year were all ethnic-racial congregations serving our African, Chin, Haitian and Latinx sisters and brothers. To learn more, visit [mennonitemen.org/joinhands](http://mennonitemen.org/joinhands)



### Promoting Healthy Masculinity with *JoinMen*

We continue to have positive responses to our book *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity*, produced with the Institute of Mennonite Studies. The Ontario office of

Mennonite Central Committee produced a study guide for this book and a video series based on *Peaceful at Heart* is being developed to help promote healthy masculinity.



For copies of this book and study guide, and to see other resources and retreats we provide for men, visit [mennonitemen.org/joinmen](http://mennonitemen.org/joinmen)

### Restoring God's Earth with *JoinTrees*

Last fall we launched our JoinTrees campaign to plant one million trees by 2030 to help restore the earth. Targeting the problem of climate change with



its harmful impacts on God's creation and people, we call on all ages and genders to participate in this campaign. We're working with households, congregations, and Mennonite organizations for this creation care campaign. Visit [MennoniteMen.org/JoinTrees](http://MennoniteMen.org/JoinTrees) for more information and how to get involved.

Thank you for supporting and participating in our ministries to serve God's restoration of the world.

Steve Thomas, U.S. Coordinator



# Be local. Be global. Be the Gospel.

*Note: Underlined words indicate active links.*



## Pacific Northwest Conference + Mennonite Mission Network

### Congregational giving to Mission Network



During Mission Networks' past fiscal year, August 1, 2019, through July 31, 2020, Pacific Northwest Conference congregations gave **\$80,117**. **Thank you!**

### Mission banks

**\$447**

» Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church

### Prayer partners

**38**

### Service participants



#### Service sites

#### Service Adventure unit

» Anchorage, Alaska

#### SOOP

» Drift Creek Camp

#### Service Adventure

**1** Jocelyn Baker, serving in Jackson, Mississippi

**2** Elyse Burton, serving in Colorado Springs, Colorado

#### SOOP

Gene and Judy Gascho, Glendale, Arizona

Bryan and Judi Stauffer, Glendale, Arizona



It is an honor to be in partnership with you, as we pursue God's calling on our church together. Navigating the unprecedented challenges of a pandemic, we may draw encouragement from God's promise in Isaiah 43:19: "I am making a way in the wilderness" (NIV). These are words of hope we can count on. God is working in our world, in our church and in each of us. Thank you so much for your generous support and partnership in prayer. The Lord's grace, peace and wellness be with you!

*Mike Sherrill*

Mike Sherrill  
Executive Director



Thank you so much for your support of Mennonite Mission Network! We value our partnership and collaboration with you. Blessings to you in the coming year.

*Susan Nisly*

Susan Nisly  
Church Relations Representative/  
Service Adventure Director

**Thank you for your continued partnership in God's mission!**

[www.MennoniteMission.net](http://www.MennoniteMission.net) Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872

## **COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY REPORTS**

**Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

**Bethel College**

**Bluffton University**

**Eastern Mennonite Seminary**

**Eastern Mennonite University**

**Goshen College**

**Hesston College**

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## Resources for faith formation and leadership development

### Academic programs

AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world. Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — whether in person or at a distance — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

#### Study at a distance

- **Master of Divinity Connect** (online and hybrid courses)
- **Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism** (fully or partially online)
- **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies** (fully or partially online; customizable)

- **Study on campus**
- **Master of Divinity Campus**
- **Master of Arts in Christian Formation**
- **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies**
- **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies**

[ambs.edu/academics](https://ambs.edu/academics)

- **Financial aid:** AMBS offers generous need-based financial aid, matching grants and scholarships to help make your education affordable. [ambs.edu/financialaid](https://ambs.edu/financialaid)

- **Want to explore seminary study?** Take an online, campus or hybrid class, even if you're not yet admitted to AMBS, and your first class is 50% off! Check out our upcoming offerings: [ambs.edu/onecourse](https://ambs.edu/onecourse)

- **Experience AMBS:** Talk with students, faculty and staff and learn what AMBS has to offer! [ambs.edu/visit](https://ambs.edu/visit)

### Center for Faith Formation and Culture

**!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Students in grades 10–12 can explore ministry and theology, grow in spiritual practices and listen for God's call through a summer congregational internship and a Group Experience. Participants receive a \$1,000 stipend. Tap a shoulder! [ambs.edu/explore](https://ambs.edu/explore)

**Lifelong learning--Online short courses:** Join the forum discussions in these six-week online courses:

AMBS's Church Leadership Center offers nondegree options to continue your education and strengthen leadership skills:

- Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology; Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
- Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?
- Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
- A Worship Leader's Intro to *Voices Together*; A Song Leader's Intro to *Voices Together*

- [Pastors and Leaders 2022](#) (Feb. 21–24)

- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program:** This two-and-a-half-year nondegree program offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. [ambs.edu/journey](https://ambs.edu/journey)

- **Spiritual Direction Seminars:** Cultivate your ministry of spiritual direction. [ambs.edu/seminars](https://ambs.edu/seminars)

- **Invite AMBS!** Faculty and staff are available to interact with you via videoconference on topics such as trauma-informed caregiving, intercultural competence, undoing racism, leadership for God's reconciling mission, and more.

#### PNMC connections

- In 2020–21, three PNMC members were Master of Divinity students at AMBS: **Deborah Coates**, **David Johnson** (Portland), **Andrew Hudson** (various)

#### AMBS statistics

- In May 2021, 13 men and eight women from seven countries on five continents graduated from AMBS. Eight of them completed at least part of their studies at a distance.
- In 2020–21, AMBS had 128 graduate students — 92 admitted students and 36 guest students. Eighty-two were from the U.S., nine were Canadian, and 37 were international students.
- In 2020–21, 24 students were enrolled in AMBS's nondegree Journey program in the U.S., Canada and Southeast Asia.



## Report to Pacific Northwest Conference

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# BETHEL COLLEGE

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June 2021

There will never be another class like the class that graduated in 2021. We can say that every year, as each class is unique and special, but we all know why this year will always be thought of differently. When the college switched to virtual learning in spring of 2020 many assumed things would be back to normal, or near normal, when classes were ready to begin again in the fall. By summer it was evident that there would be another year of social distancing, masks, and virtual learning; yet, despite the pandemic, Bethel welcomed its second largest freshman class in the past 32 years. While many things had to change, this place, with the support of its alumni, donors, and affiliated organizations, continued to provide a space for students to come and flourish in their education and faith formation, preparing them for meaningful lives of work and service.

Bethel College continued to hold as many of the classes and events as possible in an effort to give our students the same opportunities experienced in other years. The annual service day took place in the fall, with nearly every student participating as usual. Students served mostly outdoors, within walking distance of the college, to minimize contact. Lecture series such as the annual Menno Simons lectures, the Staley lectures, and the Martin Luther King Day activities were presented virtually. The Fine Arts Department welcomed Pakistani sound artist Zeerak Ahmed for a virtual residency. Regular testing and flexibility allowed many athletic teams to have their best seasons in years, and the athletic department was named an NAIA Champions of Character 5-Star Gold Award program for the third consecutive year.

On the administrative level, Bethel was able to hold its largest Scholarship Day group of incoming freshmen since the event's inception. The advancement office held a successful alumni phonathon, exceeding its fundraising goal. A new Strategic Planning Committee was formed to develop a plan that will guide the college for years to come.

This spring, minimal positive COVID-19 cases on campus has meant more in-person activities are able to take place, including the commencement ceremony. We look forward to this trend continuing in the fall. We thank you for your continued support and prayers.



Bluffton University is excited to launch our 2020-25 strategic plan. This work is vital to Bluffton's mission commitments to faith development, peace building and social justice as we prepare our students to lead and serve in our region and the world.

At the core is a vision statement which frames our overarching goals for the next five years.

## Vision statement

***"Bluffton University will become a leader in community-responsive academic programs and experiential learning that focus on well-being and emotional intelligence; our students will graduate as discerning thinkers with resilient hearts for social justice and advocacy."***

This year, we are focusing on four key initiatives:

## The Bluffton Blueprint

These four general education experiences are carefully crafted to help our students develop resiliency and emotional intelligence. Featuring both traditional learning and experiential components, each course supports one of Bluffton's enduring values of Discovery, Community, Respect and Service.

## Virtue-Driven Athletics

As an NCAA DIII school, Bluffton coaches and student-athletes not only perform well in competition but focus their team culture around character building, community and service. As part of our Virtue-Driven Athletics program, we will lift up habits of excellence and develop a shared framework that all of our athletes will encounter.

## Diversity, equity and inclusion

Tyson Goings '01 was recently appointed to the newly created role of director of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). He, along with a faculty/staff committee, are developing priorities to support our student-focused, peace-filled mission. For this academic year, they are especially focused on providing a welcoming environment and increasing support and advocacy for Black students, faculty and staff.

## Corporate and Education Partnerships

We are growing a network of Corporate and Education Partnerships in northwest Ohio to support the workforce development needs of our region with values-based education. These partnerships provide 20% tuition discounts to benefit-eligible employees (and their immediate family members) of our partner corporations and K-12 schools for degree-completion and master's degree programs.

## ENDURING VALUES

DISCOVERY  
COMMUNITY  
RESPECT  
SERVICE

## NAMED A COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION FOR 2020-21

## TOP TIER IN "MIDWEST COLLEGES"

– U.S. News & World Report's  
Best Colleges

Find us on the web  
and social media!  
**[www.bluffton.edu](http://www.bluffton.edu)**

For more information,  
contact **Robin Bowlus**  
Vice president of  
advancement and  
enrollment management  
[bowlusr@bluffton.edu](mailto:bowlusr@bluffton.edu)

## 2021 School for Leadership Training: January 11-15

We held our first virtual School for Leadership Training (SLT) the week of January 11. This was our 52<sup>nd</sup> annual SLT. The theme was “*From Surviving to Thriving... God Breathes Fresh Hope*” with speakers Meghan Larissa Good, David Fitch and Michael Gulker. Having “breath” in the theme drew both on COVID (how it spreads) and the movement for racial justice (“I can’t breathe”). God’s breath brings hope as the church works and responds to both.

Visit <https://emu.edu/seminary/slt/> to view the keynote recordings

## Spring Graduation

EMS awarded 12 Master of Divinity, two Master of Arts in Religion and one Master of Arts in Christian Leadership degrees to the graduation class of 2021 in an online service May 9. The honorable Deanna Reed, mayor of Harrisonburg delivered the commencement address. Seminary Class president, Carmen Miller (MDiv), was a student speaker.

Seminary Baccalaureate was held in a high flex model on Saturday, May 8 with the theme “Drawn by love, Jesus calls us” and the scripture focus of John 13:34-35, John 15:9-12, John 17:25-26. Seminary associate dean, Dr. Nancy Heisey, was the speaker.

Visit <https://emu.edu/commencement/> for 2020 & 2021 commencement

## Seminary Options

Consider pursuing seminary studies. We offer a Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies, MDiv, MA in Christian Leadership, and MA in Religion. You are also welcome to take a course for academic credit or participation audit.

## Join a Fall course August 31<sup>st</sup> – December 17<sup>th</sup> via Zoom:

*Book of Isaiah*, Tuesdays 6:00 pm -9:00 pm

*Formation in God’s Story I*, Wednesdays 1:30 – 4:10 pm

*Missio Dei*, Thursdays 8:00 – 10:40 am

*Old Testament Text in Context*, Tuesdays 8:00 -10:40 am

*Living Theology*, Tuesdays 8:00 – 10:40 am

*Anabaptism Today*, Thursdays 2:25 – 5:05 pm

*Introduction to Spiritual Guidance*, August 25-27 9:00 am – 4:00 pm & Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:30 pm

*Seminar in Youth Ministry*, Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00 – 2:15 pm

Visit <https://emu.edu/seminary/courses/> for more information about classes

Harrisonburg, Virginia

[www.emu.edu](http://www.emu.edu)

[churchrelations@emu.edu](mailto:churchrelations@emu.edu)

### Statement of Purpose

*Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepares men and women to serve and lead in a global context. In response to God’s saving grace, we educate students to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God’s Spirit as wise interpreters, mature practitioners, discerning communicators, and transformational leaders.*

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, president
- ▶ **Sue Cockley**, seminary dean
- ▶ **Sarah Ann Bixler**, associate dean
- ▶ **Veva Mumaw**, seminary admissions, placement & church relations

For the most up-to-date information on EMS, give us a call, visit us on the web, “Like” us on Facebook!

[emu.edu/seminary](http://emu.edu/seminary)  
540-432-4257



*EMU prepares students to serve  
and lead in a global context*

SUMMER 2021

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

### **President Susan Schultz Huxman sends warm greetings to the Pacific Northwest District Conference**

Greetings to our many congregational communities across the Church. Summer is here, light has replaced darkness, and we have experienced signs of health, beauty and wonder throughout this past academic year. We are rounding “the COVID corner.”

Earlier in spring semester dozens of students, faculty and staff responded to the question: “*What is your greatest hope for 2021?*” Their heartfelt words, accompanied by beautiful photos of the EMU campus, can be found [here](#). At the end of our semester, we held 6 commencement exercises, 4 in-person events and 2 all university virtual commencements, in order to imaginatively comply with COVID gathering restrictions from VA and PA. You can find highlights from EMU commencement exercises [here](#).

We have been blessed with some key indicators of good organizational health in 2021, even amidst the pandemic, including:

- Our student retention rate from fall to spring was exceptionally strong (91%). Despite all of the restrictive changes this year brought, our students demonstrated strength and resilience.
- Our sense of community and care for one another this year was rated well ahead of many of our peer colleges and universities on a recent national student survey that measured campus connectedness.
- Our calling as a faith informed peace and justice university is on display in robust ways. We hired our first executive director of diversity, equity and inclusion, Dr. Jackie Font-Guzmán. What a gift she is to us! Along with her hire, we raised significant funds at our record-setting LovEMU Day to support the Office of DEI and the University Fund for Resilience. We aim to live into our new vision “*to open pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to be unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.*”
- Our fundraising efforts are running ahead of last year-- 13% overall and we had a good year last year! This is just amazing in the midst of a pandemic. We are so thankful for our many generous supporters who choose to invest in us with joy and enthusiasm in a year “like no other.” I invite you to check out our [Forward Together campaign](#).

Indeed, “*hope springs eternal*,” as poet Alexander Pope first penned. The holiness of hope can be found in the courageous call of the Magi—our theme for Opening Convocation. It is an enduring story of light over darkness—of God’s inbreaking love for us—if we just pay attention.

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace.

Harrisonburg, Virginia

[www.emu.edu](http://www.emu.edu)

### **How can EMU serve you?**

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker: 540-432-4597 or [ChurchRelations@emu.edu](mailto:ChurchRelations@emu.edu).

### **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Connections to EMU**

#### **Undergraduate Students**

Two undergraduate students from Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference were enrolled in the spring 2021 semester.

#### **Giving**

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference churches gave \$11,500 in matching church grants during the 20-21 academic year.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, *president*
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, *vice president for advancement*
- ▶ **Jasmine Hardesty**, *director of development & planned giving*
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, *director of development & annual giving*
- ▶ **Lindsay Martin**, *associate director of development*
- ▶ **Matthew Ruth**, *director of admissions*

### **Our Vision**

*We will open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice, and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.*

[churchrelations@emu.edu](mailto:churchrelations@emu.edu)





## 2020-21 Report to the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

### College in pandemic times

Students returned to the Goshen College campus with new procedures and guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19. President Rebecca Stoltzfus welcomed students - some in the church-chapel, but most joining virtually - to the 2020-21 academic year during a convocation, in which she spoke about passionate learning during a pandemic.

She spoke about her experience as a new student at Goshen College 42 years ago, waffling between majors, but ultimately learning that whatever she chose, it would involve hard work. She talked about her passions, including keeping students safe, anti-racism work, creating honest conversations in our community, and cultivating a deep sense of joy, vibrant faith and fun. She also discussed what the upcoming year will look like, and how it is the responsibility of everyone in the community to keep each other safe. Following the convocation, students took part in a physically-distanced version of the annual applause tunnel, a 20-year tradition with a cheering tunnel formed by faculty and staff, then seniors, juniors, sophomores and finally the first-year students.

### Conference connections

This academic year we have 12 students enrolled from 7 Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference congregations. Those churches generously pledged \$31,000 in congregational student aid for the academic year. The Goshen College Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

Students from the conference are involved on- and off-campus in many edifying ways, but we specifically recognize students who studied and served abroad for a semester through GC's Study Service Term (SST) program in the past two years. John Vance from Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship studied and served for a semester in Peru. Emma Burton from Portland Mennonite Church studied and served for a semester in Tanzania. Liam Elias from Seattle Mennonite Church studied and served for a semester in Ecuador. Lillian French from Zion Mennonite Church studied for a semester in Tanzania.

### 2020-21 Campus ministries theme

Upon reflecting on this academic year's campus-wide core value, passionate learners, I gave some thought about how that could be applied to our faith. At Goshen College, we want our students, faculty, and staff to learn, listen, work,

and pray with passion. What does all this passion lead to? I believe it leads to something vibrant, or rather, a vibrant sort of faith, which is the Campus Ministries theme for 2020-2021.

John 10:10 says "The thief only comes to steal and destroy, but I come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (NIV) In an academic year that is surely like none other, what does it mean to have life "to the full?"

This is where I make the connection to vibrant faith. Many of us are looking for a faith that is able to withstand obstacles, overcome adversity, and weather storms. However, to truly have that kind of spirituality one would almost need to have a "perfect" faith. I don't think that's what God is looking for. A vibrant faith adapts to adversity. A vibrant faith looks to community for help in overcoming obstacles. And when storms come, a vibrant faith knows when to take shelter, or "lie low to the ground" as John O'Donoghue says, and wait until the tumult has passed.

A vibrant faith isn't perfect, but we aren't a perfect people. A vibrant faith is passionate, strong, courageous, and has endurance. This doesn't mean it never falters, never grows weak, or is never strained. A vibrant faith is a commitment to keep coming back.

As we move forward in this academic year, may our "passionate" learning give way to vibrant faith, and in its vibrance, serve as a light to others.

-Joanne Gallardo, Campus Pastor



For more information, contact Dan Koop Liechty, Director of Alumni Relations & International Student Adviser. Call (574) 535-7002 or e-mail [churchrelations@goshen.edu](mailto:churchrelations@goshen.edu).





PNMC Annual Report, Hesston College

Sisters and brothers,

I greet you as Hesston College puts the finishing touches on a most uncommon school year and eagerly prepares for the return of students at the beginning of August. May's graduation ceremonies brought a mixture of pride, sadness, and relief: pride for the challenges of our graduating students faced and overcame; sadness as we watched those same graduates leave campus for the last time as students on their way to new adventures; and relief as we closed out a year defined by the looming presence of Covid-19.

The staff, faculty and students of Hesston College may well have faltered in the face of a global pandemic were it not for the constant provision and presence of God. Our theme verse for the year came from Exodus 16, which describes the great lengths God went to ensure the health and safety of the Israelites as they traversed the desert. Verses 4-6 tell of "bread from heaven" that rained down each morning. It was "enough for each day," the writer of Exodus said.

So it was at Hesston College. Though we were under threat, we experienced God's gracious provision, enough manna for each day. We completed and launched a campus-wide strategic plan designed to answer the challenges facing Hesston and to build upon the college's great strengths. Hesston's growth into bachelor's degree programs continued to bear fruit, as the School of Management gained approval from the our accrediting body and the School of Aviation awarded it its first bachelor of arts in aviation – professional pilot degrees. Hesston's Center for Anabaptist Leadership and Learning (CALL) delivered classes online to students from all different walks of life who want to minister to their communities. Manna from heaven, enough for each day.

Provision also came in the form of support from the wider community. The spiritual, emotional and fiduciary support your congregations provided to students attending Hesston College has been invaluable. And while we have made the journey through an uncommon year, we continue to ask for your support and your prayers.

- Please pray for our international students as they struggle to obtain visas to study with us in Kansas
- Please pray for each Hesston College community member as we work at the continued management of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Please pray for our business management students and faculty as they do a new thing, embarking on a four year course of study toward a bachelor of arts degree.

Please know that we lift you in prayer as well. We ask God to provide each Pacific Northwest Conference congregation with manna from heaven, enough for each day. We pray for your health and safety as well as the health and safety of the body of Christ which is the church. We pray that our work may flourish. Thank you for your support of Hesston College, any may each day bring manna to your doorstep.

Peace,

Dr. Joseph A. Manickam '87  
President, Hesston College



## **Vision: Healing & Hope**

*God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.*

### **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Mission Statement**

**P***romote personal spiritual development*

**N***urture healthy congregations*

**M***ake strong connections throughout the conference*

**C***all each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world*



**Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite  
Conference**

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