



# e-Bulletin

*Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC*

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE MINISTER—*Katherine Jameson Pitts*

It was wonderful to gather, even if only online, for our **PNMC Annual Meeting** and hear from the congregations how God is at work among us. As we move forward into 2022 we will be planning for a mid-year event that will be accessible online and for a summer Annual Gathering where we can gather together physically as well as spiritually!

Mark your Calendars! October is Pastor Appreciation Month! We have terrific pastors in PNMC, who lead our congregations with grace, courage, and compassion. It has been a tough year for many leaders, including our pastors, as shifting expectations and changes in what is possible seem to happen week-to-week. This year, why not plan something special to recognize and encourage your pastors during October? Pastors love receiving cards of appreciation, gift certificates for new books or dinners out, or even the chance for a weekend with their family, whatever your congregation can provide. Most importantly, they appreciate knowing that their ministry means something to you. "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching." (1 Timothy 5:17)

Looking ahead:

Conference Communications Council/Mid-year Resource Event, February 5, 2022

-PNMC Annual Gathering, June 17-18, 2022

## Pray For One Another...

Eugene Mennonite church is small but strong and moving in our community! This summer. Besides our regular Laundry Unicorns work where we clean laundry from 18 camps a month, we handed out about 70 frozen water bottles to people who live in RVs every time it got near or over 90 degrees. If you've been in Oregon, you know that this was more than half of the days this summer! Please pray for our **empathy and wisdom** as we continue to work with our houseless neighbors. We have also been doing book studies including *Can I Get a Witness* by Drew Hart and *The People Are Dancing Again: The History of the Siletz Tribe*. We highly recommend both of these books for any church in the PNW. Please pray for us as we work to support and be generous to our Black and Native American neighbors. Just like all of us, we have been struggling with meeting and singing together over the last 18 months. We have recorded some church singing for the congregations, and we have also gathered outdoor for our singing time, masked and socially distanced, with some participating over Zoom. Community singing is so important, pray that we are able to maintain this life-giving spiritual discipline!

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

*Listed chronologically, then alphabetically by organization*

### Mennonite Country Auction

The Mennonite Country Auction (Washington State MCC Sale) will be held in person on **Saturday, October 2, 2021**. It is held on the grounds of the Menno Mennonite Church, 20 miles west of Ritzville and 25 miles east of Moses Lake.

### Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief

Due to the increase in hospitalizations due to the Coronavirus Delta variant, the decision to hold an indoor event has been reversed. The online auction experience will take place **October 2-7!** Visit the [website](#) for details and a guide for donation ideas.

Pick up your auction items and edible goodies on October 9 at three Willamette Valley locations: Portland Mennonite (new!), Zion Mennonite and the Expo Center in Albany. (Chicken dinners will only be available at the Albany pick-up site.)

While it is still uncertain exactly what activities and shops will be featured at the October 9th locations, planners are aiming to make this year's event as fun-filled as possible while maintaining a safe environment for all. Vaccinated volunteers are needed to help with cooking, set-up, and tear-down. For donation questions, contact Stan Oyer at [oyer@canby.com](mailto:oyer@canby.com). For the latest updates, sign up at the \*NEW\* website [www.oregonmccsale.org](http://www.oregonmccsale.org).

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

*listed alphabetically by organization*

### Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Church USA has launched "[Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty](#)," an initiative to raise awareness about the impact of the pandemic on poverty in the U.S. and how Jesus calls his followers to respond. During September and October, MC USA will seek to engage people in the initiative by offering resources, prayers and ways to care for one another and to address systemic issues that lead to poverty. "The pandemic is apocalyptic," said Sue Park-Hur, denominational minister of Transformative Peacemaking. "It is revealing the structural issues that cause poverty and their disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable among us."

In a recently updated [report](#), the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), a nonpartisan research and policy institute, revealed that one in three children in the United States faces food or housing hardship and that one in four adults had difficulty paying their expenses in the last seven days. According to the CBPP report, "The impacts of the pandemic and the economic fallout have been widespread, but remain particularly prevalent among Black adults, Latino adults and other people of color [reflecting] harsh, long-standing inequities — often stemming from structural racism in education, employment, housing and health care — that the current crisis has exacerbated."

"Jesus taught us how to respond to these inequities," said Park-Hur. "Throughout his ministry, Jesus centered and uplifted those who were poor and oppressed. As Anabaptists, we are called to follow his example," she added. The call to care for each other's needs is a central theme in the Bible and in Anabaptist theology. MC USA's "[Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective](#)," [Article 21](#) encourages Mennonites to be responsible stewards of money and possessions, saying, "We are to live simply, practice mutual aid within the church, uphold economic justice, and give generously and cheerfully."

The Cost of Poverty initiative will look closely at the theology surrounding issues of poverty and focus on housing insecurity, as one of its many consequences. "We will be wrestling with questions such as, Who are the poor among us? What causes the inequities that lead to poverty? How is poverty impacting our congregations and communities? and How can we respond?" said Park-Hur.

Through "Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty," MC USA is providing members with:

~Opportunities to **learn** about the Cost of Poverty, through congregational study guides, [news stories](#) and resources. In addition, leaders from MC USA agencies, congregations, affiliated colleges and ministry partners will contribute [blogs](#) over the next several weeks, which will explore what poverty looks like in different communities, its intersectional nature, how churches are responding and how their Anabaptist faith values are compelling them to do this work.

~An invitation to **pray** for economic justice and for our congregations and communities coping with poverty. Congregations are invited to pray and worship together using responsive readings and hymns from MennoMedia's new *Voices Together* hymnal, as recommended on the [Cost of Poverty landing page](#).

~A call to **join** in mutual aid initiatives and advocacy work within MC USA and across the broader Anabaptist community. MC USA's advocacy work includes the denomination's [Justice Fund](#), a mutual aid fund that provides financial assistance to MC USA congregations engaging in their communities to address poverty and dismantle racism. Links to other faith-based organizations on the [Cost of Poverty landing page](#) provide additional ways to respond. For more information on "Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty," visit the online resource page [here](#).

### Mennonite Mission Network

Join MMN for a Bible study to introduce **Mission Sunday** materials on **Thursday, September 30, 2021**. Participants may choose from either an early morning 6:00 a.m.–7:30 PCT or from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Do you want to dig deeper with others into the Bible's call to hospitality and mission? Please consider this opportunity to join Eric Frey Martin and Joe Sawatzky of Mennonite Mission Network Church Relations.

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#### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Oct 4 (*submissions due by 9/27*)  
Oct 18 (*submissions due by 10/11*)  
Nov 1 (*submissions due by 10/25*)  
Nov 15 (*submissions due by 11/8*)

If you would like to contribute, please send a **brief announcement** in Spanish & English with website links to [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto:brenda@pnmc.org). Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>

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