



# e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

Please share widely. If you receive this e-bulletin via more than one address, let us know which address you prefer. To submit announcements or manage your subscription, email [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto:brenda@pnmc.org). See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

## 2023 Conference Communication Council: *Practicing Nonviolent Communication & Empathic Connection*

The PNMC CCC gathering will be held on **Saturday, February 4, 8:30am—12:30pm** (Pacific) on Zoom. In addition to our PNMC board, staff, district pastors, team chairpersons and representatives from PNMC related organizations, ***we ask for representation from each of our member congregations and church plants (at minimum: a pastor and an additional congregation member, or two congregation members if no pastor is available).*** Please note that any and all who wish to take part are welcome to attend! Registration information is available [here](#).

I am excited to share that **Malinda Berry, Ph.D.**, Professor of Theology and Ethics at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart, IN) has agreed to join us and offer input on the practice of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and nurturing empathic connections within our interpersonal relationships and the communities we are part of. I believe you will find in Malinda an insightful, passionate teacher who can offer us helpful, practical tools to further develop our Anabaptist commitment to peace and justice building.

I have personally found the NVC model to be a beneficial one in my relationships and in the various ministry settings where I have served. It resonates with Jesus' call to love our neighbor as our own self, and it is a helpful tool for building up the body of Christ, particularly when we are faced with difficult challenges and disagreements. I encourage you to join us in this important morning of connecting and learning! --Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

### Agenda:

- 8:30am Welcome and Opening Worship, Eric Massanari
- 9:00am Congregational Roll-Call and Sharing
- 9:50am Break (10 min)
- 10:00am Presentation on *Nonviolent Communication and Empathic Connection*, Malinda Berry, Professor of Theology and Ethics at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. This will include time for breakout group discussions.
- 11:45am Break (15 min)
- 12 noon PNMC and Mennonite Church USA Updates, PNMC Staff and Board
- 12:30pm Closing Prayer and Adjourn



**About our presenter:** *Malinda Elizabeth Berry is a member of the teaching faculty at AMBS, where she focuses her work on peace theology, More-with-Less ethics, and shalom hermeneutics. She was introduced to non-violent communication (NVC) through psychotherapy and found it illuminating for her experience of being an Anabaptist-Mennonite Christian. She has studied NVC with three different teachers and weaves their varying approaches to NVC together for Mennonites who are looking for:*

- spiritual practices that will increase peace in their lives
- ways to make their commitments to peace and justice more relationally resonant
- new ways to talk about worn-out topics with family members, coworkers, or fellow church members
- approaches to reading and study that bring the Bible alive and overflowing with wisdom, not just words

*Malinda will introduce participants to NVC and its core concepts by linking it to how it can help us grow and mature as Anabaptist-Mennonite Christians. If you would like to learn more about the Nonviolent Communication model prior to our gathering you can find additional information here:*

[What is Nonviolent Communication? | Center for Nonviolent Communication \(cnvc.org\)](#)

## Pray for One Another

**Randy Friesen** passed away on December 23, 2023 of pancreatic metastatic cancer in Eugene, OR. He was a member of Eugene Mennonite Church. During his life, he served on the PNMC board as treasurer. He also served on the board at the Mennonite Village. Randy was the Eugene Mennonite church treasurer for fifty years. He was an ardent supporter of the Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief and often was seen bidding on the opening items. He loved singing hymns and carried the bass line with ease.

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



### Albany Mennonite Church

At the beginning of Advent, our congregation discovered a messy and broken Nativity scene on our sanctuary stage. So, each Advent Sunday, our kids led in restoring it. They sorted the objects on the table to help us figure out what to keep, renewed broken-down figurines, assembled a Christmas star, created some new features (fir trees) to add to the ambiance, and then **waited and trusted that Jesus would show up** to complete the scene on Christmas Day (spoiler: He did). In the new year, may we all look for ways to be like the children of AMC: joining God in the sorting, renewing, assembling, creating work of restoration!

### Drift Creek Camp

[DCC](#) is seeking to build a team of passionate young adults to create meaningful experiences for campers! Serving on summer staff provides an opportunity to unplug from technology, explore nature, reflect, build relationships, hone leadership skills, laugh until it hurts, and be part of a nurturing faith community. At camp, staff members will likely eat too many carbs, but will also fall asleep each night feeling both exhausted and satisfied. [Apply here!](#)

### Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

PNMHS invites you to attend its [Annual Meeting](#) on **Saturday, February 11, 2023**, at Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR. Lunch will be served at noon followed by the annual business meeting. The meal cost is \$15 per person. RSVP (for lunch only) to Jerry Barkman at [jbarkman@canby.com](mailto:jbarkman@canby.com) or 503-871-6413 by **February 6**.

The program will begin at 1:30 and is offered at no cost, and no RSVP is required to attend the program. Austin and Sherilyn Smucker from Madras, OR, will be the speakers, sharing their experience of being held as hostages in Haiti from October 16 to December 15, 2021. They were two of the seventeen Christian missionaries who were kidnapped by the 400 Mawozo Gang after visiting a local orphanage in Port-au-Prince on October 16. The group, comprised of Amish, Mennonite, and other conservative Anabaptist communities, included 16 US citizens and one Canadian. Five of those kidnapped were children.

*An offering to support the work of the Historical Society will be taken and Kropf Heritage Center tours will be available.*

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

*listed alphabetically by organization*

### MennoMedia

Act fast to register for the [Annual Music and Worship Leaders Retreat](#) at Laurelville Retreat Center in Pennsylvania, **January 20-22, 2023**. While the event is in-person, a recording of some segments can be purchased to watch at a later date. The retreat gives music and worship leaders a space to learn, recharge, and connect with their peers through valuable workshops, seminars, resources, fellowship time and worship. The 2023 theme is **Lament and Hope** with guest speaker **Safwat Marzouk**, author and theologian. Learn more [here](#).

### Mennonite Church USA

Please submit seminar ideas for [MennoCon23](#). Submission details are available [here](#). Deadline is **January 31, 2023**.

Mennonite Church USA will host its annual **Hope for the Future** conference **Feb. 3-5** in Atlanta, GA. The conference welcomes MC USA-affiliated BIPOC leaders and young adults for a time of networking and mutual edification. Register by Jan. 18. Learn more [here](#).

### Mennonite Mission Network

Join Youth Venture (*ages 16-25*) for a **Civil Rights Learning Tour, July 9-16, 2023**: [Explore history, inspire change](#) with **Ann Jacobs** and **Drew Hart** \$700/person covers activities, travel during the YV trip, lodging, food and admission tickets. Application deadline: **April 1**

Young people are invited to learn about the triumphs of the unsung heroes who challenged brutal racism with nonviolence and changed segregation laws during the United States Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Participants will visit places of historical significance, hear stories, and learn why our faith calls us to **stand against injustice and with the oppressed**. Although the trip will occur in the southern U.S., the hope is that participants will use what they learn to further explore what happened in their own communities during this era, as well as address the injustices that continue today. Take advantage of this exciting faith-development opportunity!

**Ann Jacobs** is a training and resource specialist for Mennonite Mission Network, who focuses on African American churches and ministries.

**Dr. Drew G. I. Hart** is associate professor of theology at Messiah University and has 10 years of pastoral experience.

### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Jan 23 (submissions due by 1/9)

Feb 6 (submissions due by 12/30)

Feb 20 (submissions due by 2/13)

Mar 6 (submissions due by 2/27)

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>