



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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From Our Executive Board

Healing and Hope

As congregations that make up the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, we are attracted, pulled together, and guided by the Christ in whom we place our faith. Our shared vision is to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Congregations are the core of our communities, and they reflect both our unity and our diversity. To nurture and support healthy congregations, we have resources at the conference (PNMC) and denominational (MC USA) level. Important denominational decisions are made by congregational representatives, or delegates, who gather from time to time.

In mid-2022, the MC USA delegate body came together in Kansas City and reconsidered the MC USA Membership Guidelines. The delegate body affirmed a resolution that rescinded those Guidelines, affirmed repentance for the damage they have caused to many people including credentialed pastors who had performed same-sex marriages, and affirmed that congregations and pastors are empowered to make decisions based on their local context. Meanwhile, PNMC had Policy 5.3.2, the "Ministerial Credential Review Process," that had been founded on the now-rescinded denominational Membership Guidelines. This policy specifically mandated that a credential review be conducted for any pastor who chose to officiate at a same-sex wedding ceremony.

The PNMC Board met on January 21, 2023, and determined that without the MC USA Guidelines in place, there is no longer a clear rationale for the associated PNMC policy. As a result, the Board rescinded PNMC Policy 5.3.2. However, the Board also strongly affirmed the opening statement of this policy: "We are a diverse conference, and we will continue to treat one another with a spirit of forbearance, grace, trust and love on this as well as other issues that divide us."

As congregations and members of PNMC, we value our unity and our diversity. We are united by the Christ in whom we place our faith and whose love connects us, one to another, and together with our world. Together, we turn towards the presence of Christ within us and among us, as we express God's enduring, transforming love in unique and varied ways.

Submitted by Jack Swaim, PNMC Moderator, on behalf of the PNMC Executive Board

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Filer Mennonite Church

From Lyman Mueller and Pastor Ron Hershey

Greetings from Filer! In case you were wondering, the Mennonite Disaster Service unit in Idaho is alive and well! Last month, nine MDS workers were at Filer for two weeks doing restoration projects. Volunteers came from Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship in Boise, ID and First Mennonite Church in Aberdeen. Included in the group were Project Director, Robert Unrau, as well as Michele WhiteEagle, MDS Regional Board Chair. Another ten members of Filer joined the effort.

You might remember the last time Filer shared news in the e-Bulletin? Our last post was regarding the mess we were facing caused by city sewage blockage. Soon after, the church learned that insurance covered only the clean up operations, leaving the congregation with the significant restoration costs. As we explored options, someone mentioned asking Mennonite Disaster Service to help. **HELP they did!** The restoration project grew beyond the bare minimum. The generous volunteers were able to update and improve the Fellowship Hall by adding sheetrock to the old paneling in the entire room and they were also able to update the lighting. New carpet is scheduled to be installed. Bright, newly painted white walls provide a clean fresh look and feel. The church basement is being completely transformed!

We are so grateful to the Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers! Your expertise and hard work have made all the difference. You have been able to transform a hard situation into something beautiful. *Praise God for fellow believers to encourage and help!*



PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The PNMHS [Annual Meeting](#) is **Saturday, February 11, 2023**, at Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR. Lunch (\$15/person) will be served at noon followed by the annual business meeting. RSVP (for lunch) to [Jerry Barkman](#) (503-871-6413) by **February 6**.

The 1:30 program will feature Austin and Cherilyn Smucker from Madras, OR, sharing their experience of being held as hostages in Haiti in late 2021. They were two of seventeen Christian missionaries kidnapped by the 400 Mawozo Gang in Port-au-Prince.

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



Camp CAMREC

Young Adult Snow Camp, Feb. 24 - March 5 For those in their 20s and 30s. You know those friends you have connected with through Mennonite/Anabaptist circles who you wish you could connect with more intentionally? Consider hanging out with them at CAMREC! Invite friends. Drop in when it works for you or work remotely if you need to, For more information and to take advantage of this exciting opportunity, click [here](#).

Camrec Youth Camps begin after MennoCon23:

Staff Orientation: July 10-13

Pre-Junior: July 14-16

Junior: July 18-22

Jr. High: July 24-29

High School: August 1-6

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

Mennonite Church USA

Follow [this link](#) to read MC USA's latest edition of PeaceMail. Learn about upcoming learning opportunities, MennoCon 23 and more!

Mennonite Creation Care

Looking for ideas on how to seek peace with Creation? Wondering about ways to reduce your carbon footprint or curious about funding for your congregation to go green? The [Mennonite Creation Care Network](#) provides helpful resources with fresh ideas; learning opportunities, events, webinars, book reviews and more. Click [here](#) to explore ways to embed the desire to care for the planet with an Anabaptist perspective.

MennoMedia

In honor of Black History Month, the folks at MennoMedia are offering **40% select anti-racism and social justice titles**. Simply use the code **BLACKHISTORY** at checkout.

Be sure to place your order prior to the

February 28, 2023, when the discount will expire.



Mennonite Men

Like you, Mennonite Men had to push Pause for in-person gatherings during COVID. As retreats resume, we seek your counsel for recommended event leaders and speakers. While we provide a range of retreats on masculinity, sexuality, conflict, and other topics by Mennonite Men staff, we also want to promote other individuals to facilitate gatherings. Who in your network would you recommend as an engaging leader who could attract folks to a day or weekend retreat? Are there ways we can work together to offer an event for men in your congregation or community? Are there ways we can collaborate as partners in ministry? Learn more [here](#).

If you're not familiar with the work of Mennonite Men, they offer three programs:

- **JoinHands** offers grants to new churches for their first building
- **JoinMen** provides resources and retreats for men
- **JoinTrees** coordinates the planting of a million trees as climate action

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Feb 20 (submissions due by 2/13)

Mar 6 (submissions due by 2/27)

Mar 20 (submissions due by 3/13)

Apr 3 (submissions due by 3/24)

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

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