



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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O Risen One, (A Resurrection Prayer for the Morning)

By Eric Massanari



O Risen One,
I arise this day and welcome
the light that awakens and
the breath that sustains.

Thank you for the restful darkness,
and for the healing dreamtime.
I pray that I will meet you this day,
and even more, that I will be
awake to each encounter.

May you roll back the stony barriers of
my fear, resistance and presumption.
May you illumine the shadowed tombs
of my blame, shame and guilt.
May I hear you when you lovingly
call me by my true names.
May I recognize you when you appear in
the guise of friend, stranger, and adversary.
May I sense you when I am quiet
and aware of my own heart.
May I taste you as I break the bread of life.

I arise this day and welcome the light that awakens and
the breath that sustains.

Amen.

A Health Update from Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

I want to thank all of you for your prayers and caring support over the last two weeks since my tumble down the steps in our Bellingham apartment. I have been with you for only a handful of months, yet you have responded with such love and care. Yolanda and I feel blessed! My initial concussion symptoms are relieved, and the specialist I met with last week determined that the fractures in my face and nose can be left to heal on their own. I'm grateful to avoid surgery! I am also just fine living with a nose that is a bit more crooked than before. These days I find myself feeling so much gratitude for life and breath, for a body that heals, and for the expansive, loving community that Yolanda and I have in our lives. I will also be much more careful getting up in the middle of the night! *In gratitude and peace, Eric*

An Update on PNMC District Pastors

Bob Buxman and **Merritt Welty** recently retired from their work as PNMC District Pastors. Bob has been serving as a district pastor for the Ministerios Restauración congregation in Portland. Merritt has been serving as the district pastor for churches in Idaho (Meridian Mennonite, Evergreen Heights Mennonite, Filer Mennonite, and First Mennonite in Aberdeen). We give thanks and celebrate the commitment and care that Bob and Merritt have given over the years to support healthy pastors and congregations in our conference. **Sylvia Shirk**, one of our current district pastors serving congregations in Washington, will be assuming the role of district pastor with Ministerios Restauración. We are seeking a new district pastor to serve the Idaho congregations. If you have questions or know of someone with gifts and potential interest in this district pastor position, please contact Eric Massanari, *Executive Conference Minister*.

From the PNMC Conference Moderator, Jack Swaim

Twice a year, leaders from PNMC and their counterparts from other area conferences and constituency groups gather. They meet for two reasons. One reason is to provide counsel, acting in their role as elders, to the MC USA executive board on various matters under consideration. This type of counsel helps the executive board listen to, and stay in closer touch with, the views of conferences and congregations across our denomination. A second reason for CLC meetings is to equip leaders—through worshiping together nurturing mutual relationships, and sharing helpful ideas that they can take back to their respective conferences.

In late March, Eric Massanari (PNMC Executive Conference Minister) and Jack Swaim (PNMC Moderator) participated in a three-day CLC meeting in San Antonio. Among other topics, the MC USA executive board asked for counsel on two proposals. One proposal was to give more operational flexibility to Everence and to Mennonite Health Services (MHS) as they carry out their ministries and serve their stakeholders. This proposal would make Everence and MHS ministry partners [as opposed to agencies]—more comparable to Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), both of which serve a broad range of Anabaptist churches and affinity groups.

A second proposal was to shift the timing of the MC USA delegate assembly from a two-year cycle to a three-year cycle. CLC participants gathered at round tables for dialogue and then summarized their feedback. All in all, CLC supported both proposals and offered suggestions for how to help them be effective. These proposals are in the discussion stage now; they are likely to be among the topics in the forthcoming July 2023 delegate assembly.

One special highlight was sharing challenges and signs of hope during an informal dinner among leaders of our three western conferences (Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, and Mountain States). The discussion was frank and vulnerable—and it reinforced our already strong relationships, sense of mutual trust, and willingness to help each other. Throughout the CLC gathering we benefited from many informal discussions with peers at table groups, during meals, and during breaks.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Mennonite Disaster Service, Oregon Unit

The MDS Oregon Unit Annual Meeting will be held **Saturday, April 22, 10AM - 2PM** at Calvary Mennonite Church in Aurora, OR. The guest speaker will be Glen Hillard, MDS Bi-National Finance Director. He will provide an overview of how finances work at the unit, region and bi-national levels, as well as on individual projects. He has also been asked to address topics such as grants and donations. Michele White Eagle, MDS Region 4 Regional Board Chair will be in attendance as well and will provide an update on what MDS is doing in our region. John Colvin will report on the local response to the 2020 Oregon Wildfire Recovery efforts in Clackamas County. A lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Clyde Hockman at agent1943@canby.com (503.592.4490).

Oregon Mennonite Relief Sale

Save the date! The Oregon Mennonite Relief Sale will be take place **Saturday, October 21, 2023** (a week later than previous years) at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany. Join us for a live auction of quilts, trips and experiences, tools, furniture, and more. The event also includes kids' activities, baked goods, hot breakfast, lunch, and all kinds of booths selling handmade goods, fabric & craft supplies, used books, and fair trade items. Proceeds support world relief through the work of Mennonite Central Committee. An online auction begins one week prior to the October 21 event. More details at oregonmccsale.org.

Iglesia Anabautista Ebenezer, Keizer, OR

We appreciate your generosity and we are grateful for the financial gifts and prayers from PNMC. This has been a very difficult time for our family. We appreciate the support you have shown our congregation during this time. We thank you in the love of Christ. –
Pastor Jesus Fuentes and Rosa Barragan and family

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

Mennonite Church USA

To read the latest news from Mennonite Church USA, follow [this link](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

May 1 (submissions due by 4/24)
May 15 (submissions due by 5/8)
June 5 (submissions due by 5/29)
June 19 (submissions due by 6/12)

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>
