



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. See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held at Portland Mennonite Church. We are eager to gather for face-to-face conversations, fellowship, worship, and time to build and be in community. All congregations are invited to take the opportunity to hear from one another; to share best practices with likeminded friends while gathering around the table for meals or connecting at breaks. There will be time for dialogue and connecting with conference leaders. It's a time to share thoughts, ask questions, to listen and be heard. We look forward to uniting together for worship and more.

About our guest 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 nonviolent 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 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 church members
- approaches to reading and study that bring the Bible alive with wisdom, not just words



2023 Annual Meeting Schedule:

Friday, June 23 - *open to pastors, district pastors, chaplains, and other credentialed persons.*

3:00 pm Malinda Berry on non-violent communication

6:00 pm Dinner for Pastors, Chaplains, Credentialed Leaders (& guests)

Sat., June 24 - *We welcome delegates and all interested persons.*

7:30 am First Time Delegate Breakfast and Orientation

8:30 am **Opening Worship & Congregational sharing** -- childcare for ages 0 – 4

Question for congregational sharing: In Ephesians 3 the Apostle Paul prays for those early Christians that "God may grant strength in your inner being with power through the Holy Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith as you are being rooted and grounded in love" (Eph. 3:17). *What is happening in the life of your congregation right now that is giving you strength in your inner being, and allowing you to remain rooted and grounded in Christ's love?*

10:00 am **Break**

10:30 am Tending the Life of the Conference (Delegate Session)

12:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00 pm Nonviolent Communication input from Malinda Berry

3:00 pm **Break**

3:30 pm Worship/Communion with Malinda Berry (adjourn at 5pm)

Sunday, June 25

9:30 am Join in worship at Portland Mennonite Church

2:00 pm Join in worship at Ministerios Restauración

"Naturally, it's meaningful for me to share ideas I'm passionate about with others, especially in denominational settings. But these are never one-way interactions — sitting in a virtual circle with folks who are in the front rows of church life in the stunning vastness of the PNW's hamlets, urban centers, and everything in between gave me the chance to listen and learn in a space where I was also tasked with talking and teaching. It's exciting to think about how nonviolent communication can enhance the work you all are doing: praying for clarity, celebrating growth and change, discerning next steps, grieving losses, resting and healing, and being church together.

In the weeks since the CCC as I reflect on that gathering, I have been reminded that one of the gifts of Anabaptist theology and spirituality in our time is our basic belief that through Jesus, God is making shalom (salvation, justice, & peace). When we join Jesus' mission to "catch and release people for the Kingdom," we affirm that no act of compassion and kindness is too small for God to notice and multiply (mustard seeds, yeast, sheep, coins...). So the next time you or I face something difficult, let's agree to open the gift of self-compassion. I can say from my own experience that God knows your size and color preferences, and it'll arrive faster than Amazon Prime." -Malinda Berry

We hope you will join us at Portland Mennonite in June where PMC and Ministerios Restauración will be our hosts.

Register online at www.pnmc.org. We hope to see you there!

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Camp CAMREC

The 2023 [Birds, Bikes & Blossoms](#) event is coming up **June 2-4**. Take advantage of this springtime opportunity to connect with community and Creation. Participants are invited to hike, forage, birdwatch, ride your bike, lounge in a hammock, play games or sports, work on a craft project, or just BE. Invite your family and friends of all ages! For those on bikes, this is a great way to explore the mountains, rivers, lakes, forests, and back roads in the Cascade foothills around Camrec. Experienced bikers will help individuals or groups map out routes of various levels. Whether participants are leisurely bike riders or more competitive, there will be several route options available! At 2500' elevation and plenty of hills to climb, Camp CAMREC is a great base camp to kick bike fitness into high gear in preparation for any planned summer rides/tours. Volunteers for camp medics, kitchen helpers, and craft leaders are needed. Click [volunteers](#) for more information. Register by May 31 at [this link](#). Suggested Fee (includes food and lodging): \$80 ages 12 & up, \$40 ages 5 - 11, Children 4 & under participate free. **If cost is a concern, please only give what you are able. If you would like to contribute more, that will help support CAMREC's future!*

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Grow your skills in offering spiritual direction with AMBS! With a focus on practice-based learning, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's [Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction](#) offers a curriculum and supervised program to prepare you to become a spiritual director or to strengthen the spiritual direction aspects of your ministry. Students can complete the 21-credit-hour certificate part time in two years, either fully online or with a combination of distance-friendly and campus-based courses.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is pleased to issue a call for proposals for the sixth gathering of [Rooted and Grounded: A Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship](#) to be held **September 28-30, 2023** (begins at 4:30 Thursday and ends at noon Saturday, with optional immersion experiences on Thursday afternoon). Building on the five conversations held since 2014, Rooted & Grounded 2023 will examine theological, biblical and pastoral care responses to climate doom. Rather than being stuck in despair, how do people of faith find ways to combine active engagement and deeply rooted hope? Current plans are to offer the conference in a hybrid format. Some elements will be available only to in-person participants and some will be available to participants joining via live stream. [View a PDF of the Call for Papers.](#)



MennoMedia

May is mental health awareness month. Check out titles from Herald Press such as *Not Quite Fine* by Carlene Hill Byron. There is no time in history and no place in the world where so many people have understood themselves to be suffering from mental health problems. There is also virtually no time and no place in the world where people who are suffering have been so readily ostracized.

In *Not Quite Fine*, Byron tackles the mounting dilemmas that pastors and churches face around mental health. Medicines and therapies have their roles in supporting those who live with mental health problems or mental illness. But God's own body as the church is intended to be our greatest support in this world. How can the church step up for such a time as this? How can the body of Christ become a healing community for its members in pain—a place where the weary find strength for the journey, a place where those who mourn are raised up as rebuilders of the cities left in ruins? Click [here](#) for more information.

Mennonite Church USA

Follow [this link](#) to read *PeaceMail*. Included in this issue is a blog entry by Oregon-author, Melanie Springer Mock who reflects on the challenges and rewards of releasing children into adulthood.

Visit the [Delegate Assembly 2023](#) resource page [here](#). Recently uploaded items include:

- Delegate Assembly Agenda
- Proposed Executive Board organizational resolutions, including proposed bylaw changes
- Delegate Assembly FAQ



Upcoming e-Bulletins:

June 5 (submissions due by 5/29)
June 19 (submissions due by 6/12)
July 17 (submissions due by 7/10)
Aug 7 (submissions due by 7/31)

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>