



29th Annual Meeting

DELEGATE HANDBOOK

June 23, 2023



Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA



PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE

JUNE 23-24, 2023

**PORTLAND MENNONITE CHURCH
MINISTERIOS RESTAURACION**

Rooted and Grounded in Love
Ephesians 3:14-21

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

3:00 pm Malinda Berry on the subject of non-violent communication

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

Saturday, June 24 -- open to all who would like to attend.

7:30 am First Time Delegate Breakfast and Orientation

8:30 am **Opening Worship & Sharing From Congregations** -- 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 sharing a devotional

5:00 pm **Adjourn**

Sunday, June 25

All are invited to join Portland Mennonite Church at 9:30a.m.
and/or La Iglesia Ministerios Restauración at 2:00pm for
worship.

Thank you!

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Welcome to Portland 2023

*“Rooted and Grounded in Love”
(Ephesians 3:14-21)*

Dear Delegates of the PNMC,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we welcome you to the 29th annual assembly in Portland, Oregon. Our hosts are Ministerios Restauración and Portland Mennonite Church (PMC). PMC has roots that started with the “Portland Mission” over 100 years ago. We are grateful these congregations are hosting our time of worship, fellowship, and discernment of God’s will together.

We are excited for all of you who are traveling from across our broad conference, eager to renew and begin relationships with one another. We have inherited the marvelous story about Jesus Christ’s life and resurrection that informs our identity as Christians, as well as our relationships with each other as sisters and brothers. For this very reason, our Board looks forward to our annual meeting each June, so that we might gain inspiration and courage as we walk together and tell stories about how we follow Jesus, witness to God’s peace, and experience transformation.

So come from east and west, from north and south, to share, sing, listen, learn, fellowship and love. This is our time to take our turn bearing witness to God’s unchanging nature of goodness, creativity, majesty and love. Read the reports contained herein that tell the stories of the wonderful work of our church agencies. Depart from our meeting refreshed and renewed, with stories to bring back to your congregation. May God be glorified during our time together!

Grace and peace,

Jack Swaim

PNMC Moderator

Executive Conference Minister Annual Report

Submitted by Eric Massanari – April 2023

*I pray that according to the riches of God's glory, you will be granted strength
in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell
in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.*

Ephesians 3:16-17

*There is no end to grace. And we are all instruments of grace.
The more we give it, the more we share it, the more we use it, the more God makes.
There is no scarcity of love. There is plenty, and always more.*

Rosemary Freeney Harding (1930-2004)

These are among my guiding words and intentions for my first year as the ECM of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. Paul's prayer has been my own as I pray for myself and for the leaders and congregations of PNMC, together with the wider Body of Christ. Rosemary Freeney Harding's words have become something of a mantra or breath prayer for me as we live through these times of great turbulence, change and emergence: *There is no scarcity of love. There is plenty. And always more...always more...*

I want to thank all of you for the warm hospitality and support you have shown, and for the commitments you make as disciples and congregations to give expression to Christ's enlivening, transforming love in the world. PNMC is a communion of congregations who are living out the Good News in such varied and vibrant ways.

Together we are living through a period of reformation in the life of the church in our local communities, in our nation, and around the world. This reformation is, in large part, the result of societal and cultural forces beyond our control. The Covid pandemic is only one piece of a much larger web of influences that leaves congregations, conferences and denominations wondering, "*Who are we now?*" And as we can readily see right now in our society, when fear becomes the ground of our response to that question, the church becomes something far removed from the gospel message of Jesus, with Christian nationalism, line-drawing religiosity, and the painful fracturing of the Body of Christ as stark examples.

I think it is safe to say that none of our congregations look the way we did a few years ago, or even one year ago. The changes feel dramatic. Our conference does not look the same. There have been losses within our community that need to be grieved, and new growing edges to be celebrated. Overall, I feel hopeful at this moment. Here are some of the efforts, commitments and highlights from my first seven months serving the PNMC community, and leaning into that hopefulness. I will categorize them under the four guiding intentions of our PNMC mission statement:

Promote spiritual development...

- ❖ Making regular contributions to *e-Bulletin* that promote spiritual formation and practice
- ❖ Wrote a Lenten/Easter reflection series for PNMC pastors/chaplains/credentialed leaders
- ❖ Regular support and care for PNMC pastoral leaders

Nurture healthy congregations...

- ❖ Currently assisting five PNMC congregations with pastoral transition processes
- ❖ Assisting congregations with discernment processes regarding their ongoing affiliation with PNMC and Mennonite Church USA
- ❖ Supporting pastoral leaders who are in transition periods (job transition, retirement, sabbaticals, parental leave)
- ❖ Supporting new church plants and their pastors. Note: It is exciting to share that in the next year we may be preparing to welcome Community of Hope (Bellingham, WA) and Iglesia Anabautista Ebenezer (Keizer, OR) into full membership in PNMC!
- ❖ Ongoing work with the Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) to tend to pastoral credentialing
- ❖ Healthy Congregation Grants awarded this past year to: (1) Shalom Church (Spokane, WA) to purchase Meeting Owl technology to enable better communication in their community, and (2) Zion Mennonite Church (Hubbard, OR) to provide Stephen Ministry training for a staff member

Make strong connections throughout the conference (and beyond)...

- ❖ During my first six months I have made in-person visits with pastors and/or congregation members from 18 of our PNMC congregations in Oregon and Washington. In addition I've met via zoom with pastors and/or congregational leaders from the majority of our congregations. I am looking forward to visits this summer to congregations in Idaho and Montana. And hopefully a trip to Alaska in 2024!
- ❖ Offering support and nurture for the PNMC District Pastors
- ❖ Regular attendance at MCUSA meetings: monthly conference minister meetings (Zoom), conference ministers annual retreat, and Constituency Leadership Council (CLC) meeting
- ❖ Seed Northwest Grant funds given to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society to help fund an installation of the "Voices of Conscience" exhibit (created by the Kauffman Museum in Newton, KS) that focuses on the Anabaptist peace witness during WWI.

Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world...

As I travel around the conference and meet with pastors, ministry leaders and congregations I am aware of how varied we are in our ways of expressing Christian community. It is remarkable and beautiful. And sometimes it holds tensions that we feel when we recognize our differences. If scripture is any indication, it has been this way ever since that unlikely group of disciples was first called together by Jesus and invited to "*Come and see!*"

We've been very intentional about selecting Dr. Malinda Berry to be our input person for our Conference Communications Council (CCC) meeting and our annual meeting this year. Malinda's focus on Nonviolent Communication (NVC) and the nurturing of empathic connections is grounded in scripture and Anabaptist theological distinctives—discipleship, community, peacebuilding—and she is helping us find nourishment in those roots in a way that will help us reorient and center ourselves more fully on the call of Christ's love for our common life together and for our ministry in the world.

*In Christ, there is no scarcity of love.
There is plenty, and always more.*

4/28/23

Board of Directors Report

Submitted by Jack Swaim, PNMC Board Moderator, Spring 2023

The role of the Board of Directors is to give leadership to and act on behalf of PNMC. This role is in the context of our shared vision to follow Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy, and peace...so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world. Directors are accountable to Member Congregations, who are the core organizational units of PNMC.

During the past year, the Board's primary focus has been on acting on behalf of the congregations who make up our conference. Here are some of the activities:

- A year ago, we shared that the Board had formed a search committee, working toward finding a new Executive Conference Minister. We are delighted that we found a mutually attractive match with Eric Massanari, who started his role as ECM last November 1st. On behalf of all our Member Congregations for whom he provides servant leadership, we extend a warm welcome to Eric and his spouse, Yolanda Kauffman, as they return to the Pacific Northwest.
- Also a year ago, we blessed Kevin Chupp as he anticipated a two-year term as Moderator. However, shortly thereafter, Kevin was called to pastor a congregation in Illinois. The Board asked a former Moderator, Jack Swaim, to finish out Kevin's first year starting October 1st. At the conclusion of this year's annual meeting, Moderator-Elect Chris Nord will become Moderator for a two-year term.
- In support of healthy congregations, in 2018 the Board set aside funds and created a process to award grants that would support congregational and other projects. Since then, about \$41,000 has been awarded for 24 different grants. In the past year alone, about \$6,000 has been awarded for four different grants. Board discussion continues regarding the balance needed in responsible use of funds for congregational needs, PNMC programs, and maintaining the future financial stability of PNMC. The Board values financial contributions from congregations and other donors, without which we would not have resources for staff (such as our ECM and others) and programs to provide pastoral and congregational support.
- The Board itself met four times (September, November, January, April) using Zoom to make best use of time and other resources. We begin our meetings with prayer and worship. We share information about developments within PNMC and across MC USA, and we review and adjust policies to stay current with changing times. In particular, after the MC USA delegate body retired the denominational Membership Guidelines, we realigned our policies to be congruent. In the spirit of transparency, we post board meeting minutes on our PNMC website (pnmc.org).
- Board members from PNMC participated in each of the meetings of church leaders from across the country. These meetings are held twice a year and provide an opportunity for networking with other conferences and constituencies—as well as the denominational staff and board—to share ideas and thus to influence denominational policies and direction.
- The Gift Discernment Team (Moderator, ECM, Moderator-Elect, and two non-board members—Rick Bollman and Jennifer Gingerich) located persons willing to serve and volunteer their time. The Board affirmed the resulting slate in the ballot for delegate consideration.
- The Board thanks departing Director Leonard Nolt for his four years of service.

The Board is grateful to our congregations for supporting congregational members to serve on the Board and to serve in many other ways through committees, teams, and related organizations. The Board also highly values the work done by PNMC staff to support and nurture congregations.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

DELEGATES: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

(March 2013)

WHO IS THE PNMC DELEGATE BODY?

1. Each PNMC member congregation is entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five of its members, or fraction thereof. (PNMC bylaws, Article III, 3, g)
2. All ordained or licensed ministers, whose ministerial credentials have been recognized by PNMC and who are considered active, with charge are entitled to be delegates. (PNMC Bylaws, Article III, 3, g)

WHO SHOULD CONGREGATIONS CHOOSE TO BE THEIR DELEGATES?

1. Congregations have the freedom to choose who will best represent their congregation in the PNMC delegate body.
2. Delegates should be members of the congregation they represent. Preferably, some of a congregation's delegates will bring a congregational leadership perspective having continuity with the congregation, understanding the range of views in the congregation and their own views respected within their congregation.
3. Delegates should hold to the vision and commitments of PNMC (Bylaws Article III, 2):
 - a. The vision and mission statements of Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
 - b. Common Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, as updated from time to time, as their “statement of faith for teaching and nurture in the life of the Church”
 - c. Commitment “to seek to understand and interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit in the Church”
 - d. Commitment to participate in discerning and living out statements of Christian faith and life made by Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
 - e. Commitment to participate in the life and mission of PNMC and Mennonite Church USA through delegate representation and financial support.

WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?

1. **Fulfill the role as defined in the PNMC bylaws:** (Article IV, 2):

Purpose: Delegates appointed by the Member Congregations have the authority to transact the business of PNMC, including but not limited to the following actions:

- a. Discuss and decide major issues of policy for PNMC, and discern the voice of the Spirit in the midst of the Member Meeting.
- b. Provide opportunity to speak to the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies.
- c. Receive reports from the Board, PNMC staff, teams and other conference activities. Reports shall be presented in writing and shall include financial accounting.

WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?, CONTINUED

d. Elect the following as needed:

- (1) Moderator Elect.
- (2) Board members to fill new terms and vacancies.
- (3) Secretary and Treasurer.
- (4) Gift Discernment Team members. This team identifies and recommends persons to the Board to fill elected positions which need to be affirmed by the delegates at the annual Member Meeting.
(There may also be other elections as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.)

2. Gathered Discernment:

PNMC is comprised solely of Mennonite congregations in the Pacific Northwest. These congregations meet in annual assembly the fourth weekend of June. The delegate body assembly is a forum for these congregations to talk together and to discern together the voice of the Holy Spirit. This forum helps the church move beyond its usual congregational ways of thinking and acting. Discernment happens as delegates together Dwell in the Word, meditate, pray, share, discuss and listen to one another. The value of this discernment is not realized primarily in formal actions. It is realized in the worship and dialogue itself as it informs, inspires and builds up our conference, denominational and congregational life.

3. Communication channel:

It is our intent that delegates help the conference stay focused on the value of PNMC to congregational life: 1. guiding through pastoral transitions; 2. helping plan for the future; 3. resourcing lay leaders; and 4. strengthening the ministry of pastors. This is accomplished by:

- a. Delegates represent their congregation's voice into the PNMC body. They receive PNMC staff and board reports and interact with the board and staff to provide counsel and direction.
- b. Delegates represent the PNMC body to their home congregations by relaying annual delegate session discussions.
- c. Throughout their term as delegate each provides a primary interaction service between PNMC staff and board and their home congregation. They may be sought for counsel or communication between the annual delegate sessions via email or snail mail.
- d. One congregational delegate shall serve on the Conference Communications Council.

THE DELEGATES' TERM OF SERVICE

In the fall of each year, the PNMC office will request a list of its delegates from each congregation. One of the delegates should represent the congregation, along with a pastor, at the winter Communications Council meeting. We hope that all the delegates shall represent the congregation at the summer annual assembly. Delegates shall serve in that role until a different list of delegates is requested the following fall.

2022 PNMC Delegate Session Minutes

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
June 18, 2022, Zion Mennonite Church – Hubbard Oregon
“Remembering/Re-membering (I Thessalonians 1:2-4)”

Roll Call and Delegate Session Minutes

The meeting was opened with prayer and reflection on Matthew 21:22 by Dianna Eshleman. The 2021 Zoom minutes were reviewed as printed. The motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried. Kiara Yoder led the roll call:

Roll Call

Albany Mennonite- (Albany, OR) Pastor Peter Epp reported that the Outreach commission is bringing new life to the congregation with various monthly activities. Albany is also working with the city of Albany in a small housing project.

Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva – (Salem, OR) Leader Misael Araujo reports they are still in love with God.

Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship – (Corvallis, OR) Gerry Langstraat reports they have been active with the Oregon MCC sale. They are happy to be resuming weekly potlucks!

Emmaus Christian Fellowship – (Meridian, ID) Rick Bollman reports working with the Document of Discovery led their group to support St Joseph School in Montana with school supplies. They have also continued to support MCC with school kits.

Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church – (Caldwell, ID) Pastor Kathy Bilderback states the congregation is discerning about having a housing project on their property.

Evergreen Mennonite – (Kirkland, WA) Pastor Sandy Larson reports having their first gathering as a picnic. They are working with a member on inclusivity discrimination in the workplace.

First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen – Pastor Kevin Chupp reported they will be holding a music event “Gospel on the Grass” for all Christian churches in the local area.

Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship – (Boise, ID) Ellen Hunt reports that the congregation has been continuing to meet as a hybrid church, working on inclusivity and the Doctrine of Discovery. They have been working to support the Corpus Christi shelter for the homeless.

Iglesia Menonita Roca de Salvación – (Aurora, OR) Pastor Victor Estrada reports involving the youth to work with the food bank in Canby along with Calvary Mennonite.

Jerusalem Iglesia Menonita - (Salem, OR) Pastor Angel Campo reports partnering with a church in Ensenada Mexico.

Menno Mennonite Church - (Ritzville, WA) Pastor Emily Toews reports having an active prayer quilt ministry and working with the Moses Lake homeless shelter. They also host the Washington MCC Auction the first weekend in October. All are invited.

Ministerios Restauración – (Portland, OR) Pastor Samuel Moran emphasized that to do good to all is the work of the church. During the Covid pandemic they supplied food for the elderly and many in their congregation. They are thankful to finally have open doors for worship.

Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church – (Canby, OR) Jerry Barkman reports that while a small group, they have helped support one member as they obtained their PhD.

Portland Mennonite Church – (Portland, OR) Pastor Curt Weaver reports they have been working with the youth and celebrate each of their graduating high school seniors with a quilt.

Salem Mennonite Church – (Salem, OR) Pastor Jerrell Williams was recently celebrated with an ordination service. The church will celebrate their 70th anniversary this year. They have been studying about Justice issues.

Seattle Mennonite Church- (Seattle, WA) Jennifer Delanty reported that recent discernment has led them to convert part of their campus into a development of 280 units of affordable housing. The Volunteer Service house

is being converted to a support house for Solidarity Network, a group working with black and indigenous people of color.

Shalom Church – (Spokane, WA) Jan Yoder reports that the group began meeting in person again on Easter. The group has a ministry to the elderly of their congregation. Supporting places of need is a great joy to this group.

Western Mennonite Church – (Salem, OR) Cheeri Barnhart reports that the congregation has been working on discernment for the future of the congregation, looking at what their calling may be. They have also been involved with immigration assistance.

Zion Mennonite Church – (Hubbard, OR) Pastor Jana Gingerich reports the congregation has worked with farm workers and the local health authorities to provide education and to bridge cultures during the Covid pandemic.

Church Plants:

Iglesia Anabautista Ebenezer – (Keizer, OR) Pastor Jesús Fuentes reports working with Evangelism through social media. They have connections with a church in Mexico and throughout the United States. The church does not have a building and has been meeting in homes. Approximately 60 attend services on social media.

Community of Hope Church – (Bellingham, WA) Pastor Rachael Weasley reported their church is growing on the Zoom platform. They are working to build a support group for LGBTQ pastors and parents of LGBTQ children.

Minutes of Delegate Sessions

Delegate Session 1 – 10:00 -12:00

An introduction was made of persons from the wider church organizations present. The PNMC Board members were introduced.

Reports

Executive Conference Minister – Katherine Jameson Pitts referenced her final written report and highlighted the goals of nurturing healthy congregations and to stay connected were met in a variety of ways. Eighteen grants in twenty-one congregations were supported through the PNMC Healthy Congregation Grants fund for various causes. Up to three thousand dollars per year per congregation is available to help congregations support their work. Some of the money was used to help send delegates to the MCUSA Special Delegate session this year. PNMC had 17 delegates representing 60% of our conference churches. Working with the Healthy Congregation Grants committee was a great joy for Katherine.

Katherine encouraged congregations to trust their search committees. During the past ten years there have been eighteen congregational transitions. Currently four interim pastors are serving in congregations. Anointing oil was distributed to those pastors who were unable to receive it in the past two years.

Currently 24 congregations are being served by district pastors. The district pastors were recognized for their role in this ministry. Since the inception of the District Pastor program, Brent Kauffman and Gary Jewell have served as District Pastors. They were given special recognition for their dedicated service. Thanks were given to the Boards and staff that Katherine has worked with.

Ordinations

Peter Epp, Albany Mennonite

Jerrell Williams, Salem Mennonite

Rachael Weasley, Community of Hope, Bellingham Washington

Stephen Obold- Eshleman, Portland Mennonite Church, Chaplaincy, Vancouver Washington

Treasurer's Report – Dave Hockman-Wert

Written reports were given as well as an overview. PNMC is on solid financial footing despite Covid and the downward spiral of investments. Less expenditures than budgeted attribute to the healthy report. Operating income for 2021-22 was short of budget due to no annual meeting income. Congregational giving was less than budgeted and expenses were greatly lowered due to less travel expense and no annual meeting expense. A net operating income of \$8600.00 was realized.

The Healthy Congregations Grant Fund was well used but still has plenty of funds.

A visual budgeting story was used for a better understanding of how funds are used. The pie chart for 2023 demonstrates the following breakdown:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Nurturing healthy congregations | 38.72% |
| Promote personal spiritual development | 9.20% |
| Make strong connections throughout conference | 42.36% |
| Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world | 9.72% |

Search Team – Kevin Chupp

The first step of this process was to look at the results of the information gathering process using the tool, “Assessing the Mission of PNMC.” This tool asked a number of questions to determine the purpose and process of PNMC. Out of this information a thorough job description was developed. The Search Team is in the process of looking at candidates with a strong slate for the first draft. Kevin acknowledged the Search Team members for their strong support and participation in the process.

Search Team Members are:

Kevin Chupp, PNMC moderator; Jerrell Williams, Sam Adams, Nelly Moran Ascencio, Rob Hanson, Kevin Hockman-Chupp and Jill Baker-Swiers. Attendees were asked to pray for the search team in the discernment moving forward with candidate interviews.

Moderator's Report – Dianna Eshleman

Dianna opened with verses 1-2 of Psalm 126. Our mouths were filled with laughter and songs of joy in being able to meet together again. She asked for prayers during the transition process and as we reflect on the outcomes of the Special Delegate session 2022. Dianna stated that the changes in the membership status do not change what individual congregations or conferences response may be. We all are accountable for our individual responses. We need to listen to each other and see what God is doing.

Ballot presentation

The Gifts Discernment team developed the ballot for the board and was presented to the delegates for voting.

Questions/Answers with Iris-De-Leon Hartshorn and Rachel Ringenberg Miller

Q: How can we nurture youth into ministry? A: This happens at home congregational level. Ask the youth to serve at a young age in many venues. Leading worship, serving on boards, leading music.

Q: How were people feeling on the losing side of the passed resolutions? (at Special delegate sessions)

A: People left with heaviness. The history of LGBTQ inclusion has spanned 20 years of debate. People participated in thoughtful dialogue with much discernment at the tables. MCUSA is just now processing the results. There have been no changes in how church polity happens. Churches are widening their tents to all. Churches will decide for their individual responses within conference.

Q: What is the impact of this decision (to dismiss membership guidelines) with other faiths?

A: Other churches were in observance – Church of the Brethren and MC Canada. The Brethren group were wanting to adopt the discernment process with round table discussions.

Q: How is MCUSA dealing with the rise in white nationalism in our country and congregations?

A: Start with the curricula of abolition studies available at the congregational level. Participate in the Peace and Justice programs. Partnership grants are available to churches.

Ballot Results

The following nominees were affirmed by delegate election:

Chris Nord – Moderator elect, 4 -year term (2 years moderator elect, 2 years as moderator)

Emily Toews – Board of Directors, 4 -year term

Rick Bollman – Gifts Discernment Team, 1 year term

Jennifer Gingerich – Gifts Discernment Team, 1 year term

The following nominees were affirmed by board appointment:

Kiara Yoder - Member at large, 2- year term

Julia Todd – Board Secretary – filling an unexpired term

Sam Adams – Pastoral Leadership Team, 4-year term (2nd term)

Harold Nussbaum – Finance Team, 1 year term

Jack Swaim - Finance Team, 2-year term

Workshops 1:00-3:00 pm

2nd Delegate Session 3:30 -4:15

The afternoon delegate session was a time to honor those departing the board. Departing members are: Dianna Eshleman, Jan Yoder, Nelly Moran-Ascencio.

New board members are Chris Nord, Emily Toews, Kiara Yoder and Julia Todd.

Announcements – Barb Buxman asked to have all updates for the directory reported to the PNMC office in a timely manner.

An invitation was made to the Annual meeting at Portland Mennonite Church June 23-24, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15

Closing worship and communion with Katherine Jameson Pitts and a farewell supper for Katherine closed the annual meeting time.

Submitted, Julia Todd, PNMC Secretary

Table Group Covenant

The Delegate Body of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Adapted from "Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective"
Article 16, Church Order and Unity

We gather as a part of the church of Jesus Christ, one body with many members, who by the work of the Holy Spirit are brought together into a dwelling place for God.

As God's people we gather, we are the church, a holy temple, a spiritual house, with Christ Jesus himself as our foundation.

We recognize the need to consult together in order to maintain unity on important matters of faith and life. Love and unity in the church are a witness to the world of God's love.

In our deliberations and decision-making we covenant with each other to listen and speak in a spirit of prayerful openness and with the Scriptures as the constant guide. In humility we are open to both give and receive counsel. We know that discernment will include points of agreement and of disagreement, words of affirmation and of dissent. In our discernment we are prepared to wait patiently as we seek a word from the Lord leading toward consensus rather than make hasty decisions.*

We rejoice in the multiplicity of people, gifts, ideas, and opinions that are present in this gathering of the delegate assembly of the Pacific Northwest Conference.

We covenant together:

- to assume the best intentions of all persons who participate at this table and this assembly.
- to pray for one another and the Conference leaders.
- to be patient and kind.
- to speak honestly and directly.
- to practice humility and be willing to change or be corrected.
- to listen actively and carefully.
- to respect the views of those who may not agree with the majority.
- to respect the wisdom of the greater assembly and of those at our assigned tables.

(Table leaders may lead their table in prayer.)

** Consensus means that the delegate body has listened carefully to all voices, majority and minority together, and sought the unity of the Spirit. Consensus is reached when the delegate body has come to a common mind on a matter, or when those who dissent have indicated a readiness to accept a group decision. Consensus does not necessarily mean complete unanimity.*

Treasurer's Report / Financial Reports

PNMC Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year Ending 2023

Is Covid over? While its official emergency status in the U.S. “expired” recently, the effects will likely continue for some time. If your congregations are anything like mine, “quiet quitting” has probably made an appearance.

To that end, I am grateful for all of you who are reading this report, for you are showing by your example that working together is valuable, finding common ground is worth striving for, and connecting across boundaries might just salvage the humanity that is lost when our heads are bowed to our “smart” phones.

I am thankful for your congregations for continuing to faithfully give to this group of member congregations who make up the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. We only succeed as a conference by continuing to work together. PNMC is truly nothing without all of you.

Given the myriad of financial challenges that face every household and congregation, it amazed me that our total congregational giving this past fiscal year reached 97% of budgeted projections. Knowing that some of your congregations have to “tighten your belts” (including reducing your giving to PNMC), this may be a challenging year, especially now that we have a wonderful new full-time Executive Conference Minister again, in Eric Massanari. But given our financial reserves, we will be okay.

Since the stock market ended its incessant run in 2022, it has been swinging up and down (a little more down than up), and the PNMC investment fund has been swinging along with it. The balance as of February 28, 2023, was \$1,120,000, down about \$100,000 from last year.

For those of you who prefer credit unions over banks (like me!), you will be happy to hear that we are moving our checking and money market accounts to Everence Federal Credit Union from US Bank. (If you want to know why credit unions are better than banks, ask me.)

Overall, our actual operating income in FY 2022-23 exceeded our budgeted income by \$9,400. Actual congregational giving was only \$3,400 less than budgeted. Expenses were \$18,200 less than budgeted, leading to a net operating income of about \$27,700 (compared to a budgeted loss of \$400). Overall, we continue to be in very good financial shape as a conference.

Submitted by PNMC Treasurer, Dave Hockman-Wert

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2023 budget - FY23 P&L
February 2022 - January 2023

| | Actual | Budget | Total over Budget | % of Budget |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Income | | | | |
| 4101 Member Church Contributions | | | 0.00 | |
| 410101 Albany | 10,000.00 | 9,500.00 | 500.00 | 105.26% |
| 410104 Centro Cristiano Pentecostas | | 100.00 | -100.00 | 0.00% |
| 410105 Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva | | 100.00 | -100.00 | 0.00% |
| 410106 Corvallis | 3,200.00 | 3,200.00 | 0.00 | 100.00% |
| 410108 Emmaus | 350.00 | 350.00 | 0.00 | 100.00% |
| 410109 Eugene | | 1,000.00 | -1,000.00 | 0.00% |
| 410110 Evergreen | 2,325.00 | 2,000.00 | 325.00 | 116.25% |
| 410112 Evergreen Heights | 2,800.00 | 1,600.00 | 1,200.00 | 175.00% |
| 410114 Filer | | 4,000.00 | -4,000.00 | 0.00% |
| 410118 First - Aberdeen | | 3,500.00 | -3,500.00 | 0.00% |
| 410120 First - McMinnville | | 100.00 | -100.00 | 0.00% |
| 410122 Hyde Park | 8,368.75 | 6,500.00 | 1,868.75 | 128.75% |
| 410126 Iglesia Men. Roca De Salvacion | | 100.00 | -100.00 | 0.00% |
| 410128 Jerusalem Iglesia | | 100.00 | -100.00 | 0.00% |
| 410133 Menno | 10,328.36 | 7,500.00 | 2,828.36 | 137.71% |
| 410134 Ministerios Restauracion | | 100.00 | -100.00 | 0.00% |
| 410135 Mountain View | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 | 0.00 | 100.00% |
| 410137 Pacific Covenant | 150.00 | 150.00 | 0.00 | 100.00% |
| 410142 Portland | 21,150.00 | 22,000.00 | -850.00 | 96.14% |
| 410143 Prince of Peace (AK) | 4,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 200.00% |
| 410146 Bend Mennonite Church | | 100.00 | -100.00 | 0.00% |
| 410150 Salem | 7,868.00 | 10,000.00 | -2,132.00 | 78.68% |
| 410152 Seattle | 15,560.00 | 15,000.00 | 560.00 | 103.73% |
| 410154 Shalom | 770.00 | 750.00 | 20.00 | 102.67% |
| 410162 Western | 1,000.00 | 1,500.00 | -500.00 | 66.67% |
| 410164 Zion | 17,500.00 | 17,500.00 | 0.00 | 100.00% |
| Total 4101 Member Church Contributions | \$ 109,870.11 | \$ 113,250.00 | -\$ 3,379.89 | 97.02% |
| 4200 Other Contributions | | | | |
| 4206 Contributions-Individuals | 3,326.50 | 2,500.00 | 826.50 | 133.06% |
| 4208 Affiliated Mennonite Groups | 4,200.00 | 500.00 | 3,700.00 | 840.00% |
| 4210 Contributions-Others | 2,300.00 | | 2,300.00 | |
| Total 4200 Other Contributions | \$ 9,826.50 | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 6,826.50 | 327.55% |
| 4400 Annual Meeting Income | | | | |
| 4401 Registration, Housing, Meals | 4,041.00 | 10,000.00 | -5,959.00 | 40.41% |
| 4403 Offerings-Annual Meeting | 1,061.00 | 1,000.00 | 61.00 | 106.10% |
| 4404 Pastor Dinner Contributions | 1,600.00 | 1,000.00 | 600.00 | 160.00% |
| 4408 Other Income-Annual Meeting | 100.00 | 250.00 | -150.00 | 40.00% |
| Total 4400 Annual Meeting Income | \$ 6,802.00 | \$ 12,250.00 | -\$ 5,448.00 | 55.53% |
| 4700 Interest/Dividend Income | | | 0.00 | |
| 4701 Checking/Bank MM Interest | 1.37 | 50.00 | -48.63 | 2.74% |
| Total 4700 Interest/Dividend Income | \$ 1.37 | \$ 50.00 | -\$ 48.63 | 2.74% |
| 4800 Investment Gains/Losses | | | 0.00 | |
| 4804 Investment Fund Income | 51,487.77 | 40,000.00 | 11,487.77 | 128.72% |
| Total 4800 Investment Gains/Losses | \$ 51,487.77 | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 11,487.77 | 128.72% |
| Total Income | \$ 177,987.75 | \$ 168,550.00 | \$ 9,437.75 | 105.60% |
| Gross Profit | \$ 177,987.75 | \$ 168,550.00 | \$ 9,437.75 | 105.60% |
| Expenses | | | | |

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Balance Sheet As of January 31, 2023

| | TOTAL | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | AS OF JAN 31, 2023 | AS OF JAN 31, 2022 (PY) | CHANGE | % CHANGE |
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Bank Accounts | | | | |
| 110201 Checking Account (US Bank) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 110202 General Fund Checking (US Bank) | 30,522.74 | 41,336.06 | -10,813.32 | -26.16 % |
| Total 110201 Checking Account (US Bank) | 30,522.74 | 41,336.06 | -10,813.32 | -26.16 % |
| 110205 US Bank MM | 15,458.86 | 15,457.49 | 1.37 | 0.01 % |
| 110206 Everence MM | 75,273.84 | 75,273.84 | 0.00 | 0.00 % |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$121,255.44 | \$132,067.39 | \$ -10,811.95 | -8.19 % |
| Total Current Assets | \$121,255.44 | \$132,067.39 | \$ -10,811.95 | -8.19 % |
| Fixed Assets | | | | |
| 120100 Office Equipment | | | | |
| 120101 Purchased Costs | 224.98 | 224.98 | 0.00 | 0.00 % |
| Total 120100 Office Equipment | 224.98 | 224.98 | 0.00 | 0.00 % |
| Total Fixed Assets | \$224.98 | \$224.98 | \$0.00 | 0.00 % |
| Other Assets | | | | |
| 110600 Endowment Funds | 1,120,805.45 | 1,259,225.07 | -138,419.62 | -10.99 % |
| Total Other Assets | \$1,120,805.45 | \$1,259,225.07 | \$ -138,419.62 | -10.99 % |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$1,242,285.87 | \$1,391,517.44 | \$ -149,231.57 | -10.72 % |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | | | |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Other Current Liabilities | | | | |
| 200105 Mexico Project Fund | 11,769.12 | 13,789.12 | -2,020.00 | -14.65 % |
| 210000 Payroll Liabilities | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 210005 403(b) Salary Reduction | 280.00 | 0.00 | 280.00 | |
| 2102 Federal Withholding | 2,044.21 | 1,989.98 | 54.23 | 2.73 % |
| 2104 State Withholding (OR) | -354.72 | 494.03 | -848.75 | -171.80 % |
| 210401 Oregon Unempl | 1.38 | 4.92 | -3.54 | -71.95 % |
| Total 210000 Payroll Liabilities | 1,970.87 | 2,488.93 | -518.06 | -20.81 % |
| 211112 Payroll Tax Payable | 40.62 | -8.47 | 49.09 | 579.57 % |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | \$13,780.61 | \$16,269.58 | \$ -2,488.97 | -15.30 % |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$13,780.61 | \$16,269.58 | \$ -2,488.97 | -15.30 % |
| Total Liabilities | \$13,780.61 | \$16,269.58 | \$ -2,488.97 | -15.30 % |
| Equity | | | | |
| 320700 Loan Funds | | | | |
| 320702 Memorial Loan Fund (Equipment) | 1,015.61 | 2,290.36 | -1,274.75 | -55.66 % |
| Total 320700 Loan Funds | 1,015.61 | 2,290.36 | -1,274.75 | -55.66 % |

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2023

| | TOTAL | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | AS OF JAN 31, 2023 | AS OF JAN 31, 2022 (PY) | CHANGE | % CHANGE |
| 320800 Ministry Funds | | | | |
| 320801 Seed Northwest | 71,381.83 | 74,381.83 | -3,000.00 | -4.03 % |
| 320805 PNMC Mennonite Women | 253.00 | 253.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 % |
| 320808 Healthy Congregations Grant Fund | 24,041.11 | 27,728.61 | -3,687.50 | -13.30 % |
| Total 320800 Ministry Funds | 95,675.94 | 102,363.44 | -6,687.50 | -6.53 % |
| 34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds | | | | |
| 34002 Sharing Fund - Catastrophe | 4,990.49 | 4,990.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 % |
| Total 34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds | 4,990.49 | 4,990.49 | 0.00 | 0.00 % |
| 3500 Net Assets Available | 709,578.43 | 709,578.43 | 0.00 | 0.00 % |
| 3900 Retained Earnings | 556,025.14 | 440,209.60 | 115,815.54 | 26.31 % |
| Net Income | -138,780.35 | 115,815.54 | -254,595.89 | -219.83 % |
| Total Equity | \$1,228,505.26 | \$1,375,247.86 | \$ -146,742.60 | -10.67 % |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$1,242,285.87 | \$1,391,517.44 | \$ -149,231.57 | -10.72 % |

2023 Ballot Bios

NOMINEES FOR AFFIRMATION BY DELEGATES:

Karla Morton – Meridian, ID – Moderator Elect: 2-year term, then Moderator for 2 additional years

I was born in Tucson, Arizona and have lived around the country in many different states! My parents didn't really take me to church on a regular basis and a life of faith wasn't a part of my early years. I am grateful that many members of my extended family nurtured my faith. While in high school in Phoenix, AZ, I attended Young Life and through that ministry I began to follow Jesus. As a student at Northern Arizona University I sensed God's call on my life thinking that I would work in youth ministry.

I married Craig Morton and we raised 4 children – Ian, Jessie, Meg, and Nathan and have two grandchildren. Craig, too, was called to ministry and we moved to Philadelphia where we began our journey in the Mennonite tradition by attending Germantown Mennonite Church. While there, I was able to participate in classes for seminarians' spouses and took a class with Ron Sider. We returned to Arizona after Craig finished seminary and he began to look for pastorates. We began in ministry at Zion Mennonite in Elbing, KS. During our time there I was able to attend Friends University for my Masters in Christian Ministry. I was fortunate to study under Richard Foster and gain a deeper understanding of Spiritual Formation. While in the Western District Conference I served on the Peace and Justice Committee. Later, while in Franconia Conference (now Mosaic Conference) I served on conference committees as well. Craig and I accepted a call as Church Planters for Emmaus Mennonite Church in Meridian, ID in 1998 and have been serving here for almost 25 years. Currently, I am bi-vocational as a public school teacher and co-pastor of Meridian Mennonite Church (our new name). While here in the PNMC I have served on the Evangelism Committee, served as camp pastor at Drift Creek, worked as a board member for the Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival, and have had other opportunities to serve the broader church in different ways. I am honored and humbled to be called as the Moderator-Elect and look forward to serving the PNMC and our congregations in this role.

Gary Jewell –Spokane, WA – Board of Directors: 4-year term

I live in Spokane, Washington. I am married to Jan Yoder and we have two adult children. I am 64 years old. I am a member of Shalom Church in Spokane, WA. I have been an ordained pastor in the PNMC since 1995. Most of my pastoral work over the past thirty years has been either part-time and/or interim ministry. I have served mostly within MC USA churches though I have also served in United Church of Christ. Currently I am interim pastor at Community Congregational United Church of Christ in Pullman, WA. I am currently serving on the board for Camp Camrec, though I expect to come off of that board soon. I've served as camp pastor at both Camp Camrec and Drift Creek Camp. I am also a district pastor in the PNMC.

Having worked within a number of PNMC congregations, I have a pretty good sense of the challenges faced by many of our churches. I am aware of much of the good work being done within our conference.

David Hockman-Wert – Corvallis, OR – Treasurer: 3-year term

Dave is a member of Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship and, like all CMFers, has taken on many roles to help the fellowship function (song leading, worship leading, preaching, worship committee, pastoral team, and delegate). He works as a biological information specialist for the U.S. Forest Service, Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program. He has served on the PNMC board on three different occasions (1997-99; 2006-10; 2014-15), including one term as Moderator (2008-10). Dave also serves on the Mennonite Creation Care Network leadership council (2006-present) and served as Treasurer with the Peace and Justice Support Network (PJSN) Advisory Council (2012-2018). Dave began serving on the Drift Creek Camp Board of Directors in 2022. He has two cats, Lenny & Squiggy. Last, but definitely most important, Dave has been married to Cathleen for 27 years.

Rick Bollman – Meridian, ID – Gift Discernment Team: 1-year term

Rick is a retired elementary school principal and director for Corpus Christi Homeless Shelter in Boise, ID. He and his wife, Marj, have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Rick is a member at Meridian Mennonite Church and is the current chairperson for the Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival. He has served on the PNMC Board, Pastoral Leadership, Peace and Justice and Gifts Discernment Committees in the past. Rick continues to be involved with ministries to the homeless and supports a former death row inmate. He enjoys outdoor sports and traveling. Rick says "I believe that participating in the PNMC brings joy, hope and peace to our lives. It helps to fulfill a greater calling as Anabaptists and followers of Jesus as we connect and stand together with a larger faith community. I believe that working together brings God's love to others."

Gloria Nussbaum – Portland, OR – Gift Discernment Team: 1-year term

I was born Gloria Hope Yoder in Buffalo, NY. I attended Clarence Center Mennonite Church until my father was called to be the pastor at Arcade Mennonite Church in Arcade, NY when I was 5 years old. During my last years of high school, our church disbanded and our family attended a UCC Congregational Church. I attended Goshen College where I earned a BA in English. Some years later I moved to Phoenix, AZ where I joined Trinity Mennonite Church and later Koinonia (Mennonite) Fellowship in Chandler where I met and later married my husband, Harold Nussbaum.

From 1984-86 we volunteered with MCC in Miami, Florida where we were part of a struggling Mennonite congregation. After Miami, we moved to Akron, PA where I worked as the administrative assistant in the Africa Dept at MCC. I was also an active member of Akron Mennonite Church where I served on the Pastoral Team. In April 1998 we moved to Beaverton, OR to be closer to our daughter and grandchildren and soon joined Portland Mennonite where I have been an Elder and on various committees over the years. I've also often been a delegate to PNMC. I'm the secretary of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society. In 2001 I started my own personal history business, Real to Reel, recording personal stories. My walk with Jesus is a critical part of my daily life.

Appointments by the PNMC Board of Directors:

Jennifer Gingerich – Salem, OR – Pastoral Leadership Term: 4-year term

Jennifer Lyn Gingerich (she/her/hers) lives in Salem, OR with her spouse, Paul Boers, and has been part of Salem Mennonite Church since January 2005. She grew up at Zion (Hubbard) Mennonite and has been involved in attending PNMC events since she was a young child, providing her with connections throughout the conference. Jennifer also attended Drift Creek Camp while growing up and was eventually on staff there many summers. Jennifer is a 2002 graduate of Goshen College and a 2012 graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She works as a Board Certified Chaplain at Salem Hospital in Salem, OR. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her spouse and cats, knitting, listening to audio books, playing games, and spending time with her siblings.

Kathy Bilderback – Caldwell, ID – Finance Team: 2-year term

I'm looking forward to working with the Finance Team of PNMC. I have had a bi-vocational career combining pastor leadership with office management. Currently, I am serving part-time as pastor at Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church in Caldwell, ID while also sharing gifts of bookkeeping and business management as the Business Administrator at the large, downtown Presbyterian Church in Boise. In both capacities, I enjoy sharing a faith journey within the church where community is best lived out toward the peaceable kingdom of God. As Business Administrator I manage the investments and funds while working side-by-side with committees and church staff. I have over 30 years of experience as bookkeeper. I'm married to my lifelong best friend and enjoy the dynamic fun-filled lives of our two adult sons. Thanks for inviting me to serve the PNMC in this capacity.

TEAM / MINISTRY REPORTS

Pastoral Leadership Team

Submitted by Amy Epp, PLT Chair

"Every Christian is called and gifted for ministry, in the church and in the world, through baptism. For some, this ministry takes the form of church leadership, a called commitment to the creative work of building up the body of Christ and witnessing to God's love in the world. Church leaders are empowered by the Spirit and the church, and are accountable to God and their faith community, who support and bless their ministry."

Mennonite Hymnal and Song Committee
Voices Together, 964

The primary work of the Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) is the credentialing of a particular group of leaders: our pastors, church planters, chaplains and other specialized ministries in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC). We also invite these leaders into relationships of mutual accountability for ethical enactment of their ministries. PLT was grateful to welcome Eric Massanari as our Executive Conference Minister, allowing us to gather again to do this meaningful work after a gap of months during the interim period after Katherine Jameson Pitts' departure.

In the past year since PLT has licensed one pastor toward ordination: Kristin Swartley of Portland Mennonite Church, on February 14, 2023.

The other significant work of PLT over the past year has risen from the 2022 decision by delegates of Mennonite Church USA to affirm the [Resolution for Repentance and Transformation](#). In that spirit of repentance and transformation, PLT has been discerning a response to pastors whose credentials we have held, and who have been disciplined or sanctioned by PLT when they have officiated weddings for LGBTQ+ couples in their care, or who have experienced harm because of their identity or their open expression of welcome to LGBTQ+ people.

One part of our response has been to request the ministerial leadership office of MCUSA to restore credentials that have been tagged 'at variance.' We have also written to each of these pastors acknowledging harm and inviting storytelling. A statement to all PNMC members is forthcoming, along with a similar invitation to storytelling where that would lead to greater openness and healing.

In the past year, there has been no turnover in membership of PLT. Rob Hanson of Hyde Park Mennonite Church in Boise, Sam Adams of Bend Mennonite Church, Angel Campo of Jerusalem Iglesia Menonita in Salem, Rod Stafford of Portland Mennonite Church and Amy Epp (chair) of Seattle Mennonite Church, all continued their terms. Eric Massanari sits on the Team as PNMC Executive Conference Minister. And we are very grateful for Barb Buxman's outstanding work as recorder. Thank you for trusting us with the care and credentialing of your leaders and pastors.

PNMC AREA ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Drift Creek Camp

Submitted by Brenda Hostetler Kauffman, May 2023

Drift Creek was able to conduct programs “as normal” with no Covid-19 restrictions. However, in hindsight, it seems that more restrictions could have prevented a whole lot of headaches! Nearly the entire staff ended up getting Covid over the course of five weeks, often leaving cabins short-staffed. The lodge’s second floor became the quarantine zone for folks. Several campers, especially high school students, either had to end their camp week early and return home because they tested positively or some campers were unable to attend at all. It was a frustrating season with a disappointing outcome....Though by the last week, pretty much everyone was well and camp operations were mostly normal for third and fourth grades.

In September we welcomed 4 SOOP volunteers from Pennsylvania who served as

In November, after several delays and Annual Meetings held on Zoom, DCC was finally able to celebrate its 60-ish Anniversary with the first in-person members’ meeting since 2019. The crowd was small, but it was a joyful occasion to be together in person once again.

The Spring of 2023 will be one that will be remembered for years to come! Initially, the season was looking to be quite busy with multiple outdoor education programs scheduled through a partnership with Straub Outdoors of Salem. Straub had five schools scheduled for spring ODS (outdoor school) programs. But when snow began falling on February 21, everything changed! The first morning was filled with wonder seeing the lodge draped in a thick white blanket of snow. The trees at camp were gorgeous and festive with their new winter coats....but when camp staff attempted to check the road and found countless trees down just between the lodge and the bridge, we realized that we might be looking at bigger challenges than first anticipated.

There happened to be a small group of middle school students who had come to DCC to complete 8 hours of service work. While it was unfortunate for them to get stuck, hindsight helped us realize that it was really a blessing as it meant that there were more hands on deck to help clear the road. A call went out for folks to help clear from the Lincoln City side and Dennis Kauffman graciously hauled out his tractor. He plowed for three long days while the staff and volunteers continued to chip away at tree removal. In the wee hours of the 9th day, the staff was finally able to get out. However, the snow really did not melt until well into April! There were likely hundreds of trees down along the road. The ice and snow banks were too much for most groups to maneuver. In the end, a total of 9 groups had to cancel their reservations, including the majority of outdoor school programs, which felt like a gut-punch in addition to all the extra work required to clear the road. But the good news is that the road looks great now! The on-site staff worked really hard clearing the road and cleaning up after the storm.

These days things are in full-swing preparing for summer programs. We are grateful for the volunteers who make camp possible! Every pastor, cook, nurse, crafts leader, teen volunteer and cabin counselor make summer programs rich and rewarding and we could not do it without each one of you!

We ask for prayers and your partnership to sustain DCC for generations to come!

Mennonite Village
June 2023
Submitted by Diane Hood
Executive Director

Mennonite Village continues to be a major provider of housing, health care services and employment in the greater Albany area. We weathered the pandemic, continually responding to the changing regulations and needs of our community. Currently more than 550 residents are served in all the collective levels of care and over 300 employees are employed by this organization.

Independent Living - In 2022, Mennonite Village welcomed 52 new residents into independent living in the Village. The average age for these residents was 76.7 years. The average age for all residents in independent living is 80.7 years. Currently there are 152 individuals or couples on the wait list to move into Mennonite Village.

75th Anniversary – We held a three-day event on July 29-31, 2022 to celebrate our 75 years of providing loving care for elders. We honored our past with a history display, music concerts, and a worship service. We also invited people to walk through our community garden and view an outdoor quilt show featuring historic and contemporary quilts loaned to us by members of the Mennonite churches of the Willamette Valley. Several of the quilts had direct ties to the founders and visionaries of the original Mennonite Home for the Aged.

Chaplaincy – Rev. Tim Weible joined Mennonite Village in the fall of 2022. Chaplain Tim is providing spiritual support to residents and staff on campus. We are happy that he is able to lead worship services in our care areas as well as in-person Sunday morning services that are open to all campus residents. We are grateful for volunteers who help make this possible.

Wellness Programming – With the lifting of COVID restrictions, the Wellness department has been able to bring back programming at pre-pandemic levels. Demand for exercise classes, both land-based and in the pool, remains strong. Mennonite Village provides meeting space for caregiver and grief support groups, in addition to bringing in speakers to share information on a wide variety of wellness related topics.

Heritage Day – Join us on Friday, July 21, 2023 for our annual summer party. Formerly known as “Older American’s Day,” Heritage Day will feature a farmer’s market, live music, and food trucks from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Then in the evening we will host a free BBQ dinner followed by an evening concert featuring The Bylines, a jazz ensemble from Seattle, Washington.

A heartfelt thank you to the Pacific Northwest Conference and local congregations as Mennonite Village continues to be enhanced by your volunteerism, thoughtful prayers and other ways that you share your time and talents with us. All of the support helps, as we strive to live out our mission “To be a Christ-centered community providing life-enriching services.”



OREGON MENNONITE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, INC.

OFFICE

325 SW Elmwood
McMinnville, OR 97128

Phone: 503-474-1213
Email: Loralei@omrs-dd.org

March 2023

Our mission: Guided by Jesus' example of love and compassion, OMRS supports individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities so that all - employees and people served - are treated with dignity and respect, feel a sense of belonging, see their abilities valued, and experience personal growth.

Oregon Mennonite Residential Services opened its first two group homes in 1986. OMRS now operates 14 homes with a 15th opening later this year. We provide 24-hour staffing support to 56 adults who experience intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD). Eleven of these homes are in McMinnville, and three are located in Albany.

Like the rest of the world, many of our usual routines shifted during the pandemic and staffing shortages of the last two years. We always knew the people of OMRS, staff and residents, were incredibly resilient and creative, but, the demands of the pandemic emphasized this! I am happy to say our staffing has stabilized and we are looking to the future.

Prior to the pandemic, many of the individuals we support attended Day Services Activities (DSA) operated by other providers in our areas. Unfortunately, capacity for this service has not recovered. Many of the individuals we serve are now spending more time at home. OMRS hopes to establish a DSA program, with an emphasis on creating an atmosphere where true community inclusion exists for those we serve and others in our area. If you are curious how you might support inclusion for people who experience IDD in your communities, congregations, and other places you go, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. The answer will likely be along the lines of "don't be afraid to relate", "share common interests and hobbies", "make reasonable accommodations for accessibility, sensory needs, and communication".

OMRS employees say there is something special about OMRS in the way we all support and accept one another. They also say the gifts the residents share with them are far more valuable than anything they give as a support provider. Our mission is hard at work!!

OMRS is grateful to the caring congregations and individuals of PNMC. We appreciate the various ways in which you show your support. We hope you feel free to contact us should you be aware of a situation in which we might be helpful. Blessings to you and yours.



Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

6030 South Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard OR 97032-9406

Web: pnmhs.org

Ph: (503) 266-6447

Email: pnmhs.volunteer@gmail.com

Preserving the past to illuminate the future

Submitted by Lin Rush, PNMHS Board Chair

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society board took action this past year to honor Hope Lind for her efforts in helping form the Historical Society. In the role as conference historian in the 80's, she tested a vision for a local historical society at a meeting she called of 14 persons who met on November 7, 1987. As a result of the meeting, the conference approved the formation of the Oregon Mennonite Historical & Genealogical Society. OMHGS was later re-named Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society. Hope served as the Society's first president. In her honor, we have named our library area, the "Hope Lind Library."

The board made the commitment to bring a traveling exhibit called Voices of Conscience (VOC) to Oregon from July 28, 2023 to September 24, 2023. It captures stories of conscientious objectors during World War 1 and was created by the Kauffman Museum at Bethel College in Kansas. The VOC exhibit will be hosted at the Lewis & Clark College Watzek library. We hope that many of you will take advantage of the opportunity to see this award winning display while it is here in Oregon. More information can be found at PNMHS.org.

The center was open each Wednesday throughout the year and served a number of visitors. Some of the items accessioned and archived are: Collections from Dave Stutzman, John Willems, and Pat Hershberger, all of whom had extensive involvement with conference activities. We also processed PNMC materials.

Our volunteers, with the help of Ivan Snyder, categorized and organized several boxes of German books donated by Clarence & Berdena West and Urie Kenagy. A list of these and other German books in our collection can be found at www.pnmhs.org/german-collection/

We appreciate the support of our donors, including several congregations. Our work would not be possible without your ongoing and faithful support. We invite your regular support of our mission to preserve the history of Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest and especially to make a donation in support of the VOC exhibit. We encourage your congregation to include us in your budget as well.

We have received several requests this year to accept and display Mennonite related historical and cultural artifacts at the archives. The current facility was not built to accommodate such items. We have committed to begin a discussion around the interest and desire for a museum type display facility at our location. If you have interest in this, please contact any of our board members.

The archive seeks to preserve the stories of Anabaptist Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest. We provide safe, secure and climate-controlled storage for congregational and personal records related to everyday Mennonite life. Attics, garages and closets are poor places for such records, so if you hold some, consider bringing them to the center for safekeeping.

Our work is possible due to the work of our dedicated volunteers, John Gingerich, Shirley Martin, Carolyn Gingerich, Lynn Miller, Beth Diener, Steve Turner, and Carol Shank. This past year they donated over 1,400 hours to the society.

The archive is open every Wednesday. We invite you to visit us between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Board: Lin Rush, Rod Fretz, Jerry Barkman, Gloria Nussbaum, Jay Beaman, Pat Hershberger, John Goertzen, Carol Shank.

PNMC CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES:

Albany Mennonite Church, Albany, OR: Coming out of the heart of the COVID-19 pandemic, a congregation-widen discernment workshop helped us to recognize where we have experienced being rooted and grounded in the love of Christ and how we can grow that. The workshop helped us to identify that amidst all of the pandemic's grief and loss, we have also received an incredible gift from the God. We have received the gift of experiencing and offering connection, which helped us to not only hold steady through the pandemic, but to grow and thrive. We have come to identify with the Psalmist, who, having sought refuge in God like we did, turned to others and sang out, "Come! Taste and see that God is good!" Out of that, we've have developed a plan to to grow and extend our gift of connection--to taste and see that God is good and to invite others to taste and see that God is good too—in four areas: in our in our nest (*our physical space and infrastructure*), as our neighbor (*in our outreach and service to others*), in our nurture (*in our congregational life*), and as we nourish (*in the ways we walk with those who are going through hard things*).

Bend Mennonite Church, Bend, OR: Looking back at this past year and thinking about how our congregational practices have kept us rooted in the love of Christ, the practice that most stands out is the practice of Christian friendship. It's not something we necessarily practice on Saturday afternoons when we gather for worship, but it characterizes the network of relationships that have emerged across generational boundaries, between people in different stages of life, and between those who, if it weren't for our shared commitment to Jesus, would never have developed friendships. Sharing meals, sharing struggles, giving and receiving help, encouraging one another—all these things characterize the practice of friendship that has emerged at Bend Mennonite.

Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship, Corvallis, OR: At CMF, we practice being rooted and grounded in the love of Christ by sharing a meal together after every church service. We take communion together once a month, but we "commune" over a potluck meal every Sunday. This had to be paused during the pandemic, like many things, which was a noticeable and sad development. But for the past year or so, we have been slowly rebuilding our capacity for gathering around the tables. In addition to the weekly rhythm of potluck, last year's PNMC annual meeting inspired our fellowship to focus on being as healthy as we can be, thanks to Bill Blank's Healthy Congregations workshop. With Bill's guidance, we are learning to communicate in healthy ways even when we disagree. And we are starting a process of (re)naming who and what we are as a group (what some might call a mission statement).

Eugene Mennonite Church, Eugene, OR: This last year Eugene Mennonite suffered a serious loss at the passing away of Randy Friesen. He was our treasurer of 50 years, husband, father, friend and assistant to the needy. We are missing him. This year we have had many joyful gatherings of singing and service. We led our community in creating school kits and refugee kits through MCC and we have made deeper connections with houseless folks in our community.

Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church, Caldwell, ID: In this last year, we celebrated our 20 years of being rooted in Caldwell as a faith community. Our roots are nourished by the regular times of fellowship, learning and worship. We share love with one another when we pray and share and celebrate in the life events of households while holding each other through the painful changing times. Our roots are stretching us to think about how we can share our property with our community. In our once-a-month Sunday evening worship services, we practice love as we worship in a new way while gathering around a table. Our love for the community is expressed in sharing food boxes with families at the local elementary school and in participating in the community garden. Our roots are thirsting for clear direction as we set new goals for our church for the future.

Evergreen Mennonite Church, Kirkland, WA: Evergreen Mennonite Church, Kirkland, WA is collaborating on discernment regarding how to allocate funds received for the sale of the Mennonite Volunteer Service house. The congregation has completed an initial phase in which members each dispensed \$500 to a charity or NGO of their choice--resulting in a broad spread of contributions. The Pastor Nominating Committee is at work to bring a new pastor on board.

Filer Mennonite Church, Filer, ID: Witnessing the generosity of both time and money in the service of others by the congregation of Filer Mennonite Church helps keep all of us grounded. The service of others comes in all shapes and forms, some organized but often just people being available and reacting to a need. The walls of the church building are often broken down and are no barrier to who is helped or served. The Church building and congregation were also grateful recipients of service as MDS came to our aid. MDS and Idaho crew helped restore our basement, which had been unusable for some time due to a city sewage backup issue. It is humbling, and

words lack the depth to describe what it is like to be allowed to serve with this amazing group of people who strive to be who God created them to be. Be alert, be available, and be willing.

First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, ID: In the past 2 months we have started a weekly share and prayer time. The group has stayed small, 6 to 8 persons, but grown in a sense of sharing and support for each other as well as in congregational life. This has been meaningful for me, as well as those attending, as we have learned to know each other better and feel more love for each other in addition to spiritual growth. One of the concerns during this time has been preparing for, and praying for our search committee, as they reach out to find a new pastor for the congregation.

Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, ID: This past year at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, we have been rooting and grounding in Christ love by joining in prayer and conversation with one another and noticing Christ's love around us. At the start of 2023 we began a visioning and listening process with the help of Betty Pries and Credence. We spent time listening to one another in conversations around our faith stories, our wonderings around the question "why church?" and singing/sharing beloved hymns. This was followed by a season of prayer and discernment as we listen to where God may be inviting us as a church in our place and time in the world. This has included prayer bracelets to serve as a reminder to pause, breath, and notice, as well as joining in prayer groups to listen and learn from each other. We don't yet know where this season will lead us, but already it has been an opportunity for our church to notice the gifts we have as a congregation, the dreams we hold and the reminder of praying with one another as we root and ground in Christ's love for ourselves, each other and the world around us.

Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA: Menno is rooted and grounded in the goodness of the Lord as we walk and serve together, seeking God in all things. We continue to be privileged to walk with each other in good times and in challenge. We bear witness to God's grace in the losses of life and living: aging, the changeable face and circumstances of an agricultural lifestyle, in laying down some of what has long been familiar as retirement has come. We are given new life in service in the form of Mennonite Country Auction for 45 years now. Even as this event continues to evolve, we know God's good work within our ability to share beyond ourselves. As we anticipate what God is doing in our midst, we trust the deep roots that nourish us, sustain us, and call us forth.

Meridian Mennonite Church, Meridian, ID: This year we moved from being Emmaus to Meridian Mennonite Church and finding a new logo for our congregation. We spent time dwelling in Luke 10:1-10. We are praying to meet and develop relationships with people of peace and who want to walk in love here in Meridian. We now have a worship band that plays for us 1-2 times per month which grounds us in love. We participated in Anabaptism at 500 by studying scripture passages and relaying our thoughts to Menno Media. We worked with a local ministry, GLOCAL, to give a baby shower to a young refugee and her baby. In the Fall we are partnering with Hyde Park and Evergreen Heights Mennonite congregations to bring in Sarah Augustine to talk about native lands and how to support Indigenous peoples. We read Sarah's book as a congregation and want to work on ways to seek justice for BIPOC peoples. Please pray with us to meet and develop relationships with people of peace and love. As one member of our congregation has said, "People aren't lining up for love." That's a sad summation, but we want God's love, peace, and compassion to be our grounding as we go out into our community.

Portland Mennonite Church, Portland, OR: One of the highlights every year for Portland Mennonite Church is our springtime retreat at the coast. As an urban congregation spread throughout the metro area, many of us live at a distance from each other. So a 'woefully under programmed weekend' of shared meals, games and puzzles and quilting, walks on the beach, and a variety show, is a meaningful way to make and deepen friendships. On Sundays, as part of our worship service, we trek out to the ocean for baptisms in the cold water of the Pacific. And doing it year after year creates memories that ground us in the love and grace of God. Then we all very quickly retreat to a big bonfire on the beach.

Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church, Canby, OR: Pacific Covenant is a group of genetic Mennonites from both Amish Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren backgrounds committed to digging deeper into Anabaptist theology, and translating the teachings of Christ into our everyday lives.

Salem Mennonite Church, Salem, OR: Here at Salem Mennonite Church, we have been focused on fellowship together. We have all noticed that since COVID lockdowns, we have not put in as much effort to gather beyond church services on Sunday morning. We have had the opportunity to gather people together for the World Cup final, the Superbowl, trivia night, and student's sporting events. We have also had the joy of celebrating a marriage and the birth of a child in the congregation. We have cherished the opportunity to be together grounded in Christ's love.

Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA: Each week following the sermon, we are invited into response with our whole selves. This is one way we experience rootedness in the love of God. There are always three response 'stations' available. One offers an action that specifically flows from the sermon, Scripture, or worship theme; this action changes from week to week. At the altar, we pray. Candles are available to light, whether our prayers are held silently, or shared with the community. Folks who wish to have a prayer spoken aloud in our prayers of the people may write it on a slip of paper on the altar of candles, or send it to our text line. At the offering station, we are invited to give gifts of money and/or offer our intentions. Symbolically, people may hold a bead in their hand and consider how God is calling them to generosity of money and self, and then drop the bead into a vase. During this time of active response, we always remind folks that they may also remain in their seats and, in the time of spaciousness, reflect or pray or look around them and bear witness to the movements of our kinship community.

Shalom, Spokane, WA: Time, distance, and COVID have shaken our roots and put more ground between us. Hybrid Zoom, weekly communion, and birthday celebrations during our services help bind us in love. Participation by all members grounds us in the presence of Christ in the gathered community of faith.

Western Mennonite Church, Salem, OR: Last summer Western Mennonite Church decided to continue on in an alternate form with a new mission statement and a new mission focus. A Launch Team was formed to plan for a celebration of Western's 74 year history and that happened last November. After the anniversary celebration the Launch Team planned for a creative new beginning. We begin to experiment with a new leadership structure and to experiment with new worship formats. At present we alternate between having worship services on every other Sunday morning with lots of music, and with fellowship meals and activities on alternate Saturday evenings, all to which we invite interested guests. In these ways we are being rooted and grounded in the love of Christ.

Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR: Here at Zion the past year has given us multiple opportunities to engage in practices that both test and strengthen our understanding of being rooted in Christ. Our continued practice of incorporating the colors of the church year in our worship space has helped us connect with key events in the life of Jesus and the church. Last fall, with the help of a consultant funded through the Healthy Congregations Grant, we entered a time of focused discernment to consider whether gender identity and sexual orientation should impact church participation. Our process brought about opportunities for focused prayer, intentional listening to God and each other, informative teaching to articulate various perspectives, and multiple leadership meetings to consider how to facilitate discernment. Even with the diversity of perspectives and tensions that surface, a consensus was reached and there was significant confidence in the process.

PNMC AFFILIATED CHURCH PLANTS:

Community of Hope, Bellingham, WA: In October 2022, Community of Hope started monthly gatherings in person for Wild Church! We meet outside in different locations, learn about the place where we are (heron rookery, moss, red cedar trees, etc.), and we root and ground ourselves in the love of God through connecting with nature. We celebrate communion outside, and we offer a crumb and drop of the communion elements to the earth as well as to each other, to remember that all of Creation is included in God's hope for wholeness and abundant life! By spending time outdoors doing mindfulness in nature, we celebrate our own incarnation. We end with the benediction: "Go knowing that you are part of Creation, and Creation is beloved of God!"



Calvary Mennonite Church
6711 S. Lone Elder Rd., Aurora OR 97002

One In Christ

May 4, 2023

Kevin Schumacher
Pastor

PH: 503-266-2202
FX: 503-263-3126
Email: calvary@conby.com
Web:
calvarymennonitechurch.net

Hi Eric,

My name is Kevin Schumacher, pastor at Calvary Mennonite Church in Aurora. We haven't had the pleasure of meeting each other, although I understand that you have met Pastor Victor Estrada of Roca de Salvacion. As you may know, Calvary and Roca function as one church, although we are still officially two churches.

Calvary and Roca have prayed about our membership with PNMC for several years now. We have made the decision to withdraw from the conference after a congregational vote by both churches to do so. The voting in both churches was unanimous. This envelope contains two letters, one in English and one in Spanish, from both churches, stating our desire to withdraw our membership.

May the Lord bless you in your new role with PNMC.

Blessings,

Pastor Kevin Schumacher



Iglesia Menonita Roca de Salvación

6711 S. Lone Elder Rd., Aurora, OR 97002

May 4, 2023

Victor Estrada
Pastor

PH: 971-338-1694

Según la póliza de separación de PNWMN,

Calvary Mennonite y Roca de Salvación, juntos desean separarse de PNWMWC y Iglesia Menonita EE. UU.

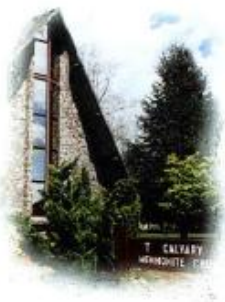
Razones:

1. Nosotros creemos que las escrituras son palabras de verdad que son divinamente inspiradas y nuestra interpretación es holística en lo que abrazamos la verdad, tanto en el antiguo testamento como en el nuevo testamento como lo atestigua nuestro Señor Jesús.
2. Apreciamos nuestras raíces Menonitas como lo expresa "Verdadero a fe Evangelístico..." como lo escribe Menno Simons, 1539, interpretado y codificado en las Confesiones de Fe en una Perspectiva Menonita, Artículo 19.
3. Nosotros creemos en una misión de equidad racial con nuestros hermanos y hermanas de Roca de Salvación y deseamos ser un solo cuerpo de creyentes. En este tiempo, creemos que la misión de PNWMWC y la Iglesia Menonita EE.UU. no están alineadas con nuestra misión. Somos comandados, tanto en el antiguo testamento como en el nuevo testamento, a cuidar de las viudas, los huérfanos, los pobres, y los extranjeros. Nosotros creemos que esto es una expresión de los dos Gran Mandamientos: amarás al Señor tu Dios y amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo.

Gracias por su tiempo, consideración, y servicio para engrandecer el reino de Dios.

Bendiciones,

Victor Estrada
Elisabeth Estrada
Anna Munoz
José Muñoz
Paula
Amelia



Calvary Mennonite Church

6711 S. Lone Elder Rd., Aurora OR 97002

One In Christ

May 4, 2023

Kevin Schumacher
Pastor

PH: 503-266-2202
FX: 503-263-3126
Email: calvary@canby.com
Web:
calvarymennonitechurch.net

As per PNWMC Policy of Separation:

Calvary Mennonite and Roca de Salvación jointly desire to separate from PNWMC and MC USA.

Rationale:

1. We believe that the scriptures are the divinely inspired word of truth and our interpretation of these scriptures is holistic in that we embrace the truths of both the Old and New Testaments as our Lord Jesus attested to.
2. We hold dear to our Mennonite roots as expressed by "True Evangelical Faith..." as written by Menno Simons, 1539, interpreted and codified in the Confessions of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective – 1995, Article 19.
3. We believe in a mission of racial equity with our brothers and sisters of Roca de Salvación and desire to become one body of believers. At this time we believe that the mission of PNWMC and MC USA are not in alignment with our mission. We are commanded in both the Old and New Testaments to care for the widows, the orphans, the poor, and the foreigners. We believe this is an expression of the two Great Commandments: love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself.

Thank you for time, consideration, and service to further the kingdom of God.

Blessings,

The Council of Elders,
Calvary Mennonite Church

Terry L. Reimold
David J. Camp
Pastor Kevin Schumacher



Jerusalen Iglesia Menonita

P.O. Box 6054 Salem, OR 97304

CELL: 971-304-1425

Jerusaleniglesiamenonita@gmail.com

Termination of Membership

PNMC

May 14, 2023

phone: (503) 522-5324

email: office@pnmc.org

mailing address: PO Box 301036, Portland OR, 97294

Dear PNMC Board and Conference

We are writing this letter to inform you that we are giving you notification that we are leaving the Conference. Together we have struggled to find unity around church polity in Mennonite Church USA and in our Conference. At the same time, we have continually sought to follow with sincerity and faith the way of Christ's peace. We as a church have given much thought and consideration to our decision. While we have enjoyed our time with PNMC, we as a Church believe this is the right step for us, given that our thoughts and convictions are not aligned or of the same mind with what the conference and the Denomination is moving towards.

We have enjoyed being a part of this Conference for the past 40 years. We have met wonderful people along the way, and we will miss that part. We also request that MC USA and PNMC honor our decision. Which has been heart-breaking time, and we can say that our hearts are broken, but we strongly feel that this is what God is telling us to do as we stand firm with our views.

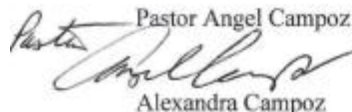
We will continue to pray for you as we go on our journey searching to seek God's will. Our time in PNMC needless to say it has been full of growth, learning and understanding, and blessed memories. We want to move forward in the trusting confidence that, ultimately, our unity is rooted in Jesus. So, we are placing our hope in the God who has called us into being, and who as a church we belong to.

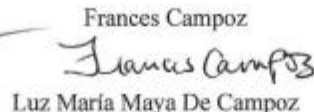
Philippians 1:6 "He who began the good work within us, will continue his work until it is finally finished in Christ Jesus." We stand firm on His promise that He will see us through this until the end.


Thanks again for your prayers during this time. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance during this transition.

Peace be with you,

Church Board Members

Pastor Angel Campos

Alexandra Campos

Frances Campos

Luz Maria Maya De Campos

Beatrice Campos

Isaac Aurelio Campos
Isaac Campos

Lebanon Mennonite Church



2100 South 2nd Street • P.O. BOX 575 • Lebanon, Oregon 97355 • 541-258-5789 •

E-Mail: lmc.secretary@gmail.com • Web: lebanonmennonite.com •

July 8th, 2022

Kevin Chupp
PNMC Moderator
184 S. 3rd W
Aberdeen, ID 83210
kevindachupp@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Chupp:

We hope this letter finds you well.

We are writing to inform you of Lebanon Mennonite Church's (LMC) decision to terminate our congregational membership in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) per the PNMC Bylaws Article III (5)(a)(1).

The final decision was agreed upon, with an 88% congregational affirmation to leave PNMC, following the recent results of the MC-USA Special Session of the Delegate Assembly 2022 concerning the confirmation of the following two Resolutions:

- (1) Repentance and Transformation as a Church Statement Resolution.
- (2) Retirement of the Membership Guidelines as the active polity in Mennonite Church USA as an Organizational Statement.

LMC undertook a sincere time of church-wide prayer, discussion, and roundtable meetings concerning the MC-USA Resolutions and LGBTQIA+ people occupying membership status and leadership positions within LMC. The roundtable discussions concluded that allowing LGBTQIA+ people to occupy leadership positions, or hold membership status within LMC, would *not* be biblical by a vote of 95%.

After the approval of the MC-USA Resolutions, LMC conducted a Special Church Business Meeting to further discuss and vote on whether LMC should terminate its congregational membership with the PNMC. As a result, on July 3rd a church-wide vote concluded, with a majority vote of 88%, to terminate LMC's membership with the PNMC.

Therefore, LMC would like to terminate its congregational membership with PNMC due to a conflict of biblical beliefs, effective immediately.

If you have any further questions please contact myself at the number below, or our Pastoral Care Chairperson, Tiffany Wittrig, at 541-974-4703.

Sincerely,

Rod Shank

Church Board Chairperson

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Everence

MennoMedia

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Men

Mennonite Mission Network (MMN)

West Coast Mennonite Central Committee

Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Annual Report 2022

ADN in the Community:

MC USA Accessibility Resolution approved – May 2022

"We, the members, congregations and organizations of MC USA, resolve to deepen our understanding of barriers for people with disabilities, to take action to make our community life and facilities accessible and welcoming to all, and to discern and affirm the gifts of each person for our common good."

Accessibility Services at Denominational Conferences

Mobility aids, hearing assistance devices, slide transcriptions for screen readers, sensory rooms, and more.

Workshops and Trainings: Staff and Field Associates are available to consult, preach, and teach.

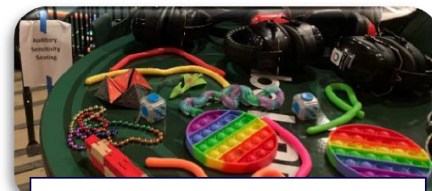
- **Mutual Care for People with Disabilities** at Church of the Brethren Annual Conference
- **A Place for Everybody** to youth and adults at Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference

New Resources for Congregations:

- **Believing and Belonging**, an Anabaptist membership curriculum for adults written at a third-grade reading level
- MC USA Accessibility Resolution Study Guide
- **Online Congregational Assessment Survey** congregations audit their accessibility and receive support from ADN in addressing concerns that arise.
- **Learn, Pray, Join: Welcoming Every BODY** address issues of accessibility in the church and care for one another. (Created in partnership with MC USA)
- **Mental Health Guide** for Congregations
- **Connections Newsletter**
 - Dementia and Congregations, Summer 2022
 - Autism and Faith, Fall 2022
 - Mental Health and Youth, Winter 2023
- **Opening Doors blog** on disability inclusion
- **Webinars**
 - Dementia and Congregational Care (with Discipleship Ministries, Church of the Brethren)
 - Accessible Print and Digital Communication (with Anabaptist Communicators)
 - Resiliency & Hope after Childhood Trauma (with Discipleship Ministries, Church of the Brethren)
- **Barrier Free Grants:** up to \$500 for any project that increases the accessibility of your congregation.



"Anabaptists Now," by Dona Park, from **Believing and Belonging**



Noise-reducing headphones, fidgets, and other sensory items at CoB National Youth Conference

Be Involved:

Become a Partner Congregation. Designate a **congregational disability advocate** who will work with church leaders to make your church a place where everyone belongs, and everyone serves. Support ADN with a **congregational donation**, giving \$500 or \$1000 annually.

Become a Building the Future Partner: As an individual, donate \$1000 per year for 3 years. Or give what you can; small donations make a significant difference.

www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org • 574-323-1362 • adnet@adnetonline.org

*"... by speaking the truth
with love, let's grow in every
way into Christ."*

– Ephesians 4:15b (CEB)

Churches call upon Everence as helpful stewardship partner

Churches can count on Everence Financial® as a reliable stewardship partner.

Working closely with congregations and their members has been at the core of what we do since our founding as a mutual aid organization in 1945.

We help our members find effective ways to be more generous, as part of our focus on stewardship as a spiritual discipline – stemming from the historical biblical belief of Anabaptist Christians that all we are and all we have is from God (Psalm 24).

Pastors and church leaders also rely on Everence for helpful stewardship education resources. Learn more at everence.com/churches.

Sharing Fund helps churches reach more people in need



The Everence Sharing Fund helps thousands of families and individuals every year with basic, everyday needs.

Everence has awarded about \$4.7 million in Sharing Fund grants in the last five years, and our partner congregations distributed about \$7 million more.

Seek Growth

Everence 2023 report

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Annual Meeting
June 23-24, 2023

The Sharing Fund is, in most cases, a matching grant program. Churches with an Everence stewardship advocate can request matching Sharing Fund dollars to help meet the needs of people in their church and community.

From financial struggles to emergency crises, Sharing Fund grants help people keep a roof over their heads, buy food for their families and pay medical expenses.

To see how your church can access Sharing Fund grants – or to donate to the program, visit everence.com/sharing-fund.

MyNeighbor card is working to boost charitable causes



The MyNeighbor credit card from Everence Federal Credit Union is doing what credit union leaders intended – supporting the communities in which their members live and work.

Since its launch in 2017, the MyNeighbor card has generated more than \$1.7 million for charitable organizations, including individual churches.

Members use the card the same way they'd use an ordinary credit card, but instead of generating

points or airline miles, 1.5% of each transaction total is donated by Everence to the cardholder's chosen charity.

The "neighbor" you choose just needs to be a 501(c)(3) public charitable organization. You can change which organization receives your donations via an online dashboard.

Want to know more? Visit everence.com/myneighbor.

A variety of resources to help churches thrive

Churches have unique financial and stewardship needs – something Everence understands better than many financial services providers, thanks to our 78-year history of working with churches, their staff and their members.

From telling your church's story, fulfilling your ministry, and looking to your church's future, our knowledgeable stewardship consultants can share ideas with pastors, church leaders, Sunday school classes, and small groups about cultivating generosity and sustaining giving over the long term.

And Everence partners with denominations and networks to offer benefits such as retirement plans for pastors and staff. Check out everence.com/churches to learn more about how we can work together.



Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Spring 2023

At MennoMedia we publish curricula and books that call readers to follow Jesus in word and deed. We publish resources about Christian discipleship, spirituality, reconciliation, justice, and theology from an Anabaptist perspective. Our curricula, periodicals, and hymnals reach a broad spectrum of evangelical, mainline, and Anabaptist readers and congregations, cultivating passion for faith formation and an active life of discipleship.

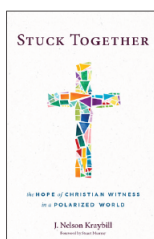
NEW RESOURCES FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH, FROM HERALD PRESS



Thriving Families

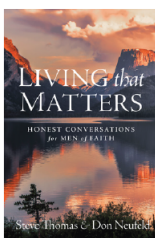
A Trauma-Informed Guidebook for the Foster and Adoptive Journey

Drawing on the latest science and research on trauma, attachment, sensory processing difficulties, cultural competence, and grief and loss, authors Jenn Ranter Hook and Joshua N. Hook provide a trauma-informed approach for adoptive and foster families to help their children heal, grow, and thrive.



Stuck Together

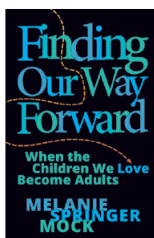
The Hope of Christian Witness in a Polarized World
It can feel as if the world has never been more polarized. But when we feel worn down by the chasms dividing us, we can take hope from the early Christian vision of God uniting all things in Christ. *Stuck Together* explores Bible stories and narratives that inspire us to open hearts and minds to persons with whom we disagree as we gain confidence in our own convictions.



Living That Matters

Honest Conversations for Men of Faith

Do you wonder what it means to be a man? With over 60 years of combined experience in pastoral ministry and social work geared toward men, authors Steve Thomas and Don Neufeld offer many short reflections to help individuals and groups deepen relationships with one another, with ourselves, with our families and communities, and with God as we seek to live into God's shalom.



Finding Our Way Forward

When the Children We Love Become Adults

Melanie Springer Mock draws on her decades as a college professor and mom to explore how finding our way means developing a more expansive understanding of calling for ourselves and for the young adults we love, one that moves beyond vocation and capitalistic enterprises to what God really calls us to: Seeking justice. Loving mercy. Walking with humility. Loving others. Loving God.

CELEBRATE 500 YEARS

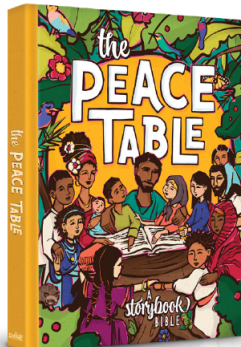


ANABAPTISM at FIVE HUNDRED

The five hundredth anniversary of Anabaptism in 2025 gives the church a unique opportunity to celebrate the Spirit's calling together of diverse people across all boundaries of culture and geography. MennoMedia's vision is to lead the way in helping North American Anabaptist Christians experience spiritual renewal by creating fresh, forward-looking resources for Anabaptism's quincentenary celebration.

Learn more at
AnabaptismAt500.com

A NEW STORY BIBLE FROM SHINE



From beginning to end, the Bible reminds us that we are made in God's image and that God's table has room for us all. *The Peace Table* is a comprehensive family storybook Bible that makes God's presence and peace real to children of all ages.

- Faithful retellings of 140 Bible stories and stunning artwork from 30 illustrators
- Prayer prompts, peace themes, and ideas for reflection and conversation
- A resource section includes ideas for how to experience peace with God, self, others, and creation, as well as maps, Bible background information, interactive ways to pray, and prayers for many occasions

Learn more at ShineCurriculum.com





Here are some of the ways MC USA Executive Board and staff served conferences, congregations and communities in 2022:



MC USA launched "[Diversity: God's Design](#)," a new, multimedia study that calls young adults to celebrate their unique gifts and the intentional diversity of God's creation.

The [Justice Fund](#) provided resources to MC USA congregations working to combat poverty, dismantle racism, address immigration reform or reimagine policing. MC USA awarded 16 Justice Fund grants to 14 congregations in 2022.

MC USA responded to the actions and work of the Special Session of the Delegate Assembly by engaging constituents in two "Learn, Pray, Join" educational initiatives. "[Welcoming EveryBODY](#)" celebrated the gifts of people with disabilities, and "[Mass Incarceration](#)" examined the injustices in our criminal legal system.

MC USA Executive Board and staff nurtured global connections by participating in Mennonite World Conference and attending the most recent assembly in Indonesia. MC USA Moderator Linda Dibble [was affirmed](#) as a North American representative on MWC's Executive Committee and Denominational Minister of Racial/Ethnic Engagement Sue Park-Har was appointed to the Deacon's Commission.



The MC USA Resolutions Committee [responded to delegate feedback](#) and drafted new "Guidelines for Developing Organizational Resolutions and Church Statements in Mennonite Church USA." The guidelines are designed to put less emphasis on the outcome of a specific resolution and more emphasis on how we are living out our values together.

MC USA partnered with Mennonite Central Committee to launch the [Peaceful Option for Careers and Training \(POTC\)](#), formerly AMEN, an initiative to connect young people with volunteer advisors who can help them find non-military career, service and training opportunities.



A new [denominational survey](#), commissioned by the Executive Board, revealed that MC USA members have deep commitments to their faith, a passion for peacebuilding, a heart for service and close congregational ties.



"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

Our Mission

The mission of the MC USA Executive Board is to equip and empower leaders to share with others the gift of God's peace and transformative love.

Our Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Our Renewed Commitments

- Follow Jesus
- Witness to God's peace
- Experience transformation



[Subscribe to PeaceMail](#), MC USA's weekly digital news magazine, for all of the denomination's news, blogs, events and resources.



Join us for MennCon23, Kansas City, July 3-6, 2023. (Delegate Assembly July 7-8) convention.mennoniteusa.org

www.MennoniteUSA.org

2022 has been full of exciting work and meaningful connections as the work of Mennonite Men continues to benefit our communities and congregations. Our three programs—JoinTrees, JoinMen, and JoinHands—continue to thrive as we invite men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus.

To learn more about our work, download resources, or contribute to our programs, visit mennonitemen.org.

Steve Thomas, Mennonite Men U.S. Coordinator
stevet@mennonitemen.org | (574) 202-0048



JoinTrees

Planting Trees to restore the earth



JoinTrees is our campaign to plant one million trees by 2030. This campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with this JoinTrees campaign, our goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) support vulnerable communities.

Our vision is a healthy, thriving planet where God's abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation.

We recently reached the milestone of our first 100,000 trees planted! We are grateful for the

strong support of this creation care and climate action campaign. Of the 100,287 trees planted, 75,385 were in Central America, 20,902 in North America, and 4,000 in Africa. Our largest project this year was in Baja Verapaz, Guatemala where local communities and families planted 35,385 trees in agroforestry projects.

Our board recently approved seven JoinTrees grant proposals for planting 52,819 more trees. Projects include 20,367 trees in Guatemala, 20,000 in Mexico, 1,400 at Camp Friedenswald in Michigan, 2,852 at East Goshen Mennonite Church, and 8,200 on Mennonite properties in Goshen, Indiana.

Learn more and contribute to this program at mennonitemen.org/jointrees.

JoinHands

Sharing resources for new church buildings



JoinHands is our program for giving and grantmaking. Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we provide grants to help new congregations acquire their first church building. Mennonite Men has given over 2.3 million dollars to new congregations for this purpose.

We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands. We especially ask churches pursuing building projects to give as a way of sharing resources and serving "fair balance" with congregations in need.

Our next JoinHands grant will assist Ripple Church, a Mennonite congregation of Mosiac Mennonite Conference, to purchase an existing building for their meeting place and community center in Allentown, Pennsylvania. This congregation is active in offering neighborhood ministries for children, youth, meal service, and providing a place of belonging. Church leaders state, "Purchasing this building will allow the church to continue into the future and provide a safe location downtown for many people who are not welcomed in other areas of the city."

For more details about this program, visit mennonitemen.org/joinhands.

JoinMen

Gathering men and promoting their growth



JoinMen provides retreats and resources from an Anabaptist perspective to promote healthy masculinity, Christian formation and community. We desire that all men find a place of belonging among men who are strong, loving and wise as we follow Jesus in building God's shalom.

Retreats provide opportunities for men to gather together and engage issues in community. More than an event, these experiences are also meant to encourage participants to be part of an ongoing men's group and growth process. A full list of

retreat themes we offer can be found at mennonitemen.org/joinmen.

Fewer retreats in the last year has given us the opportunity to complete a new book with Herald Press titled *Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith*. This practical handbook is a guide to help individuals and groups engage in honest conversations on what matters most for men—with a focus on following Jesus, forming community, and building peace. These short reflections help individuals and groups deepen relationships with one another and with God as we seek to live into God's shalom. Look for the book's release by Herald Press in early 2023.

**Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers
of Jesus**

Be local. Be global.
Be the Gospel.

Note: Underlined words indicate active links.



Pacific Northwest Conference + Mennonite Mission Network

Worker support around the world



1 Joseph and Rachel Givens,
serving in Calais, France
» Mountain View Mennonite Church

Prayer partners

32

Service participants



Service sites

Service Adventure unit
» Anchorage, Alaska
SOOP
» Drift Creek Camp

SOOP

Bryan and Judi Stauffer, Glendale,
Arizona
Gene and Judy Gascho, Glendale,
Arizona
Karen and Rich Kropf, Glendale,
Arizona

Congregational giving to Mission Network



During Mission Network's past fiscal year, Aug. 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022, Pacific Northwest Conference congregations gave \$72,176. Thank you!



We at Mennonite Mission Network want to thank Pacific Northwest Conference for your ongoing support. Your partnership, through prayer, gifts and participation, makes it possible for us to partner with churches, organizations and individuals around the world to share all of Christ with all of creation. We draw hope for the coming year from the word of God, as it says in Hebrews 10:23, "Let us hold strong to the confession of our hope, never wavering, since the One who promised it to us is faithful" (VOICE). Thus, let our faith in God be unshakeable, and may we move forward together, trusting in God's promises. Blessings to you!

Marisa Smucker

Marisa Smucker, Interim Executive Director



Thank you for your generous support and partnership! Blessings as you participate in God's mission in the world.

Ana A. Hinojosa

Ana Alicia Hinojosa
Director of Constituent Engagement
Interim Senior Executive for Ventures

Thank you for your continued partnership in God's mission!

www.MennoniteMission.net Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872

2023 report for Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

MCC U.S. and West Coast MCC

(559) 638-6911 • westcoast@mcc.org • mcc.org



Have you ever compiled a list of all of the ways that water can be life-giving? Maybe that's an impossible task, but here are a few examples.

In the photo at the right, Phann Soy, a farmer in rural Kompong Trahek District, Cambodia, feeds fish in a fishpond behind his house. The pond was designed and built by an MCC partner as part of a model to help farmers adapt to climate change. In addition to enhanced income from fish, it provides water for vegetable gardening during the dry season. You helped make these ponds possible through My Coins Count offerings at the SoCal Festival & Sale - Thank You!



MCC photo/Charles Conklin

In Ethiopia's Amhara region, an MCC partner's work has helped farmers double and even triple their harvests. Combining watershed rehabilitation with conservation agriculture means that land is protected from erosion and soil quality is improved via water retention strategies.

Isaiah 55:1 is an invitation, 'Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters...' Jesus used this passage to point to himself - He is the living water, the one who offers eternal life. As God's people we point to Jesus. Thank you for being a vessel of hope to thirsty people in times of need - for being conduits of Jesus' living water. Your prayers, financial support and volunteer efforts touch lives in the name of Christ.

In appreciation,

Ann Graber Hershberger, MCC U.S. Executive Director

Dina Gonzalez-Piña, West Coast MCC Executive Director

Kevin Malamma, U.S. Board Member



MCC and partners in Ukraine continue to meet needs in the midst of war. The photo shows an unexploded rocket in the garden of a destroyed home in the Chernihiv region. "People have immense needs right now—food, water, shelter—which we're working to address," said Blaine Derstine, recent interim representative for MCC

MCC's 2023 guiding Scripture

Come, all you who are
thirsty, come to
the waters . . .

Isaiah 55:1 (NIV)

West Coast MCC in 2022

- MCC hosted a peace camp for young adults in June. These events exist to create spaces for younger leaders to gain skills and experiences in becoming peacemakers in a divided and diverse world.
- MCC celebrated 50 years of Thrift! Thank you for your work with and support of MCC relief sales, thriftshops and material resources.
- Grand Opening of MCC Global Center in Reedley, CA.

Upcoming Events

- Summer School Kit Challenge 2023 - Details via In Touch email.
- Mennonite Country Auction, Oct 1, 2023
- Oregon Mennonite Festival, Oct 21, 2023

PNMC 2022 Partnership

- Idaho Mennonite Relief Sale - \$32,000
 - Mennonite Country Auction - \$105,537.50
 - Oregon Mennonite Festival - \$110,000
 - Total: \$246,537.50
 - Church contributions: \$330,131.82
- MCC Staff from PNMC & PSMC Churches:
Katherine Smith, Art Montoya & Lynette Madrigal-McIntosh.
- PNMC & PSMC Board Members: Kara Yoder, Nancy Chupp, Nehemiah Chigaji, Neil Bucher, Una Jost, Twila Lehman, & Nelly Asencio.

in Ukraine. "And even with the unclear picture of the future in Ukraine, we also have to be thinking for the long-term, what needs people will have if and when they start returning to Ukraine." Pray for the people and leaders of Ukraine and Russia.

Photo courtesy of Mikhailuk Maya

REPORTS FROM MENNONITE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Bethel College

Eastern Mennonite Seminary

Eastern Mennonite University

Goshen College

Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world.

Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — in person or at a distance, full time or part time — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

Degrees and programs (* = distance-friendly program)

- Master of Divinity*
- Master of Arts in Christian Formation
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism*
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction*
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies* (fully customizable)
- Doctor of Ministry in Leadership*
- Journey Missional Leadership Development Program* (undergraduate-level, nondegree)

ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs

We offer generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and matching grants for both full- and part-time graduate students. You *can* afford seminary!

ambs.edu/affordability

Leadership and enrichment

Grow your ministry skills and gain Anabaptist approaches to today's leadership challenges through our nondegree offerings. (* = distance-friendly program)

Short-term options

- Online Short Courses*: six weeks, discussion-based, noncredit
- Invite AMBS*: request a speaker (in person or virtual) on a topic of your choice
- Pastors & Leaders conference*: Feb. 19–22, 2024
- !Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth (summer)

Yearlong offerings

- Spiritual Direction Seminars*
- Transition to Leadership: program for new pastors
- Integrity Circles*: reflect theologically on leadership within a group

ambs.edu/leadership-and-enrichment



(Credit: Jason Bryant)

PNMC connections

- **Master of Divinity student:** Felecia Calloni (Portland)

AMBS statistics

- In April 2022, 14 women and seven men from seven countries graduated from AMBS (*see above*).
- In 2022–23, 141 graduate students were enrolled at AMBS: 61 from the U.S., six from Canada and 74 international students.
- The undergraduate-level nondegree Journey program had 21 participants from the U.S., Canada, Malawi and Uganda, as of March 2023.
- In 2021–22, 1,577 people participated in lifelong learning offerings of the Church Leadership Center.

Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course (no grades, no papers!):
 - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
 - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
 - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?
 - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication

ambs.edu/online-short-courses

- Take a graduate-level course — online or on campus. Nonadmitted students get 50% off tuition for their first three credit hours! ambs.edu/upcoming-courses
- Schedule a virtual or in-person visit. Talk with students, faculty and staff and learn what AMBS has to offer! ambs.edu/visit
- Stay connected: facebook.com/followAMBS • twitter.com/ambs_seminary • ambs.edu/subscribe

In October 2022 Bethel College adopted a new Strategic Plan. This plan will guide how we approach situations, solve problems, recruit students, and interact with the wider community for the next 5 years. Under the overall theme of *Knowledge is not Enough*, the plan is divided into seven strategic priorities.

The first priority is “Employment Experiences.” Bethel has been working to become a federally designated work college. Several students have already started in the program, and in 2027 we will graduate our first class that fully participates in the program, at which point we will be eligible for federal designation. Every student that graduates will have on-campus and/or off-campus work experience, increasing their likelihood of success after college and reducing their debt while in college.

“Ethos of Service” is the second priority. A committee has been formed to define exactly what “service” means to our campus community and develop an action plan to increase service to our community. We hope to add opportunities for service to our already established annual Service Day, in which all students participate.

Establishing a Thresher Media Network is the third priority. This priority focuses on increasing the visibility of campus life and building community through media channels. Students will have the opportunity to engage in several avenues of media relations.

The fourth priority focuses on real estate and infrastructure. While perhaps not the most exciting to talk about, we all know that these items are important and integral to campus life.

Strategic priority five seeks to redesign support services to meet the needs and expectations of a diverse student population. We continue to seek to define diversity in a fast-changing world. Plans to increase campus diversity and inclusion, support mental health needs, and work towards a safer campus are being put into place.

Students choose to attend college for a variety of reasons, and these institutions provide much more than simply knowledge, but the main focus of all colleges and universities is to teach. Redesigning curricula around our college mission and student diversity is strategic priority six. Employment opportunities continue to change and evolve, and our slate of coursework must respond.

The final priority is to establish a “Life Cycle System.” From recruit, through their time as a student, to becoming a part of our alumni network, our goal is to provide the proper support every step of the way.

More information on the *Knowledge is not Enough* strategic plan can be found at <https://www.bethelks.edu/about/who-we-are/strategic-plan>.

We are not able to accomplish these things and provide students with a space to find their place in the family of God alone. Thank you for your contributions.

Ben Lichti, Coordinator of Church Relations



2023 Report to Pacific Northwest Conference

\$1.5 MILLION ENDOWED CHAIR IN BOTANY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Jacob Buchanan will join Bluffton's faculty as assistant professor of environmental science and M'della Moon endowed chair in botany and environmental science this summer. He is currently finishing his doctorate in biology/ecology at Bowling Green State University. Buchanan has experience working on an NSF grant on crustaceans in the Great Plains, doing habitat restoration, and conducting plant surveys and collecting plant specimens for the H2Ohio Wetland Monitoring Program. He will split his time managing the Nature Preserve and teaching. A \$1.5 million endowment is funding the position and is named after M'Della Moon, a member of Bluffton's science faculty from 1921-81.

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK OFFERED

Bluffton will offer a Master of Social Work (MSW) graduate degree with a mental health specialization starting in the 2023-24 academic year. The program, conducted in partnership with Goshen College, is designed to equip students with the advanced knowledge and skills required to meet the mental health needs of their communities and offers students a holistic approach to the field of social work. Coursework will prepare students to sit for licensure in any state. Applications opened in January for a fall 2023 start.

LION AND LAMB CONNECTING WITH CURRENT STUDENTS

Starting this academic year at Bluffton's Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center, an emphasis is being placed on training and empowering university students to lead sessions with school children on cultural understanding and conflict resolution.

To facilitate that connection and more directly align the work with Bluffton's education program, **Dr. Paul Neufeld Weaver**, professor of education and director of global education, is serving as director of Lion and Lamb. **Tareq Abuhalima**, from Gaza, Palestine, is serving as a graduate assistant to staff the center. He is pursuing an MAOM graduate degree at Bluffton and is connected with MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestinian Israel Network). Bluffton senior **Grace Liechty Zickafoose**, from Lima Mennonite Church, served as the undergraduate student assistant during the fall 2022 semester. In addition to work on peace and cultural understanding, trainings will cover peer mediation, including connections to social media usage and cyberbullying.

ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY BIBLE

As part of MennoMedia's Anabaptism at 500 project, **Dr. Gerald Mast's** Religious Communication class worked through assigned passages and developed notes from their discussions of those passages for the upcoming Anabaptist Community Bible. Dr. Mast is also gathering notes from historic Anabaptist sources such as Menno Simons and imprisoned Anabaptists as recorded in the "Martyrs Mirror" for the project.

TOP TIER

IN "MIDWEST
COLLEGES"

— *U.S. News & World Report's
Best Colleges*

NAMED A COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION FOR 2022-23

Bluffton University at Convention!

Bluffton presenters at
Mennonite Church USA
Convention 2023 include:

Melissa Friesen, "Acting
Out the Parable"

Marathana Prothro, "One
T-Shirt at a Time: My
Journey Away from Fast
Fashion"

Find us on the web
and social media!
www.bluffton.edu

For more information, contact
Gerald Mast
*Church relations coordinator
and professor of communication*
mastg@bluffton.edu

EMS Welcomes New Seminary Dean, Dan Ott

EMS honored 2022 retirees Dr. Sue Cockley (dean) and Dr. Nancy Heisey (professor of biblical studies and church history). Rev. Dr. Daniel Ott is the new seminary dean, formerly associate dean for academic initiatives and professor of religious studies at Monmouth College, IL. An ordained Presbyterian minister and peace theologian, Ott says his new role at EMS “brings together my deepest passions and my life’s work.”

New Graduate Certificate in Faith-Based Peacebuilding

In fall 2022, EMS launched a certificate to help faith leaders respond effectively to conflict. Students in the 18-credit program take half of their coursework in the seminary and half in the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. Flexibility is built into the degree so students can choose relevant courses – in person or online – in theology, biblical studies, racial justice, conflict analysis and peacebuilding.

EMS Receives \$1 Million for Conflict Transformation Training

Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded EMS \$998,606 to develop interdisciplinary leadership workshops and trainings that integrate personal spiritual formation, biblical and theological frameworks, and conflict transformation skills. Director Dr. Jacob Cook works with leaders at EMS and EMU’s Center for Justice and Peacebuilding to equip pastors and lay leaders in conflict transformation and trauma resilience through digital content, online courses, regional on-site trainings and on-campus workshops.



Sarah Bixler, EMS Associate Dean; Jacob Cook, Pathways Program Director; Jacqueline Font-Guzmán, Center for Justice and Peacebuilding Strategic Visioning Director

Spring 2022 Graduation

EMS awarded five Master of Arts in Christian Leadership, four Master of Divinity degrees, and one Theological Certificate to the graduating class of 2022. Students presented senior capstone projects on teaching the Bible, faith and human bodies, healing racial trauma, disability, and recovery ministries. 2022-23 seminary enrollment is strong, with a 14% increase over 2021-22.

NEW: Study at EMS from Wherever You Live!

EMS is more accessible than ever! All courses are now available to take from a distance. Students can join the EMS learning community from their own location through Zoom technology and our online learning management system. Plus, thanks to forward-thinking donors, Mennonite students receive generous aid toward degree programs at EMS. Half- to full-tuition scholarships are available. Apply now or recommend our programs to someone you know! Visit <https://emu.edu/seminary/courses/> for information about upcoming classes.

Statement of Purpose

Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepares servants of Christ to minister together locally and globally. In response to God’s gracious call, we invite students to embody and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God’s Spirit as wise interpreters, mature practitioners, discerning communicators, and transformational leaders.

- ▶ Susan Schultz Huxman, president
- ▶ Daniel Ott, seminary dean
- ▶ Sarah Ann Bixler, associate dean
emu.edu/seminary
540-432-4260

Conflict Transformation and Trauma Resilience Workshops

Equipping pastors and lay leaders on campus and online beginning May 2023

emu.edu/seminary/workshops



*EMU prepares students to serve
and lead in a global context*

SUMMER 2023

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings from President Huxman

In this beautiful season in the Shenandoah Valley, I bring greetings from Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) to the families, churches and conferences that make up MCUSA. A special greeting to the Pacific Northwest District Conference. Join me as I feature a few highlights from the previous year.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS. I enjoyed accompanying the super talented EMU Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Bergey on its Ohio and Indiana Spring break tour. We are raising money for the choir to embark on a European tour this summer. The group visited 11 churches and schools. It was a lovely time to engage with so many alumni, friends and prospective students of EMU.

In addition to 50 undergraduate programs, EMU is home to 11 graduate programs and a seminary. One such graduate program is in the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP). A new student in CJP is Anna Dovbyck from Ukraine. She joins students from USA, South Korea, Japan, North Sudan, South Sudan, Rwanda, Kongo, Liberia, Mozambique, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and India. Her family has been upended by the war and a best friend is on the front lines in Donbas. She says: "Amidst the turmoil, I began to ask myself: what can I do? Getting a professional education in conflict transformation and work with trauma became my way of responding to the challenges of the war. And so now I find myself studying in the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University. It is probably the first time in recent adult years that I feel so much in my place, and so motivated."

UPGRADING FACILITIES. We've just completed a major renovation in University Commons, creating a new student union and new admissions space. Now we are turning our attention to a new Track and Field Complex, looking for "pace setting" gifts to completely build a new complex. We've already raised over half of the total. We are also replacing our aging Turf Field for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. The third imminent capital project this year is the architectural design and specs for a new facility to house a fabrication lab for our growing Engineering program. We were so pleased to receive ABET accreditation for our engineering program this summer. Precious few private liberal arts colleges in the country receive this coveted validation.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer, encouraging prospective students, and offering generous financial support. Mennonite students still comprise well over one-quarter of our traditional undergraduate student body.

In gratitude,
Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D., President, EMU

Harrisonburg, Virginia

www.emu.edu

How can EMU serve you?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker: 540-432-4597 or ChurchRelations@emu.edu.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Connections to EMU

Undergraduate Students

Seven undergraduate students and one graduate student from Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference are enrolled in the spring 2022 semester.

Giving

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference churches gave \$17,000 matching church grants during the 21-22 academic year.

- ▶ Susan Schultz Huxman, President
- ▶ Kirk Shisler, Vice President for Advancement
- ▶ Braydon Hoover, Associate Vice President of Advancement
- ▶ Luke Litwiller, Director of Undergrad Admissions

Our Vision

We will open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice, and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.

churchrelations@emu.edu

2023 Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

MISSION

Goshen College transforms local and global communities through courageous, creative and compassionate leaders. Shaped by Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, we integrate academic excellence and real-world experience with active love for God and neighbor.

VISION

Goshen College will cultivate joy, growth and purpose, preparing students to thrive in life, leadership and service. Rooted in the way of Jesus, we will seek inclusive community and transformative justice in all that we do.



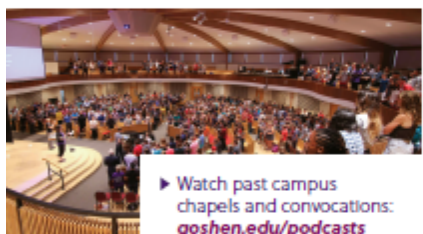
Rebecca J. Stoltzfus '83
President

president@goshen.edu

► Read the president's blog at:
goshen.edu/president-blog



Dan Koop Liechty '88
Director of alumni engagement
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► Watch past campus
chapels and convocations:
goshen.edu/podcasts

FEATURED LINKS

Campus News
goshen.edu/news

Campus Events
goshen.edu/calendar

Music Center Events
gcmusiccenter.org/events

Athletics Events
goleafs.net/calendar

Study-Service Term blogs
goshen.edu/sst

CAMPUS NEWS

Mennonite Writers Conference

The ninth Mennonite/s Writing Conference was hosted on Goshen College's campus in the Fall of 2022. The theme, "Celebrating 30 Years: Looking Back, Looking Forward," celebrated both reflection and passing the torch to the next generation. Originally scheduled for 2020 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first Mennonite/s Writing In 1990, and twice postponed by COVID concerns, the conference drew Mennonite- and Anabaptist-related writers, readers and scholars from all over North America.

New MSW

Beginning in 2023, Goshen College will offer a highly interactive and online Master of Social Work (MSW) degree program, conducted in partnership with Bluffton University. With plenty of opportunity for application to real-world settings, students will gain advanced clinical skills and complete their master's degree in as few as 12 months.

Learn more about this program at:
goshen.edu/msw

Top 10 Nationally Ranked

Goshen College appeared in the number eight spot – the top in Indiana – on Academic Influence's ranking of the best colleges and universities in the country by "Academic Stewardship," a challenge to traditional college rankings that ranks schools based on how effectively they use their financial and human resources toward academic impact. Taking their cue from Malcolm Gladwell's podcast series "The Myths of Meritocracy," Academic Influence created the Academic Stewardship metric to reward schools for making the most of what they have.

CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

9

Students enrolled from 3 Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference congregations this academic year

\$35,000

Amount churches pledged in congregational student aid for the academic year

The Goshen College Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

GLOBAL EDUCATION

Students from the conference are involved on- and off-campus in many edifying ways, but we specifically recognize students who have studied and served through GC's Global Education program. **Saroj Kauffman** from Salem Mennonite Church (OR) is studying and serving in Tanzania.



Vision: Healing & Hope

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Mission Statement

P*romote personal spiritual development*

N*urture healthy congregations*

M*ake strong connections throughout the conference*

C*all each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world.*



**Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference**

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