



# e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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## Rooted, Grounded and Growing in Love

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

*New seed is faithful. It roots deepest in the places that are the most empty.*



— Clarissa Pinkola Estés, *The Faithful Gardener: A Wise Tale About That Which Can Never Die*

*I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, you will be granted 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.*

—Ephesians 3:16-17

I'm thankful that even though Yolanda and I remain in house-hunting mode, we've had the opportunity to plant a vegetable and flower garden this spring. We joined my sister and brother-in-law in getting their garden up and going, so I'm experiencing the satisfying pleasure of digging in the dirt with bare hands, planting seeds, starts and bulbs, weeding, watering, and making sure that deer, rabbits and slugs eat less of the harvest than we do.

As I plant and tend a garden I'm reminded that it is an **act of faith, hope and trust**. There is a certain yieldedness and surrender of control one needs to accept when it comes to gardening. Water and aridity, light and darkness, root, tuber, tendril, leaf and blossom must all be allowed to do their thing. Pollinators are necessary partners. Predators and parasites (at least from our human point of view) are part of the life of a garden, too. Life must be allowed to root, ground and grow without over-tending or over-managing its natural and creative unfurling. A certain balance of doing and not doing must be practiced.

So it is with our life of faith and our common life in the church. We plant, nurture and tend with faithful intention. We make concerted efforts along the way. A good example is our coming together in just a few weeks for our annual meeting in Portland: "**PNMC 2023: Rooted & Grounded In Love**."

This gathering will be an important act of **nourishing and tending our common life together**. And as we do this we also trust that we are **rooting and grounding ourselves in God**, who is able to bring to blossom and fruit so much that we cannot yet imagine or see. We must allow for a certain yieldedness and surrender of control to the working of God's Spirit in our lives and in the world.

I feel joy and excitement as I anticipate and plan for what will be my first PNMC Annual Meeting. I hope you can join us **June 23-24**, as we continue to **root, ground and grow** as people of faith in Christ and as a conference of unique, vital congregations. *See you in Portland!* (Remember to register by June 9!)



## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

### Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

In August of 1914, World War I began and continued until 1918. When the United States entered the war during 1917, many young men were drafted into the military services, including many from the Mennonites, Quakers, Brethren and others who were conscientious objectors. This conflict was difficult for these young men and they experienced times of pain and suffering.

In 2014, the remembrance of a century since the war began was marked by Kauffman Museum, a part of Bethel College of North Newton, KS. Museum staff created a travelling exhibition entitled “Voices of Conscience.” Since that time, the exhibition has been taken to colleges and communities throughout the Midwest. It received a national award for its creative approach remembering the experience of World War I conscientious objectors.

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society has arranged to bring “Voices of Conscience” to Portland, OR. Lewis & Clark College has agreed to give lobby space for the exhibition from July 28 to September 24, 2023 at the Watzek Library. This will give many students and members of the wider community opportunities to view the exhibit and learn of the experiences of conscientious objectors during the war.

Our agreement with Kauffman Museum calls for a fee of \$5,000 plus \$3,000 for transportation and setup of the exhibition. PNMC agreed to support the project with a grant of \$4000. Members of the society and the Board of Directors have contributed \$2,500 towards the project. PNMHS feels that this exhibition will help meet its mission to educate the public and provide information about an important time in the history of our Mennonite community. We encourage you to support this effort by making a contribution to PNMHS. Please send your contribution to PNMHS, 6030 S Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard, OR 97032 or you can make a donation by credit card at [www.pnmhs.org](http://www.pnmhs.org) and following the instructions. If you have any other questions, please contact Committee Chair, [Jerry Barkman](#).

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER CHURCHWIDE AGENCIES

### Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary



Felecia Calloni, who calls many places home, was honored during the 2023 AMBS Commencement Service in Elkhart, IN, on April 29. She also was selected to receive this year’s **Award for Excellence in Chaplaincy** from the seminary’s Church and Ministry Department. Calloni anticipates completing her Master of Divinity with a major in Chaplaincy in December 2023. She plans to spend the next year in residency as a hospital chaplain, working towards Board of Chaplaincy Certification through the Association of Professional Chaplains. Following her residency, she plans to pursue chaplain educator training through the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. Calloni previously earned a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in English and a minor in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. Her home congregation is **Portland Mennonite Church**.

“‘Seminary will be fun,’ I thought. ‘It will be an adventure,’” Calloni reflected. “Well, that’s certainly one way of putting it — a spiritual vivisection might be another. AMBS may need to update their brochure to include, ‘May induce existential crisis.’”

“My years at AMBS have been some of the most challenging and absolutely life-giving,” she continued. “I came looking for answers — for assurance. Instead, I’m leaving having learned to embrace ambiguity and mystery. AMBS’s pedagogy of knowing, being and doing helped me to examine my toxic embedded theology and reconstruct it into a mission of shalom. Their emphasis on providing a multicultural lens in all their coursework has expanded not only my scriptural understanding, but also my concept of grace. This, combined with my Clinical Pastoral Education, has prepared me for my work as a spiritual and emotional doula (a.k.a. chaplain).”

A recording of the Commencement Service is available at [ambs.edu/graduation](http://ambs.edu/graduation).

### Mennonite Church USA

“Community is the center of our lives,” wrote Mennonite minister and author Palmer Becker, in a description of Anabaptist Mennonites. As Mennonites, we cherish those times when we can worship, learn, work and discern together. The **2023 Delegate Assembly, July 7 and 8** at the Kansas City Convention Center will be a time for our MC USA family to come together in prayer, praise, fellowship, prophecy, relationship building, understanding and deepening our commitment to Christ and each other. In 2023, the focus will be on improving the clarity and effectiveness of our policies and structures, as we discern next steps for the national conference. It is important that the voice of our constituency be heard as we gather from all parts of the church. As a delegate, you can speak into the policies and programs that guide and serve our denomination, as well as connect and listen to members across our beautifully diverse church. To learn more about MennoCon 2023 follow [this link](#).

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### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

June 19 (submissions due by 6/12)

July 17 (submissions due by 7/10)

Aug 7 (submissions due by 7/31)

Aug 21 (submissions due by 8/14)

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

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

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