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Introducing New PNMC District Pastors

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

More than thirteen years ago, Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC) established a leadership model that included several District Pastors appointed to serve on a voluntary basis and to assist the Executive Conference Minister in supporting congregations and ministry leaders throughout the broad geographic area of PNMC. Through subsequent years, an effort has been made to ensure that each PNMC congregation is assigned a District Pastor who, ideally, lives in proximity to the congregation and is available for regular support, consultation and visitation. The District Pastors have been a vital link in nurturing healthy congregations and our vibrant conference community.

This past year brought the retirement of two of our District Pastors, Merritt Welty (serving churches in Idaho, including Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church, Meridian Mennonite Church, Filer Mennonite Church and First Mennonite in Aberdeen) and Bob Buxman (serving Ministerios Restauración in Portland, OR). We are grateful for their years of service on behalf of these congregations and pastors, and the conference as a whole.

One of my goals for this first year serving as the PNMC Executive Conference Minister has been to ensure that each of our pastors and congregations is connected with a District Pastor. Additionally, I have sought to establish a District Pastor for Chaplains, as a way of supporting the active chaplains who are credentialed by our conference and serving in our communities.

I am excited to share with you that we have recently appointed two new PNMC District Pastors to fulfill these roles. Jack Swaim, from Boise, ID, will be serving as the District Pastor for Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church (ID), Meridian Mennonite Church (ID), Filer Mennonite Church (ID), First Mennonite Church in Aberdeen (ID), and Shalom Church (Spokane, WA). Charlene Epp, from Anacortes, WA, will be serving as our new District Pastor for Chaplains, supporting those persons serving in chaplaincy positions across the conference. **We offer Jack and Charlene a warm welcome to these roles and our gratitude for nurturing healthy leaders, communities and ministries throughout PNMC.**



"My life has been deeply enriched and shaped by more than 23 years ministering as a Chaplain in various healthcare and prison settings. Chaplaincy is a unique way of being a spiritual companion to those in crisis, grieving, traumatized, facing their own or a loved one's mortality. Protecting the shy souls of those a chaplain meets results in few opportunities to share what providing this spiritual care means. To offer space and support to our PNMC Chaplains to reflect on their experiences and role is a way to care for these spiritual care givers. I am grateful to be able to walk with these kindred spirits in this way."

-Charlene Epp

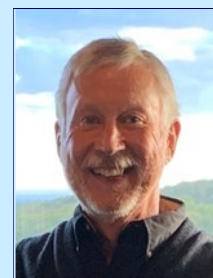
OUR OTHER PNMC DISTRICT PASTORS & CONGREGATIONS:



"Congregations are the heart of our Mennonite church, where members of each congregation seek to follow Jesus in their own respective context."

I'm honored to serve as a District Pastor in support of these pastors and congregational leaders."

-Jack Swaim



Gary Jewell	Brent Kauffman	Samuel Morán	Terry Rediger	Sylvia Shirk
Hyde Park (ID)	Albany Mennonite (OR)	Vida Nueva (OR)	Pacific Covenant (OR)	Community of Hope (WA)
Menno Mennonite (WA)	Bend Mennonite (OR)	Anabautista Ebenezer (OR)	Portland Mennonite (OR)	Evergreen Mennonite (WA)
Mt. View (MT)	Corvallis Mennonite (OR)		Salem Mennonite (OR)	Ministerios Restauración (OR)
Prince of Peace (AK)	Eugene Mennonite (OR)		Zion Mennonite (OR)	Seattle Mennonite (WA)
	Western Mennonite (OR)			

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Pastoral Opportunities:

[First Mennonite Church](#), Aberdeen, ID, is seeking a full-time pastor. The congregation has been worshipping together since 1907. To read the full job description, click [here](#), and for congregation information, click [here](#).

[Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship](#), Boise, ID, is seeking a full-time pastor. The congregation was established in 1977. To read the full job description, click [here](#), and for congregation information, click [here](#).

[Mountain View Mennonite Church](#), Kalispell, MT, is seeking a .75 FTE pastor. The congregation began worshipping together in 1913. To read the full job description, click [here](#), and for congregation information, click [here](#).

[Salem Mennonite Church](#), Keizer, OR, is seeking a full-time pastor. The congregation was established in 1961. To read the full job description, click [here](#).

[Zion Mennonite Church](#), Hubbard, OR, is seeking a part-time Youth Ministry Director. Connect with middle and high school students; partner with volunteers to plan activities and events; and lead a Bible-based Sunday morning youth group.

For more information, please contact Executive Conference Minister, Eric Massanari by email at eric@pnmc.org.

Anchorage Service Adventure Unit

In August, the folks at **Prince of Peace Mennonite Church** welcomed a new [Service Adventure](#) group after having a year off. During that time the congregation was glad to provide housing for a Ukrainian refugee family. The Service Adventure Unit has a new leader and 3 participants who are already living life to the fullest in Anchorage! However, as the support committee was preparing the home for the coming year, a water heater leak was noticed. The church replaced it with a heater with a side arm to provide options for future use. The water heater cost \$4885.29 and was not in the Service Adventure budget, especially having taken a year off. As the snow comes down the mountains the unit van also needs new winter tires. The anticipated cost is \$1000. The Service Adventure Support Committee is asking for help with these expenses. They recognize that Service Adventure Anchorage has touched the lives of many people and this is an opportunity to give back. There are a couple of options for giving: checks to PO Box 241312, Anchorage AK, 99524 or by PayPal at admin@popmc.org. Please make gifts by **November 15th** and earmark the designation as water heater or tires.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA



Mennonite Church USA is helping to fuel growth and diversity with its [Thrive Church Planting Grants](#). This year, [Community of Hope Mennonite Church](#) in Bellingham, WA, was one of two recipients. The congregations are recognized for building circles of community in creative, Jesus-centered ways. “It’s wonderful to witness how church planters and those in these worshipping communities are reimagining what it means to be a missional peace church,” said Rachel Ringenberg Miller, MC USA’s denominational minister for Ministerial Leadership.

“There are some advantages of meeting outdoors that I didn’t anticipate,” said Rachael Wesley, pastor and church planter of Community of Hope, describing the church’s growing Wild Church ministry. “It makes us accessible to immunocompromised folks, and those who have religious trauma and aren’t comfortable in a church building. We stand in a circle, kind of naturally. I think we are shaped by the architecture of the outdoors. It helps us remember that nature is outside of our control and so is God. There is something helpful about

that, especially when you’re doing queer theology,” she explained. Not everyone at Community of Hope identifies as queer, but they seek to do church in a Queer way, according to Wesley. She explains that this means looking at the gospel through the lens of queer theory, seeing how Jesus operates at the margins of power. The church, which started as an online community, has expanded through the help of the Thrive Grant to include in-person gatherings outdoors in the Wild Church tradition.

Read the full story [here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Nov 20 (submissions due by 11/13)
Dec 4 (submissions due by 10/27)
Dec 18 (submissions due by 12/11)
Jan 8 (submissions due by 1/2)

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

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