



# e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

Please share widely. If you receive this e-bulletin via more than one address, let us know which address you prefer. To submit announcements or manage your subscription, email [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto:brenda@pnmc.org). See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

## From the PNMC Office

- The January e-Bulletins will shift publication dates and be sent out on January 8 and January 22.
- The 2024 Conference Communication Council will be **Saturday, February 10**, via Zoom.

## From the PNMC Conference Minister, Eric Massanari



*Healthy ministry--practiced by pastors, chaplains, spiritual directors and others--is an expression of sacred presence and loving companionship. At the same moment, persons serving in ministry roles require this same presence and nurture from others in order to be healthy in our vocations.* Recently, I received the gift of a supportive, nurturing community, as the leaders of the Mennonite Church Canada regional churches and Mennonite Church USA conferences gathered for an annual retreat. All of the MC

Canada regional churches and 11 of the 15 MC USA conferences were represented at our gathering in beautiful Banff, Alberta, Nov. 9-12. It was a gathering of mutual support, learning and resourcing one another for our work as church leaders.

During the first full day, Dr. Carl Adrian, a psychiatrist at a private practice and member of Foothills Mennonite Church in Calgary, Alberta, facilitated meaningful reflections on the topics of loneliness and empathic connection. As ministry leaders, we serve in roles that bring us into intimate engagement with others; and yet, at the very same time, we are expected to maintain a degree of relational and emotional distance, in order to honor healthy boundaries. Moreover, shifting cultural perceptions of ministry can leave us feeling misunderstood and misrepresented for who we really are in our roles. These and other factors can give rise to profound loneliness for people in ministry. Dr. Adrian reminded us that we need strong, loving and empathic relationships, in order to be strong, loving and empathic pastors.

On our second day, we spent time in our respective national denominational groups, discussing key issues that shape our common life. Mennonite Church USA conference leaders gave special focus to the newly emerging guidelines for abuse prevention and response in the church. Nancy Kauffman, interim denominational minister of church safety, helped orient us to some of the important changes being made to denominational abuse/misconduct policies and training programs for congregations and pastoral leaders. The discussion felt like a natural extension of the previous day's dialog on what nurtures healthy ministry leaders.

During our final afternoon, we were led by Amy Zimbelman, conference minister for [Mountain States Mennonite Conference](#), and Elizabeth Johnson, Ph.D. candidate in sociology at Duke University, in a discussion about their ongoing [research on women in ministry](#) in the Mennonite church. Our dialog was at once celebratory, for the recognition of the expanding and invaluable presence of women ministry leaders in the wider church, and sobering, as the research findings indicate ongoing prejudices and misogyny faced by these gifted leaders. Zimbelman's and Johnson's research is an important step in our ongoing learning and transformation as the body of Christ.



There was a rich fullness during these days spent together as conference leaders — a fullness of curiosity, learning and mutual care. We were reminded of the blessings and needs found in our deep humanity, and we were gifted with many reminders of our common call to serve the emergence of a church that bears witness to the love of Christ with humility, courage, wisdom and compassion.

I want to conclude with a word of encouragement to all who might read these words: Please take a moment to express your gratitude and support to pastors, chaplains, spiritual directors and other ministry leaders with whom you are connected. There can be a great loneliness experienced in the midst of ministry, and your kind words may be just what is needed today to help inspire and sustain someone in their vital efforts.

To read Eric's entire reflection and see more images, follow [this link](#).

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

### Zion Mennonite Church

All are invited to participate in the **2023 Sing Your Own Messiah** at Zion Mennonite Church in Hubbard, OR, on **Saturday, December 16 at 4pm**. Refreshments will be served following the gathering.

### Drift Creek Camp

**Save the date!** Ron and Jeanne Sears, will lead a spirituality retreat **January 19-21, 2024**. The focus will be “A Way of Life – *Intentions for Going on the Road with Jesus Come Away, Rest awhile, and You Will Recover Your Life*”. Participants will be invited to reflect at the “hinge” month of 2024. We will look back on 2023, noticing what was life-giving and what was life-draining. Where are we weary? Where are we refreshed? What spiritual life rhythms might be a trellis to hold your values and intentions? More details [here](#).

### Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society invites you to our **2024 Annual Meeting** on **Saturday, February 17, 2024**, at Zion Mennonite Church, 6124 S. Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard, OR. A luncheon will be served at Noon followed by the annual business meeting. The cost for the meal is \$15 per person. RSVP for lunch only to Jerry Barkman at [jbarkman@canby.com](mailto:jbarkman@canby.com) or 503-871-6413 by February 9. A program featuring Dr. Abraham Friesen will follow at 1:30 pm. His presentation is titled "Russian Mennonites & the Recovery of an “Anabaptist Vision.” Dr. Friesen is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA

### Mennonite Action

Mennonite Action is a movement of Mennonites bonded by a common belief that **we must be public about our peace values**. We believe that Mennonites have a responsibility to use our voices as powerfully as possible for the cause of peace and justice. We are taking public action as Mennonites. We are mobilizing Mennonites across the US and Canada to demand a ceasefire, end the US and western funded occupation of Palestine, and build for lasting peace. To learn more or to get involved, follow [this link](#).

### Mennonite Church USA

For more news from MC USA, click [here](#).

### Mennonite Disaster Service, A Reflection from Mountain View Mennonite Church MDS Workers, John & Jeryl

Guam is 30 miles long and 9 miles wide at its widest point. There is one main road around the Island in the form of a figure 8. There are 4 airports, three of them being military. There is a large military base at both ends of the island. Each evening we go out to eat at a different restaurant. So far that's been Italian, Chinese, Vietnamese and a sort of weekly farmers market where there are many vendors of food and other crafts, clothes, etc. The language is primarily English, and Chomorro - a kind of indigenous language. But there are other languages that are fairly common as well - with lots of language combinations. The people we've related to are very nice and try to be helpful. It feels safe here, but we try to do things as a group. There isn't much violent crime on the island, but we are told there are sticky fingers, so we try to keep track of things. No problems so far.

Most of our work involves replacing roofs that the typhoon took off. There are 11 MDSers here with several of staying the entire 2-month period. FEMA has decided to extend the project another 3 months, but MDS is not planning to stay. There has been the frustrating problem of locating the work that needs to be done and I think MDS wants things more clearly defined. The Methodists and Adventists are also here and we understand some may be staying. So, when we complete our two weeks, the MDS project here is planning to shut down. Photo: John working to replace a roof.



### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Dec 18 (submissions due by 12/11)

Jan 8 (submissions due by 1/2)

Jan 22 (submissions due by 1/15)

Feb 5 (submissions due by 1/29)

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!*

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