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That We May Be One: The Gift of Ecumenical Relationships

Just a reminder that the PNMC Conference Communication Council gathering will be held **Saturday, February 10, 8:30am—12:30pm** (Pacific) on Zoom. We will be focusing our time together on the theme of **ecumenism**, and the nurturing of relationships with Christians of other traditions and people of other faiths in our local communities and throughout the world.

The Christian community, particularly in North America, is undergoing a period of great change and reformation, not unlike the period five hundred years ago that we speak of as The Reformation. However, one key difference is that at this historic juncture, when the global human community is connected as never before and is facing numerous challenges including widespread warfare, climate change and environmental degradation, we have a **collective need to seek connection rather than separation, union rather than division.**

We hope you will participate! In addition to our PNMC Board, staff, district pastors, team chairpersons and representatives from PNMC related organizations, **we ask for representation from each of our member congregations and church plants** (at minimum: a pastor and an additional congregation member, or two congregation members if no pastor is available). Please note that any and all who wish to take part are welcome to attend! **Registration information is available [here](#).**

2024 Conference Communication Council

8:30am	Welcome and Opening Worship
9:00am	Congregational Roll-Call and Sharing
9:50am	Break
10:00am	<i>That We May Be One: The Gift of Ecumenical Relationships</i> <i>Sharing from three PNMC congregations and one PNMC chaplain. Breakout room discussions.</i>
11:30am	Break (10 min)
11:40am	PNMC Updates and Reports
12:30pm	Closing Prayer and Adjourn

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



Salem Mennonite Church

Salem Mennonite Church is displaying a vibrant star quilt during the month of January. Six people in the SMC Quilting group pieced, marked, quilted, and bound the star quilt on display at the front of the sanctuary. They worked on it an average of one morning each week for nine months. The quilt was auctioned off at the MCC Oregon Relief sale in Albany last fall and has been donated back for auction again in 2024.

Salem Mennonite Church will have a "tying blitz" for the MCC Great Winter Warm-up on **Sunday, January 28** right after the worship service. A light lunch will be provided, then all are invited to help tie comforters. Your time and creative talents are helping to share the message of God's love with those in need. Our goal is to create as many comforters as possible in this year's Great Winter Warm-up.

Camp CAMREC

Winter months can be long without much to look forward to after holiday celebrations. Here is an opportunity to connect intentionally with friends and enjoy an extended weekend together at a wilderness camp setting where you could work remotely if needed and/or hang out with peers. Drop in any time between **February 15-20**. Stay for as little or as long as it works for you! **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Tubing, snow shoeing, cross country skiing on site; Alpine skiing & snowboarding at [Steven's Pass](#) or at [Mission Ridge](#) Excursions into Leavenworth, a picturesque Bavarian style village; Immerse yourself in one of [Grunwald Guild's](#) art studios; guided yoga; work remotely; play games; enjoy cooking collaboratively as well as contemplative worship. Suggested minimum donation of \$25 per day (\$20/lodging and \$5/food). Optional off-site activities such as equipment rental, park passes, and outings to local attractions will be paid separately. Scholarship funding is available if finances are a concern - for more information, look [here](#) or contact [Brisa Peacock](#).

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The PNMHS invites you to its **2024 Annual Meeting** on **Saturday, February 17, 2024**, at Zion Mennonite Church. A luncheon will be served at 12pm followed by the annual business meeting. The meal is \$15 per person. RSVP for lunch to [Jerry Barkman](#), 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.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Zion Mennonite Church

Join ZMC as the congregation celebrates the ordination of **Pastor Steve Bomar** on **Sunday, February 18**. Zion's Sunday morning worship services begin at 10:15 both in person and on Zoom. (Visit the church website to catch the livestream [here](#).) ZMC's Sunday School begins at 9am. Masks are optional. PNMC Executive Conference Minister, Eric Massanari will officiate the ordination.

Seattle Mennonite Church

Seattle Mennonite is seeking a full-time pastor of **Faith Formation**. The Congregation was established in 1968 and has been practicing urban ministry ever since. SMC's CIF is available [here](#). The congregational priorities are posted [here](#) and the job description is [here](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA and OTHER MENNONITE ORGANIZATIONS



Mennonite Action

Last week, Mennonites convened in Washington D.C. for a [Day of Action](#). Prior to setting plans in motion, the group gathered for worship, broke bread, and trained to take peaceful action. They shared questions, hopes, and fears. They grounded themselves in the purpose of acting for the liberation of the oppressed, a permanent ceasefire, a return of all hostages, and a day when our Palestinian and Israeli siblings can live in peace — *free from fear and pain*.

On the morning of **January 16**, the group set out for the capitol to let their voices be heard. The group consisted of participants as young as 18 and as old as 83. They peacefully entered and occupied the Cannon House Office Building for an unannounced hymn sing. They sang, chanted, held banners, and called on their elected officials to support a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. The group continued singing, their harmonies filling the

building's rotunda, remaining steadfast in their peace witness, even as they were placed in constraints and led away one by one, being arrested for peaceful civil disobedience. In a statement, U.S. Capitol Police said a group of people legally entered the Cannon House Office Building after they went through screening. About 130 were arrested and charged with "crowding, obstructing, or incommoding" under the D.C. Code. "Demonstrations are not allowed inside Congressional Buildings, so when they started to protest and refused to stop, we began arresting them," the statement said. By evening, all were released safely from custody and welcomed with food and cheers before returning home.

[Mennonite Action](#) is a movement of Mennonites and Anabaptists bonded by a common belief that we have a responsibility to use our voices as powerfully as possible, for the cause of peace and justice. We are called to draw on our history of opposing war, and in providing aid and relief to those who are suffering. To learn more about Mennonite Action or to sign the petition, click [here](#).

Mennonite Central Committee

Bethany Renata Loberg, of Salem Mennonite Church, Salem, OR, reflects on her experiences accompanying relatives of disappeared people in México. She explains, "In the state where I live and work, over 7,000 people have disappeared. A major driver of disappearances here is competition between a murky network of organized crime groups, private companies and public officials for lucrative oil and gas exploitation and infrastructure contracts. Having studied various conflict transformation frameworks at Goshen College and Eastern Mennonite University, it has been exciting to find these same frameworks being applied to some of the most challenging justice issues in México." Read more [here](#).

Mennonite Church USA

[Hope for the Future](#), to be held **February 9-11, 2024**, is MC USA's annual gathering that brings together Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) leaders connected to Mennonite Church USA from across the nation. [Learn more here](#).

Mennonite Education Agency

Applications will be accepted through **April 1, 2024**, for the [MEA](#) Scholarship for BIPOC Students within Mennonite Church USA. The scholarship was launched in the 2023 to help students who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), and who are active in MC USA churches, to access the quality education they can get at Anabaptist Mennonite schools. MEA will grant up to \$4,000 in scholarships for 2024-2025 to a student or students at each MEA-approved school for the 2024-25 academic year. Approved schools include Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN; Bethel College, North Newton, KS; Bluffton (OH) University; Eastern Mennonite University and Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, VA; Goshen (IN) College; and Hesston (KS) College. The funds may be divided between multiple applicants or awarded to a single individual at each school. Scholarship information, requirements, and the application form are available online [here](#). Questions can be directed to [Jolene VonGuten](#), 574-343-1310.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Feb 5 (submissions due by 1/29)

Feb 19 (submissions due by 2/12)

Mar 4 (submissions due by 2/26)

Mar 18 (submissions due by 3/11)

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!*