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Save the Date!

PNMC Annual Meeting, June 21-23, 2024, Bend, Oregon

Called in the One Body, and Thankful!

Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17

*Together in Christ, we discover a new life revealed--a life nourished by a love that is eternal.
Clothed in this love, we walk the path of discipleship with gratitude and generosity,
offering our lives in service to one another and to the world.*

We hope that you can join in this 3-day gathering of our conference for worship, fellowship, service and discernment together. More details will be coming soon. In the meantime, we have reserved a block of rooms at the [Peppertree Hotel](#) in Bend, located just across the road from Seven Peaks School where we will hold our meetings. The per night reduced rate is \$175 + tax. To make a room reservation, please follow this [Booking Link](#).

Please make your hotel reservations before May 21, 2024 when the reduced rate will expire.

Work has begun on the 2024 Delegate Handbook. Reports are needed from conference leaders of Teams and Committees.

The PNMC Gifts Discernment Team invites your suggestions for people to serve as PNMC Secretary, at-large PNMC board member and Gifts Discernment Team member. Candidates for these positions must hold membership in a PNMC congregation. Please fill [this survey](#) to pass your suggestions on to us.

A Note of Gratitude from Barb Buxman:

“Thank you very much for the care and love you have shown to Bob and I during my recent knee replacement surgery. Thank you for the cards and texts, thank you for the meals prepared and shared. Your prayers and care are much appreciated. My healing has gone well. I am in full scale PT right now and am feeling really good. Thank you for your prayers for us.”

PNMC Pastoral Opportunities:

[First Mennonite Church](#), Aberdeen, ID, is seeking a full-time pastor.

[Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship](#), Boise, ID, is seeking a full-time pastor.

[Mountain View Mennonite Church](#), Kalispell, MT, is seeking a .75 FTE pastor.

[Salem Mennonite Church](#), Keizer, OR, is seeking a full-time pastor.

[Seattle Mennonite Church](#), Seattle, WA, is seeking a full-time pastor.

[Zion Mennonite Church](#), Hubbard, OR, is seeking a part-time Youth Ministry Director.

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

At the Speed of Lent

Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister



And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." ISAIAH 30:21

I just returned home after ten days of travel in Oregon. The trip included a wonderful ordination celebration for Steve Bomar, pastor of Zion Mennonite Church (Hubbard, OR), a visit in Bend, OR to plan for our June PNMC Annual Meeting, a chance to receive the prophetic wisdom and insights of Sarah Augustine who was preaching and teaching at Portland Mennonite Church, and then an opportunity to worship with the Ministerios Restauración congregation (Portland, OR). The days were inspiring and full, and many miles were traversed in a short period of time.

I take for granted how readily and rapidly I'm able to travel in this way—by car, airplane, train or bus—and how relatively simple it is to incorporate this into my work as a conference minister. With laptop and cellphone in my bag, my office travels with me and, as so many people do in our modern times, I quickly fill the days with tasks, meetings and conversations that range, quite literally, all over the map. I sometimes forget the costs of this way of moving through the world—the cost of immense resources that are expended whenever we travel (money, fuel, the labors of many others, etc.) and the cost of inner resources that are, in time, felt in our hearts, minds and souls.

In the midst of travels, and especially when I return home, there are a number of things I do to help me keep the pace manageable, to allow space for reflection and contemplation, to stay grounded. Perhaps the most important of these practices is this: I walk. I walk early in the morning, I walk between tasks and appointments, I take short walk breaks across the room when my body fatigues from sitting at the computer, and I try to walk at the day's end.

Walking has become for me an essential practice—an act of prayer and a practice of presence. Walking is something my body learned how to do many years ago, and it is something my body does quite reflexively in order to get me from one place to another throughout the day. Walking in a more intentional and attentive way, however, helps me slow down, helps me grow more present to whatever is happening in the moment, helps me recognize and release undue stress and anxiety I am carrying, and helps me attune more deeply to God's presence.

Today, I walked. I walked city streets and I walked forested trails near my home. I paused and leaned on a few of my favorite trees, and then I went down to Whatcom Creek and splashed cold water on my head. These steps helped me return home and helped my body, heart and soul find a bit of rest.

While walking I thought about how walking was the primary mode of travel for Jesus and his disciples. The gospel accounts give the impression that their life together was chockfull of one poignant and powerful encounter after another. In truth, there were pauses in between these dramatic moments, sometimes long ones, as they walked for days between cities and villages. I imagine their conversations and their long silences. I imagine the sound of their steps and the dust rising from the road. I imagine that their walking helped them stay grounded in the midst of their wondrous, turbulent and disorienting journey with Jesus.

The season of Lent invites us to consider releasing things that might inhibit our presence with the God who is always fully present within and with us. This includes our often hurried and speedy path through life. May there be opportunities in your life, and in the life of our congregations, for the slowing that is needed to practice presence with the One who speaks to us: "This is the Way; walk in it."

MENNONITE CHURCH USA

Follow this link to read the latest news from Mennonite Church USA in [PeaceMail](#).

Learn more about MC USA's [Hope for the Future](#) conference [here](#) and the 2024 honorees [here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 18 (submissions due by 3/11)

Apr 1 (submissions due by 2/25)

Apr 15 (submissions due by 4/8)

May 6 (submissions due by 4/29)

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>