



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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Registration Now Open!

I am excited share with you that we have opened registration for this summer's [PNMC Annual Meeting](#) in Bend, OR, **June 21-23**. We will be gathering at the Seven Peaks School in Bend, which will provide great flexibility for our time together. Our theme emerges from Paul's letter to the Colossians, where he writes: "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:14-15)

We listened to your feedback from our recent annual gatherings, and we are planning an expanded program that we know you will find inspiring and enriching (see agenda overview). Nancy Kauffmann, interim Mennonite Church USA Denominational Minister for Church Safety, will join us and offer a workshop for all participants on the Safe Church program and resources for MCUSA. Sermons will be offered by Nancy and Sam Adams, our host pastor from Bend Mennonite Church. Worship will include a Friday evening hymn sing and worship services on Saturday and Sunday mornings. There will also be opportunities for community service work in the Bend community, and lots of open time for fellowship.

We are also excited to announce that there is a pre-annual meeting Anabaptist Theology Symposium being planned by PNMC pastors Sam Adams (Bend Mennonite Church) and Craig Morton (Meridian Mennonite Church). (*See description on page 2.*) We hope you can join us for this great event!

-Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

2024 Annual Meeting Agenda:

Friday, June 21:

- 1:00-5:00PM Community service opportunity in Bend and MCC comforter knotting
- 1:00-5:00PM Contemplative Half-Day Retreat for Pastors/Chaplains/Credentialed Leaders
- 6:00PM Appreciation Dinner for Pastors/Chaplains/Credentialed Leaders (*Everyone else will have dinner on their own*)
- 7:30PM PNMC Hymn Sing, led by Phil Rempel (Albany Mennonite Church)

Saturday, June 22:

- 7:30AM New Delegate Orientation Breakfast
- 8:30AM Opening Worship
- 9:30AM Break and Snacks
- 10:00AM PNMC Delegate Session #1
- 12:00PM Catered lunch for all
- 1:30PM Workshop Period 1: *MC USA Safe Church*, led by Nancy Kauffmann
- 3:00PM Break
- 3:30PM Workshop Period 2: (choose one)
 - I. Gratitude in Action: Practicing Generosity and Faithful Stewardship as the Body of Christ*, led by Rhoda Blough (Everence Stewardship Consultant) and Colin Saxton (Everence Stewardship Theologian)
 - II. Braver Conversations: Learning to Depolarize Ourselves and Remain Curious About Others*, led by Rob Hanson (Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, ID)
 - III. Diverse Ways of Being the Church*, Gary Jewell, PNMC District Pastor, will be facilitating a panel of PNMC Congregational leaders who will discuss unique and emergent ways of living out Christ's call to be the church in the world today.
- 5:00PM Dinner on our own
- 7:00PM Table games and recreation at the school



Sunday, June 23:

- 8:30AM PNMC Delegate Session #2
 - 10:00AM Coffee/Rolls
 - 10:30AM Worship & Communion Celebration
 - NOON Adjourn and Bend-area recreation options
- More details regarding Annual Meeting on Page 2.*

Bonus Offering! Pre-Meeting Anabaptist Theology Symposium

All are invited to a time of purposeful conversation and reflection on the role theology plays in our churches in the Pacific Northwest. As we approach the 500th anniversary of our Anabaptist tradition, and in the midst of cultural, social, and political change, it seems like a significant opportunity to gather as churches from our corner of the world to begin some important conversations about how what we are doing and teaching is uniquely Anabaptist and what that actually means.

The two sessions will feature panel discussions with select presenters and facilitated conversations involving all who are present. The goal is to begin some important conversations that may be carried on through the year formally and informally. There is no intent to establish any "orthodoxy" or statement out of this. Facilitated by pastors Sam Adams (Bend Mennonite Church) and Craig Morton (Meridian Mennonite Church).

Sessions: 1-6:00PM Thursday, June 20 and 8:30-11:00AM Friday, June 21

Location: Seven Peaks School, Bend, OR (same location as Annual Meeting)

No extra charge for this gathering. Simply indicate your plan to attend on the registration form.

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION LINK BELOW:

Click [HERE](#) for the 2024 Annual Meeting Registration.

We hope that you can join in this **3-day gathering** of our conference for worship, fellowship, service and discernment together. 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.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Mennonite Disaster Service, Oregon Unit

If you are planning to attend the MDS Unit meeting at Portland Mennonite Church on **April 6**, (10 am to 2 pm) please send an email to [Clyde Hockman](#) or give him a call (503-592-4490) **today, April 1, 2024** so that we have an accurate count of attendees to order the correct number of lunches.

Salem Mennonite Church

Carl Newswanger served as pastor of Salem Mennonite Church for 12 years from the early 1990s to early 2000s. Carl passed away at age 82, on March 7, 2024. A memorial service is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11, at 10:30 am** at Salem Mennonite Church. Following the service, there will be a light lunch and then opportunity for attendees to share their stories of Carl. The family looks forward to reconnecting with friends and SMC church family. Click [here](#) to read his obituary.

MCC West Coast Bike Ride 2024

Join other bikers and MCC supporters on a 4-day fund-raising ride this summer from **August 4-9**. The riders will be based in Albany, OR at the Mennonite Village and take loop rides each day from there through the scenic Willamette Valley.

Visit <https://mcc.org/events/west-coast-bike-ride> for more information or contact Bruce Kuhns at kuhns.bruce@gmail.com.

Camp CAMREC

Interested in learning about prescribed fires and how to implement them as a form of creation care? [CAMREC's](#) first prescribed burn, weather permitting, will take place **April 6 –7, 2024**, as part of a FREE Learn and Burn workshop conducted by the Cascadia Prescribed Burn Association. The [CPBA](#) is a collective of residents, landowners, tribes, local organizations, and agencies dedicated to nurturing forest resilience, enhancing wildlife habitats, and safeguarding communities from catastrophic wildfires. If you would like to participate, please request more information from [Brisa Peacock](#). *No previous experience is necessary.*

Bring your family and friends to CAMREC **April 19-21, 2024** for a FREE opportunity to explore the marvels of spring time as guests gather to reflect on Earth Day. Participants will be able to connect with the Washington Mennonite Fellowship through the WMF Annual Meeting as well as take time to care for camp during the Spring Work Weekend during the same weekend.

Community of Hope

Queer Theology Sunday School: "Love is a Light through a Dim Glass"

April 14th 3:30pm (PDT)/6:30pm (EDT) with Madison McClendon, MDiv [Zoom Registration link](#)

In this fourth of four events in our 2024 Queer Theology Sunday School series, we will begin as always with a feltboard presentation of the basics of queer theology before hearing from the guest teacher. After some Q&A, we will end with breakout rooms for discussion! One room is always queer-only. *Don't hesitate to contact pastor Rachael Weasley with any questions!*

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES, cont.

Drift Creek Camp

Drift Creek is planning a Spruce Up Camp day **Saturday, April 20, 2024** to prepare for spring outdoor schools and summer programs! Helping hands are needed to prep cabins, clear trails, and clean the lodge. To sign up, contact info@driftcreek.org or call 971-600-1266.

Oregon has passed legislation that makes it easier for schools to provide outdoor education. While this is great news for Drift Creek and increases weekday usage, the cart hasn't caught up with the horse and we are not yet adequately staffed to meet this need. DCC could use helping hands to provide meals for students the following dates: **April 23-26** and **June 4-6**. *School schedules are tight. One need is having enough hands to get students through the serving lines. So even if you can't be on your feet cooking, we still value help with serving meals.*

Speaking of staffing needs, are you, or someone you know, interested in serving as **Caretakers**? It will be with hearts of gratitude and sadness that we will soon say goodbye to **Heather Gabel** and **Levi Ebersole** as they prepare for life's next adventure. We are so grateful for their contributions during their time at DCC. Click [here](#) for a job description and [here](#) to apply. Staff members wear a lot of hats! We are hoping to find a person/persons interested in facility upkeep; grounds keeping; hosting and food service. We are hoping to expand the size of the on-site team and creatively find ways to spread the work load.

Summer camp is right around the corner! Registration forms are available [here](#). If your congregation would like hard copies sent your way, let us know. We are looking for cooks and bakers for: High School Camp (**June 23-28**); Grades 7 & 8 (**June 30-July 5**) and Grades 5 & 6 (**July 7-12**). Cooks are also needed for a weekend group between camps, **July 5-7**. Volunteers make camp possible. Please contact info@driftcreek.org and we'll get you scheduled!

Mennonite Church USA and Other Organizations

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS in Elkhart, IN, has received a \$1,249,830 grant from **Lilly Endowment's Thriving Congregations Initiative** to establish a program to help congregations deepen their study of the Bible with the goal of connecting more authentically with their communities. The aim of the initiative is to encourage the flourishing of congregations by helping them deepen their relationships with God, enhance their connections with each other, and contribute to the vitality of their communities and the world.



The five-year project — titled "Anabaptist Thriving Congregations" — is designed to equip Mennonite congregations in the U.S. and Canada to read and interpret both the Bible and their socio-cultural context for the purpose of being witnesses to the gospel in their local community. **Malinda Elizabeth Berry**, PhD, will serve as Grant Director for the project in her role as Director of AMBS's **Faith Formation Collaborative** (FFC). Berry noted that a core belief of Anabaptism — a Christian movement that began in central Europe in the 16th century — is that faith communities consisting of ordinary people can read and interpret Scripture together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

However, the practice of studying Scripture together on a regular basis has diminished over time among Mennonites. Berry is excited to introduce congregations to Confessional Bible Study — an approach to Bible study developed at AMBS that is at the heart of the new project.

"What I love about this approach is that it offers a new vision for bringing Mennonites together around the Bible and does so in a way that helps us grow in mind, body and spirit," she said. "Gathering 'professional readers' like my colleagues who can read the Bible in Greek and Hebrew, and 'everyday readers' like me who read Scripture in translation" is central to the practice of Confessional Bible Study, added Berry. "When we bring together the realities of ordinary living with the insights of biblical scholarship, something special begins to happen," she said. "Scripture has power to be a vital dialogue partner with us as we adapt to the changing cultural and social contexts where our congregations find themselves. I believe that the more a congregation gathers all kinds of readers to study and interpret Scripture together, the more equipped its members will be to identify their common values and mission." *Read more [here](#).*

Mennonite Church USA

Click [here](#) to read the latest edition of *PeaceMail*. (Including Eric Massanari's Easter poem [O Risen One: A resurrection prayer for the morning](#).)

Mennonite Church USA is pleased to announce that the [2025 MC USA biennial national gathering](#) and leading faith formation event, **Follow Jesus '25**, will take place **July 8-12, 2025**, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC.

The MC USA Executive Board, meeting via Zoom on March 15-16, 2024, affirmed a clean audit and a new strategic plan that seeks to reimagine church in new ways. More [here](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Apr 15 (submissions due by 4/8)

May 6 (submissions due by 4/29)

May 20 (submissions due by 5/13)

June 3 (submissions due by 5/27)

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>