



30th Annual Meeting

# DELEGATE HANDBOOK

June 22, 2024



Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite  
Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA



## 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 independently)
- 7:30PM PNMC Hymn Sing, led by Phil Rempel (Albany Mennonite Church)

### Saturday, June 22:

- 7:30AM First Time 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 Mennonite Action presentation/discussion with Weldon Nisly and Amy Epp  
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

Next Annual Meeting: June 20-22, 2025



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# Welcome to Bend 2024

*“Called in the One Body, and Thankful”  
(Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17)*

Dear Delegates of the PNMC,

It is my joy and privilege to welcome you to the **30th annual delegate assembly of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**. We are grateful this year for the hospitality provided by the **Bend Mennonite Church** as we gather to celebrate God’s faithful love in this stunning corner of our region.

In response to feedback that we have received in recent years we are extending this year’s gathering to include Sunday morning worship. We are excited about the extra space in the schedule and hope that it will encourage folks to connect deeply in programmed and unprogrammed ways. We are few in number and spread across a vast region, so these opportunities to grow our connections to each other are not only precious on a personal level; they are vitally important to the continued thriving of our conference.

As we gather in from all corners of the Pacific Northwest to enjoy a weekend of worshiping, wondering, singing, studying, eating, discerning and growing together may we also find time to simply enjoy the gift of being together in the middle of God’s beautiful creation. And when our gathering draws to a close, as it must eventually do, may we find that our hearts are fuller and our spirits refreshed.

In the unstinting love of our creator,

Chris Nord  
PNMC Moderator

# Executive Conference Minister Annual Report

Submitted by Eric Massanari – May 2024

*Unless a grain of wheat falls in the ground and dies, it remains a single grain;  
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

JOHN 12:24

*No one can truly know Christ unless they follow him in life.*

Hans Denck, 16<sup>th</sup> century Anabaptist leader

## Released Into Life With Love

With the briefest of parables Jesus describes the ever-growing life made possible in the ground of God's love. Life released into life, love offered with surrendered generosity, knowing that in this Way something even greater emerges into being. With a single grain of wheat Jesus evokes not only the shape of his own journey, but the path of all of us who seek to love God with our whole being, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

I share this here because I believe that just like Jesus' grain of wheat, we must come to ground as the church in these times when so much feels uncertain and lost. This period of social, political and cultural instability has the power to provoke our fear, defensiveness, and self-protection; however, Jesus invites us instead to travel a Way of released, compassionate and active engagement with our world. ***This moment has the power to provoke our faith, our hope and our love as we place trust in the God whose love dispels fear and transforms death into new life.***

Releasing ourselves into loving engagement with God and our world right now—what our Anabaptist forbears described with the German word, ***Gelassenheit***—requires vulnerability, courage and patience.

We must acknowledge that church as we've known it is rapidly changing, and many things—perhaps even some of our most beloved ministries and practices—must change, perhaps even fall away and die, so that something new might emerge. ***We must remember the church is not an organization to be preserved; it is an organism to be nurtured with care*** as we experience natural cycles of birthing, living, dying and rebirthing in the Body of Christ. Like the kernel of wheat, some things must be shed so that new life can emerge.

Throughout my first year and a half in the role of PNMC Executive Conference Minister I have heard and witnessed some common themes as I've visited our congregations: decreased attendance in Sunday services and other programs, decreased giving to support congregational budgets, struggles to find volunteers for leadership and ministry roles, and the challenges of reevaluating programs and leadership structures to accommodate changing congregational landscapes. A quarter of our congregations are currently in a stage of pastoral transition and are learning that such transitions are requiring a high degree of patience and flexibility as there are fewer potential candidates who are seeking pastoral leadership roles.

Moreover, we are all trying to discern what it means to follow Jesus in a world where distrust, rancor, warfare, violence, and disregard for the wellbeing of our planetary home seem the rule of the day and are impacting all life around the globe.

## ***Yet, through all of this, I feel great hope for the church!***

In this time of loss, change and letting go, I believe there is immense possibility for creative emergence in the church—the grain of wheat germinating and bearing new fruit. Success and vitality in the Body of Christ have never been about size, numbers, productivity, measurable outcomes or economies of scale. Those are standards of measurement and valuation that are part of our consumer-oriented culture. Our hope rests in the immeasurable love we are given and called to freely share. With this love there is no act that is too small or insignificant! In this love each and every being is a beloved expression of God!

I'll share some signs of hope using our PNMC mission statement:

**Our mission as Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference is to . . .**

### **Promote Spiritual Development**

- In PNMC we are gifted with exceptional ministry leaders. Our pastors, chaplains and lay-leaders are doing creative and vital work in our varied contexts. Everywhere I travel in the conference I witness leaders tending to the spiritual growth and wellbeing for their congregations and communities by tending to the whole person: body, mind and soul. This past year we celebrated credentialing for: Kristen Swartley (Portland Mennonite Church), Steve Bomar (Zion Mennonite Church) and Christie Dahlin (former pastor at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship).
- It gives me hope when I witness congregations recognizing the significant burdens carried by pastoral leaders right now, and honor the need for rest, rejuvenation and continuing education.
- I am heartened by a growing awareness in the church that “spiritual development” has everything to do with how we relate to each other, how we relate to our neighbors, and how we relate to all beings and all life.
- In my own efforts I seek to continue to emphasize that the active expression of our faith requires a contemplative and reflective dimension as well. Both are required for healthy discipleship and the fullness of a life lived in love.

### **Nurture healthy Congregations**

- Over the last year we have ensured that all of our congregations and all of our chaplains are directly served by a PNMC District Pastor. This helps support our credentialed ministers and our congregations and it also helps create deeper connection throughout the conference. We've welcomed Jack Swaim (Boise, ID) and Charlene Epp (Anacortes, WA) to join our group of District Pastors.
- I see our congregations doing brave work in facing into some of their recent losses and changes, and considering creative possibilities such as new leadership structures, and gifting some of their resources to their neighbors who live on the margins and suffer our societal ills.
- Many of our congregations are doing challenging and faithful work in justice-building and becoming more inclusive and welcoming to others. One example that I've witnessed in several PNMC congregations is a commitment to learning and repair work around our relationships with indigenous neighbors.
- Our February CCC meeting with its focus on ecumenism offered multiple examples of the way healthy congregations of PNMC are rooted in their local neighborhoods and are willing to connect with other Christians, people of other faiths and people of no professed faith at all. We cannot stand alone on the sidelines. We must engage our neighbors knowing our own need and trusting that we have gifts we are given to generously offer.

### **Make strong connections throughout the conference (and beyond)**

- Our Conference Communications Council (CCC) zoom meeting each February and our June Annual Meeting are our two primary gathered moments as a conference. These are vital and important as we continue to nurture community across a wide geographical region. I want to encourage PNMC congregations to give priority to these events and be sure you are well represented when we gather in these ways.
- We are in the beginning stages of a major PNMC website overhaul. Though we continue to be highly reliant on email as a mode of communication for conference business, my hope is that a new and more user-friendly website will become a primary communication hub within our conference, as it also allows us to communicate and connect more broadly.
- I continue in my efforts to regularly travel and make visits throughout the conference. In addition, I'm nurturing connections by participating regularly in the MC USA/MC Canada conference ministers network, joining an MC USA church planting and emerging communities discussion group, connecting with regional leaders from Methodist, Episcopal, Lutheran, UCC and other denominations/communions, attending the Parish Collective's 2024 Inhabit Conference and the Christ & Cascadia gathering (focusing on nurturing emerging communities and creative connections within our neighborhoods and our bioregion), and continuing my work on the Board of Directors for Spiritual Directors International (SDI).
- We continue to support and pray for our two church plants, Community of Hope (Bellingham, WA) and Iglesia Anabautista Ebenezer (Keizer, OR) and hope that perhaps in a year's time we might be gathering at annual meeting to welcome them as full-member congregations in PNMC.

### **Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world**

- I believe we are called to do this first and foremost wherever we are, and whosoever we are with. As disciples and as congregations this means we begin in our own neighborhoods.
- Moving beyond our local contexts, we join as a communion of congregations and communities, as PNMC. What we hold in common is our centeredness on Christ. With Christ as our center we have so many varied expressions of being beloved community in our conference. This is to be celebrated, not resisted. We are one Body with many members. Thanks be to God!
- You and I—and PNMC, and MC USA—are only a part of God's unfolding story of love. Yet, in this great story, each and every part is absolutely vital, absolutely necessary. May we come to know Christ more and more, as we follow him more fully into life.



Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister



# Board of Directors Report

## Moderator's Report

Submitted by Chris Nord, PNMC Board Moderator, Spring 2024

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference has member congregations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. Some of our congregations worship in English, others in Spanish. Some of our congregations are in urban settings, others in rural settings. Some of our congregations have celebrated their centennials while others are still in their infancy. Our contexts, histories and characteristics differ in so many interesting ways, and yet we are called into one body and for that we are thankful!

Here is a brief look into the workings of the PNMC board over the last year. We began our board year at the annual meeting in Portland, in which we expressed our gratitude to interim moderator Jack Swaim for stepping in and providing leadership to the board when Moderator Kevin Chupp was called to a pastorate in Illinois. At the conclusion of the annual meeting Chris Nord became the Moderator and Karla Morton was elected by a vote of the delegates to be our new Moderator Elect.

In July the MCUSA convention provided a rich opportunity to celebrate our connectedness in Christ to the broader denomination. The ECM and Moderator were in attendance as PNMC delegates, however many PNMC board members were in attendance as well, in a variety of capacities.

In September we met for a retreat at camp CAMREC in Washington. We engaged in worship and prayer together while also becoming better acquainted with each other and carrying out the work of the board. It was a wonderful gift to have that weekend face-to-face interaction as most of our meetings are by zoom.

During the winter the Gift Discernment Team met several times to discern whom to invite into a variety of roles on the board, Finance Team, Pastoral Leadership Team and Gift Discernment Team. The result of this work will be presented in the form of a Ballot. We are grateful to the many capable people who give generously of their time and talents towards the healthy functioning of the conference.

Also during the winter the Policy Review team was active. They reviewed our operational procedures as well as a portion of our internal policies. They developed a set of recommendations to simplify our policy manual and clarify which articles are policies and which are procedures. The board adopted those recommendations.

As the Board year draws to a close here in Bend we are grateful for the contributions of many. Of special note, however, are those of our outgoing board members who are Secretary Julia Todd and at-large director Kiara Yoder.

# **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**

## **DELEGATES: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO**

*(March 2013)*

### **WHO IS THE PNMC DELEGATE BODY?**

1. Each PNMC member congregation is entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five of its members, or fraction thereof. (PNMC bylaws, Article III, 3, g)
2. All ordained or licensed ministers, whose ministerial credentials have been recognized by PNMC and who are considered active, with charge are entitled to be delegates. (PNMC Bylaws, Article III, 3, g)

### **WHO SHOULD CONGREGATIONS CHOOSE TO BE THEIR DELEGATES?**

1. Congregations have the freedom to choose who will best represent their congregation in the PNMC delegate body.
2. Delegates should be members of the congregation they represent. Preferably, some of a congregation's delegates will bring a congregational leadership perspective having continuity with the congregation, understanding the range of views in the congregation and their own views respected within their congregation.
3. Delegates should hold to the vision and commitments of PNMC (Bylaws Article III, 2):
  - a. The vision and mission statements of Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
  - b. Common Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, as updated from time to time, as their “statement of faith for teaching and nurture in the life of the Church”
  - c. Commitment “to seek to understand and interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit in the Church”
  - d. Commitment to participate in discerning and living out statements of Christian faith and life made by Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
  - e. Commitment to participate in the life and mission of PNMC and Mennonite Church USA through delegate representation and financial support.

### **WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?**

1. **Fulfill the role as defined in the PNMC bylaws:** (Article IV, 2):

**Purpose:** Delegates appointed by the Member Congregations have the authority to transact the business of PNMC, including but not limited to the following actions:

- a. Discuss and decide major issues of policy for PNMC, and discern the voice of the Spirit in the midst of the Member Meeting.
- b. Provide opportunity to speak to the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies.
- c. Receive reports from the Board, PNMC staff, teams and other conference activities. Reports shall be presented in writing and shall include financial accounting.

## **WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?, CONTINUED**

d. Elect the following as needed:

- (1) Moderator Elect.
- (2) Board members to fill new terms and vacancies.
- (3) Secretary and Treasurer.
- (4) Gift Discernment Team members. This team identifies and recommends persons to the Board to fill elected positions which need to be affirmed by the delegates at the annual Member Meeting.  
*(There may also be other elections as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.)*

### **2. Gathered Discernment:**

PNMC is comprised solely of Mennonite congregations in the Pacific Northwest. These congregations meet in annual assembly the fourth weekend of June. The delegate body assembly is a forum for these congregations to talk together and to discern together the voice of the Holy Spirit. This forum helps the church move beyond its usual congregational ways of thinking and acting. Discernment happens as delegates together Dwell in the Word, meditate, pray, share, discuss and listen to one another. The value of this discernment is not realized primarily in formal actions. It is realized in the worship and dialogue itself as it informs, inspires and builds up our conference, denominational and congregational life.

### **3. Communication channel:**

It is our intent that delegates help the conference stay focused on the value of PNMC to congregational life: 1. guiding through pastoral transitions; 2. helping plan for the future; 3. resourcing lay leaders; and 4. strengthening the ministry of pastors. This is accomplished by:

- a. Delegates represent their congregation's voice into the PNMC body. They receive PNMC staff and board reports and interact with the board and staff to provide counsel and direction.
- b. Delegates represent the PNMC body to their home congregations by relaying annual delegate session discussions.
- c. Throughout their term as delegate each provides a primary interaction service between PNMC staff and board and their home congregation. They may be sought for counsel or communication between the annual delegate sessions via email or snail mail.
- d. One congregational delegate shall serve on the Conference Communications Council.

## **THE DELEGATES' TERM OF SERVICE**

In the fall of each year, the PNMC office will request a list of its delegates from each congregation. One of the delegates should represent the congregation, along with a pastor, at the winter Communications Council meeting. We hope that all the delegates shall represent the congregation at the summer annual assembly. Delegates shall serve in that role until a different list of delegates is requested the following fall.

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Delegate Meeting Minutes, June 23-24, 2023

Portland Mennonite Church – Portland OR

*“Rooted and Grounded in Love” (Ephesians 3:14-21)*

## Saturday June 24, 2023 Opening Worship and sharing from Congregations

Eric Massanari opened the meeting by inviting participation in a land acknowledgment and recognition of the indigenous peoples who historically occupied and presently make their home on the lands where we gathered. Appreciation was expressed to many individuals for their assistance in planning for this conference. Thanks were also expressed to Curt Weaver for the development of the logo for the conference theme “Rooted and Grounded in Love.” Prayers were offered for Curt Weaver and Megan Ramer who both had health concerns keeping them from attending conference.

Host Pastors from Portland Mennonite Church and Ministerios Restauración, Rod Stafford and Samuel Moran respectively, welcomed the conference attendees.

Worship music was led by singer/song writer Rachael Weasley, Pastor of Community of Hope Church (current church plant of PNMC).

Ephesians 3:14-19 was the basis for the theme, Rooted and Grounded in Love.”

Delegates were asked to report on what is happening in their local congregation and what is giving each one strength in their inner being and allowing them to remain rooted and grounded in Christ’s love. The order of reporting was done by states, starting with Alaska, Montana, Washington then Oregon. Written reports were also submitted in the delegate handbook.

### Roll Call

**Albany Mennonite Church - (OR)** Angie Nord, delegate, reported that the outreach ministry has included providing support for a Honduran refugee, working with/providing support for the city of Albany small homes project, providing an adult education class on grief support and working with the Anabaptist 500 Bible study. They have begun having a series of barbecues and picnics through the summer. Diane Hooze is serving as Interim pastor during Pastor Peter Epp’s sabbatical.

**Bend Mennonite Church (OR)** – Sam Adams, pastor, reported that they have been meeting for 17 years with a shared leadership meeting on Saturday afternoons. Friendship through various life experiences is keeping this group grounded in Christ.

**Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva (Salem, OR)** – Misael Araujo, delegate, shared of the 25 years meeting at Salem Mennonite. They have seen a resurgence of a missionary movement attributed to the radio ministry of Florencio Bautista. Misael’s fifteen-year-old daughter is serving as a missionary in Europe.

**Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship – (OR)** Dave Hockman-Wert, delegate, reports their group continues with weekly potlucks. The volunteers who share leadership are becoming weary of the responsibilities. They have been working on Healthy Congregations information from Bill Blank, speaker at PNMC 2022 conference.

**Eugene Mennonite Church – (OR)** Steve Kimes, Pastor, reported their group has been engaged in a joint Bible study with Seattle Mennonite and Portland Mennonite churches for the Anabaptist 500 project. The discussions have grounded them together in the discourse. The church has had a number of service opportunities with houseless neighbors including Dignity Barbeques. They have a special workday to complete a large number of refugee school kits for MCC.

**Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church – (Caldwell, ID)** Kathy Bilderback, pastor reported planning and sharing hospitality with neighbors in community gardens and sharing food boxes at the local elementary school.

**Evergreen Mennonite – (Kirkland, WA)** Kathryn Smith Derksen, delegate reported a slow comeback from the Zoom format for meetings with Advent 2022 being their first in-person services. They continue to have a Zoom prayer time weekly.

**Filer Mennonite Church – (ID)** Ron Hershey, pastor, reported they have learned how to be served by others as a gift. The church basement flooded with sewage last fall and MDS has been helping them to clean up and rebuild.

**First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen – (ID)** Ron Hershey reported that Lyn and Jeanie, former interim pastors, were attending a special event in the Aberdeen community. The congregation is in a pastoral search process.

**Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship – (Boise, ID)** Christie Dahlin, Pastor reports being in a visioning process at the implementation stage. They are having “out of the box” services.

**Menno Mennonite Church - (Ritzville, WA)** Emily Toews/Bryce Miller co-pastors report finding deep roots in Jesus.

**Meridian Mennonite Church – (ID)** Craig and Karla Morton co-pastors report having a new music group. They are lining up for love, and spreading love like glitter in a far-reaching approach.

**Ministerios Restauración – (Portland, OR)** Pastor Samuel Moran reports they are setting down roots in Christ. They are celebrating married life, strengthening marriages, even encouraging marriage! The church has celebrated two weddings. Six people are being prepared for baptism. The church is participating in a Family Promise Program working with three other congregations in Portland

**Mountain View Mennonite Church - (Kalispell MT)** – Libbie Lapp, delegate reported that the church is organizing a leadership team. They have broken ground on a peace garden which has been a long- term project.

**Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church- (Canby, OR)** Wilbur Kauffman delegate, reports: This group has found better connections using Zoom technology over the past several years. The church has many traditional Mennonites and find they rely on all as a spiritual family.

**Portland Mennonite Church – (OR)** Kristen Swartley, Pastor of Community Life & Outreach reported their congregation celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in November, they have been having great interaction with adult Sunday School and the Anabaptist 500 study and connectedness with the Family promise program. The church has been hosting a homeless family.

**Prince of Peace Mennonite Church – (Anchorage AK)** No report

**Salem Mennonite Church – (OR)** Marj & Brent Mobley-Oorthuys reported as Pastor Jerrell Williams was at Drift Creek Camp for a baptism of one of their congregational youths. (Pastor Jerrell has accepted a pastorate in Kansas and will leave Salem in July) The congregation has been studying the book ‘Anabaptist Essentials’ recognizing that Anabaptists interpret scripture through the teachings of Jesus. The study has also been helping them grow into their LGBTQ inclusion.

**Seattle Mennonite Church- (WA)** Deren Kellogg, delegate reported for the church. The congregation has been using worship responses to the teaching through participatory actions. One example was of each person placing a bead in a common jar as representation of their response. The group has been participating in Anabaptist 500 examination of a scripture passage.

**Shalom Church – (Spokane, WA)** Jan Yoder, delegate, reported a bit of their history. The group started in 1981 and grafted with the United Church of Christ in 1990’s. The group finds joy in giving to their community. Zoom continues to provide steadfastness for the group.

**Western Mennonite Church – (Salem, OR)** Terry Rediger Interim pastor reports this group has been holding alternate weekend activities of worship one weekend and having fellowship time of playing games. The group has new excitement with five new families with a total of nine children participating with them. This is the first time in a very long time to have children in the congregation which provides a spirit of hope.

**Zion Mennonite Church – (Hubbard, OR)** Steve Bomar, Pastor shared that the congregation has incorporated the use of colors of the church year in their worship space as they connect to the life of Jesus. The group has worked through intense focused communication on discerning if gender identity and sexual orientation should impact church participation. They arrived at consensus despite the diversity of perspectives. Fellowship time, meeting together and sharing meals are keeping them grounded as a group.

#### **PNNMC affiliated church plants**

**Community of Hope Mennonite Church – (Bellingham, WA)** Pastor Rachael Weasley reports they have begun monthly gatherings in person. Many have dual memberships in the congregation. Meetings are held outside in various locations as they connect with nature and each other.

**Iglesia Anabautista Ebenezer – (Keizer, OR)** Pastor Jesús Fuentes reports they have been meeting as a group since 2020 in the Keizer area. Their group varies between 8-20 people on a Sunday. They have a large following on Facebook with around 200 followers. They have been blessed by the Methodist church for the use of their building for worship. Pastor Fuentes express great appreciation for the support received in the passing of their eldest son in March. Pastor Fuentes wife Rosa also expressed appreciation for the prayers during their time of grief and they hope in Jesus as the rock of their faith as they work to bring others to Christ.

### **Delegate Session – Tending to the life of the Conference**

Jack Swaim – Moderator - opened the meeting with a welcome and an acknowledgement that we have had losses in fellowship and communion with six churches that have withdrawn membership from PNMC since our last annual meeting. The churches are Lebanon Mennonite, Calvary Mennonite, Iglesia Menonita Roca-de-Salvación, Iglesia Río de Vida, Jerusalén Iglesia Menonita and River of Life Fellowship. While this is a painful parting, these churches have been discerning these steps for years and it is with mutual care and respect to hold each other in care in the body of Christ through this process. Dialogue was encouraged during this process and each congregation was asked to write a letter to the PNMC stating their discernment process which were included in the conference handbook.

Introductions were made to guests from the wider church including:

Dr. Malinda Berry from AMBS;

Iris de León-Hartshorn, Associate Executive Director for Operations, MC USA;

Rachel Ringenberg Miller, Denominational Minister for Ministerial Leadership, MC USA;

Duncan Smith, Director for the Corinthian Plan of MC USA;

Marisa Smucker, Interim Executive Director for Mennonite Mission Network.

Delegates were acknowledged for their role as communicators and representatives for PNMC. Hosts and PNMC Board were thanked and acknowledged for their roles.

Rachel Ringenberg-Miller addressed the conference giving a brief overview of the role of MC USA for conferences. The Memo of Understanding for Pastors has been revised and she encouraged all to read the revisions on the MC USA website. A welcome was extended for all attending MC USA general meeting to be held July 3-7, 2023.

Marisa Smucker spoke of her work with Mennonite Mission Network and the collaboration with other church wide organizations on racial justice.

The minutes from the 2022 Annual conference of PNMC were noted with the correction that Rachael Weasley was licensed for a specialized ministry and not for ordination. The motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected by Rod Stafford, seconded by Terry Rediger. Motion carried.

The ballot for leadership roles was presented. The Gifts Discernment Team (GDT) uses input from churches which are matched with the gifts, skills and willingness to serve in positions. Consideration is made for geographic location, experience, gender identity, and cultural background. The PNMC board approves the ballot. The delegate role is to mark the ballot including suggestions for future candidates. Ballots were collected and tallied by Chris Nord.

### **Executive Conference Minister's Report – Eric Massanari**

Eric spoke of hope through scarcity as we live through a period of reformation in the church. Using the acronym of PNMC Eric's report shows how Promoting spiritual development, Nurture of healthy congregations, in Making strong connections throughout the conference and beyond and Calling each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world have been worked at over the last year. We know we are being changed as people and the church has a role in this reformation. Scarcity thinking is replaced by an abundance of God's love.

*“There is no end to grace. And we are all instruments of grace. The more we give it, the more we share it, the more we use it, the more God makes. There is no scarcity of love. There is plenty, and always more.” Rosemary Freeney Harding (1930-2004)*

Acknowledgement was made for the District Pastors, Eric expressed gratefulness for their ministry. It was noted that Merritt Welty and Bob Buxman have both retired from being district pastors in the last year.

### **Board of Director’s Report** – Jack Swaim

Jack expressed thanks to Eric for his report and the work he is doing for PNMC. Eric’s focus is on the operational aspects of PNMC. He works directly with people, Pastors, district pastors, congregations, church plants as well as participating in the PNMC board meetings.

The volunteer Board’s focus is on longer-term direction, making sure that PNMC has resources (staff) to support our congregations. The board looks for people resources, financial resources and policies to support the congregations.

The board formed a search committee to fill the role of Executive Conference Minister (ECM) after Katherine Jameson Pitts retired. We are delighted that we found a mutually attractive match. Eric started his term November 1, 2022.

Kevin Chupp, moderator elected for a two-year term in 2022, was called to a new pastorate resulting in the board asking Jack to complete a one-year term October 1, 2022. Chris Nord, moderator elect will serve a two- year term as moderator starting June 24, 2023. The Gifts Discernment team (GDT) consisting of the Moderator, ECM, Moderator-Elect and two non-board members, Rick Bollman and Jennifer Gingerich located person’s willing to serve on the slate for the delegate consideration.

The board set aside support for the Healthy Congregational grants and created a process to award grants that would support congregational projects. About \$44,000.00 has been awarded for 25 different grants since the process started.

Policies are reviewed and adjusted to stay current. After the MC USA denominational Membership Guidelines were retired the board realigned our policies accordingly. A policy on digital security is being developed. Board meeting minutes are posted on the PNMC website (pnmc.org).

### **Treasurer Report** – Dave Hockman-Wert

The report was referenced in the delegate handbook. Dave reports being on solid financial footing. Congregational contributions have increased and less expenses than budgeted created a net operating income of \$27,000.00. A small loss is projected for the 2024 budget year. We have had five net positive years in a row.

### **Question & Answer period**

Q: The question was raised as to the investment funds and if any restrictions to use have been applied.

A: Currently there are no restrictions on the investment funds and the funds are used to support operations as needed. The amount allocated has been 4% per annual year.

Q: How did we end up with \$18,000.00 less expenses than budget?

A: A larger amount was budgeted for a new ECM, not knowing the length of time between the ECM’s and funds needed for transition.

Q: What is the role of delegates regarding the budget? Is there access to more details in the budget, to see line items.

A: The Finance Team, Dave, Deren Kellogg and two others appointed to the committee work on the details of the budget and reports.

Q: How do I find the grant application for the Healthy Congregational Grant fund?

A: On the PNMC web page, enter the Members tab. Contact Barb Buxman for help.

### **Announcements**

- Lin Rush with the Pacific Northwest Historical Society invited everyone to see the Voices of Conscience exhibit coming to the Watzek Library Lewis & Clark College, 615 Palatine Hill Road, Portland Oregon 97219, from July 28-September 24, 2023. Hours are 9:00 am-6:00 pm July and August, and 8:00 am to Midnight during September. This is a “traveling exhibit remembering the

witness of peace-minded people against the First World War 1914-1918.” For more information visit the website [www.pnmhs.org](http://www.pnmhs.org).

- Please see Barb Buxman to update any information in the PNMC directory.
- Chaplains were invited to join Teresa Moser for lunch today.
- Reminder to the Board Members to meet during lunch for a meet and greet.

### **Ballot Results**

Chris reviewed the ballots and the delegates affirmed the ballot.

### **Elected by Delegates:**

New board members:

- Karla Morton (Moderator Elect)
- Gary Jewell (board member)

New term and continuing board member:

- Dave Hockman-Wert, Treasurer

Gifts Discernment Team (GDT)

- Gloria Nussbaum,
- Rick Bollman

### **Appointed by the Board of Directors:**

Jennifer Gingerich -Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT)

Kathy Bilderback – Finance Team (FT)

Thanks were given to those completing their terms:

- Leonard Nolt, 4 years on the Board and policy guru
- Harold Nussbaum, Finance team
- Rod Stafford, multiple terms on PLT
- Dianna Eshleman, past Moderator (for ongoing support)

The delegate session was closed with prayer.

Break for lunch

### **Presentation by Dr. Malinda Berry – Defining Nonviolent Communication**

Nonviolent Communication is the integration of four things:

- Consciousness: a set of principles that support living a life of compassion, collaboration courage and authenticity
- Language: understanding how word contribute to connection or distance
- Communication skills: knowing how to ask for what we want, how to hear others even if in disagreement, and how to move towards solutions that work for all
- Means of Influence: sharing “power with others” rather than using “power over others”

Source Puddle Dancer Press [www.nonviolentcommunication.com/learn-nonviolent-communication](http://www.nonviolentcommunication.com/learn-nonviolent-communication)

### **Worship**

Dr. Malinda Berry spoke of being “Rooted and Grounded in Christ.” In this devotional the church was presented as a tree. The roots are the congregation rooted and grounded. The trunk is the main support represented by pastors and leaders. The trunk supports the branches. The branches represent the broader church. All parts of the tree need to be connected.



An anointing service was held for Eric Massanari as the new Executive Conference Minister for PNMC led by Rachel Ringenberg Miller. Chris Nord was installed as the Conference Moderator for PNMC led by Jack Swaim.

Communion was celebrated with an affirmation of faith and prayer led by Eric Massanari.

**Invitation to the 2024 PNMC Annual Meeting**

Moderator Chris Nord invited everyone to attend the next annual meeting to be held June 21-23, 2024 in Bend, Oregon with the Bend Mennonite Church!

The worship service was closed with a benediction led by Chris Nord.

Submitted, Julia Todd, PNMC Secretary

# Table Group Covenant

## The Delegate Body of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

*Adapted from "Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective"  
Article 16, Church Order and Unity*

We gather as a part of the church of Jesus Christ, one body with many members, who by the work of the Holy Spirit are brought together into a dwelling place for God.

As God's people we gather, we are the church, a holy temple, a spiritual house, with Christ Jesus himself as our foundation.

We recognize the need to consult together in order to maintain unity on important matters of faith and life. Love and unity in the church are a witness to the world of God's love.

In our deliberations and decision-making we covenant with each other to listen and speak in a spirit of prayerful openness and with the Scriptures as the constant guide. In humility we are open to both give and receive counsel. We know that discernment will include points of agreement and of disagreement, words of affirmation and of dissent. In our discernment we are prepared to wait patiently as we seek a word from the Lord leading toward consensus rather than make hasty decisions.\*

We rejoice in the multiplicity of people, gifts, ideas, and opinions that are present in this gathering of the delegate assembly of the Pacific Northwest Conference.

We covenant together:

- to assume the best intentions of all persons who participate at this table and this assembly.
- to pray for one another and the Conference leaders.
- to be patient and kind.
- to speak honestly and directly.
- to practice humility and be willing to change or be corrected.
- to listen actively and carefully.
- to respect the views of those who may not agree with the majority.
- to respect the wisdom of the greater assembly and of those at our assigned tables.

(Table leaders may lead their table in prayer.)

*\* Consensus means that the delegate body has listened carefully to all voices, majority and minority together, and sought the unity of the Spirit. Consensus is reached when the delegate body has come to a common mind on a matter, or when those who dissent have indicated a readiness to accept a group decision. Consensus does not necessarily mean complete unanimity.*

## Treasurer's Report / Financial Reports

### PNMC Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year Ending 2024

As normalcy – and the mundanity that often accompanies it – returns to our post-Covid world, I continue to be thankful for you who persist in this unusual endeavor of “doing church” together across geographic and cultural divides. We come from some very different places – all amazing and glorious in our Pacific Northwest surroundings – but still believe that being community together is helpful in the long run.

I am once again thankful that you continue to faithfully participate in this group of congregations who make up the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. We only succeed as a conference by continuing to work together. PNMC is truly nothing without all of you.

If you were at the Conference Communication Council meeting, you may remember that my message was more somber than it usually has been during my first five years as treasurer. The trends of gradually **decreasing** congregational contributions and gradually **increasing** expenses are starting to take their toll on our ability to balance the budget.

Congregational giving in FY2024 was only \$99,815 (89% of budgeted), the lowest annual amount ever for PNMC. Total income was the lowest it has been since 2008, leading to the first deficit since 2017 and the largest deficit since 2008: -\$47,824.

The budget for the present fiscal year, 2024-25, sees similar trends. Congregational giving is budgeted at \$112,450, total income is projected to be \$175,350, and total expenses are budgeted to be \$226,596, for an operating income budget deficit of -\$51,246.

But, you may be thinking to yourself, doesn't the Investment Fund help cover our shortfall? It does, but the income produced by the fund is already included as part of the budgeted total income. In fact, if we would not have included the interest income generated by the fund in our income/expense statements, we would have had an operating deficit every year since FY2020. The Fund has already been a key component in allowing us to balance our budget. But we are now outpacing the Fund's ability to act as a backstop.

What does this mean going forward? In any situation where a budget doesn't balance, there are two main options for changing the situation:

- a) Increase income, through fundraising, grant writing, soliciting extra donations, etc.
- b) Decrease expenses, through cutting programs, staffing, or services. With one full-time and two very part-time staff persons, trimming staff further would have significant impacts.

Given our good fortune of having the Investment Fund, we have another choice:

- c) Draw from the principal of the Investment Fund to cover the budget deficit.

This is what we are doing presently. Thanks to continued growth of the Investment Fund, the \$90,000 we withdrew from the fund in 2023 has not led to a notable reduction in its balance (as of May 17, the balance is \$1.16 million, the same as June 2023). But drawing down the fund by a deficit of \$50,000 per year would eventually lead to its liquidation, perhaps within 25 to 30 years.

Is that a problem? Not an immediate one, but as income declines and expenses increase, the deficit is likely to continue to grow, not diminish, unless we make more significant changes. For now, we are okay. We have time to consider a course correction. But it is time to start working on that.

Submitted by PNMC Treasurer, Dave Hockman-Wert

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

## Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2024

	TOTAL			
	AS OF JAN 31, 2024	AS OF JAN 31, 2023 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
110201 Checking Account (US Bank)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
110202 General Fund Checking (US Bank)	0.00	30,866.78	-30,866.78	-100.00 %
Total 110201 Checking Account (US Bank)	0.00	30,866.78	-30,866.78	-100.00 %
110203 Everence Checking Account	33,583.70	75.15	33,508.55	44,588.89 %
110205 US Bank MM	0.00	15,458.99	-15,458.99	-100.00 %
110206 Everence MM	96,523.64	75,317.37	21,206.27	28.16 %
Total Bank Accounts	\$130,107.34	\$121,718.29	\$8,389.05	6.89 %
Other Current Assets				
Payroll Corrections	-48.48	0.00	-48.48	
Total Other Current Assets	\$ -48.48	\$0.00	\$ -48.48	0.00 %
Total Current Assets	\$130,058.86	\$121,718.29	\$8,340.57	6.85 %
Fixed Assets				
120100 Office Equipment				
120101 Purchased Costs	224.98	224.98	0.00	0.00 %
Total 120100 Office Equipment	224.98	224.98	0.00	0.00 %
Total Fixed Assets	\$224.98	\$224.98	\$0.00	0.00 %
Other Assets				
110600 Endowment Funds	1,077,050.75	1,120,805.45	-43,754.70	-3.90 %
Total Other Assets	\$1,077,050.75	\$1,120,805.45	\$ -43,754.70	-3.90 %
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,207,334.59</b>	<b>\$1,242,748.72</b>	<b>\$ -35,414.13</b>	<b>-2.85 %</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
200105 Mexico Project Fund	6,869.12	11,769.12	-4,900.00	-41.63 %
210000 Payroll Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	
210005 403(b) Salary Reduction	280.00	280.00	0.00	0.00 %
2102 Federal Withholding	2,025.41	2,044.21	-18.80	-0.92 %
2104 State Withholding (OR)	13.02	0.00	13.02	
210401 Oregon Unempl	-10.53	1.38	-11.91	-863.04 %
Total 210000 Payroll Liabilities	2,307.90	2,325.59	-17.69	-0.76 %
211112 Payroll Tax Payable	-9.83	48.36	-58.19	-120.33 %
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$9,167.19	\$14,143.07	\$ -4,975.88	-35.18 %
Total Current Liabilities	\$9,167.19	\$14,143.07	\$ -4,975.88	-35.18 %
Total Liabilities	\$9,167.19	\$14,143.07	\$ -4,975.88	-35.18 %

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

## Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2024

	TOTAL			
	AS OF JAN 31, 2024	AS OF JAN 31, 2023 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
Equity				
3000 Opening Balance Equity (89)	20.61	0.00	20.61	
320700 Loan Funds				
320702 Memorial Loan Fund (Equipment)	1,015.61	1,015.61	0.00	0.00 %
Total 320700 Loan Funds	1,015.61	1,015.61	0.00	0.00 %
320800 Ministry Funds				
320801 Seed Northwest	71,381.83	71,381.83	0.00	0.00 %
320805 PNMC Mennonite Women	253.00	253.00	0.00	0.00 %
320808 Healthy Congregations Grant Fund	16,941.11	24,041.11	-7,100.00	-29.53 %
Total 320800 Ministry Funds	88,575.94	95,675.94	-7,100.00	-7.42 %
34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds				
34002 Sharing Fund - Catastrophe	2,990.49	4,990.49	-2,000.00	-40.08 %
Total 34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds	2,990.49	4,990.49	-2,000.00	-40.08 %
3500 Net Assets Available	709,578.43	709,578.43	0.00	0.00 %
3900 Retained Earnings	417,345.18	556,054.85	-138,709.67	-24.95 %
Net Income	-21,358.86	-138,709.67	117,350.81	84.60 %
Total Equity	\$1,198,167.40	\$1,228,605.65	\$ -30,438.25	-2.48 %
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$1,207,334.59	\$1,242,748.72	\$ -35,414.13	-2.85 %

**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**  
**Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 budget - FY24 P&L**

February 2023 - January 2024

	2/1/2023	1/31/2024	Pct of FY		100.00%
			Total		
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget	
Income					
4101 Member Church Contributions			0.00		
410101 Albany	10,000.00	14,600.00	-4,600.00	68.49%	
410105 Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva		100.00	-100.00	0.00%	
410106 Corvallis	3,200.00	3,200.00	0.00	100.00%	
410108 Meridian	350.00	350.00	0.00	100.00%	
410109 Eugene	500.00	1,000.00	-500.00	50.00%	
410110 Evergreen	2,395.00	2,000.00	395.00	119.75%	
410112 Evergreen Heights	2,800.00	1,600.00	1,200.00	175.00%	
410114 Filer		4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.00%	
410118 First - Aberdeen	2,000.00	3,500.00	-1,500.00	57.14%	
410122 Hyde Park	3,347.50	6,500.00	-3,152.50	51.50%	
410133 Menno	11,064.34	7,500.00	3,564.34	147.52%	
410134 Ministerios Restauracion		100.00	-100.00	0.00%	
410135 Mountain View	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	100.00%	
410137 Pacific Covenant	150.00	150.00	0.00	100.00%	
410142 Portland	21,500.00	22,000.00	-500.00	97.73%	
410143 Prince of Peace (AK)		2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00%	
410146 Bend Mennonite Church		100.00	-100.00	0.00%	
410150 Salem	8,218.00	10,000.00	-1,782.00	82.18%	
410152 Seattle	16,020.00	15,000.00	1,020.00	106.80%	
410154 Shalom	770.00	750.00	20.00	102.67%	
410162 Western	1,000.00	1,500.00	-500.00	66.67%	
410164 Zion	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	100.00%	
Total 4101 Member Church Contributions	\$ 99,814.84	\$ 112,450.00	-\$ 12,635.16	88.76%	
4200 Other Contributions					
4206 Contributions-Individuals	3,106.80	2,500.00	606.80	124.27%	
4208 Affiliated Mennonite Groups	3,850.00	4,200.00	-350.00	91.67%	
4210 Contributions-Others			0.00		
Total 4200 Other Contributions	\$ 6,956.80	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 256.80	103.83%	
4400 Annual Meeting Income					
4401 Registration, Housing, Meals	5,457.63	5,000.00	457.63	109.15%	
4403 Offerings-Annual Meeting	1,758.00	1,500.00	258.00	117.20%	
4404 Pastor Dinner Contributions	1,350.00	1,500.00	-150.00	90.00%	
4408 Other Income-Annual Meeting			0.00		
Total 4400 Annual Meeting Income	\$ 8,565.63	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 565.63	107.07%	
4700 Interest/Dividend Income			0.00		
4701 Checking/Bank MM Interest	1,206.36	10.00	1,196.36	12063.60%	
Total 4700 Interest/Dividend Income	\$ 1,206.36	\$ 10.00	\$ 1,196.36	12063.60%	
4800 Investment Gains/Losses			0.00		
4804 Investment Fund Income	43,337.93	50,000.00	-6,662.07	86.68%	
Total 4800 Investment Gains/Losses	\$ 43,337.93	\$ 50,000.00	-\$ 6,662.07	86.68%	
Total Income	\$ 159,881.56	\$ 177,160.00	-\$ 17,278.44	90.25%	
Gross Profit	\$ 159,881.56	\$ 177,160.00	-\$ 17,278.44	90.25%	
Expenses					
5100 Exec. Conf. Minister Support			0.00		
5101 Salary/Housing	84,408.00	78,418.00	5,990.00	107.64%	
5104 FICA Support	93.85	5,999.00	-5,905.15	1.56%	
5105 Corinthian Plan Premiums	22,211.01	21,969.00	242.01	101.10%	

5106 Retirement	6,744.00	6,753.00	-9.00	99.87%
5107 Medical HRA	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	100.00%
<b>Total 5100 Exec. Conf. Minister Support</b>	<b>\$ 116,456.86</b>	<b>\$ 116,137.00</b>	<b>\$ 319.86</b>	<b>100.28%</b>
5170 District Pastor Expense			0.00	
5171 District Pastor Stipends	13,900.00	15,500.00	-1,600.00	89.68%
5173 District Pastor Non Travel Expense		150.00	-150.00	0.00%
<b>Total 5170 District Pastor Expense</b>	<b>\$ 13,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,650.00</b>	<b>-\$ 1,750.00</b>	<b>88.82%</b>
5240 Administrative Asst			0.00	
5241 Salary Admin Asst	11,125.00	14,300.00	-3,175.00	77.80%
5242 FICA Admin Asst	922.32	1,095.00	-172.68	84.23%
<b>Total 5240 Administrative Asst</b>	<b>\$ 12,047.32</b>	<b>\$ 15,395.00</b>	<b>-\$ 3,347.68</b>	<b>78.25%</b>
5250 Communications Coordinator			0.00	
5251 Salary Communications Coordinator	3,517.50	3,850.00	-332.50	91.36%
5252 FICA Support	292.01	295.00	-2.99	98.99%
<b>Total 5250 Communications Coordinator</b>	<b>\$ 3,809.51</b>	<b>\$ 4,145.00</b>	<b>-\$ 335.49</b>	<b>91.91%</b>
5500 Pastoral Leadership Team			0.00	
5501 Pastors' Retreat		2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00%
5506 Non-Travel Expenses	316.00	500.00	-184.00	63.20%
<b>Total 5500 Pastoral Leadership Team</b>	<b>\$ 316.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,500.00</b>	<b>-\$ 2,184.00</b>	<b>12.64%</b>
5530 Theological Education Team			0.00	
5535 Ministry Inquiry Program		500.00	-500.00	0.00%
<b>Total 5530 Theological Education Team</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>	<b>-\$ 500.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
5900 Board of Directors			0.00	
5901 Non-Travel Expenses	1,729.00	3,000.00	-1,271.00	57.63%
5910 Personnel Recruitment & Relocation			0.00	
<b>Total 5900 Board of Directors</b>	<b>\$ 1,729.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	<b>-\$ 1,271.00</b>	<b>57.63%</b>
5950 Contracted Services			0.00	
5958 Translation Services	9,705.85	6,000.00	3,705.85	161.76%
<b>Total 5950 Contracted Services</b>	<b>\$ 9,705.85</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,705.85</b>	<b>161.76%</b>
6000 Conference Office			0.00	
6004 Handbook	241.95	350.00	-108.05	69.13%
6010 Office Supply	621.57	500.00	121.57	124.31%
6015 Office Communication	2,831.69	4,000.00	-1,168.31	70.79%
6019 Rental/Lease Expenses	200.00		200.00	
<b>Total 6000 Conference Office</b>	<b>\$ 3,895.21</b>	<b>\$ 4,850.00</b>	<b>-\$ 954.79</b>	<b>80.31%</b>
6112 Travel Pool & Meeting Expense			0.00	
611201 Travel - Board	1,040.04	2,000.00	-959.96	52.00%
611202 Travel - Exec Conf Minister	10,803.11	6,000.00	4,803.11	180.05%
611203 Travel - District Pastors	9,190.54	6,500.00	2,690.54	141.39%
611204 Travel - Teams/Committees	245.16	750.00	-504.84	32.69%
611205 Travel - Churchwide Events	1,024.61		1,024.61	
611206 Travel - PNMC Office		250.00	-250.00	0.00%
611207 Travel - Communications Coordinator		200.00	-200.00	0.00%
611230 Travel - Assembly Delegate	1,634.47	1,200.00	434.47	136.21%
<b>Total 6112 Travel Pool &amp; Meeting Expense</b>	<b>\$ 23,937.93</b>	<b>\$ 16,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,037.93</b>	<b>141.64%</b>
6220 Professional Development Expenses	266.50	2,000.00	-1,733.50	13.33%
6290 Annual Meeting			0.00	
6291 Facilities-Annual Meeting		2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00%
6292 Food-Annual Meeting	1,045.99	1,500.00	-454.01	69.73%
629205 Food-Pastor Dinner	1,097.88	1,500.00	-402.32	73.18%
<b>Total 6292 Food-Annual Meeting</b>	<b>\$ 2,143.67</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	<b>-\$ 856.33</b>	<b>71.46%</b>
6294 Conference Speakers	2,856.76		2,856.76	
629401 Conference Speaker		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
629405 Other Honorariums		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%
<b>Total 6294 Conference Speakers</b>	<b>\$ 2,856.76</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 856.76</b>	<b>142.84%</b>

6297 Other Annual Meeting Exp			0.00	
Total 6290 Annual Meeting	\$ 5,000.43	\$ 7,000.00	-\$ 1,999.57	71.43%
6300 Conference Communications Council	800.00	750.00	50.00	106.67%
6400 Other Expenses			0.00	
6402 Investment/Checking Fees	8,682.53	9,000.00	-317.47	96.47%
6406 Workers Compensation Insurance	775.38	500.00	275.38	155.08%
6407 Employer Taxes	92.64			
6408 Property, Liability Insurance	860.00	750.00	110.00	114.67%
6409 Accounting, Legal, Professional Fees	1,430.00	300.00	1,130.00	476.67%
Total 6400 Other Expenses	\$ 11,840.55	\$ 10,550.00	\$ 1,290.55	112.23%
6999 Uncategorized Expenses	\$ 4,000.00			
Total Expenses	\$ 207,705.16	\$ 205,377.00	\$ 2,328.16	101.13%
Net Operating Income	(\$47,823.60)	(\$28,217.00)	(\$19,606.60)	169.49%
Other Income				
7000 Designated Contributions			0.00	
700005 Emergency/Sharing Fund	1,900.00		1,900.00	
Total 7000 Designated Contributions	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00		
7100 Gain on Sale of Assets	14,869.32	15,000.00	-130.68	99.13%
7800 Realized Investment Gain/Loss	5,554.47		5,554.47	
7900 Unrealized Investment Gains/Losses	6,040.96		6,040.96	
Total Other Income	\$28,364.75	\$15,000.00	\$13,364.75	189.10%
Other Expenses				
8000 Designated Expenses	1,900.00		1,900.00	
Total Other Expenses	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00		
Net Other Income	\$26,464.75	\$15,000.00	\$11,464.75	176.43%
Net Income	(\$21,358.85)	(\$13,217.00)	(\$8,141.85)	161.60%



## 2024 Ballot Bios

### *NOMINEES FOR AFFIRMATION BY DELEGATES:*

#### **PNMC Board Member (4-year term)**

☐ **Megan Ramer – Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA**

Megan joined the ministry team of Seattle Mennonite Church as Lead Pastor in September 2015, after a decade of pastoral ministry in Chicago. She is a graduate of Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO and Goshen College before that. Megan is also an alum of the Intermenno Trainee Program in Germany and Switzerland. Somewhere in there, Megan made her home in Seattle for a few glorious years of exploring all that the city and surrounding gorgeous landscape have to offer. She is excited to be back in the PNW, and to have joined the exceptional SMC pastoral team. Reading and hiking are some of her favorite restorative activities. She also enjoys making baby quilts, going to concerts, frequenting the theatre to see her actor husband, Jon Stutzman, perform, and going on traveling adventures both large and small. Megan is excited to bring to the PNMC board her joy for being and doing church together, across the miles between us.

#### **PNMC Board Secretary (3-year term)**

☐ **Dan Smith Derksen – Evergreen Mennonite Church, Kirkland, WA**

Dan Smith Derksen is a Midwest transplant to the PNW, having grown up primarily in Tiskilwa, IL at Plow Creek Fellowship, and after moving to Iowa graduating from Iowa Mennonite School, where both his parents taught. With his wife Kathryn, Dan has had three stints of service with a Peacebuilding focus in different parts of Africa; through MCC in Uganda 2000-2003, and Chad 2006-2009, and then in South Africa with Mennonite Mission Network 2016-2019.

Dan and Kathryn have two adult children, daughter Claire who lives in Seattle, and son Jacob, who is a student at Manchester University in Indiana. They have been members of Evergreen Mennonite Church in Kirkland, WA since 2003. Dan is currently working for the Seattle Housing Authority in their Housing Choice Voucher program.

### *NOMINEES APPOINTED BY THE BOARD:*

#### **Finance Team (2-year term)**

**Jack Swaim – Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, ID**

Jack Swaim and his spouse, Beth Landis, are members of Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship in Boise, ID. He is serving a second term on the Leadership Team at Hyde Park. Jack was a PNMC board member from 2011 through 2018, where he was Moderator the final two years. He has been on the PNMC Finance Team the past four years. In addition, he has participated in several denomination-wide MC USA teams. Prior to retiring from Hewlett Packard in 2007, his career was in various leadership roles (including finance) at high tech companies. He has been doing a range of volunteer work for decades and is continuing to volunteer.

## **Pastoral Leadership Team (4-year term)**

**Bryce Miller –Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA**

*Appointed to fill the unexpired term of Angel Campo which expired in 2024; re-appointed for a 4-year term*

Bryce Miller serves as co-pastor at Menno Mennonite Church alongside his wife Emily Toews. Born in Northeast Ohio he grew up at Oak Grove Mennonite Church (Smithville). The son of a Mennonite Secondary Education administrator, he connected widely with the church in many ways from an early age, building a strong interest in the work of the church. A graduate of Goshen College and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary he has served in Tucson, AZ and Winnipeg, MB Canada prior to coming to PNMC and Menno. Outside of ministry, Bryce also works within the IT world, enjoying the challenge of finding solutions to complex problems. A lover of stories, especially visual storytelling, he enjoys reading, movies, and theater in many forms. He also enjoys travel, hiking, engineering and enjoying life with their 2 children: Luke (8) and Anna (7).

## **PNMC Board Member (2-year term)**

**Libbie Lapp –Mountain View Mennonite Church, Kalispell, MT**

I joined Mountain View Mennonite Church, in 2000. Since then, I have served as Leadership Team Board Chair, Elder, Treasurer, and Youth Group Leader. My current responsibility is facilitating our Peace Garden/Bike Station project. My husband and I live a mile from the church in Creston, MT. We have two grown children who live in Minneapolis and Denver.

I attended South Dakota State University, attaining my pharmacy degree in 1988, and Rocky Mountain College for my Physician Assistant degree in 2004. My career as a physician assistant will end in October, 2024, and I am looking forward to an active retirement. I enjoy bicycling (bike-packing), hiking, and cross country skiing, which are all easy to do in this beautiful corner of Northwest Montana. I have written two screenplays, and have many more literary ideas that are waiting to be transformed into written word. It will be an honor and privilege to serve as At-Large Board Member for PNMC.

# TEAM / MINISTRY REPORTS

## Pastoral Leadership Team

*Submitted by Amy Epp, PLT Chair*

The primary work of the Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) is the credentialing of a particular group of leaders: our pastors, church planters, chaplains and others doing specialized ministry in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC). We also invite these leaders into accountability for responsible and ethical engagement of their ministries and holistic care for themselves as ministering persons.

PLT has credentialed two pastors within the past year:

**Christie Dahlin**, ordained on October 5, 2023 at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship

**Steve Bomar**, ordained on November 30, 2023 at Zion Mennonite Church

We thank God for their ministries in our conference and in their congregations.

There have been two other significant pieces of work for PLT over the past year. The first is a continuation of the response to the MC USA Resolution for Repentance and Transformation. After offering written apologies and restoring credentials of pastors who were directly affected by PLT through disciplinary action for officiating weddings for LGBTQ+ members, we shared our apology to you, our conference members. We acknowledged disciplining pastors who minister to queer members has also caused harm to those who love, care for and are in community with LGBTQ people.

Second, prompted by a greater awareness of the power we hold as a gate-keeping entity within the conference, we have created and affirmed a document that outlines and clarifies the expectations for candidates for ministerial credentials. Even as we hold power to grant or withhold a credential, we desire to create as open, transparent and invitational a process as possible. The candidate should have as much information as possible and have access to advocates and processes that support them in a vulnerable position.

PLT has welcomed Jennifer Gingerich (Chaplain) and Bryce Miller (Pastor, Menno Mennonite Church). We released Rod Stafford (Pastor, Portland Mennonite Church) and Angel Campo (Pastor, Jerusalem Iglesia). Continuing to serve are Rob Hanson (Member, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship), Sam Adams (Pastor, Bend Mennonite Church) and Amy Epp (Chair, Pastor, Evergreen Mennonite Church). Executive Conference Minister Eric Massanari works closely with PLT in an *ex officio* capacity. We are grateful for Barb Buxman's outstanding work as recorder.

Thank you for trusting us with the care and credentialing of your leaders and pastors.

# PNMC AREA ORGANIZATION REPORTS

## Drift Creek Camp

*Submitted by Brenda Hostetler Kauffman, May 2024*

Drift Creek was able to run a second year of summer camps with no Covid – 19 restrictions. However, attendance continues to be significantly lower than prior to the road closure of 2019 and the pandemic. Looking forward, we wonder if it is time to consolidate the grades 3 through 5 and 6 through 8. This would eliminate one week of programming but provide a more efficient and cost-effective way for campers to attend over a condensed time, requiring fewer support staff.

In June we welcomed the Cobb family from Archbold, OH, for another year of SOOP service. It has become their family tradition to gather at DCC to cook for the counseling staff during orientation.

Camp supporters gathered for the November Annual Meeting. Turnout was good and the auction raised about \$10,000!

The 2024 spring brought snow once again. Though not as much as 2023, enough to keep Tony working on the road for close to a week to open the road for the spring quilters. No groups had to cancel, but it was a tough call for some.

The biggest winter challenge was fallen trees. A giant Sitka fell on the playing field. The on-site staff worked for weeks cleaning up the debris and cutting the trunk and branches into manageable parts. However, the project was way too much for so few hands. A team of volunteers gathered in April to clear the tree from field and begin processing the wood. There were probably 20 people working all day to cut, split, move, and stack the wood to be used in future campfires. *We are so grateful for the helping hands!* Further follow up work continues as the aftermath is uncovered. The tree's branches were driven into the ground as it fell. Extensive reworking of the field continues and the grass will be reseeded in the fall.

Another tree fell on the Activity Center as well as one on Sitka! The damage from the tree on Sitka still needs to be addressed. We are waiting for dry weather as the roof has a patch in one area and a branch reaching into the kitchen in another. The result has been countless hours of work for weeks on end to clean and process the fallen wood.

**DCC's biggest challenge going forward is the need for on-site staff.** Heather Gabel and Levi Ebersole ended their 2-year term in May but have agreed to stay on to help with summer programming in June. Following in his grandparents' footsteps, Lucas Hershey Groh will join the staff in August. Chris Colvin will stay through the end of 2024. Ideally, we would be able to find 1-3 additional folks to join the team who could overlap a few months with Chris. We are challenged by limited on-site housing options for staff. The new cabin is fantastic, but having one more private spot for year-round or seasonal staff would make a huge difference as offering housing is one of the few ways to make the position viable. We are exploring ideas for additional housing options.

**We would love assistance with recruiting staff.** We are open to suggestions and new ideas on how to meet camp's staffing needs! Whether it's a couple or individuals, we need to have four people living on-site in order to meet the increased usage with weekday outdoor schools. Having staff members who enjoy hosting, cooking, tinkering, cleaning, organizing, etc. is great! The job comes with the extremes of lots of people or no people....so building more of an on-site community will help ease the stress that those two extremes bring. If you know folks who might enjoy spending 2 years at DCC, please encourage them to reach out!

These days, especially with the staff search in full-swing, we are so very grateful for the volunteers who make camp possible! Every pastor, cook, nurse, crafts leader, teen volunteer and cabin counselor make summer programs rich and rewarding and we could not do it without each one of you!

***We ask for prayers and your partnership to sustain DCC for generations to come!***

# Mennonite Village

May 2024

Submitted by: Diane Hood

Chief Executive Officer

Mennonite Village is one of the largest continuing care retirement communities in Oregon. With more than 550 residents and over 300 staff, we live out our mission to be a Christ-centered community providing life enriching services every day.

In 2023, we welcomed 36 new residents into independent living in The Village, 34 residents into Quail Run Assisted Living, and 14 new residents into Lydia's House Memory Care. In addition, Mennonite Home served more than 100 residents between long-term care and short-term rehabilitation.

The Mennonite Village Board adopted a long-term master plan for the campus in 2023. Our leadership team, working with the Board, along with SFCS Architects out of Virginia, and Baker Tilly Advisors, fashioned a 15–20-year plan designed to be flexible in meeting the changing needs of seniors.

The plan is divided into five phases covering all aspects of our campus. For Phase 1, we have enlisted the services of Greystone, a consulting group located in Dallas, Texas. Greystone will be valuable in assisting us in financial modeling and marketing.

Phase 1 of the master plan includes 46 new independent living homes and 22 independent living apartments. In addition, a new, state-of-the-art health care center will be constructed that will include 36 nursing care beds and 36 memory care beds. This facility will be located adjacent to our existing assisted living facility, Quail Run. Having all of our care areas in one location will help us maximize operational efficiencies and continue to provide the quality resident care we are known for.

Outside of our master plan efforts, we are engaged in several improvement projects. In April we opened a new coffee shop in cooperation with Pacific Perk Espresso. Our facilities group is working closely with our independent living residents to create remodeled space for our many resident groups. This includes improved library space, meeting spaces, a video production space, arts workshop, and indoor game space. A refresh of our Ashwood II apartment common space is also on the docket.

There are several events coming up on our campus where everyone is welcome. Heritage Day will be held Friday, June 21 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. This event will feature a farmer's market, food trucks, campus tours and more. On Friday, July 26 we will host a free BBQ dinner, followed by an evening concert featuring *Peter, Paul, and Mary Alive!*, a popular cover band. And, finally, the week of August 4, 2024, we are proud to host the MCC Bike Tour. More than 60 participants will be camping out on our Pavilion lawn and enjoying bike excursions during the day.

As always, I want to offer a sincere thank you to the Pacific Northwest Conference and local congregations for all your support. Mennonite Village is truly the gem of the mid-Willamette Valley and your thoughtful prayers and volunteerism contribute to our unique culture.



## *Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society*

6030 South Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard OR 97032-9406

Web: [pnmhs.org](http://pnmhs.org)

Ph: (503) 266-6447

Email: [pnmhs.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:pnmhs.volunteer@gmail.com)

*Preserving the past to illuminate the future*

Submitted by Lin Rush, PNMHS Board Chair

The highlight of the year was the historical society's sponsorship of the *Voices of Conscience* exhibit at Lewis & Clark College in Portland. This award-winning exhibit, created by the Kauffman Museum in North Newton, KS, told the story of WW-1 conscience objectors and the trials and tests they were put through for their pacifist position. It was well attended and also exposed Lewis & Clark students to pacifism. Following its time in Portland, Menno Mennonite Church in Ritzville, WA, also displayed it for a weekend in November. We appreciated the financial support of PNMC in helping bring this exhibit to the Northwest.

Our 2023 annual meeting featured Austin & Cherilyn Smucker. They shared their dramatic experience of being held hostage in Haiti for 62 days in 2021. They were two of the seventeen Christian missionaries who were kidnapped by the 400 Mawozo Gang after visiting a local orphanage in Port-au-Prince on October 16. The group, comprised of Amish, Mennonite, and other conservative Anabaptist communities, included 16 US citizens and one Canadian. All were eventually released without loss of life.

We added over 45 books to our library which now contains over 3,000 volumes. We encourage borrowing of this extensive resource. Stop by on Wednesdays between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm to pick out one or more from our collection.

As we look forward, we plan to acknowledge and celebrate the upcoming 500-year anniversary of the 1525 generally accepted founding date of the Anabaptist Mennonite church.

We appreciate the support of our donors, including several congregations. Our work would not be possible without your ongoing and faithful support. We invite your regular support of our mission to preserve the history of Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest. We encourage each congregation to include us in your budget to support our work of preserving the history of Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest.

The archive seeks to preserve the stories of Anabaptist Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest. We provide safe, secure, and climate-controlled storage for congregational and personal records related to everyday Mennonite life. Attics, garages and closets are poor places for such records, so if you hold such records, consider bringing them to the center for safekeeping.

Our work is possible due to the work of our dedicated volunteers, John Gingerich, Shirley Martin, Carolyn Gingerich, Lynn Miller, Beth Diener, Steve Turner, and Carol Shank. This past year they donated over 1,400 hours to the society.

The archive is open every Wednesday. We invite you to visit us between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Board: Lin Rush, Rod Fretz, Jerry Barkman, Gloria Nussbaum, Jay Beaman, Pat Hershberger, John Goertzen, Carol Shank.



## PNMC CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES:



**Albany Mennonite Church, Albany, OR:** Albany Mennonite Church continues to taste and see God's goodness in many ways. We continue to grow and add new members. Some are local Mennonites, some come to us from Mennonite churches outside the area, and others have only recently discovered Christianity and/or Anabaptism. Together, we continue to grow into the "Taste and See" working vision we discerned together in 2022. We've celebrated a number of lives well lived, including a celebration of life service for our beloved Olivene Heyerly, who reached one hundred and seven years(!) before passing on this past year. We've tended to our church yard more fully, hacking out pesky blackberry vines and tending growing trees. We've put a new roof on our sanctuary. We've supported many local organizations, including through a bottle drive led by our youth group. We've helped build local affordable housing, formed a steering committee to help us to undo white supremacy, and begun plans for our first-ever booth at Albany Pride. We've also started using our adult education time to learn more about the good work (paid and unpaid) so many of us do outside of the church. And throughout, we've continued to worship—to engage Scripture, to sing, to laugh, and to pray together. As we grow, we even begin to wonder if some of our leadership structures may have been designed for a smaller church! Please join us in praying that we will continue to follow God's Spirit into the life that makes us new.

**Bend Mennonite Church, Bend, OR:** This last year at Bend Mennonite we've seen the implementation of a new leadership team and structure which has empowered our community to "bear one another's burdens" as we do the good work required to meet weekly. This includes everything from child care to sharing the preaching work to planning our new monthly meal-sharing service (potluck!). It has been a great year of seeing the congregation take ownership of our gatherings in a new way. And, hosting the annual gathering this year has energized us with a new sense of purpose and belonging in the PNMC.



**Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship, Corvallis, OR:** After pastor/consultant Bill Blank led us in a Healthy Congregations workshop in March 2023, we developed an agreement on procedures that walks through the decision-making process. We used this process over the past year to help us create a new statement – not a replacement of our longstanding Statement of Purpose but a short summary of "who we are and why we are." Jenn Buss from within our congregation did an outstanding job of helping us move through this process,

and we unanimously approved this new statement: "We journey with joy as a community, caring for one another and practicing Jesus' way of love while respecting differences in our gifts, perspectives, and experiences." We hope to continue to use this decision-making process to help us have other important conversations.

**Eugene Mennonite Church, Eugene, OR:** This year, EMC has been going through difficult transitions. The number of congregants has gone down and Pastor Steve has been having health issues. This summer, we will begin meeting two times a month as a trial to possibly implement a permanent change.

As every year, we have been deeply involved in MCC school kits and have been working with houseless folks, including a blockade to stop a camp from being swept. We have been connecting to a larger network of houseless folks and young people to do street work.

We watched the movie Budras, about a Palestinian village resisting Israeli occupation. We read three books together: Poverty by America, The Righteous Mind, and The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store.

**Evergreen Mennonite Church, Kirkland, WA:** After several years of transition, Evergreen Mennonite is feeling like we're getting back to a solid and settled place. Following a long interim and many months of pastoral search, Evergreen welcomed Amy Epp as pastor in September 2023. In addition to the stability provided by welcoming a settled pastor, Evergreen has returned to some rhythms of community life that we haven't shared since before Covid: our monthly potluck fellowship meal, picnics, Christmas crafts, a superbowl party and Easter brunch and egg hunt. We've also been trying new



and more interactive activities in worship, including conversation, prayer stations and a Maundy Thursday foot-washing service.

Another opportunity our sense of stability has offered is space to finally create a statement of welcome and affirmation for our LGBTQ kindred. We are proud to share that “Evergreen Mennonite Church welcomes and affirms the belonging of LGBTQIA+ folk in the life and work of our congregation, believing that everyone is a beloved child of God and that we are called by Jesus to be a community that embodies this divine love and embraces all of God’s children.”

**Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church, Caldwell, ID:** We have several key experiences in the life of our church over this past year. Always key for us is the opportunity to meet on Sundays for fellowship, learning and worship. We not only learn about ways to practice our faithful living but also how we can continue to care for each other. One Sunday a month, we have chosen to move our services to the evening for our Gathering Around the Table service. We gather tables, explore scriptures, sometimes do a service project or play games. Then we share a meal together.

Service and mission are integral to our life together. That might mean providing about 20 food boxes for families at the elementary school close to our church for their spring break. Our church is located in a food insecure location in Caldwell. We also support and participate in the community garden to provide fresh produce for families in our neighborhood. It’s always a great experience to have the kids from the local school participate in the garden with field trips. We respond to needs as we are able locally and nationally. All of us are involved with the annual MCC relief sale in a variety of ways.

We continue to find peace and God’s presence as we are caretakers for our property. We look forward to hosting other travelers and friends in our hospitality suite located in a corner of our church building. Contact us if you are in the Caldwell area. Come and be our guests.

**Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, ID:** A great deal of our time this past year has been spent in pastoral transition issues. Our wonderful pastor, Christie Dahlin, decided that Idaho is not a place conducive to raising a family and decided to relocate to Maine to be closer to some of her family members. We did have an ordination service for her before she left. What followed was a search for an interim pastor and the selection of one of our congregants. And tragically, she passed away from a medical complication only a week into her pastorate. We again were without a pastor. Fortunately, Weldon Nisly, previously of Seattle Mennonite, agreed to be in ministry with us on an interim, half-time position. It is working out wonderfully for all concerned!

We continue to be very involved in social activism with participation in Braver Angels, LGBTQ legislation, Crop Walk, women’s reproductive legislation, peacekeeping issues, Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery and helping to support our Sister Church in Porto Asis, Columbia and our very own day shelter, Corpus Christi House in Boise.



**Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA:** *Grace and peace to you from Menno.*

In the spring and summer months, our church's community activities tend to slow down, but in September we begin to work hard at planning and preparing for the MCC Mennonite Country Auction held in our yard during the first week of October. This has always been a highly successful and appreciated event in our community.

In November, we hosted the [Voices of Conscience exhibit, curated by the Kauffman Museum](#). We were pleased to receive visitors from both Hutterite and local Seventh-Day Adventist communities. We also had the privilege of hearing Eric Massinari deliver the sermon and lesson for our annual Harvest Festival that same weekend.

Throughout the past year, the Menno Women in Mission have been diligently piecing together quilts for MCC's Great Winter Warm-up. In February, after a soup lunch, we tied two quilts together, which was a joyful intergenerational event.

Two weeks after Easter, we blessed 32 comforters (18 quilts and 18 blankets) on their way to MCC.

In May, Menno's annual retreat was hosted by Camp CAMREC. The event included enjoyable games, hikes, morel mushroom hunting, good food, the opportunity to witness the northern lights and joyfully scaring away a bear by banging pots and pans.

Although we have had wonderful times together, we have also experienced the loss of several beloved Menno members. In these difficult times, we have been reminded of the importance of community. We remain grateful to God.



### Meridian Mennonite Church, Meridian, ID:

*If people of peace live there, you will be welcomed. (Luke 10: 6a; First Nations Translation)*

Meridian Mennonite Church has continued to seek ways to engage with the community around us and find people of peace. One way that we seek to engage others is through opportunities to serve others through creating MCC kits (hygiene, school, relief, infant care, etc.). We had hoped to have a type of VBS using materials for “Athletes and Artists Camp”, but will need to work on this for the following summer. We were planning one a few years ago but several events took place (one was the pandemic) and we shelved it. Some of Craig’s former athletes were going to participate as “camp counselors” and the location was planned for a local park. With a year’s lead up, we hope to accomplish this the next summer.

As we seek people of peace, we ask you to join us in prayer for God to open doors for meeting these people in Meridian, and for our members to be invitational.

**Mountain View Mennonite Church, Kalispell, MT:** After 111 years, though the congregation and community surrounding of Mountain View Mennonite Church changed, the Spirit continues dwell richly in this small and active, vulnerable and joyful congregation. In summer 2023, we welcomed a new Leadership Team under our newly adopted leadership structure. Currently, the congregation will be discerning the adoption of one of two updated constitutional structures. This past September, the congregation culminated months of discernment and engagement around changes in the new Voices Together Hymnal -welcoming Chair Bradley Kauffman for learning- and later engaging in a Circle of Sharing. Though for some there was intensity around textual changes, all 30 or so listened and shared honestly, vulnerably, passionately and compassionately with one another amid difference. Christ was in our midst! All were heard, difference remained, as did the space of welcome and love we afforded one another. Our Pastoral Search Team posted the position in October. We continue to prayer for our next pastor. Our local chapter of MDS remains busy: building local ramps for individuals newly wheelchair bound, a pair serving in Guam, others finishing up service in Okanagan, and many more residing a church couples’ aging home. Two papers highlighted our fall International Gift Festival and we saw our greatest turnout in decades. At the festival, we celebrated our newest community recipient of the Peacemaker Award: the Crown of the Continent Choir. Most of the congregation engages in leading worship in some way. From confetti to growing plants, scripture readers to candle lighters, stories to crafting worship visuals, we take joy in the good challenge of engaging our many young worshippers and now host two children’s Sunday School classes. This past year, welcomed hearing from MMN missionaries in Calais, France, MMN Africa and Europe Director Sibonokuhle Ncube, continue war relief ministries in Ukraine and supporting local monthly meals for unhoused neighbors and support housing and welcome for new immigrant neighbors arriving to the valley. Anytime you may travel to Montana, trust we would love to welcome you here!



**Portland Mennonite Church, Portland, OR:** This spring at Portland Mennonite we have been learning from Sarah Augustine and the new book she co-wrote with Sheri Hostetler – *So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis*. Our Racial Justice and Climate Justice committees hosted an adult Sunday School class that read and discussed this book in February and March. And, then we invited Sarah to join us on February 25 to preach for our Sunday Service, which was followed by a forum where we could learn more from Sarah and ask questions. We also engaged with Sarah’s work through her organization the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery (CDDD). One piece of the work of the CDDD is the Maya-Mennonite Solidarity Working Group, a group that is working at building relationships with Maya seed savers in southern Mexico

and their Mennonite Colony neighbors (read more in the March issue of *Anabaptist World*). To support this project, PMC hosted a “Seed(ling) Exchange Party & Fundraiser” to raise money for CDDD members to make a trip to visit these groups they are working with in Mexico. People in the church brought seeds, seedlings, and all kinds of beautiful plants they were willing to donate, and others took them for a suggested donation. Together we celebrated seeds and planting, giving thanks to God for the miracle of growing things.

**Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church, Canby, OR:** Pacific Covenant is a group of genetic Mennonites from both Amish Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren backgrounds committed to digging deeper into Anabaptist theology, and translating the teachings of Christ into our everyday lives.

**Salem Mennonite Church, Salem, OR:** Salem Mennonite Church has been living through a time of transitions. We celebrated Pastor Jerrell Williams' time with us and said good-bye last July. Since then we have been adapting and enjoying some of our favorite traditions – a summer picnic, fall Drift Creek Camp retreat with Eugene Mennonite, Christmas dinner and Easter Breakfast. Marlene Bogard served as our interim pastor for 6 months. We have a number of new folks who are sharing their gifts of music, preaching, and technology skills with us. We have studied MCC's Peaceful Practices and Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery in Sunday School which has created space for deep conversations and action. Our Sacred Circle group and LGBTQ+ Community Support group continue to pursue ways to be educated and supportive of the marginalized in our community. Our Quilters and MCC Projects group meet weekly and invited the congregation to help tie comforters at the end of January.

**Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA:** This year we have sent our Faith Formation pastor, Amy Epp, on to her own church and our Lead Pastor, Megan Ramer, on sabbatical through summer. We have been blessed in their presence and miss them in their absence, but we know they are doing deep and good work.

Meanwhile, we have two wonderful interim pastors leading our congregation through discernments and sermons; organizing potlucks and property transitions and generally being wonderful additions to our community. We're grateful to have Charlene Epp and Liz Colver.



Because our Campus Redevelopment plan did not receive development grant funds, it will be at least another year before we can begin transitioning our campus to affordable housing, businesses and our church spaces. This has opened an opportunity for us to host a tent city run by SHARE/Wheel on our property. We have a small business building which, along with the adjoining parking lot, will be enough space to host administrative spaces and housing for 75-100 people. They are very experienced and their presence has been a blessing at other host churches. We are so excited to have them for this next year.

**Spokane Mennonite Fellowship, Spokane, WA:** We continue to meet weekly with some people in person and others on Zoom. In the last year, most members have joined us in person at least once. Having long had an affinity for oppressed Palestinians and peacemaking Israelis, we have increased our attention, prayers, and actions since October 7, 2023. We will co-host Brother Moji Aha, a Sufi "monk" for an interfaith dialogue on the situation in Gaza and the Middle East on May 5.



**Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR: Pastor Steve's**

**Ordination:** Pastor Steve Bomar was ordained in our February 18, worship service, led by conference minister, Eric Massanari. We at Zion, honor pastor Steve Bomar's calling and accept his role for ministerial leadership. We join him in the mission of the church and honor our own callings, to search scripture and pray; to speak the truth in love; to commit to the gospel of Jesus Christ, as we seek to be spiritually equipped to grow into the likeness of Jesus, as we work and worship together.

**Solar Structure Project:** In 2019 Zion began considering next moves for creation care and stewardship. One of the first means proposed was the installation of solar panels as a way of addressing rising energy costs, creating self-reliance for energy needs, and increasing management of natural resources. As

the congregation resumed in-person gathering in 2021, ideas of broadening facility use to incorporate outdoor gathering space begin taking shape. A designated group brainstormed ideas and conceptual designs, eventually leading to congregational agreement on the construction of a 40'x60' pole-barn structure with installation of solar panels on the roof. Fundraising efforts commenced, building permits were obtained, and groundbreaking took place in November 2023 following a special worship service where various members of the congregation shared the impact of creation care in their lives. The multi-purpose structure sits within steps of the church building and can be used for outdoor meeting space, worship, funeral services, and other events. The project will be completed by summer of 2024 and we are looking forward to utilizing the new outdoor aspect of congregational life.

**Community of Hope, Bellingham, WA:** This year in the life of Community of Hope, we experimented with new programs: Hiking Wild Church, our first in-person Queer Christmas Party, and an All-Gender weekly drop-in Theology Discussion Group. We started an Instagram account for our church, and participated in rallies and actions for Ceasefire in Gaza. We spent some time strengthening our church infrastructure: re-launching a small group with a group leader this time, offering a contract to our pastor for the first time, and shifting the role of our volunteer treasurer by adding a paid third-party bookkeeper. We had an amazing 4-event season of Queer Theology Sunday School, and we continued to worship monthly online and monthly outdoors. Another milestone in the life of our church is that we now have the community strength to cover an anticipated pastoral absence this summer entirely by volunteer lay leadership from within our congregation, while our pastor takes time off with a new baby. Two things to celebrate!

# **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

**Everence**

**MennoMedia**

**Mennonite Church USA**

**Mennonite Disaster Service**

**Mennonite Insurance Services**

**Mennonite Men**

**Mennonite Mission Network (MMN)**

**West Coast Mennonite Central Committee**

*"People plan their path, but the Lord secures their steps."*

— Proverbs 16:9 (CEB)

### **Everence revamps advocate program**

Exciting changes are happening with the Everence® church stewardship program in 2024!

After working with churches, advocates and stewardship consultants, the redesigned Everence Stewardship Partners program will include major enhancements – including expanded participation opportunities for pastors and other stewardship leaders, and the possibility for participating churches to be eligible for up to \$3,000 a year in Sharing Funds.

Everence has been building strong relationships with churches for over 30 years through its church stewardship program, and today more than 1,100 churches participate. Go to [everence.com/partners](https://everence.com/partners) to learn more about the changes.

### **Sharing Fund helps churches impact their community**



When the going gets tough, we have community to lift each other up. Churches can make an impact in their community by helping their members through a Sharing Fund grant.

## **Your Mission. Your Finances.**

### **Everence 2024 report**

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
Annual Meeting  
June 21-23, 2024

The Everence Sharing Fund program helps thousands of families and individuals every year. In fact, over the last five years alone, the Sharing Fund has distributed nearly 9,000 grants for a total of \$4.7 million – all of which was matched by an additional \$7.1 million from churches.

You can support the Everence Sharing Fund with a fully tax-deductible donation, and 100% of your gift will go to meet financial needs. Visit [everence.com/sharing-fund](https://everence.com/sharing-fund) to donate or learn more.

### **MyNeighbor card a tool for giving to charitable causes**



With the Everence Federal Credit Union MyNeighbor credit card program, individuals, businesses and churches generate reward dollars for their favorite nonprofits every time they make a purchase.

Whenever a cardholder uses their MyNeighbor card to buy groceries, pay bills or make other purchases, Everence donates 1.50% of the purchase total to the charity of his or her choice. Then in January, Everence writes and sends checks to the selected 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations.

In January 2023, Everence distributed over \$500,000 in donations to support nonprofits, including individual churches.

Want to know more? Visit [everence.com/myneighbor](https://everence.com/myneighbor).

### **Find a stewardship advocate for your church**



Want to learn how a healthy stewardship ministry can contribute to your church's ministry? An Everence stewardship advocate can help encourage and inspire your faith community toward greater understanding and practice of biblical stewardship.

Everence stewardship advocates are volunteers who work with your church's pastor and other leaders to support and strengthen your church's mission and ministry by sharing resources designed to help church attendees live out faith values in their financial decisions.

Want to learn more about how a stewardship advocate can contribute to your congregation? Talk to your Everence stewardship consultant and/or visit [everence.com/advocates](https://everence.com/advocates).







## Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Spring 2024

At MennoMedia we publish curricula and books that call readers to follow Jesus in word and deed. We publish resources about Christian discipleship, spirituality, reconciliation, justice, and theology from an Anabaptist perspective. Our curricula, periodicals, and hymnals reach a broad spectrum of evangelical, mainline, and Anabaptist readers and congregations, cultivating passion for faith formation and an active life of discipleship.

### NEW RESOURCES FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH, FROM HERALD PRESS



#### Divine Gravity

Sparkling a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story

Meghan Larissa Good invites readers into a movement that is finding ways to tell a better Christian story. Readers will rediscovers what an authentic, Jesus-centered Christianity looks like and how, through Christ, God is breathing new life among us, restoring creation, and reconciling all divided things. In this better story, isolation, intolerance, polarization, and death have no grip.



#### So We and Our Children May Live

Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis

Everywhere we look, we see signs that all is not right with our earth. Ecological justice requires challenging our assumptions about creation and our relationship to it. It requires decolonization. Authors Sarah Augustine and Sheri Hostetler offer hope for a better future alongside concrete actions for joining with Indigenous Peoples to protect life and negotiate with decision-makers for sustainable change in the way of Jesus.



#### The New Anabaptists

Practices for Emerging Communities

What does it look like to be an Anabaptist community in the modern world? In this companion to *The Naked Anabaptist*, author Stuart Murray identifies 12 common practices of churches and communities that are shaped by an Anabaptist vision. He explores how these practices might shape emerging Christian communities and inspire those seeking fresh expressions as cultural changes accelerate.



#### The Beginning of the Story

Understanding the Old Testament in the Story of Scripture

Although the Bible contains 66 books, most Christians turn first—and perhaps only—to the New Testament. Author Tim Gedder says that to understand the Bible—the grand story of God's dealings with humanity, of God's relationship to the whole universe—we must learn to read the first three-quarters of Scripture as Jesus did, and as the New Testament teaches us to do.



### NEW FOR SUMMER:

#### PATH TO PEACE CURRICULUM FROM SHINE

Shine's new *Path to Peace* summer curriculum allows teachers and children to follow the peace paths in *The Peace Table* storybook Bible. The curriculum includes faith formation materials for PreK–Kindergarten and Elementary age levels.

For 2024, the unit is built around the "Peace with Creation" peace path from *The Peace Table* and includes three 5-session modules. Each session includes songs, prayers, instructions for telling the Bible story, wondering questions, activities, and media connections. Churches will need a copy of *The Peace Table* for each classroom.



#### New for Families: "Follow the Peace Path" Cards

Extend learning and bring the Bible story home with a deck of "Peace with Creation" cards. Each of the 52 cards in the deck comes packed with ideas for families to do at home together. Whether a church has summer Sunday school or not, these cards are a great way to stay connected with families and provide parents and caregivers with an easy and fun faith formation resource. Purchase one deck of cards for each family.



[Learn more at ShineCurriculum.com.](https://www.ShineCurriculum.com)

MennoMedia, PO Box 866, Harrisonburg, VA 22803. 800-245-7894. [www.MennoMedia.org](https://www.MennoMedia.org)

## ANABAPTISM AT 500: LOOKING BACK, LIVING FORWARD

The 500th anniversary of Anabaptism in 2025 gives the church a unique opportunity to celebrate the Spirit's calling together of diverse people across all boundaries of culture and geography. MennoMedia's vision is to lead the way in helping North American Anabaptist Christians experience spiritual renewal by creating fresh, forward-looking resources for Anabaptism's quincentenary celebration.



### Coming January 2025: *The Anabaptist Community Bible*

Embark on a transformative journey with the *Anabaptist Community Bible*. Immerse yourself in the teachings of Scripture, seamlessly interwoven with the rich tapestry of the Anabaptist movement. Expertly designed using the Common English Bible translation, this edition connects you more deeply to the biblical story, the Anabaptist story, and your own story. Experience a renewed engagement with Scripture as you engage the text in conversation with a larger community of believers, expecting God's Word to transform your life. Accessible to Christians from all faith traditions who want to read Scripture through a Jesus-centered lens. The *Anabaptist Community Bible* will be available in hardcover, soft touch, and limited edition genuine leather for preorder in late spring 2024.

#### Key features of all editions:

- The text of the Common English Bible (CEB)
- Single-column format for the biblical text, with over 7,200 marginal notes
- Biblical book introductions written by Anabaptist pastors, leaders, and scholars provide context and guidance
- Biblical Context notes from Anabaptist pastors, leaders, and scholars
- Community Reflection notes from nearly 600 Bible study groups
- Early Anabaptist Witness notes offer insights into how early Anabaptists engaged the Bible
- 40 original linocut illustrations of the biblical story
- Informative essays on Anabaptist hermeneutics, the Apocrypha, and other topics useful for group discussion
- A 365-day Bible reading plan and suggestions for group Bible study
- Durable Smyth-sewn lay-flat binding
- Presentation page for gift-giving
- 2-color interior
- Full-color Oxford maps
- 10-point font size



**Learn more about other products marking this anniversary at [AnabaptismAt500.com](https://AnabaptismAt500.com).**

## FINANCIALS, FISCAL YEAR 2023–24\*

\* MennoMedia's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Amounts are listed in USD.

INCOME	FY23–24 to date		FY23
	July–Dec. budget	July–Dec. actuals	July–Dec. Actuals
<b>GROSS SALES</b>			
Herald Press	\$ 525,000	\$ 519,802	\$ 478,353
Curriculum/Church Products	\$ 294,250	\$ 248,938	\$ 284,217
Periodicals	\$ 130,000	\$ 122,932	\$ 128,484
Shine Project Income	\$ 150,000	\$ 103,560	\$ 80,670
Distribution & Royalty	\$ 32,900	\$ 33,689	\$ 33,451
<b>Total Gross Sales</b>	<b>\$ 1,132,150</b>	<b>\$ 1,028,921</b>	<b>\$ 1,005,175</b>
<b>COGS &amp; ROYALTIES</b>	<b>\$ 301,208</b>	<b>\$ 374,253</b>	<b>\$ 314,758</b>
<b>Gross margin</b>	<b>\$ 830,942</b>	<b>\$ 654,668</b>	<b>\$ 690,417</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Misc. Income	\$ 44,094	\$ 63,680	\$ 41,341
Donations	\$ 384,600	\$ 266,651	\$ 306,056
Grants	\$ 17,502	\$ 1,265,000	\$ 30,000
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 446,196</b>	<b>\$ 1,595,331</b>	<b>\$ 377,397</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS COGS</b>	<b>\$ 2,249,999</b>	<b>\$ 2,249,999</b>	<b>\$ 1,067,814</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Wages & Benefits	\$ 591,642	\$ 653,485	\$ 510,373
Fixed Expenses	\$ 49,216	\$ 49,947	\$ 50,256
Variable Expenses	\$ 584,535	\$ 507,962	\$ 625,240
Other Expenses	\$ 6,984	\$ 14,241	\$ 16,170
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,232,377</b>	<b>\$ 1,225,635</b>	<b>\$ 1,202,039</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 44,761</b>	<b>\$ 1,024,364</b>	<b>\$ (134,225)</b>





**Mennonite Church USA equipped, empowered and gathered the church together in many ways in 2023.**



The annual [Hope for the Future](#) conference in Atlanta, Georgia, Feb. 3-5, 2023, brought together 70 Black, Indigenous and people of color from across the church to worship, network and honor legacy leaders.

More than 1,400 youth and adults attended [MennoCon23](#), MC USA's leading faith formation event, in Kansas City, Missouri, July 5-8, 2023, where they were invited to "Be Transformed" by the Holy Spirit.

The [Delegate Assembly](#), leading decision-making body, convened in July 2023, voting to clarify the MC USA bylaws and shift Everence and MHS Association from program agencies to ministry partners.

MC USA expanded its Peace & Justice work to include a deeper emphasis on climate justice. Three hundred youth and young adults attended MC USA's [Climate Summit](#) in Kansas City, July 7, 2023, where they put their faith to work, addressing the spiritual and human crisis caused by climate change.



In 2023, MC USA's [Justice Fund](#) provided resources to five congregations who are sharing the reconciling work of Christ by alleviating poverty, dismantling racism, addressing immigration reform or reimagining policing in their communities.

MC USA launched [Safe Church](#), a new abuse prevention ministry to equip and educate conferences and congregations to protect the most vulnerable among us.

MC USA reinforced the church's peace mission by honoring denominational peacemakers Jonathan Kuttub and Sydney Leah Bontrager with the 2023 [Bring the Peace](#) award.

The [Learn. Pray. Join: End Gun Violence](#) initiative called the denomination to understand this crisis through the lens of our Anabaptist faith and to inspire action to bring God's healing to our hurting communities.



MC USA collaborated with Mennonite Church Canada to host the annual Binational [Conference Minister/Regional Pastors Retreat](#) in Banff, Canada, in Nov. 2023, where leaders focused on worship and pastoral wellbeing.



#### Our Mission

The mission of the MC USA Executive Board is to equip and empower leaders to share with others the gift of God's peace and transformative love.

#### Our Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

#### Our Renewed Commitments

- Follow Jesus
- Witness to God's peace
- Experience transformation

### Church Vitality

MC USA's Church Vitality team empowers and equips the church every day through:

- Pastor salary guidelines
- Wellbeing in ministry resources
- The Corinthian Plan healthcare plan for church workers
- Ministerial Leadership Inquiry process

Learn more here.



PeaceMail  
Mennonite Church USA



Subscribe to MC USA's weekly email newsletter.

[www.MennoniteUSA.org](http://www.MennoniteUSA.org)





MDS volunteers served  
**53,583 days**  
 helping  
**805 households**  
 recover from disaster.



## 2022-2023 MDS ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

# Ready...Set... Grow!



**"MDS volunteers are my village—  
heaven sent."**

That's how Nicole Gillespie (pictured top left) described the loving hands that built a new home for her family in Crisfield, Maryland, a small town that experienced repeated flooding.

In 2023, MDS volunteers not only got people like Nicole home—they made them safer. With updated construction plans that meet a gold standard for severe weather endurance, MDS made great strides in disaster mitigation.

That means, as Nicole's husband Eddie put it: "When we walked in that door, when they gave us the key to that house, I could finally rest."

MDS also nurtured a vibrant group of youth volunteers, bringing an intergenerational wave of response across the US and Canada.

Joel Amstutz, a youth volunteer in Dawson Springs, Kentucky, reflected: "As MDS led us through each day, our faith was able to grow as we worked and talked with each other."

Volunteering changed countless lives and moved countless hearts toward a deeper commitment to service.

For all those volunteers who taught or learned construction skills, for those who prayed and worked together, for those who gave hours, days, and weeks of their time—**THANK YOU!**



**7,290 volunteers**

across Canada and the U.S.  
gave their time, skills  
and compassion to build

**95 new homes,**  
complete

**402 repairs,**

finish

**274 cleanups,**

and build

**7 new bridges**

for households who  
experienced a disaster.

This volunteer labor is a value of  
**\$13.63 million USD/  
 \$18.54 million CAD\***

All statistics from 8/1/2022 through 7/31/2023.  
 \*Labor value based on a volunteer rate of \$31.80 USD/  
 hour. (www.independentsector.org)

## Respond. Rebuild. Restore.



**Mennonite  
Disaster  
Service**

[www.mds.org](http://www.mds.org)

**MDS U.S. Office**  
 583 Airport Lititz  
 PA 17543 USA  
 tel: 717-735-3536  
 fax: 717-735-0809  
 toll-free: 800-241-8111  
[mdsus@mds.org](mailto:mdsus@mds.org)

**MDS Canada Office**  
 200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd.  
 Winnipeg, MB R3P 2J1 Canada  
 tel: 204-261-1274  
 fax: 204-261-1279  
 toll-free: 866-261-1274  
[mdscanada@mds.org](mailto:mdscanada@mds.org)



## Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference - May 2024 Helping Mennonite Church USA fulfill its educational mission

### BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY MERGER

Bluffton recently announced its intention to merge with the University of Findlay in Ohio. You can find more information at [www.findlayblufftonfuture.com/](http://www.findlayblufftonfuture.com/). MEA is committed to promoting Anabaptist values in education and strengthening the relationships between Mennonite schools and Mennonite Church USA. If you have questions or concerns, please contact [www.findlayblufftonfuture.com/contact-us/](http://www.findlayblufftonfuture.com/contact-us/) or email MEA at [info@MennoniteEducation.org](mailto:info@MennoniteEducation.org).

### FAITH FORMATION AT HOME



MEA is the publisher of the Advent and Lent at Home worship series for congregations, individuals, and families of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. This series offers accompaniment through the days

and weeks of Advent and Lent with scriptures, prayers, worship rituals, activities, and contextual information. They are intended for all ages and life stages to deepen the experience of the seasons. The guides are available for free download in English and Spanish from the MEA website. The At Home series is the most downloaded resource of all Mennonite Church USA materials! Whether at home or in the classroom, MEA is committed to equipping teachers and parents as they impact children and young people!

### SUPPORT FOR MENNONITES IN PUBLIC

**EDUCATION:** Mennonite educators in public school settings face unique challenges: what to do about the Pledge of Allegiance, how to respond to wars and violence, and how to (whether to) be a peace witness. A small group of Mennonite teachers brainstormed a series of virtual gatherings with other Mennonite public school educators for conversation, support, and learning: the Mennonite Public Educators group. MEA is helping to promote the group and broaden its reach. We have heard strong affirmation and want to explore how MEA can expand our support for the many Mennonites who work in public school settings. The next virtual meeting is July 25 at 7pm Eastern. Participation is free but registration is required. Contact [info@MennoniteEducation.org](mailto:info@MennoniteEducation.org) for more information.

### 2023-24 ENROLLMENT REPORT

MEA produces the Enrollment Report annually to create a snapshot of trends across all schools that partner with MEA. Based on headcount in the fall of 2023, Mennonite schools are impacting the lives of 8,971 students, a decrease of 3.4% since the 2022-23 academic year. To view this and previous reports, visit [www.MennoniteEducation.org/about-us/enrollment-reports](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/about-us/enrollment-reports).

### 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

MEA is awarding 13 Scholarships for BIPOC Students – a total of \$28,000! – to students from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Bethel College, Bluffton University, Eastern Mennonite University, and Goshen College. Names of the recipients and award information will be shared at a later date once all the scholarships have been affirmed. Scholarship information is at [www.MennoniteEducation.org/schools/mea-scholar-ship-for-bipoc-students](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/schools/mea-scholar-ship-for-bipoc-students). You can donate to the scholarship fund at [www.MennoniteEducation.org/](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/) and click on the Donate tab.

### HISPANIC MINISTRIES



MEA's Hispanic Ministries Director Marco Güete and Associate Director Violeta Ajquejay Suastegui are busy with a new season of IBA and SeBAH. • IBA (Instituto Bíblico

Anabautista – Anabaptist Bible Institute) provides biblical training for Hispanic church leaders in MC USA, through study centers in local Mennonite congregations, led by trained tutors. There are 13 study centers, with a new center at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Ind., in partnership with Prairie Street Mennonite Church. IBA is also expanding beyond physical centers with one hybrid center and one online center. There is even a group in Central America engaging IBA online! 2024 will bring more changes that will expand the reach of IBA. As Marco says, "The Hispanic Mennonite church is growing. We want these congregations to have well-trained disciples of Jesus to lead them." • SeBAH (Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano – Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary): A new group of 15 students has started the Spring 2024 SeBAH course "Spirituality and Christian Discipleship." We're projecting that 6 students will graduate with a SeBAH Certificate in Pastoral Ministry in August on the campus of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)! • Certificado de Posgrado en Estudios Teológicos (Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies): In partnership with MEA Hispanic Ministries, AMBS now offers a graduate certificate in theological studies taught completely in Spanish. It is the first Anabaptist graduate certificate in Spanish in the United States! MEA's donors help make this program affordable and accessible. MEA Hispanic Ministries staff provide administrative, language, and tech support to these MC USA student leaders. For more information about Hispanic Ministries, visit [www.HispanicMennoEDU.org/](http://www.HispanicMennoEDU.org/).

Grace & Peace,  
Michael Danner  
Executive Director

3145 Benham Ave. Suite 2, Elkhart, IN 46517 • 574.343.1310 • [www.MennoniteEducation.org](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org)





## **Annual Report Mennonite Aid Plan of the Pacific Coast Mennonite Insurance Services 2024**

Our mission is to bring compassion to you when you have a loss and restore your property. In 2023 we had 100 [families](#) or churches who experienced losses. Some of you lost irreplaceable belongings. Some of you had to move out of your home while it was being repaired. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt, even though several of you had large trees fall on your homes last winter.

**We're here when you need us.** Many people don't think about insurance until a claim happens. Then you want insurance to do what it is designed to do. We get that. Stability is in our DNA. Our directors have served an average of 25 years. Our staff have served an average of 14 years (some with us more than 27 years). Our policyholder surplus (the amount available to pay your claims) continues to remain more than adequate to pay claims (as determined by [A.M.Best](#)).

**We're not your average insurance company.** These are "interesting" times for insurance. Other companies are declining to write home and auto insurance. Rates are going up. Underwriting rules are getting stricter. Against this backdrop, MAP continues to write homeowner insurance. We are "open for business" and are eager to write new policies for our members' homes, rentals, secondary homes, and churches. If you hear about people in your church community who are being non-renewed by another company, please refer them to us. We would love to help them.

**We like to give back.** We have a long tradition of supporting other Mennonite Institutions. Every year we give \$10,000 each to Mennonite Central Committee and Mennonite Disaster Service. In addition, we award college [scholarships](#). We also support our West Coast church conferences.

**We are available.** You can access our monthly [newsletter](#) where we report on timely insurance topics as well as articles of general interest. Our [Facebook page](#) is updated often. You can like our page and share it with friends in your church community.

**Our company is committed to giving you human contact when you want it.** If you call during business hours, you will get a real person. No need to navigate a phone tree. We are also committed to giving you an online presence when that suits your needs better. You can request [quotes](#), make premium [payments](#), and file [claims](#) from our website. Greater functionality is on the way.

**We are responsible.** As stewards of our assets, we consider things like our carbon footprint. About 11 years ago we installed a solar array on our roof. We now produce about as much electricity as we use.

**We are growing.** Our sales team, led by Marcus Mahling, is making connections, promoting our brand, quoting new business, and writing new policies. We are growing and trying to grow more.

2023 has been full of exciting work and meaningful connections as the work of Mennonite Men continues to benefit our communities and congregations. Our three programs—JoinTrees, JoinMen, and JoinHands—continue to thrive as we invite men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus for God's shalom.

To learn more about our work, download resources, or contribute to our programs, visit [mennonitemen.org](https://mennonitemen.org).

Steve Thomas, Mennonite Men U.S. Coordinator  
[stevet@mennonitemen.org](mailto:stevet@mennonitemen.org) | (574) 202-0048

Don Neufeld, Mennonite Men Coordinator for Canada  
[don.neufeld@outlook.com](mailto:don.neufeld@outlook.com) | 905-650-1577



**Mennonite Men**

Engaging men to grow, give and serve.

## JoinTrees

*Planting trees to restore the earth*



JoinTrees is our campaign to plant one million trees by 2030. This campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with this JoinTrees campaign, our goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) support vulnerable communities.

Our vision is a healthy, thriving planet where God's abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation.

The largest project we funded this year was again in Baja Verapaz, Guatemala. Community members were extensively involved in planting and caring for these trees. In this project, 14,104

were reforestation seedlings on badly eroded land, 10,040 were agroforestry plantings, 9,479 were for living fences, 250 for maintaining soil on terraces, and 375 were fruit trees for a total of 34,248 trees.

We now have ten projects lined up to plant 133,585 trees. Most of our projects continue to be agroforestry projects in communities in Latin America and Africa. These agroforestry plantings not only sequester CO2 and help cool the planet but also help restore degraded land, protect intact forests, and support the livelihood of vulnerable communities impacted by climate changes.

To fund these projects, we need \$145,830. Once these projects are funded and completed, our total tree count will be 333,610—one third the way toward our goal of 1 million trees!

## JoinHands

*Sharing resources for new church buildings*



JoinHands is our program for giving and grantmaking. Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we provide grants to help new congregations acquire their first church building. Mennonite Men has given over 2.3 million dollars to new congregations for this purpose.

We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands. We especially ask churches pursuing building projects to give as a way of sharing resources and serving "fair balance" with congregations in need.

Our recent JoinHands grants assisted with church

projects in Burkina Faso and Colombia. One went to Iglesia Menonita Caminando En Esperanza in Bogota, Colombia. The other went to Kodení Evangelical Mennonite Church in Kodení, Burkina Faso. In this predominately Muslim context, Muslim youth helped with construction—illustrating Christians and Muslims living together in community.

Our board recently approved a JoinHands grant to assist the Omaha Chin Christian Church (Central Plains conference) with purchasing a used church building. This congregation is connected to a large population of Chin immigrants in Omaha and has a special ministry of assisting people navigate a challenging new life in North America and find a home in the Anabaptist family. We now need to raise funds to make this \$40,000 grant.

## JoinMen

*Gathering men and promoting their growth*



JoinMen provides gatherings and resources from an Anabaptist perspective to promote healthy masculinity, Christian formation and community. We desire that all men find a place of belonging among men who are strong, loving and wise as we follow Jesus in building God's shalom.

Gatherings provide opportunities for men to join together and engage issues in community. More than an event, these experiences are also meant to encourage participants to be part of an ongoing men's group and growth process. A full list of gathering themes we offer can be found at

[mennonitemen.org/joinmen](https://mennonitemen.org/joinmen).

We receive encouraging reports of individuals and groups using our new book *Living that Matters* (Herald Press, 2023). Here's a response from Chicago: "At Reba Place Church in Evanston, Illinois, a group of men gather once a month to encourage and pray for one another. At the core of our gatherings is the invaluable resource *Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith*. Many of us have a tendency to isolate and disengage, but the book has helped our group grow closer together because of the wisdom that draws us in every time."

We've led several gatherings based on our book and invite your congregation to host one in your community.

Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus for God's shalom

# Be local. Be global. Be the Gospel.

## When the people of God take Jesus' call to live lives of peace seriously, there is hope.

In the midst of war and strife, God is still at work, and we are committed to joining in that work. Here are some ways in which you can join too:



**Partner** with workers across the street and around the world through financial support. Contact [KarenH@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:KarenH@MennoniteMission.net) to support workers financially.



**Support** Mission network ministries and workers by becoming a prayer partner. Visit our website to join: [MennoniteMission.net/Prayer](https://MennoniteMission.net/Prayer).



**Explore** what service options are the best fit for adults and youth in your congregation: [MennoniteMission.net/Serve](https://MennoniteMission.net/Serve).



**Learn** about social justice through a spiritual lens by participating in a Just Peace Pilgrimage: [MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace](https://MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace).



On behalf of all of us at Mennonite Mission Network, thank you Illinois Conference for your commitment and support! Your prayers, contributions and participation in our programs is a vital part of our partnerships with congregations, organizations and individuals around the world. Like 1 Peter 4:10-11 says, each of us uses our gifts for the good of one another, and we can trust that our service and love for others is guided and strengthened by God. Blessings to you!

*Marisa Smucker*

**Marisa Smucker**, Executive Director

## Pacific Northwest Conference partnership

*Note: Underlined words indicate active links.*

### Worker support around the world



#### Worker support

**Joseph and Rachel Givens**, serving in Calais, France  
» [Mountain View Mennonite Church](#)

### Service participants



#### Service site

**Service Adventure unit**  
» [Anchorage, Alaska](#)  
**SOOP**  
» [Drift Creek Camp](#)

#### SOOP

**Karen and Rich Kropf**, Glendale, Arizona  
**Bryan and Judi Stauffer**, Glendale, Arizona

### Congregational giving to Mission Network



During Mission Networks' past fiscal year, August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, Pacific Northwest Conference congregations gave **\$45,892**. Thank you!

### Prayer partners

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Thank you for your continued partnership in God's mission!

[www.MennoniteMission.net](https://www.MennoniteMission.net) Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872





Mennonite Central Committee

# 2024 report for Pacific Northwest Mennonite

Toll Free: (800) 691-6911 • @mcc.org • mcc.org



MCC/Fairpicture photo/Justin Makangara

Melanie Mafinga, a member of the Women Situation Room (WSR), a women-led group supported by MCC for peace training in Kikwit, Democratic Republic of the Congo, carves out time from her work as a trader to help resolve local conflicts and promote peace. Through MCC, you join in the legacy of Mafinga and so many others, through the past century and across the globe, who have dedicated themselves to a world where the peace of Christ rules in more hearts.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued commitment and support to MCC's work in peacebuilding.

Because of your continued support women in DR Congo like Melanie Mafinga can engage in peace work and support other women facing conflict through peacebuilding.

Members of WSRs all over the country are using a variety of techniques for dealing with conflict, including conflict analysis, mediation, negotiation, reconciliation and arbitration, says Jacob Sankara, MCC Peacebuilding coordinator in DR Congo.

In early 2024, MCC was supporting 67 groups with 3,602 members, the majority in eastern DR Congo where armed groups are active, he says.

Sometimes forgiveness is all that can be offered, says Mafinga, who resolved a years-long conflict between a mother and her daughter over an unpaid debt. "The money is gone, but forgiveness is everywhere, and peace is remaining. The Bible says if someone comes to ask forgiveness, we should forgive them."

Through this project, women are attuned to working on resolving small conflicts that, if ignored, can fester and grow.

Friends, we have a lot peacemaking work to do. Let us not get distracted, together we can be the witness of Christ on earth, and "Let the the peace of Christ rule in our hearts."

Grace & Peace,

Dina Gonzalez-Piña, West Coast MCC Executive Director

Kevin Malamma, U.S Board Member & West Coast MCC Board Co-Chair

Sam Oommen, West Coast MCC Board Co-Chair

## MCC's 2024 guiding scripture

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

Colossians 3:15 (NIV)

## West Coast MCC in 2023

- Grand Opening of MCC Global Center in Reedley, CA
- Supported 3 IVEP participants from Guatemala and Bangladesh
- Supported 5 Summer Service participants
- New Transformative Justice and Young Adult Partnerships with local school districts

## PNMC Conference 2023 Partnership

- Mennonite Country Auction, WA \$99,105.04
- Oregon Mennonite Festival: \$100,000
- Idaho Mennonite Festival for World Relief: \$56,000
- Et Cetera Thrift Shop, Lebanon, OR: \$16,675.03

## Upcoming Events

- West Coast Bike Ride, Aug 4-8 - Albany, OR
- Oct 5, Mennonite Country Auction - Ritzville, WA
- Oct 12 Mennonite Oregon Relief Sale - Albany, OR
- Get ready for the School Kit Challenge this summer!

**MCC Staff from PNMC & PSMC Churches:** Art Montoya

**PNMC & PSMC Board Members:** Kiara Yoder, Nancy Chupp, Una Jost, Twila Lehman, & Nelly Ascencio.

# **REPORTS FROM MENNONITE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES**

**Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

**Bethel College**

**Eastern Mennonite Seminary**

**Eastern Mennonite University**

**Goshen College**

**Hesston College**

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## Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world.

Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — in person or at a distance, full time or part time — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

### Degrees and programs (\* = distance-friendly program)

- Master of Divinity\*
- Master of Arts in Christian Formation
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism\*
- Doctor of Ministry in Leadership\*
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction\*
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies\* (fully customizable)
- Mennonite Education Agency Hispanic Ministries – AMBS Graduate Certificate in Theology\* (in Spanish)
- Journey Missional Leadership Development Program\* (undergraduate-level, nondegree)

[ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs](https://ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs)

We offer generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and matching grants for both full- and part-time graduate students. You *can* afford seminary!

[ambs.edu/affordability](https://ambs.edu/affordability)

### Leadership and enrichment

Grow your ministry skills and gain Anabaptist approaches to today's leadership challenges through our nondegree offerings. (\* = distance-friendly program)

#### Short-term options

- Practical Leadership Training modules\*
- Online Short Courses\*: six weeks, discussion-based, noncredit (no grades, no papers!)
- Invite AMBS\*: request a speaker (in person or online)
- Pastors & Leaders conference\*: Feb. 17–20, 2025

#### Yearlong offerings

- Spiritual Direction Seminars\*
- Transition to Leadership: program for new pastors
- Integrity Circles\*: reflect theologically on leadership within a group

[ambs.edu/leadership-and-enrichment](https://ambs.edu/leadership-and-enrichment)



(Above) In April 2024, 13 women and nine men from four countries — Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania and the U.S. — graduated from AMBS. (Seven are not pictured.)

### Conference connections

- **Master of Divinity student:** Dave Johnson (Portland)
- **2024 graduate, Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies:** Deb Coates (Portland)

### AMBS statistics

- In 2023–24, 149 graduate students were enrolled at AMBS: 65 from the U.S., 11 from Canada and 73 international students. Ten are pursuing the MEA Hispanic Ministries – AMBS Graduate Certificate in Theology. The Journey program has 40 participants in Canada, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Uganda and the U.S.

### Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course:
  - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
  - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
  - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: What's Different and Why?
  - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
  - Resisting Christian Nationalism with the Gospel of Peace

[ambs.edu/online-short-courses](https://ambs.edu/online-short-courses)

- Take a graduate-level course — online or on campus. Nonadmitted students get 50% off tuition for their first three credit hours! [ambs.edu/upcoming-courses](https://ambs.edu/upcoming-courses)
- Schedule a virtual or in-person visit and learn what AMBS has to offer! [ambs.edu/visit](https://ambs.edu/visit)
- Stay connected: [facebook.com/followAMBS](https://facebook.com/followAMBS) • [instagram.com/ambs\\_seminary](https://instagram.com/ambs_seminary) • [youtube.com/ambsedu](https://youtube.com/ambsedu) • [ambs.edu/subscribe](https://ambs.edu/subscribe)



## 2024 Annual Report

As I was driving a shuttle for people attending Life Enrichment, a weekly lecture series that brings around 200 people aged 60 and older to campus on Wednesday mornings, a group of students was gathering to carpool to a protest for peace in the Middle East. Another group looked to be headed for an athletic practice or event, while others came and went from the cafeteria or classes. Campus continues to be a place where students, matriculating and graduated, gather together in community to pursue a wide range of interests.

Bethel continues its work to become a federally designated work college. With the success of the current Employment Experiences pilot program, we are expecting all incoming freshmen in the fall of 2024 to be enrolled in the program and placed in a job as part of their curriculum. By fall of 2027, all Bethel students will be gaining valuable work experiences along with valuable classroom experiences.

Bethel continues its work to meet the needs and expectations of a diverse student population. Focus has been added to areas of student wellness and retention through the office of student success and retention, and campus upgrades, such as our redesigned student-focused café. Beginning in July, we will welcome our first-ever vice president for culture and belonging- a position created so students, faculty, and staff have a comfortable space to have conversations around belonging, diversity, and inclusion.

Bethel entered the public phase of our campaign to bring a dedicated wellness center building to campus. By providing state-of-the-art fitness facilities, wellness programs, and mental health resources, the center will create a holistic environment that fosters physical and mental resilience for campus and community.

Inspiration for music included in the recent concert choir tour program came from Langston Hughes: "To sit and dream. To sit and read. To sit and learn about the world." We strive to make Bethel a place where students flourish. A place where students and community can continue to explore their passions, connect with one another, and become active members of a global family.

Thank you for your continued support!

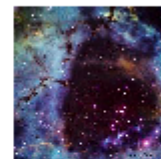
Ben Lichti, coordinator for alumni and church relations



Students and faculty tie prayer ribbons to a cross



Architect rendering of a new wellness center



The Rosette Nebula photographed by the Bethel observatory



## 2024 Report to Pacific Northwest Conference

### STRONG ROOTS. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

**Dr. Katherine Fell**, University of Findlay president, and **Dr. Jane Wood**, Bluffton University president, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) declaring the intention to pursue a merger of Bluffton University operations with University of Findlay. Findlay and Bluffton will become one higher education community on two campuses. The decision was made by votes of each institution's Board of Trustees. Pending all regulatory approvals, the merger is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2025. Bluffton intends to remain affiliated with Mennonite Church USA while the University of Findlay intends to remain affiliated with the Churches of God, General Conference. Additional information can be found at [www.findlayblufftonfuture.com](http://www.findlayblufftonfuture.com).

### TEACHING PEACE TO CHILDREN

The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center's graduate assistant/co-director, **Tareq Abuhallima**, and students began presenting "Teaching Peace to Children," a series of sessions on issues such as conflict resolution and cultural understanding during 2023-24. A native of Gaza, Palestine, Abuhallima is connected with MennoPin (Mennonite Palestinian Israel Network), and shared "Experiences in the Gaza Strip" during a January Forum. **Dr. Paul Neufeld Weaver**, professor of education and director of global education, serves as the center's director.

### SPIRITUAL LIFE WEEK

During the 2023-24 spiritual life weeks on campus, **David Glick '07**, spoke during the fall on the theme "Be Rooted" using John 15:5 while **Lindsay Horn '19** engaged students in the spring with the theme "Even when we are not... God is" and Mark 5:25-34.

### 124TH COMMENCEMENT

**Glen Guyton**, executive director of Mennonite Church USA, was chosen to be the Commencement speaker during the May 4 ceremony in Sommer Center. Guyton's speech, titled, "I Succeeded," focused on celebrating your wins. "The future will take care of itself. Today is a day to celebrate how far we have come."

### KEENEY PEACE LECTURE

**Sarah Augustine** shared the annual Keeney Peace Lecture on March 26. She invited the campus community to consider indigenous wisdom for faithful ecological solutions beyond the economic and cultural systems responsible for the current climate crisis. Augustine and 1984 Bluffton alumnus **Sheri Hostetler** wrote, "So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis," and co-founded the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.

## TOP TIER

IN "MIDWEST  
COLLEGES"

— *U.S. News & World Report's  
Best Colleges*

## NAMED A COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION FOR 2023-24

### Online MSW

Offered in partnership with  
Goshen College

- Mental health specialization
- Sit for licensure in any state
- Classes start in August.

Learn more at  
[www.bluffton.edu/msw](http://www.bluffton.edu/msw)

Find us on the web  
and social media!  
[www.bluffton.edu](http://www.bluffton.edu)

For more information, contact  
**Gerald Mast**  
*Church relations coordinator  
and professor of communication*  
[mastg@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastg@bluffton.edu)

### Graduate Certificate in Faith-Based Peacebuilding Launches

“What peacebuilding is, to me, has to be and is undergirded by my faith,” affirmed Keren Kandel, one of the first three graduates of EMS’s new certificate program. She described how she both learned about principles *and* put them into practice in the community. Students in the 18-credit program take courses on campus or online, with flexibility built into the degree so students can choose relevant courses in theology, biblical studies, racial justice, conflict analysis and peacebuilding.

### EMS Celebrates 2023 Graduates

On May 7, EMS celebrated its largest graduating class since before the pandemic in 2019. Nineteen graduates earned master’s degrees in Christian leadership, divinity, and religion; and certificates in Christian studies, general theology, and faith-based peacebuilding. 2022-23 seminary enrollment was strong, with a 14% increase over the previous year.



*Seminary graduates receive a blessing at EMU commencement*

### Conflict Transformation Trainings Equip Ministry Leaders

The first series of workshops in conflict transformation, trauma resilience, and adaptive leadership were held in the spring 2023. Director Dr. Jacob Cook works with leaders at EMS and EMU’s Center for Justice and Peacebuilding to equip pastors and lay leaders through digital content, online courses, regional on-site



*Participants learn trauma-aware practices in May 20 workshop*

trainings and on-campus workshops. Utilizing a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., EMS is developing these interdisciplinary leadership workshops and trainings that integrate personal spiritual formation, biblical and theological frameworks, and conflict transformation skills. More offerings are forthcoming, and custom-designed trainings are available on EMU’s campus or at your location.

### EMS Averages 82.5% Tuition Scholarships for 2023 Admits

Students admitted to EMS master’s programs in 2023 were awarded, on average, scholarships covering 82.5% of their tuition. Thanks to generous donors, applicants can receive up to 100% tuition scholarships on the basis of merit and financial need. Plus, now that all EMS courses are available virtually, EMS is seeing an increase in attendance from students outside of Virginia and beyond the U.S. EMS’s Zoom technology and online learning management system make our synchronous learning dynamic and formative. Apply now or recommend EMS to someone you know! Visit [emu.edu/seminary/admissions/grad](https://emu.edu/seminary/admissions/grad)

### Statement of Purpose

*Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepares servants of Christ to minister together locally and globally. In response to God’s gracious call, we invite students to embody and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God’s Spirit as wise interpreters, mature practitioners, discerning communicators, and transformational leaders.*

- ▶ Susan Schultz Huxman, *president*
  - ▶ Daniel Ott, *seminary dean*
  - ▶ Sarah Ann Bixler, *associate dean*
- [emu.edu/seminary](https://emu.edu/seminary)  
540-432-4260**

### Conflict Transformation and Trauma Resilience Workshops

Equipping pastors and lay leaders on campus and online

[emu.edu/seminary/workshops](https://emu.edu/seminary/workshops)



*EMU prepares students to serve  
and lead in a global context*

SPRING 2024

PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

**Greetings to our friends from President Huxman at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU)!**

We are thankful for your support in prayer, advocacy, financial gifts, and sending us students who are fulfilling their call in all our educational programming. We are fortunate to have an impactful contingent of support from churches, agencies and visionary individuals as represented by our current students, loyal alumni, trustees, faculty and staff who call communities within this conference their home.

The 2023-2024 academic year has given us much, for which we are grateful. Highlights from this year are many, including:

- We have expanded programming and student access in our seminary (EMS) and the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding (CJP) thanks to donor support and major Lily Foundation grants. These combined efforts allow us to hire instructors and advisors, make it easier and more affordable for students, and to launch new programming, such as the continuing education program, Shalom Academy, in early January.
- We have launched our first ever comprehensive philanthropic campaign: "Forward Together, 2023-2028" after a third-party feasibility study indicated that a reservoir of goodwill from our loyal supporters would support a \$40M campaign with joy. This will be our largest campaign for people, programs and facilities.
- We have celebrated a new women's networking and philanthropic group: "[Royal Women for EMU](#)." At the inaugural kick off, we honored 18 pioneering women from EMS, EMC, and EMU as part of a larger initiative to support diversity, equity and inclusion at EMU.
- The PBS Viewpoint Series with Dennis Quaid has been so impressed with our diversity, equity and inclusion work that they came to record a documentary on our campus in October.

As highlighted in our new strategic plan, "Pathways of Promise," this is our moment to position EMU as a premier faith-inspired peace and justice university (see our "[Reaffirmation of EMU as a Peace and Justice University](#)" on the context of the Palestine-Israel atrocities.)

This is our challenge: to make a radical difference in educating more "bridge-builders" in our world today.

Psalms 119 gives us direction in navigating our polarizing times: "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*" Our mission sets forth the ultimate "pathway of promise"—to follow Jesus, a pathway of enduring light well-marked as a lamp onto our feet.

In gratitude,

Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D.  
President, EMU

Harrisonburg, Virginia

[www.emu.edu](http://www.emu.edu)

**How can EMU serve you?**

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker:  
540-432-4200 or  
[ChurchRelations@emu.edu](mailto:ChurchRelations@emu.edu)

**Pacific Northwest  
Connections to EMU**

**Students**

Spring semester 2024 has six undergraduate students from the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference.

**Giving**

Pacific Northwest churches gave to the Seminary Annual Fund, to the University Fund, and gave over \$16,000 in matching church grants to their students during the year ending June 2023.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, president
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, vice president for advancement
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, associate vice president of advancement
- ▶ **Mary Jensen**, vice president for enrollment and strategic growth
- ▶ **Luke Litwiller**, director of undergrad admissions

**Our Vision**

*We will open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice, and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.*

[churchrelations@emu.edu](mailto:churchrelations@emu.edu)



## 2023-24 Report to Pacific Northwest Conference

### MISSION

Goshen College transforms local and global communities through courageous, creative and compassionate leaders. Shaped by Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, we integrate academic excellence and real-world experience with active love for God and neighbor.

### VISION

Goshen College will cultivate joy, growth and purpose, preparing students to thrive in life, leadership and service. Rooted in the way of Jesus, we will seek inclusive community and transformative justice in all that we do.



**Rebecca J. Stoltzfus '83**  
President

president@goshen.edu

- Read the president's blog at: [goshen.edu/president-blog](https://goshen.edu/president-blog)



**Dan Koop Liechty '88**  
Director of alumni engagement  
& international student adviser

alumni@goshen.edu



**Jen Shenk '94**  
Campus pastor

jshenk@goshen.edu

- Watch past campus chapels and convocations: [goshen.edu/podcasts](https://goshen.edu/podcasts)

### FEATURED LINKS

Campus News  
[goshen.edu/news](https://goshen.edu/news)

Campus Events  
[goshen.edu/calendar](https://goshen.edu/calendar)

Music Center Events  
[gcmusiccenter.org/events](https://gcmusiccenter.org/events)

Athletics Events  
[goleafs.net/calendar](https://goleafs.net/calendar)

Study-Service Term Blogs  
[goshen.edu/sst](https://goshen.edu/sst)

### CAMPUS NEWS

#### Our 2023-24 Campus Ministries theme — *Walking Together: Praying, Serving and Loving*

At Goshen College, we have the gift of a diverse student population. Although our faith journeys are as unique as each individual, we all share the need for belonging, love, community and meaning. In a world that is polarized and divided, we commit to walking together, seeing one another as companions on the way, trusting that God is our guide on the journey.

#### Westlawn Hall renovations

This renovation will allow Goshen College to grow its nursing and public health programs in state-of-the-art learning spaces, as well as provide enhanced dining services and indoor and outdoor gathering spaces that serve the entire campus. Renovations are expected to be completed by early 2025.

Project details, plans and updates can be found at [goshen.edu/westlawn](https://goshen.edu/westlawn).

#### New GC history book published

A new Goshen College history, "A Mennonite College for Everyone(?): Goshen College and the Quest for Identity and Inclusion, 1960-2020," by John D. Roth, a noted Anabaptist-Mennonite scholar and professor emeritus of history at Goshen College, vividly describes the transformation of a faith-based, liberal arts college as it has wrestled with questions of identity and inclusion in a context of rapid social and culture change.

Learn more at [goshen.edu/historybook](https://goshen.edu/historybook)

### CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

9

Students enrolled from 3 Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference congregations this academic year

**\$36,000**

Amount Pacific Northwest Conference churches gave for students for the 2023-24 school year.

The Goshen College Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

### GLOBAL EDUCATION

Students from the conference are involved on- and off-campus in many edifying ways, but we specifically recognize students who have studied and served through GC's Global Education program. **Jonathan Weaver** from Portland Mennonite is studying and serving in Indonesia.



### Why Hesston College

For Kalia Baker, Hesston College was a family tradition she didn't think she would follow. Thankfully, the Hesston Experience is now proving to be everything her parents said it would be and more. While the decision to come from Oregon to Kansas was an adjustment, it was made easier being a part of the close-knit community on campus and quickly being able to find her people. Kalia came to play volleyball and major in education but has been involved in much more on campus, including captain for the flag football team and going to Campus Activities Board events. She is very grateful the professors know each student and want to see them achieve their goals both in the classroom and in all other areas of life. While Hesston might be a family tradition, she is glad she now has a place in it.

### Bible Department & Everence Revitalize Weekend College

Professors Nick Ladd and Michele Hershberger are in conversation with Everence regarding a partnership to bring new weekend college events. They are working together to hold conferences for pastors and church leaders on the topics of burn-out and polarization. Nick and Michele will give input on these topics: causes and remedies for pastoral burn-out, a biblical understanding of unity and leading conflictual groups toward healthy conversations. One conference will be held in Colorado Springs, Colo., for the Mountain States Conference. They are in the works to plan a second conference with more details to come.

### Nursing Club presents sizable donations to New Hope Shelter

After a semester of fundraising during the spring of 2023, the Hesston College Nursing Club presented two large donations to New Hope Shelter in Newton. The first donation consisted of clothes, food, hygiene supplies and a variety of other items that filled four cars, and the second donation was a \$1,000 check presented to shelter executive director Brian Bisbee. Bisbee says he was aware of the nursing club's fundraising efforts, and was pleasantly surprised by the donations received. "We were very encouraged by the number of donated items and we were most impressed with the quality and attitude of the nursing program students. They were so willing to help and showed their care," he says. "We are supported by the community with no government tax dollars--and they showed themselves to be part of that community."

### Title IX Update

Hesston College will continue to work with external counsel Cozen O'Connor to implement the recommendations from their report on campus policies and practices related to student safety and Title IX. The Title IX Implementation Group is formed and meeting weekly as of summer 2023 to begin addressing the recommendations. Progress made by this group will be posted to hesston.edu as updates are available.

### FROM THE NEST

- › News  
[hesston.edu/news](https://hesston.edu/news)
- › Calendar of Events  
[hesston.edu/calendar](https://hesston.edu/calendar)
- › Performing Arts  
[hesston.edu/performing-arts-calendar](https://hesston.edu/performing-arts-calendar)
- › Athletics  
[HClarks.com](https://HClarks.com)



The 2023 and 2024 nursing club presidents present a \$1,000 check to New Hope Shelter.

**WE CAN  
BECAUSE  
CHRIST IS**

### HESSTON COLLEGE THEME VERSE 2023-24

<sup>18</sup>The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, <sup>19</sup>to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

**LUKE 4:18-19, NRSV**



## **Vision: Healing & Hope**

*God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.*

## **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Mission Statement**

**P***romote personal spiritual development*

**N***urture healthy congregations*

**M***ake strong connections throughout the conference*

**C***all each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world.*



**Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite  
Conference**

PO Box 301036, Portland, OR 97294  
(503) 522-5324

[office@pnmc.org](mailto:office@pnmc.org) [www.pnmc.org](http://www.pnmc.org)