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2025 Conference Communication Council

February 1, 2025 on ZOOM

The Transforming Church – Anabaptism at 500

Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Romans 12:2 (CEB)

Our 2025 CCC Zoom gathering will be an opportunity to support and resource one another as we begin this year that marks the 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism. Our gathering will include input from regional and denominational leaders who will provide resources and help us think of ways to approach this historic moment in our lineage of Christian faith.

Agenda:

8:30 Welcome/Opening Worship

9:00 Congregational Roll-Call—[Question for congregational sharing:](#)

How does your congregation remember and express its Anabaptist/Mennonite roots in transforming ways today?

9:50 Break

10am Anabaptism at 500 – Reflections and Resources

Olivia Krall, MCUSA Archives – Why does our history matter? How does it shape who we are called to be as Anabaptists today? Amy Gingerich, Executive Director of MennoMedia, and John D Roth, Mennonite historian and author – *The Anabaptist Community Bible* and resources in the Anabaptism at 500 Toolkit; Lin Rush, Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society Q & A With Presenters

11:20 Break

11:30 PNMC Board of Directors Reporting and Discussion

12:30 Closing Prayer and Adjourn

To register for the 2025 Conference Communication Council (on Zoom)
[follow this link.](#)

The CCC is an important gathering point of our conference for connection, resourcing, learning and discernment.

Our hope is that each congregation will be represented by at least two members.

We especially encourage you to invite young adults in your congregation to serve as congregational representatives.

All PNMC credentialed ministry leaders are encouraged to attend this gathering as well. All are welcome to join in this gathering!

O One for Whom We Wait

(a prayer inspired by the O Antiphons of Advent)
Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

Come, O Wise One, here and now,
to dispel the murky clouds of ignorance and
the distorting smoke of presumption.
Through the eyes of our hearts—our broken hearts—
help us see with compassion and insight.

Come, O Mystery, here and now,
to confront hardened answers and
dismantle our cold prisons of certainty.
Interrupt us with burning bushes, blazing stars,
and all that leads us into renewed faith.

Come, O Root, here and now,
to anchor us in these turbulent winds
of human arrogance and the suffering of all beings.
Ground and nourish us with the one thing
that allows us to bend without breaking: Your Love.

Come, O Key, here and now,
to unlock the sealed doors of upper rooms
where we hide in fear and seek safety in the familiar.
Give us courage and strength to turn fully towards life,
ready to give generously and receive graciously.

Come, O Radiant Dawn, here and now,
to cast aside shadows of hate and injustice,
and expose the gloom of dehumanizing lies.
Illumine our faces—each and every one—
that we might say: “Here is a Beloved Child of God!”

Come, O Ruler of the Upside Down Realm, here and now,
to overturn tables of greed and
unseat tyrants from their thrones.
Like a tender new shoot, may your justice sprout up
and your peace arise from the ashes of loss and suffering.

Come, O Come Emmanuel, here and now,
to help us remember we are never alone.
Be with us.
Be within us.
Be among us.

Amen



PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Albany Mennonite Church

All are invited to Albany Mennonite Church on **Sunday morning, December 22 at 11:00am**. The Albany Mennonite Choir will provide a Christmas musical performance. This will be the congregation's first return to choral music since before Covid and the church is looking forward to returning to this beloved music tradition!

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



Mennonite Action

My name is **Laura Schlabach** (she/her) and I'm writing from the unceded land of the Duwamish and Coast Salish, also known as Seattle. I am a member of **Seattle Mennonite Church**, and I joined the leadership team of Washington state's Mennonite Action chapter last winter. I, along with many of you, tuned into the recent [Mennonite Action's Emergency Mass Call](#) to mark one year of publicly calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and to learn what is around the corner for Mennonite Action. I was excited to hear about the [Peace Camp leadership training](#) coming up **January 17-19, 2025**, in Chicago.

Peace Camp is a three-day leadership training program organized by Mennonite Action that will bring together members of our movement to strategize about how to organize against Christian nationalism and for Palestine in our local communities. The people who attend the training will be able to bring back new skills, lessons, relationships, and energy to their local Mennonite Action groups. I'm considering applying for Peace Camp because gathering as Mennonites and friends who are actively committed to liberation is an antidote to overwhelm.

I deeply valued the regional Mennonite Action gathering in Seattle last September, and believe Peace Camp will be similarly fruitful. Connecting in person with Mennonites from other parts of the Pacific Northwest and with some of Mennonite Action's national leadership team to share our stories, engage in organizing training, and reflect together was grounding and inspiring. Meeting Mennonite allies helped build new relationships and opportunities for sharing skills and resources toward our shared goals — for a ceasefire in Gaza, an end to occupation, and actively speaking out in solidarity for justice and liberation. I'm also drawn to Peace Camp because engaging in community and movements — and *this* movement in particular — is one of my chosen paths forward. Amidst many unknowns in the next four years, I am trying to center on things of which I am sure. And one thing I know for sure is that we need each other.

It is through community that I can build courage to try new things, to take risks, to share reminders to practice hope through taking action, and to receive similar reminders on the hard days. All of the beautiful, varied gifts people bring to this Beloved Community make us stronger — creating art, leading songs, offering encouragement, preparing meals, playing with children, shuttling supplies, facilitating workshops, and more. Mennonite Action trainings like Peace Camp offer opportunities to deepen our organizing skills and connections in this critical time, leading more and more people to recognize themselves in the “we” of Mennonite Action.

At Peace Camp, we will have an opportunity to build strength and courage for continuing this movement together by rooting ourselves in our deeply held faith beliefs and Anabaptist history of standing up to Christian nationalism.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please consider joining me in [applying to Peace Camp](#). Or if there's someone in your local community who you think would be a great fit for this training opportunity, you can nominate them by emailing info@mennoniteaction.org with their contact information and more information about why you've nominated them.

Mennonite Church USA

MC USA is rooted in a tradition dedicated to mutual aid and community building. We have shown time and time again that we can accomplish more together. It is in that spirit that MC USA Executive Board and its agencies are joining together in this special event to promote the work of Anabaptist faith formation education and mission. Your contribution of any size will make a lasting difference in all of these organizations. Be a part of the family the **#Giving Tuesday!** [Give online here](#).

Please visit these links for important news releases from MC USA:

[A pastoral letter about our Anabaptist response to the 2024 presidential election](#)

[MC USA Executive Board commits to prioritizing historical BIPOC narratives; Sets direction for new structure review task group.](#)

Click [here](#) for the latest edition of *PeaceMail*.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Dec 16 (submissions due by 12/9)

Jan 6 (submissions due by 12/30)

Jan 20 (submissions due by 1/13)

Feb 3 (submissions due by 1/27)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to brenda@pnmc.org. Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>