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2025 Conference Communications Council

Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

On Saturday, February 1, more than seventy people representing 21 of our 24 congregations in PNMC joined on Zoom for our annual Conference Communications Council (CCC), “The Transforming Church: Anabaptism at 500.” It was a rich and inspiring time of worship, learning, resourcing and reflecting.



Worship included a readers theater, written by **Stephen Penner** (Salem Mennonite Church), reflecting on how we remember our history and practice our faith today as Anabaptist Christians. **Roger Piper-Ruth** (Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship) led us in an original song from a musical he composed on the roots of Anabaptism.

Our presenters offered challenging insights on what it means to connect with the fullness of our story as a people of faith, and how we are together called to be a vital and creative expression of the Body of Christ today. **Olivia Krall**, Mennonite Church USA Archivist, shared the stories of two mid-20th century Mennonite women, Mary Emma Showalter and Rowena Larke, who helped shape the rapidly changing church of their times. Historian and author, **John D. Roth**, shared about the making of the recently published *Anabaptist Community Bible*,

and other resources available from MennoMedia in commemoration of the 500th anniversary. Finally, **Lin Rush**, current board president for the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society (PNMHS), offered valuable insights about ways our congregations can retain our records and contribute to gathering the stories of today’s church for the sake of future generations.

Our final hour was led by **Chris Nord**, PNMC Moderator, and members of the PNMC Board. We were reminded of the current fiscal challenges faced by the conference, and Board members encouraged and invited congregations and individuals to join in the continued financial support of our PNMC community. We are so grateful for the generous support of many! Thank you!

I am grateful for the way the Holy Spirit lives and moves and connects us, across time and place. Even a “virtual meeting” like we held on Saturday is no barrier! As we all know, though, there is nothing like actually being together! So, we are excited to now plan towards our annual in-person PNMC Annual Meeting, which will be held in Kalispell, MT, June 19-22. More information to come soon!

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Young Adults to Gather at Camp CAMREC

Winter months can be long without much to look forward to after the holidays. This is an opportunity for adults in their 20s and 30s to experience traditional youth camp experiences but with more freedom. It is an opportunity to enjoy the snowy outdoors, fire side activities, and building community. Whether you are connected to the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference, the Mennonite Church of British Columbia, other denominations, or no church at all, you are invited to hang out, invite your friends, participate in group activities, or do your own thing over the long weekend of **February 14-17, 2025**. *Additional days are possible upon request.*

Optional on-site activities include: tubing, snow shoeing, cross country skiing as well as traveling to [Steven’s Pass](#) or [Mission Ridge](#) for Alpine adventures. There will be excursions into Leavenworth, the option of working remotely using CAMREC’s fiber internet connection. Guests are also invited to immerse themselves in one of [Grunwald Guild’s](#) art studios. There will be board and card games, ping-pong. Folks are invited to participated in contemplative worship; collaborative cooking and baking, and guided yoga.

FEES: Suggested minimum donation of \$30/day (\$20/lodging and \$10/food). Optional off-site activities such as equipment rental, park passes, and outings to local attractions will be paid separately. Scholarship funding is available if finances are a concern.

Contact **Brisa Peacock** at program@camrec.org for more information. For details about transportation, visit www.camrec.org.

This program is made possible, in part, by a \$1500 Seed Northwest Grant from PNMC.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Community of Hope

An Ordination Celebration for **Pastor Rachael Weasley**, Community of Hope (Bellingham, WA) is planned for **Saturday, February 15, 11am**, at Bloedel Donovan Park in Bellingham, WA. Please come and join in this celebration! All are welcome!

Albany Mennonite Church

On **Saturday, February 22, 2025**, 9-3, AMC (3405 Kizer Ave, Albany) will host a **Winter Warm Up for MCC**. All are welcome! If you have tops, batting and backing to share, please bring them along. Beverages will be provided but please bring your own lunch. Questions? Contact Nancy Friesen at 541-979-9759. Participate as long as you are able!

Drift Creek Camp

DCC is seeking to build a team of passionate young adults to create meaningful experiences for campers! Serving on summer staff provides an opportunity to unplug from technology, explore nature, reflect, build relationships, hone leadership skills, laugh until it hurts, and be part of a nurturing faith community. At camp, staff members will likely eat too many carbs, but will also fall asleep each night feeling both exhausted and satisfied. We hope you will join the team! [Apply here.](#)

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

All are invited to the PNMHS Annual Meeting, **Saturday, March 15, 2025**, at Zion Mennonite Church, 6124 S. Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard, OR. The focus will be “What’s the Problem with Christian Nationalism,” presented by **Michele Hershberger**, Professor of Bible at Hesston College, Hesston, KS. Michele will share a Biblical rationale for the separation of church and state that informed early Anabaptist thinking 500 years ago. She will share the relevance of that thinking for today and its implications for the future.

Event Schedule:

Noon - Luncheon and business meeting

Program: (A Zoom option will be available for those unable to attend in person.)

1:30 – Session 1 presentation

2:25 – Session 2 presentation

3:05 Questions & Answers

3:20 – Adjournment (the archives building will be open for visits)

An offering to support Historical Society work will be taken. The luncheon cost is \$15 per person. (RSVP needed only for luncheon by **March 7** to **Jerry Barkman** at treasurer-pnmhs@canby.com or 503-871-6413.) No RSVP needed for the program.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mennonite Church USA

Following Jesus During Challenging Times Webinar: Feb 5, 2025 04:00 PM in Pacific Time (US and Canada)

What does it mean to provide sanctuary for undocumented people? This webinar will feature several pastors whose congregations have previously served as sanctuaries. Lawyers from the Institute of Constitutional Advocacy and Protection will discuss the legal issues related to sanctuary, specifically focusing on section 1324, and will allow time for participants to ask questions. For churches that are currently working with or are interested in supporting undocumented individuals in their communities, this webinar will provide crucial information on what to expect and what legal assistance is available if your church faces challenges from ICE or immigration agents. Intérprete al español disponible. Follow [this link](#) to register.



In this edition of [PeaceMail](#), Zion Mennonite Church pastor, **Steve Bomar**, shares his personal faith journey. Steve grew up in the Pacific Northwest, as part of the Nazarene denomination and felt lead to pastoral ministry during his teen years. After completing a Bachelor of Arts in theology at Point Loma Nazarene University, Steve accepted a youth and music position in Fresno, California. While in Fresno, Steve studies at Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary, where he received his Master of Divinity. He has since gone on to complete a Doctor of Worship Studies at the Institute for Worship Studies, in Jacksonville, Florida, and is serving now at Zion.

Steve grew up in the Church of the Nazarene and considered it home for so long. That heritage is valuable to me, and I am grateful for those who taught me how to read Scripture, encouraged my discipleship, called out gifts for ministry and empowered me to lead at a young age. I remember a time, while working on my undergraduate degree, when I was working to identify why the Nazarene denomination would continue to be my home. How was the Jesus I read about in the Sermon on the Mount being embodied here? *Read on to discover how Steve found his way to Mennonite Church USA [here.](#)*

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Feb 17 (submissions due by 2/10)

Mar 3 (submissions due by 2/24)

Mar 17 (submissions by 3/10)

Apr 7 (submissions due by 3/31)

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>