



Congregational Information Form

To be completed by congregations seeking new pastoral leadership.

Purpose of this form

This form is to assist a congregation to present information concerning itself to prospective candidates for a pastoral leadership position. Completing the form will also assist the pastoral search committee in self-understanding as they assess the strengths and weaknesses which may exist at the time of pastoral transition.

I. INFORMATION

A. BASIC INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

1. Name of church: Portland Mennonite Church

Address: 1312 SE 35th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214

Church telephone: (503) 234-0559

Email: office@portlandmennonite.org

Website: portlandmennonite.org

2. Chairperson of search committee: David Johnson

Address: 1725 SE 181st Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Telephone: (503) 964-8958

Email: davidbjohnson@mac.com

3. Area church/conference: Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Name of area church/conference minister: Eric Massanari

Address: PNMC Administrative Office | 22455 Finn Road, Sheridan, OR 973784

Telephone: (316) 212-6514

Email: Eric@pnmc.org

4. Year in which the congregation first began meeting or was organized: 1922

B. MEMBERSHIP

1. Average Sunday worship attendance during the last 12 months: 153 in-person, 82 YouTube views

Highest attendance during that time: 366 (combined in-person and YouTube)

Lowest attendance during that time: 90 (in person only, no YouTube)

Average Sunday worship attendance during the last 12 months (November 2023 through October 2024) was 153 people in-person and 82 YouTube views. In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, average attendance was 225 people each Sunday. Many regular attenders come once or twice per month. Our formal membership is currently 221 people, but we estimate about 400 people regularly participate in the life of the church, including about 70-80 children.

2. Total current members: 221

Resident members: 213

Non-resident members: 8

Children (not members): 73

3. Age of members and children. Give totals and percentages.

Age Range	Number	Percentage
0-12	39	14%
13-18	34	12%
19-30	16	6%
31-45	49	18%
46-64	59	21%
65+	81	29%

4. Occupational profile: (ages 19 to 70). Give totals.

Business/manager/proprietor:	15%	Homemaker:	1%
Education/administration/teacher:	20%	Clerical/sales:	3%
Craftsman/laborer/operative:	5%	Student/VS:	7%
Medical (doctor/nurse/administration):	15%	Farmer/rancher:	1%
Church institution/administration/minister:	5%	Other professional:	28%

5. Educational level of adults:

Up to and including high school:	2%
Some college or college graduate:	58%
Graduate school:	40%

6. Describe the racial or ethnic composition of the congregation.

Mostly white, a few members or regular attenders from East Asian, Hispanic, Filipino, Indian, Kenyan, South African, or other ethnic backgrounds.

C. LEADERSHIP

1. Identify the present staff position for which you are seeking a candidate: *Lead Pastor*

2. Two previous persons in the above position:

Name: *Rod Stafford* Dates of service: *1999 to August 2024*

Name: *Ralph Lind* Dates of service: *1986-1998*

Comment on the transitions experienced by the above staff persons. What were the reasons for their assignments ending? How were the transitions handled?

Ralph Lind left after the end of his fourth three-year term for personal/family reasons. He relocated to New Mexico, where he pastored at Albuquerque Mennonite Church before changing careers to counseling.

Rod Stafford retired from ministry after 25 years at PMC and still lives locally. He is not actively involved at PMC but retains many friendships/connections within the congregation.

3. Did your congregation follow the Pastor Salary Guidelines recommended by the denomination for the previous pastor? If not, describe how you varied from the Guidelines.

Yes, with some variation for the cost of living in Portland.

4. Identify other staff: (assistant/associate minister, lay ministers, administrative assistant, custodian, musicians, youth)

Title	% Full Time	Responsibilities	Years served
Transitional Pastor	100%	Provide spiritual leadership during the pastoral transition and facilitate congregational reflection	August 2024 to Present
Pastor of Community Life and Outreach	100%	Provide primary leadership and support to PMC’s core ministries of Congregational Life and Community Outreach	November 2022 to Present
Pastor of Children and Youth	100%	Provide primary leadership and support to PMC’s children/youth ministries	July 2009 to Present
Office Administrator	75%	Communications, finances, IT, procurement, facilities, general administrative support	July 2023 to Present

5. Describe housing options for the above position: Is there a parsonage or a housing allowance (US) or housing credit (Canada)?

PMC owns a two-bedroom, one-bath parsonage next door to the church that is currently occupied by the associate pastor and family. For other pastoral staff, PMC designates \$30,000 of compensation as a housing allowance for IRS purposes, and we have provided free consultation with a tax professional with expertise in religious institutions and clergy to help staff make informed decisions.

II. INTERPRETATION

A. Describe the commitment of your church to Anabaptist/Mennonite faith. How does this contribute to strengthening your ability to join God's mission in the world?

PMC is strongly committed to the Anabaptist/Mennonite understanding and practice of Christianity. We strive to live out our faith in Jesus daily, practically, both locally and globally. Christian faith formation, community, service, and peace-building are all core commitments. Members are involved in a variety of community, national, and global agencies as a way to live out their faith.

B. What is the vision for your church? What are your priorities that shape the church's ministry?

Our vision is to be a living expression of Christ's love where faith in Jesus shapes our hearts, community enriches our lives, and reconciliation restores the world around us. Rooted in the Anabaptist tradition, we strive to embody these three principles as the foundation of our shared ministry. Our congregational priorities include hospitality and welcoming for the congregation and community. We have a vision of seeking the peace of the city, with ministries based on the teachings of Jesus, and we strive to live in right relationship with God, community, and creation.

C. What is your view of the pastor's role in the church? Are there special gifts in ministry which you hope will be fulfilled? How do you expect the pastor to be a representative of the congregation beyond the congregation?

Pastors occupy a unique role of leadership and service in the church. They help shape a community that is connected to God, to each other, and to the world. They must be trustworthy and participate in an authentic relationship with Jesus. In this Lead Pastor position, we are looking for someone who is personable, collaborative, nurturing, curious/inquisitive, patient/persistent, a clear communicator, and who is committed to Anabaptism. The essential roles of the Lead Pastor include working with the Leadership Table to discern and carry out the vision that guides the congregation to "seek the peace of the city," to lead the staff by providing support and direction, to preach and teach from a distinctly Anabaptist perspective, and to create an engaging worship experience by enabling the variety of gifts within the church. The Lead Pastor is expected to represent PMC within the regional conference and denomination as well as to be active on the worship committee.

D. Recognizing our differing theological orientations as persons and as congregations, make a brief statement about your congregation and the overarching theological commitments important to you.

At Portland Mennonite Church we strive to make "Jesus the center of our faith, community the center of our life, and reconciliation the center of our work." While we come from varying theological backgrounds, our community is united by a commitment to following Jesus Christ, whose life and

teachings inspire us to live out the values of peace, justice, compassion, and reconciliation. We share, therefore, a deep conviction in the importance of discipleship.

Our Anabaptist heritage is also central to our identity as a congregation. We affirm the call to nonviolence and peacemaking, believing that the gospel calls us to embody peace in our relationships, our neighborhoods, and the wider world. We understand faith as a dynamic journey of transformation, and we value a theology that is both rooted in the Word of God and responsive to the needs of our time. Our commitment to the way of Jesus includes actively working for justice, advocating for marginalized communities, and caring for creation.

We also place a high value on community life. As a congregation, we seek to be a place of welcome and belonging for all, recognizing the image of God in each person, regardless of their background, identity, or beliefs. Our theological orientation is one of inclusivity, with an emphasis on listening to one another, learning together, and walking alongside each other in our shared faith journey.

E. Church morale: Assess the spiritual and emotional health of the congregation. Are relationships among members wholesome and harmonious? Is there openness to new ideas and ways of doing things? Would everyone agree with your answers?

Becoming a Zoom congregation during COVID was challenging for PMC. There were regular attenders who stopped coming, programs that were paused, and most interactions were held online. Since then, however, many people have re-engaged, programs have slowly restarted, and there are opportunities for increased engagement with services being streamed and meetings/events held online. This is very significant, as we are a geographically dispersed congregation.

Several new initiatives have begun in the post-COVID years including Family Promise, Kids Care Club, and support for local refugee families (see "Outreach and Evangelism" below). In November 2022, PMC celebrated its 100th anniversary with a variety of activities and opportunities for reconnecting. Also in 2024, Mennonite Action PMC began activities to "seek a just peace for Israel and Palestine" in cooperation with broader Mennonite efforts to respond to the Hamas attack on Israel and the subsequent war in Gaza.

PMC remains a healthy congregation that continues to have dialogue about the meaning and practice of faith. This is best exemplified in how we discern and serve with each other regarding the differences among us. For example, after years of conversation surrounding sexuality issues, PMC voted in 2017 to support pastors marrying same-sex couples and has since then taken additional steps to become a publicly welcoming congregation.

An outside anti-racism audit was conducted in 2021 which will continue to introduce new ways of doing and being together. This involved, among other things, conversations regarding our stained-glass window portraying a white Jesus and ways PMC can participate in justice for Indigenous peoples. We also now incorporate a Land Acknowledgement in the bulletin and before some Sunday School Classes.

As people are at different places regarding these issues, our pastors are strongly supported as PMC tries to live into a tension in which we center the voices and experiences of historically marginalized people while leaving space for those who have different points of view and/or who are in different places in their theological journey. As new ideas develop, our pastors and leadership work to build trust and authenticity among the congregation as conversations continue and we learn from each other and are transformed together.

To a large degree, relationships among members are wholesome and harmonious. The work and worship of the church requires the involvement of many people every week, and people regularly serve alongside those with whom they may disagree theologically.

F. What changes or trends do you envision for the congregation over the next five years? Do you have any other comments significant in the process for looking for new pastoral leadership?

After 25 years of leadership from our most recent lead pastor, the next phase of our congregational life will likely include many changes, including those that we cannot foresee, and we are looking for a lead pastor who will help us navigate this terrain with humility, wisdom, and experience borne out of both failures and successes. PMC has been slowly going through an evolution in demographics that began in the few years prior to the pandemic as older, long-term members step back or leave the congregation and younger members and families step in to provide lay leadership throughout the ministries of the church. Participation during Sunday morning worship services has stabilized following the disruption of the pandemic, and the next five years will bring an opportunity for new pastoral leadership to work with the current Leadership Table to review, reimagine, and reorganize our core ministry structure, including how the church encourages and cultivates people in the congregation to serve in ministries within the church. We are also in a discernment process regarding whether to move Sunnyside Mennonite Montessori School, which is housed in the church's basement during the week, from a half-day to a full-day preschool program. This would allow SMMS (and PMC) to better serve families who would most benefit from a low-cost, high-quality preschool in the neighborhood yet will have a significant impact on how the meetinghouse is used during the week.

III. ORGANIZATION/MINISTRY

A. CHURCH STRUCTURE

1. Identify the primary governing body (council, board, elders) which represents the church.

Name	Weekly, Monthly, or Quarterly	# of members	Average Age	M/F
Leadership Table	Monthly	8	Multi-Generation	5M, 3F*

* PMC's ideal is to have a balanced Leadership Table.

2. Identify five other significant leadership/programming bodies: e.g. trustees, deacons, elders, commissions, councils, boards, and committees.

Name	Weekly, Monthly, or Quarterly	# of members	Average Age	M/F
Congregational Life Core Ministry (8 subcommittees)	Varies	Varies	Multi-Generation	Varies
Outreach Core Ministry (10 subcommittees)	Varies	Varies	Multi-Generation	Varies
Children's Christian Education Committee (5 subcommittees)	Varies	Varies	Multi-Generation	Varies

Worship Committee (9 subcommittees)	Varies	Varies	Multi-Gener ation	Varies
Adult Faith Formation	Varies	Varies	Multi-Gener ation	Varies

B. WORSHIP AND MUSIC

1. Describe your worship service

PMC is a vibrant worship community. Worship services at PMC are usually an hour in length, give or take 15 minutes. The order of worship typically consists of a five-minute instrumental prelude, a welcome, opening hymns, receiving the offering, a children's story, hymns reflecting the scriptural themes, scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments, a sermon, and a hymn responding to the theme of the sermon, followed by sharing joys and concerns, prayers, announcements, a closing hymn, and a benediction. The most recent weekly bulletin can be found on the PMC website. The bulletin is normally shared online and sent to regular attendees on Friday. We currently have one service, which is also available live-stream and on YouTube.

Our congregation has many active families with children. After the children's time in the service, there is a children's worship time available for 4-7-year-olds in the lower level. People of all ages are involved in the services - from worship leaders to scripture readers to children's storytellers. The sanctuary includes two large stained glass windows as well as a number of smaller stained glass windows depicting the life of Jesus. The largest is in the front behind the pulpit and depicts Jesus knocking on a door; the other large window is a depiction of the Peaceable Kingdom. We are in ongoing discussions regarding the depictions of Jesus as white and are currently mitigating this on the window behind the pulpit by altering the picture of Jesus so his skin appears to be darker.

2. What role does music play in your congregation?

Services are rich in music. Playing instruments and singing hymns and other worship songs are an important part of Sunday morning worship. Congregational singing also happens as special events and seasonal services throughout the year. Four-part and acapella singing are important to a significant part of the congregation and continue to play an important role in our services.

3. What songbooks/collections of music does your congregation use?

PMC uses the "Voices Together" worship book published by MennoMedia. We also use the MennoMedia supplement books, "Sing the Story" and "Sing the Journey." Occasionally the song leader may include a song not in our books as a paper insert in the bulletin.

4. Name the musical instruments used in worship and other events (piano, keyboard, organ, guitar organ, drums, handbells, violin, etc.)

We have a baby grand piano in the sanctuary that is most often used to accompany singing during worship. Often the prelude and hymn accompaniment are played by volunteer musicians from our congregation on violin, recorder, flute, guitar, clarinet, and hand drums.

5. Identify choirs and/or music groups

Name	Age Range	Number of Participants
Worship music/song leaders	Adults	10-15 (rotating)
Advent and Lenten Choirs	Adults and Teens	Approximately 30

C. CHRISTIAN FORMATION - Describe your approach to Christian Formation

- 1. Number of children's classes: 3 Total Sunday school enrollment: 36
 Number of youth classes: 2 Average total attendance: 22 MYFers + 13 JH
 Number of adult classes: 1 to 3

What curriculum resources are used by these classes?

We use Shine's new Paths to Peace for pre-K and elementary age groups. Junior High and High School groups are discussion-based. Adult classes are often centered around a book relevant to a contemporary issue.

- 2. How does the congregation attend to the formation needs of persons of all ages?

See answers below for a variety of activities to meet congregational needs.

- 3. What other opportunities are there for growth and transformation?

Congregants would like to see youth more active in worship services and appreciate the intergenerational community at PMC. Developing ways for families to attend community outreach events along with other congregants could be fostered.

- 4. Describe the involvement of youth in the life of the congregation.

PMC places a high value on having our kids feel valued within the center of congregational life. We have both active Junior High and High School (MYF) groups, which are led by the Youth Pastor. High school seniors are gifted a personal quilt each year, made by persons in the congregation and designed for each individual teen with their specific interests in mind. During a Sunday morning worship at the end of the school year, the seniors are wrapped in their quilts and prayers. Our MYF and Junior High kids have their own Sunday School classes, and each group also meets about once a month for other activities. Children and youth are regularly asked to participate in worship services (e.g., sound crew, music, scripture reading, ushering), and during the worship service there is a children's time with stories connecting to the scripture and sermon for the day, followed by a children's worship time that is available for 4-7-year-olds in the lower level during the sermon. Recently, a group of 4th & 5th-grade students started a group called "Kids Care Club" that meets monthly with adult sponsors to identify and organize service projects for the congregation to participate in. The first project, a neighborhood trash clean-up, took place in September with over 100 participants.

Does your church support and send young people to Mennonite camps, area church/conferences and colleges?

We currently support six students at Mennonite undergraduate colleges and one church member pursuing an MDiv at AMBS. Many of our kids attend Drift Creek Camp in the summer. We also have a congregational commitment to send our high schoolers to the bi-annual MCUSA convention.

5. Does your congregation have active small groups? If so, describe the number of groups, focus of the groups and how often they meet.

Yes, See other comments throughout this form about our Small Groups ministry. With our geographically dispersed congregation, small groups are a primary setting for close relationships and significant conversations. We have about fifteen groups which range from 7-15 individuals, each meeting at least monthly. Most groups do not have an explicit focus and explore social or spiritual discussions as the members choose.

We have several ongoing meetups around specific interests (games, meals, hikes, personal storytelling—as examples). Each month a group of older adults meet to talk about faith and life in the transition to retirement and there are other informal groups that meet.

We have an annual all-church retreat at the Oregon Coast that takes place from Friday evening through lunch on Sunday at the Oregon Coast near Rockaway, Oregon. This is an all-ages event, with annual attendance of about 200 people. New members are introduced during the weekend and a highlight is baptisms on Sunday in the Pacific Ocean

6. What men's/women's groups are active?

PMC has active men's and women's groups that meet regularly throughout the year, and there is an annual women's retreat in the fall.

7. What ministries do you have for children, youth and young adults over 18, etc.?

As described above, PMC has a robust children's ministry, and the Junior High and MYF groups meet after the worship service every Sunday for Sunday school and once a month for other activities during the school year. Specific activities for young adults are supported but operate as a self-guided friendship group.

8. In the next five years, do you anticipate a membership:

- Increase
- Stability
- Decrease?

Why?

PMC seems to have found a new equilibrium after the disruption and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are undergoing something of a generational shift as some of our longest-tenured members are moving away from the Portland area, we remain a vibrant, emotionally healthy congregation that seems to attract new members, including young families. Additionally, we have found that attendance at PMC has increased in previous eras of national

and international uncertainty (e.g., the Iraq and Afghanistan wars) as people look for alternatives to us/them tribalism and endless cycles of violence.

D. OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM

1. Describe how you cultivate the visibility of your church in the community.

Much of our visibility comes via our work with our various community partners and programs, as outlined throughout the responses below. Our website provides up-to-date visibility into the church's programs and activities.

2. Describe how you connect to seekers and make new disciples.

We strive to be a hospitable congregation with a number of connection points for new attenders. These include the following: monthly welcome luncheons for newer attenders; regular Meetups based on age or interest including, but not limited to, young adults, older adults, hiking, book club, and quilting; Dine with 9, a series of 3 dinners over the course of the spring/summer with a group of 9 people; and longer-term small groups. Twice per year, a membership class is offered and people are invited to consider formally joining the church and/or baptism. Our approach to discipleship is less programmatic and more relationally-based. We believe that if people are in significant relationships in the midst of a church community, faith will deepen in meaningful ways.

3. Describe your congregation's ministry in and with the community.

PMC is striving to take up the challenge of the prophet Jeremiah to 'seek the peace of the city' (Jeremiah 29:7). We have a number of community partners with whom we work on issues of homelessness and affordable housing. Since 2022 PMC has partnered with other local churches through Family Promise to shelter houseless families one week every quarter, providing meals, hospitality, and safe, separate sleeping areas for each family.

Once a month, PMC volunteers for Nightstrike (see website <https://www.cityteam.org/get-involved/nightstrike>) to spend time with Portland's homeless community, develop relationships with them, and offer food and clothing, haircuts, foot washing, and other resources.

PMC's Menno Pride committee has sponsored an annual Pride Sunday during Pride month in June, including active and visible participation in Portland's Pride Parade.

PMC supports a local food bank (Mainspring) and has been involved with a Backpack Lunch program for children.

Sunnyside Mennonite Montessori School meets in the church basement and has helped prepare community and PMC children for school for more than thirty years.

Starting in 2024, some of the Sunday School children began Kids Care Club, which meets once per month and often involves neighborhood cleanup activities.

Additionally, there have been informal initiatives to support homeless folks by providing sleeping bags and necessary supplies as well as to support Venezuelan refugees in the community.

E. HOW DOES THE CHURCH UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY IN WORSHIP, IN TEACHING, AND IN OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY?

We maintain an active website and Facebook page to provide visibility to our congregation and others. We routinely use online surveys and online registrations for events with our congregation. Please see our website and review the various links to worship, fundraisers, registrations, and more. At the end of each week, an email is sent out to the congregation with the coming Sunday's bulletin, reminders, and other announcements. Our directory of households is available via an online platform. We have several online giving options available for receiving contributions and payments for registrations, etc. Many inquiries of interest in or more information about Mennonites come via email.

Within the last year, we have started using closed WhatsApp groups for additional informal communication. There are groups set up for the Young Adults, as well as for Sharing and Prayer, General Conversation, and Buying/Selling/Trading/Giving.

Our Sunday School classes routinely use video and the internet to supplement book or issue studies.

Since returning to in-person worship following the COVID-19 pandemic, we purchased higher-quality video equipment as we continue to stream the service to YouTube. The leadership table has had discussions on what role, if any, streaming our services will play moving into the future.

Zoom is used for some leadership and committee meetings as well as by small groups within the congregation. We have done some webinars via Zoom, using invited speakers from outside the area to participate. Online memorial services have also been meaningful, allowing persons from out of state and country to participate.

We anticipate the continued use of Zoom for many leadership and committee meetings. We anticipate providing ongoing streaming of our worship service, primarily for older members who can no longer attend and for members and others at a distance. It is likely that we will continue streaming memorial services if the family desires it.

Please review our website and the available links for the most recent updates.

F. CHURCH BUILDING AND PROPERTY

1. Do you own or rent your facility? If rent, describe the type of space.

We own the property.

2. Seating capacity of sanctuary or worship area

The main sanctuary holds 200 people with an additional overflow of another 50; if packed to the gills we can seat 350.

3. Date of construction of church building

The Old Chapel was built in 1900, and the sanctuary and classrooms were built in 1918.

4. Date of last renovation. Describe what was done

The last renovation was done in 2018 and consisted of a full remodel and upgrade of the lower level including ADA-compliant all-user's restroom, a commercial kitchen, and classrooms for Sunday school and a Montessori school that meets during the week.

What if any building/renovation program is needed or projected?

Possible added main floor ADA all-user's bathroom if the school goes to full time which is to be determined. There is currently an active discussion about this.

5. Describe the educational facilities.

Classrooms from the 2018 lower-level remodel.

6. Describe the fellowship and/or recreational facilities.

As stated above, remodeled space which includes the main common area with moveable curtains for dividing space if needed. The classrooms can be part of the main space when accordion doors are open as well.

7. Describe the church office location and equipment

Church offices are on the main level, pastors have individual offices with a common conference space. Laptops are provided.

8. Are building and equipment adequate for the needs of the congregation? Describe any special assets or liabilities of the building.

The building and equipment are largely adequate for the needs of the congregation with the exceptions of the aforementioned question of the Montessori school space requirements as well as limited adult Sunday School space.

9. Name the insurance company and describe the coverage for church liability, property, pastor's liability, etc., for the church.

The church property and parsonage are insured through Mennonite Aid Plan, liability coverage is Guide One (via Mennonite Aid Plan/Mennonite Insurance Services). Our liability coverage includes Director and Officer liability (\$1 million) and sexual misconduct coverage (\$1-3 million) as well as personal injury and property damage (up to \$1 million each).

10. Are there community programs or groups who also utilize your church facilities? Who are they and how often do they use the building? What interaction do you have with them?

Sunnyside Montessori School, a half-day preschool, meets in classrooms in the lower level Tuesday through Friday. SMMS is a program of the church but operates with a separate board. Ministerios Restauracion, a Spanish-speaking Mennonite congregation, meets in our building on Sunday afternoons and other times as arranged. Most interaction with Ministerios is in passing except at conference-level activities. A group of quilters meets on Mondays. Family Promise uses the space 4 weeks out of the year.

G. CHURCH STEWARDSHIP/FINANCES

1. Based on your last report, identify the previous year's giving of your church.

Local church

Expenses: \$388,580

Local needs and outreach: \$9,129

Buildings and Facilities: \$104,730

Total Local Church Contributions: \$502,439

Non Local Contributions

Area church/conference \$22,000

Denominational total \$16,500

Mennonite institutions and agencies \$2,000

Mennonite Central Committee 500 budgeted, usually \$18,000-\$22,000 additional

Other Mennonite causes \$2,670 (CPT, BMC-SCN, Dove's Nest, TCP Mutual)

Non-Mennonite causes

Total Non Local Contributions: \$43,670

2. Church budget

Who makes recommendations regarding pastoral and staff salaries?

Staff Relations Committee

Who determines church budget or makes recommendations to the church?

Leadership Table

What plan is used to challenge the church to Christian stewardship?

We present a narrative budget in September and invite people to make pledges. In December, the congregation votes on the budget. Throughout the year, offering is a regular part of Sunday morning worship and we aim to pray quarterly for our partners where we are sending contributions. There are also regular appeals for extra-budget giving, including our Christmas Eve offering which traditionally goes to Mennonite Central Committee or Mennonite Disaster Service.

Current total budget \$602,449

3. Is there church indebtedness: Yes Amount: \$158,000

How is it being reduced?

Monthly payments on a 5-year amortization plan plus an additional \$450 per month on principal.

IV. RELATIONSHIPS

A. COMMUNITY

1. Character of community your congregation serves or in which it is located:

- Rural Village (under 2500)
- Town (under 10,000)
- City (over 10,000)
- Large city (over 100,000)
- Metropolitan area (over 1,000,000)

2. Which best describes this community?

- Growing
- Stable
- Declining

3. Describe racial or ethnic composition of the community.

Portland, and the surrounding metro area, has a predominantly White population (~66%), but is also home to significant Latinx (11%), Asian or Pacific Islander (9%), Black or African American (6%), and Native American (1%) communities. Historically, the city has faced racial challenges, including gentrification and displacement, which have disproportionately affected communities of color. PMC is committed to addressing these inequities by fostering a congregation that values inclusivity and works toward racial justice. The church engages in ongoing education about systemic racism and partners with local organizations to promote reconciliation and equity.

4. List two or three primary business/industries in the community.

- Technology: The city is part of the "Silicon Forest," home to numerous tech companies and start-ups that drive innovation and economic growth.
- Health Sciences: Five of the top ten largest employers in the area operate in the healthcare sector
- Arts and Culture: Portland is celebrated for its thriving arts scene, including independent theaters, music venues, and creative entrepreneurs

5. Identify other Mennonite/Anabaptist churches in the community, if any.

PMC is the only English-speaking Mennonite congregation in the Portland metro area. Ministerios Restauracion is a Spanish-speaking Mennonite congregation that meets in the PMC building on Sunday afternoons. Peace Church of the Brethren is another smaller English-speaking Anabaptist congregation within the region. PMC therefore serves as a distinct witness to Anabaptist values in an urban context where a Mennonite presence is relatively limited. All other neighboring Mennonite congregations are located outside the city in smaller communities, emphasizing the importance of PMC's urban ministry.

What other churches and faith groups are in the community?

Like any major metropolitan area of the country, Portland hosts a diverse array of faith communities. These include historic mainline Protestant congregations, Catholic churches, Evangelical and Pentecostal churches, Jewish synagogues, Muslim mosques, Buddhist

temples, Hindu communities, and Indigenous spiritual groups. What makes Portland unique, however, is the high percentage of individuals who self-identify as “unaffiliated” (at one time measured to be as high as 42%).

6. Name of nearest college or university

Portland State University, located downtown, is the nearest major academic institution. Other notable higher education institutions include Reed College, Lewis & Clark College, Oregon Health & Science University, University of Portland, Jessup University, and Warner Pacific University. Also within the metro area are three graduate theological institutions: Western Seminary, Multnomah Biblical Seminary, and Portland Seminary.

In what way does your church relate to this academic community?

PMC does not have an institutional relationship with any of these colleges or universities. Several PMC members are faculty, staff, or students.

7. Identify significant issues confronting your community.

- *Housing Affordability and Homelessness: Portland faces a significant housing crisis, with rising rents and a growing unhoused population.*
- *Climate Change: As a leader in environmental consciousness, Portland grapples with regional wildfire effects, urban heat islands, and other climate-related challenges.*
- *Systemic Racism: The city’s history of redlining and gentrification underscores the ongoing need for racial equity and justice.*
- *Political Polarization: Divisive political climates create challenges for community-building.*

8. Describe what you believe to be distinctive assets of your community.

Portland’s progressive spirit, culture of creativity, environmental awareness, and commitment to equity offer a fertile ground for living out Anabaptist values. Its vibrant arts and food scenes contribute to a sense of community and connection. Additionally, the city’s emphasis on grassroots activism and sustainability aligns with PMC’s mission of peacebuilding and care for creation.

Portland is bisected by the Willamette River and boarded by the Columbia River, is a two-hour drive from the Coastal Range and the Pacific Ocean, and is a short drive from state and national forests, wine country, and Mount Hood. Portland is a bike-friendly city and many Portland neighborhoods rate high on the walkability scale, including the Hawthorne neighborhood where the PMC is located. Portland is very proud to be the home to Powell’s City of Books.

9. Describe your congregation’s ministry in the community.

Through its ministry, PMC strives to “seek the peace of the city.” In addition to a traditional Anabaptist peace witness of non-violence, this often takes the form of service to the unhoused, racial justice work, and environmental stewardship and action.

10. How does your congregation work with ecumenical and interfaith efforts?

PMC actively partners with other congregations in inner southeast Portland to develop a shelter for families experiencing homelessness through Family Promise. We are a member of

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO).

B. AREA CHURCH/CONFERENCE

1. Describe your relationship with and your participation in the area church/conference.

PMC maintains a strong relationship with and is a very active participant in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC). We send delegates to regional gatherings and conference meetings, and we supply many conference leaders and volunteers.

C. WIDER CHURCH

1. Describe your relationship with and your participation in Mennonite Church Canada/Mennonite Church USA.

PMC is committed to the broader Mennonite Church USA vision and we actively support and participate in MCUSA. We send delegates to the bi-annual convention and our members have served on many national boards.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Compile your congregation's response to the "Congregational and Pastoral Priorities" found here.
- B. Send a copy of this form to your area church/conference minister. You may also use copies to send to prospective candidates whom you may wish to interview.