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## ***All of Who We Are, Welcome Here!***

### **Ordination Celebration for Pastor Rachael Weasley**

Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

On **Saturday, February 15**, more than forty people gathered on the shores of Lake Whatcom, in Bellingham, WA, to join in [wild church worship](#) and in the ordination celebration of **Rachael Weasley**, pastor of [Community of Hope](#) (Bellingham). COH is one of our two church plants in Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC). Even on that cool, damp morning, there was a radiating warmth as we sang a song composed by Pastor Rachael:

*Sweet and holy Friend, welcome here.  
All of who we are, welcome here.  
Faithful, loving Guide, welcome here;  
welcome here!*

Rachael's song serves as the invocation for many gatherings of Community of Hope, whether it is the local, in-person gatherings in the practice of worship known as "wild church," or the monthly online worship services. This song proclaims the radical hospitality of Christ, and the welcoming spirit of this congregation whose stated mission is "centering queer theology, working for justice, and sharing our lives."



All of us who gathered were reminded in word and presence that we were joining in the ordination of the very first out queer pastor in PNMC. There have been many barriers broken down and many thresholds crossed through the years when it comes to our practices of ministerial credentialing in the Mennonite church, and in the broader Christian community. We shared laughter, tears and tender silences as we felt the joy of this threshold that Rachael was leading us across, and also pain in the awareness that there have been countless others in the past whose gifts went unaffirmed and for whom the door to ministry remained closed.

As Annabeth Roeschley, Director of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ+ Interests, stated at the opening of the ordination service: "We gather in the collective strength and power of those who have come before us. Those on whose shoulders we stand, in whose arms we are cradled, in whose brilliance we shine."

It felt so fitting that the service happened in the expansive sanctuary of the Lake Whatcom watershed, and that it included online and in-person participants, covenanted members of Community of Hope and first-time visitors, pastors from several of our PNMC churches as well as pastoral leaders from the ecumenical community in Bellingham. The colors of the rainbow were visible everywhere, literally and figuratively. For me, this was a long-awaited moment of joy, and an experience of knowing, without question or reservation, that in the great love of God, *all are welcome here!*



## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

### Young Adult Retreat at Camp CAMREC, by Brisa Peacock and Tace Martin



The idea for a young adult retreat came about at last year's PNMC Annual Meeting in Bend where there was a great deal of talk about young adult engagement. PNMC events geared toward youth as well as opportunities for college students are plentiful but activities explicitly for those in their 20s and 30s have been few and far between. *There are also very few active church participants within that age range.* In part we were inspired by the Young Adult Anabaptist Conference For An Active Future held at Camp Squeah in British Columbia last year and by a past Young Adult Snow Camp organized by Camp CAMREC with participants from OR, WA, and KS. **Eric Massanari**, PNMC's Executive Conference Minister, was integral in encouraging **Tace Martin**, of Eugene Mennonite Church, and **Brisa Peacock**, director of Camp CAMREC, to organize the event. He also offered the possibility of securing funding for the young adult gathering through PNMC's Seed Northwest Grant. (Click [here](#) to read about the Canadian conference.)

The Young Adult Snow Camp was held President's Day Weekend, **February 14 -17, Camp CAMREC**, (Chumstick Area Mennonite Retreat and Education Center) in Leavenworth, WA. We had 15 participants who came from a variety of faith and cultural backgrounds. We also had a few participants who do not actively attend a traditional congregation but have been drawn to engaging with the activities and the communities that care for and engage with CAMREC. Participants stayed anywhere from an evening to all four days. Participants came from across Oregon and Washington with connections to Seattle, Portland, Evergreen, Eugene, and Menno Mennonite congregations.

The retreat was organized as a snow camp and was free form, with lots of casual hangout time in the main lodge spent playing card and board games, painting, cooking and baking Peppernüssen (Peppernuts), and sharing communal meals. Major discussions were had over variations in Peppernut recipes so we plan on having a peppernut bake-off next year. Meals were mainly facilitated by the camp staff, while general participants informally took turns assisting in the kitchen. We held a karaoke night set up in the fellowship center. Outdoor activities included snow tubing, sledding, snowshoeing, and the often hilarious inclusion of the trio of dogs, Max, Gus, and Queso. There was a nighttime excursion into the Bavarian-themed town of Leavenworth where a smaller group of participants enjoyed strolling through the magically lit and bustling downtown. Brisa also led participants on an informal tour of the nearby Grünewald Guild, a non-profit that provides classes and studio spaces to explore the relationships between art, faith, and community. *We would like to incorporate a formal activity at the Guild during next year's Young Adult Snow Camp.*

We hope this retreat will become an annual tradition that will strengthen relationships between PNMC congregations and open avenues for young adults to relate more deeply with each other, our faith communities, and our Creator. We plan on holding the retreat next year over the same long weekend, **February 13 - 16, 2026**. Anyone in their 20s and 30s will be welcome, whether or not they attend a traditional congregation.



### Albany Mennonite Church

The 2025 Winter Warmup goal for Mennonite Central Committee's comforter collection is 7,000. A group of caring people joined together at Albany Mennonite Church on 2/22/25. Approximately 40 children, men and women put their hearts and hands into this work. MCC asks for the comforters to be 60x80" or larger. Participants were able to complete tying and binding 21 comforters! Many churches, including Portland Mennonite, Zion Mennonite, Salem Mennonite and Albany Mennonite, were represented as well as various groups contributing comforters ready to tie. We have different ways to do this work but we are united in wanting to bring comfort to those who need warmth. Much appreciation for all who were able to participate!



## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

### Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society



Plan now to attend the PNMHS Annual Meeting, **Saturday, March 15, 2025** at Zion Mennonite Church. 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.

Noon — Luncheon and business meeting

*For those unable to attend in person, follow this [Zoom link](#) (Meeting ID: 813 1383 2593, Passcode: 159068)*

1:30 — Session 1 presentation (a short break will follow)

2:25 — Session 2 presentation

3:05 — Questions and Answers

3:20 — Adjournment (the Archives building will be open for visitors)

An offering to support Historical Society work will be taken. The luncheon cost is \$15 per person. (RSVP needed only my for luncheon by **March 7** to [Jerry Barkman](#) [503-871-6413].

No RSVP needed for attending the program only.

### Immigration Resources:

#### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS FLYER (English & Spanish)

This flyer helps explain the constitutional rights that are extended to all of us if and when we may be faced with law enforcement agents, including Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its associated agencies (ICE, Border Patrol, etc). <https://waisn.org/kyrice/>

#### RED CARD RESOURCE (English and Spanish)

The red card is a simple tool you can use if DHS/ICE agents show up at your home, your place of work or your church. This site allows you to print out your own red cards for free. <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>

#### FREE WEBINAR FOR CONGREGATIONS CONSIDERING IMMIGRANT ADVOCACY AND SANCTUARY EFFORTS:

TITLE: "Understanding and Assessing legal risks in working with and serving immigrant communities"

LOCATION: University of Minnesota Law School (Virtual Host)

DATE: **Friday, March 14, 2025 10:30am PST/12:30pm CST** ~ [Register Here](#)

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### Mennonite Church USA

MC USA has released an [electric vehicle car charging guide](#) to help congregations in their pursuit of reducing their carbon footprint. The 17-page guide identifies the benefits of installing EV charging stations, addresses several ethical concerns about EVs, helps churches determine the most appropriate logistical path for their unique situations, offers numerous options for financing the project and provides resources for further research. Learn more [here](#).

### Mennonite Mission Network

Are you hungry to become better acquainted with **Indigenous Peoples**? You are invited to engage with contemporary Indigenous realities, explore the histories of Indigenous Peoples, and examine the complexities of Indigenous-settler relations. What might it mean for your community to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and actively contribute to the work of repair? This pilgrimage takes place **April 8-12, 2025**, and will be hosted by the [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#), led by executive director **Sarah Augustine**, on the ancestral homeland of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation in WA. Learn more [here](#).

### Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission

Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, a legacy mission agency of the General Conference Mennonite Church and other Anabaptist groups during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and currently a collaborative effort that includes Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Church Canada Witness, and nine African Anabaptist denominations, is seeking a *Church and Donor Relations Coordinator*. For details, click [here](#).

### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Mar 17 (submissions by 3/10)

Apr 7 (submissions due by 3/31)

Apr 21 (submissions due by 4/14)

May 5 (submissions due by 4/28)

If you would like to contribute, please send a **brief announcement** in Spanish & English with website links to [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto: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>