



Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite  
Conference

April 7, 2025

# e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

Please share widely. If you receive this e-bulletin via more than one address, let us know which address you prefer. To submit announcements or manage your subscription, email [brenda@pnmc.org](mailto:brenda@pnmc.org). See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.



## PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 19-22, 2025 / KALISPELL, MT

**The Transforming Church:** Centered On Christ,  
Community and the Way of Reconciliation  
Romans 12:2

### FLBC's all-in-one accommodations:

- \$450/person through April 30  
(early bird discount)
  - \$500/person from May 1 to May 15  
(regular rate)
  - \$550/person from May 16 to June 1  
(late registration)
  - \$200/each for children ages 4-11
  - Adult 1 day, no lodging, lunch & dinner \$150.
- REGISTER HERE.**
- Bring your towels, sleeping bag or bedding!*

Register now for the PNMC Annual Meeting in Kalispell, MT! We are looking forward with glad anticipation to welcoming you to the gathering. If they haven't already, congregations should appoint delegates and encourage them to register soon. (*The early-bird discount runs through April 30.*) Each congregation is entitled to one delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof. In addition to delegates, all ordained or licensed ministers whose ministerial credentials are recognized by the conference and who are under assignment to a PNMC member congregation are also delegates. Church members who are not appointed as delegates are also encouraged to attend. Non-delegates may participate equally in worship services, workshops, keynote addresses and activities. They are also welcome to attend the delegate sessions as non-voting observers, although they may participate in table group discussions. -Chris Nord, PNMC Moderator

**Please submit Delegate Handbook Reports this week!**

Join PNMC for an

## Immigrant Advocacy TEACH-IN

Saturday, May 17, 2025  
10:30am—Noon PST



RSVP to [office@pnmc.org](mailto:office@pnmc.org)  
by May 15. Registrants will  
receive a zoom link via email.

We look forward to active  
conference participation.

**Let's do this!**

## From PNMC Executive Conference Minister, Eric Massanari

As I write, the oppressive—sometimes illegal—tactics being used by the United States federal government in their current immigration policies have reached my local community here in Whatcom County, WA. Last week, ICE agents stopped a car and, without presentation of a warrant for search or arrest, violently detained local immigration advocate, Alfredo “Lelo” Juarez Zeferino.

Local activists, including members of Community of Hope Mennonite Church, quickly gathered outside the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) temporary detention site near Ferndale in support of Lelo. Lelo was later transferred to the DHS detention center in Tacoma. It is believed that Lelo was targeted because of his activism on behalf of the local farm worker community. Community to Community (C2C), a local food justice and immigrant rights organization here in Whatcom County, is posting updates and opportunities to respond on their website.

Faced with the trauma and violence being suffered by our immigrant friends and neighbors we are compelled to faithful action as disciples of Christ. Toward that end we want to offer a 90-minute teach-in on immigrant rights and advocacy for the PNMC community. The session will be led by **Jay Stansell**, an attorney from Seattle, WA. Most recently, Jay's practice included serving 19 years as an Assistant Federal Public Defender, and before that he served as a Staff Attorney for Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. Jay's input will serve as helpful groundwork for more localized efforts in immigrant support and advocacy throughout the conference.

**WHEN: Saturday, May 17, 10:30am-Noon Pacific Time (on Zoom)**

**To RSVP:** Please email Brenda Kauffman at [office@pnmc.org](mailto:office@pnmc.org). The Zoom link will be sent out at a later date. **We hope to provide Spanish interpretation.**

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



### First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen

After serving for a year as the interim pastor at First Mennonite Church in Aberdeen, ID, **Brian Leisher** has accepted the call as the permanent, part-time pastor for the congregation. Brian is a bi-vocational pastor, serving as a music teacher in the American Falls School District where he teaches middle school choir, band and theater, and co-directs the marching band. His wife, **Myriah**, teaches technology and STEAM at both the intermediate and middle school levels in American Falls. Their children, **Eli** (5th grade) and **Emy** (2nd grade), enjoy learning in the school's Dual Immersion (language) program.

Both Brian and Myriah found a love for ministry through Christian camping ministry, where they met as staff at Highlands Presbyterian Camp near Estes Park, CO. They are

excited to see how God will continue to work through them in the church and through the church in the community of Aberdeen. One project they are excited about is establishing a **Friendship Garden** behind the church. They look forward to working with both church and community members to create a space that fosters fellowship, growth, peace, and community, while also providing fresh produce for the church's neighbors.

### Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

The Pacific NW Mennonite Historical Society held its annual meeting on March 15, 2025. Following a delicious lunch and business meeting, a program featuring **Michele Hershberger** was held. Her topic was "What's so bad about being a Christian Nation?" Links to a video of the program and the PowerPoint used in her presentation can be found at [pnmhs.org](http://pnmhs.org).

### Summer Youth Ministry Programs at our PNMC Camps:

#### CAMP CAMREC

Middle/HS Camp (gr. 6-12) – July 18-24  
Pre-Junior Camp (gr. K-2) – July 25-27  
Junior Camp (gr. 3-5) – July 29-August 2  
Camp for All Ages – Aug. 29-Sept. 1

*Connecting our communities, creation & our creator. Nurture children in the love of God, the love of others, and the love of Creation. Welcome adults to a place and spiritual framework for rest and restoration. Care for this beautiful part of creation and the extended landscape around us. Embody Anabaptist/Mennonite values of peacemaking, simple living, service, and community.*

#### CAMP PALISADES

Senior Camp (grades 8-12) – July 11-16  
Junior Camp (grades 4-7) – July 16-20

Camp Palisades is a Christ-centered, overnight summer camp located near the ID – WY border. We strive to foster an environment where campers and volunteers experience the beauty of God's creation, all while enjoying hiking, rafting, swimming, Bible time, delicious food, and time spent building a community based on trust and respect for each other.

#### DRIFT CREEK CAMP

Buddy Camp (grades K-2) – June 13-15  
Grades 3 & 4 – June 15-20  
High School Camp – June 22-27  
Grades 7 & 8 – June 29-July 4  
Grades 5 & 6 – July 6-11

DCC strives to create a space where campers of all ages can embrace the wonder of God's goodness in an ancient forest surrounded by a pristine mountain stream. Rooted in the Anabaptist tradition, campers engage in worship, play, growth, service, and the joy of community.

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### Mennonite Church USA

The [Pam De Young Net Zero Energy Fund](http://PamDeYoungNetZeroEnergyFund) provides funds to assist congregations interested in forms of renewable energy. *The term, "net zero energy," describes buildings or communities that generate enough energy to meet their own needs.*

- Congregations that craft and execute an ongoing plan that will move them toward net zero energy are eligible to apply.
- The grants are for hardware purchases related to solar panels, car charging stations or other renewable energy projects.
- Most solar grants are \$5,000, but congregations may request up to \$10,000. Car charging station grants are limited to \$1,800.

To apply, contact **Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz**, MC USA denominational minister for Peace and Justice to request the appropriate forms. Learn more about the program [here](http://here). Send your inquiry to [climatejustice@MennoniteUSA.org](mailto:climatejustice@MennoniteUSA.org).

### Mennonite Mission Network

MMN is hiring a **Regional Director for Latin America**. There is the potential for hybrid, in-office (Newton, KS or Elkhart, IN), or working remotely! The Regional Director for Latin America leads Mennonite Mission Network's work in the region by overseeing partnerships, mission strategies, and international service workers. This role strengthens connections between MC USA and Latin American partners while fostering cross-cultural collaboration and guiding anti-racism efforts. Spanish proficiency, experience in Latin American mission work, and frequent international travel are required.

#### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Apr 21 (submissions due by 4/14)  
May 5 (submissions due by 4/28)  
May 19 (submissions due by 5/12)  
June 2 (submissions due by 5/26)

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>