



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

31st Annual Meeting
**DELEGATE
HANDBOOK**

June 19-22, 2025



Pacific Northwest
Mennonite
Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA

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Welcome to Montana!

*“Called in the One Body, and Thankful”
(Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17)*

Dear Delegates of the PNMC,

It is my joy and privilege to welcome you to the 31st annual delegate assembly of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. We are grateful for the hospitality provided by the Mountain View Mennonite Church as we gather to celebrate God’s faithful love on the shores of Flathead Lake nestled among the peaks of the Rocky Mountains. As we commemorate 500 years of the Anabaptist movement, the natural setting of our meeting calls to mind the mountains and lakes of Switzerland!

This year’s gathering will kick off with a Thursday Evening Hymn-sing and will culminate with Sunday morning worship hosted by the Mountain View congregation. There will be plenty of space in the schedule and we hope that it will encourage folks to connect deeply in programmed and unprogrammed ways. We are few in number and spread across a vast region, so these opportunities to grow our connections to each other are not only precious on a personal level; they are vitally important to the continued thriving of our conference.

As we gather in from all corners of the Pacific Northwest to enjoy a weekend of worshiping, wondering, singing, studying, eating, discerning and growing together may we also find time to simply enjoy the gift of being together in the middle of God’s beautiful creation. And when our gathering draws to a close, as it must eventually do, may we find that our hearts are fuller and our spirits refreshed.

In the unstinting love of our creator,

Chris Nord
PNMC Moderator

2025 PNMC Annual Meeting General Schedule:

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

- 6:30pm Arrival and registration (dinner on your own before arrival)
- 7:30pm Anabaptism at 500 Hymn-sing

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

- 7:30am Morning movement/contemplative prayer
- 8:15am Breakfast
- 9:15am Plenary session led by PNMC Board of Directors
- 12:15pm Lunch
- 1:30-3pm 90 min Workshops

Worship That Does Not Conform to the Patterns of This World

Jesus, Who Does Not Conform to the Patterns of This World

Financial Stewardship That Does Not Conform to the Patterns of This World

- 3:00pm Open time
- 6:15pm Dinner
- 7:00pm Worship – **Glen Guyton**, Executive Director of MCUSA

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

- 7:30am Morning movement/contemplative prayer
- 8:15am Breakfast
- 9:15am Plenary session led by PNMC Board of Directors
- 12:15pm Lunch
- 1:30-3pm 90 min Workshops

Leadership That Does Not Conform to the Patterns of This World (Glen Guyton)

Creation Care That Does Not Conform to the Patterns of This World (Sarah Augustine)

- 3:00pm Open time
- 5:30pm Dinner
- 7:00pm Worship - **Sarah Augustine**, Director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

- Packing up and checking out of FLBC
- 9:00am Brunch at Mountain View Mennonite Church
- 10:30am Worship at MVMC - Miriam Mauritzen, Transition Pastor of MVMC

Thank you for attending!

PLENARY SESSION AGENDAS

Friday, June 20 at 9:15 am

9:15 Welcome and opening prayer

9:20 Approval of Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting

9:25 Introduction of motion to welcome Community of Hope into full membership as a PNMC congregation

- Moderator will briefly explain the procedure for becoming a PNMC Member congregation and testify that Community of Hope has met all of its obligations under that procedure.
- Pastor Rachel Weasley will have the opportunity to tell the story of how Community of Hope came to be and how it has matured into its present state.
- Community of Hope members in attendance will have the opportunity to reflect briefly on what membership in Community of Hope means to them.
- Delegates will be invited to vote on the motion.

9:50 Roll call Delegates of each member congregation will be recognized. One representative will respond to the focus question: *Share one way in which your congregation has expressed its Anabaptist identity during the last year*

10:50 Break

11:00 Reports

- ECM's Report
- Moderator's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Finance Team Report

11:45 Introduction of the resolution: *A Call to Discipleship Amidst a Culture of Christian Nationalism.*

The PNMC board is advancing this resolution to the delegate body for action in the Saturday plenary session. Please read it and reflect on it as you prepare for the coming discussion and vote. You may want to preview the discussion prompts in the Saturday agenda

12:10 Closing prayer, adjourn for lunch

Saturday June 21

9:15 Welcome and opening prayer

9:20 Table group discussions

- Round 1 Question: In what ways does this resolution feel exciting, challenging or life giving? Do you have any misgivings about this resolution that you would like to discuss at your table?

- Round 2 Question: As you reflect over your congregation's life during the last few years, in which ways do you see your congregation already expressing the vision of discipleship stated in this resolution?
- Round 3 Question: As you think about the next few years, does the vision of discipleship stated in this resolution spur any new ideas that you would like your congregation to explore?



10:20 Public Comments and vote Delegates who wish to make brief public comments in response to the resolution will be invited to do so at this time. Scan this QR code or request a paper ballot to cast your vote.

We are using a consensus model for this vote. The resolution will pass either with a simple majority of votes in favor of the resolution, or with at least 80% of the votes either in favor or indicating consensus and fewer votes against than in favor.

10:50 Break

11:00 Presentation of the slate of candidates by the gift discernment team



11:10 Voting for the candidates Scan this QR code or request a paper ballot to cast your vote. In addition to the candidates that are subject to this vote, the following candidates have been appointed by the board in its April meeting:

- Pastoral Leadership Team: Amy Epp (4 year term)
- Pastoral Leadership Team: Rob Hanson (4 year term)
- Finance Team: Kathy Bilderback (2 year term)

11:25 Announcement of the vote

11:30 Blessing over leadership transitions on the board

12:10 Closing Prayer and Adjourn for Lunch

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference DELEGATES: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

(March 2013)

WHO IS THE PNMC DELEGATE BODY?

1. Each PNMC member congregation is entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five of its members, or fraction thereof. (PNMC bylaws, Article III, 3, g)
2. All ordained or licensed ministers, whose ministerial credentials have been recognized by PNMC and who are considered active, with charge are entitled to be delegates. (PNMC Bylaws, Article III, 3, g)

WHO SHOULD CONGREGATIONS CHOOSE TO BE THEIR DELEGATES?

1. Congregations have the freedom to choose who will best represent their congregation in the PNMC delegate body.
2. Delegates should be members of the congregation they represent. Preferably, some of a congregation's delegates will bring a congregational leadership perspective having continuity with the congregation, understanding the range of views in the congregation and their own views respected within their congregation.
3. Delegates should hold to the vision and commitments of PNMC (Bylaws Article III, 2):
 - a. The vision and mission statements of Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
 - b. Common Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, as updated from time to time, as their “statement of faith for teaching and nurture in the life of the Church”
 - c. Commitment “to seek to understand and interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit in the Church”
 - d. Commitment to participate in discerning and living out statements of Christian faith and life made by Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
 - e. Commitment to participate in the life and mission of PNMC and Mennonite Church USA through delegate representation and financial support.

WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?

1. **Fulfill the role as defined in the PNMC bylaws:** (Article IV, 2):

Purpose: Delegates appointed by the Member Congregations have the authority to transact the business of PNMC, including but not limited to the following actions:

- a. Discuss and decide major issues of policy for PNMC, and discern the voice of the Spirit in the midst of the Member Meeting.
- b. Provide opportunity to speak to the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies.
- c. Receive reports from the Board, PNMC staff, teams and other conference activities. Reports shall be presented in writing and shall include financial accounting.

WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?, CONTINUED

d. Elect the following as needed:

- (1) Moderator Elect.
- (2) Board members to fill new terms and vacancies.
- (3) Secretary and Treasurer.
- (4) Gift Discernment Team members. This team identifies and recommends persons to the Board to fill elected positions which need to be affirmed by the delegates at the annual Member Meeting.
(*There may also be other elections as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.*)

2. Gathered Discernment:

PNMC is comprised solely of Mennonite congregations in the Pacific Northwest. These congregations meet in annual assembly the fourth weekend of June. The delegate body assembly is a forum for these congregations to talk together and to discern together the voice of the Holy Spirit. This forum helps the church move beyond its usual congregational ways of thinking and acting. Discernment happens as delegates together dwell in the Word, meditate, pray, share, discuss and listen to one another. The value of this discernment is not realized primarily in formal actions. It is realized in the worship and dialogue itself as it informs, inspires and builds up our conference, denominational and congregational life.

3. Communication channel:

It is our intent that delegates help the conference stay focused on the value of PNMC to congregational life: 1. guiding through pastoral transitions; 2. helping plan for the future; 3. resourcing lay leaders; and 4. strengthening the ministry of pastors. This is accomplished by:

- a. Delegates represent their congregation's voice into the PNMC body. They receive PNMC staff and board reports and interact with the board and staff to provide counsel and direction.
- b. Delegates represent the PNMC body to their home congregations by relaying annual delegate session discussions.
- c. Throughout their term as delegate each provides a primary interaction service between PNMC staff and board and their home congregation. They may be sought for counsel or communication between the annual delegate sessions via email or snail mail.
- d. One congregational delegate shall serve on the Conference Communications Council.

THE DELEGATES' TERM OF SERVICE

In the fall of each year, the PNMC office will request a list of its delegates from each congregation. One of the delegates should represent the congregation, along with a pastor, at the winter Communications Council meeting. We hope that all the delegates shall represent the congregation at the summer annual assembly. Delegates shall serve in that role until a different list of delegates is requested the following fall.

Table Group Covenant

The Delegate Body of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

*Adapted from "Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective"
Article 16, Church Order and Unity*

We gather as a part of the church of Jesus Christ, one body with many members, who by the work of the Holy Spirit are brought together into a dwelling place for God.

As God's people we gather, we are the church, a holy temple, a spiritual house, with Christ Jesus himself as our foundation.

We recognize the need to consult together in order to maintain unity on important matters of faith and life. Love and unity in the church are a witness to the world of God's love.

In our deliberations and decision-making we covenant with each other to listen and speak in a spirit of prayerful openness and with the Scriptures as the constant guide. In humility we are open to both give and receive counsel. We know that discernment will include points of agreement and of disagreement, words of affirmation and of dissent. In our discernment we are prepared to wait patiently as we seek a word from the Lord leading toward consensus rather than make hasty decisions.*

We rejoice in the multiplicity of people, gifts, ideas, and opinions that are present in this gathering of the delegate assembly of the Pacific Northwest Conference.

We covenant together:

- to assume the best intentions of all persons who participate at this table and this assembly.
- to pray for one another and the Conference leaders.
- to be patient and kind.
- to speak honestly and directly.
- to practice humility and be willing to change or be corrected.
- to listen actively and carefully.
- to respect the views of those who may not agree with the majority.
- to respect the wisdom of the greater assembly and of those at our assigned tables.

(Table leaders may lead their table in prayer.)

** Consensus means that the delegate body has listened carefully to all voices, majority and minority together, and sought the unity of the Spirit. Consensus is reached when the delegate body has come to a common mind on a matter, or when those who dissent have indicated a readiness to accept a group decision. Consensus does not necessarily mean complete unanimity.*

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

30th Annual Delegate Meeting Minutes, June 20-23, 2024

Seven Peaks School – Bend, OR

“Called in the One Body, and Thankful!” (Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17)

A pre-meeting Anabaptist Theology symposium opened the conference time on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning facilitated by Sam Adams and Craig Morton. The conversation focused on our Anabaptist tradition and how what we are doing and teaching is uniquely Anabaptist and what that actually means in light of the approaching 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist faith.

Friday afternoon was time for community service opportunities including helping to clean a service van from Project S.H.A.R.E. (Shepherd’s House Aide and Relief Effort). Four comforters were tied during the weekend thanks to Beth Landis and the Knotty Quilters for supplying the quilt tops. Thanks to Janet Szabo and Elaine Kauffman for their supplies and time organizing.

Pastors/Chaplains and Credentialed leaders met for a Contemplative half-day retreat led by Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister. The Pastor’s appreciation dinner followed the retreat. Phil Rempel (Albany Mennonite Church) led a hymn sing Friday evening with each congregation selecting a hymn of significance for their church. Harold Nussbaum, Kristen Swartley (Portland Mennonite) Steve Bomar (Zion Mennonite) and Dave Hockman-Wert (Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship) accompanied the singing with instruments.

Saturday, June 22, 2024 opened with a new delegate orientation breakfast led by moderator Chris Nord.

Opening worship was led by Emily Toews, (Menno Mennonite, WA) and Eric Massanari, (Executive Conference Minister). Sam Adams, Pastor of Bend Mennonite Church shared from Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17 based on the theme ‘Called in One Body, and Thankful’. The Bend Mennonite Church meets in the 1st Presbyterian Church on Saturday afternoons and they welcome visitors. The Seven Peaks School is Sam’s workplace where he spends a majority of his time as Head of School.

Delegate Session 1

Delegates were asked to report on what is happening in their local congregation and what is providing strength in their inner being and allowing them to remain rooted and grounded in Christ’s love. The order of reporting was done by states reverse proximity from Bend, starting with Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Washington then Oregon. Written reports were also submitted in the delegate handbook.

Roll Call

First Mennonite Church Aberdeen (Idaho) – Brian Leisher reported they have an excitement from reaching out to the community with 50 children in attendance for the vacation Bible School this year. They also worked at Camp Palisade helping with clean up in preparation for camp

Meridian Mennonite Church – (ID) Craig and Karla Morton co-pastors submitted a written report. The church continues to seek ways to engage with their community and find people of peace. They are working to host a VBS next summer in a local park.

Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship – (Boise, ID) Bob Parrish reported that they have been in Pastoral transition. Weldon Nisly is currently serving as interim for the church. The congregation has found purpose in social activism. The group has been working with Braver Angels, a non-partisan organization that works to reduce political division through the transformation of difficult conversations into rich restorative experiences.

Community of Hope Mennonite Church (affiliated church plant) – (Bellingham, WA) Duncan Smith reported Pastor Rachael Weasley is on sabbatical with her new born infant and family. This group is primarily an online service but has experienced growth in the outdoor church meetings as well. They have been blessed by the use of a Healthy Congregational grant from PNMC to increase the pastoral role.

Shalom Church – (Spokane, WA) - Gary Jewell states their group is having regular Sunday morning services. The church has partnered with Everence to amplify their giving to the community around them.

Evergreen Mennonite – (Kirkland, WA) Amy Epp, pastor reported receiving a quilted rainbow stole as a welcome to the congregation. The church has been working to build a presence in Kirkland, participating in the Pride events and July 4th parade – offering an alternative to nationalism. They host a quilt retreat and gather to make quilts for the MCC auction. Amy has experienced great generosity in the congregation as they rallied around a member in need.

Seattle Mennonite Church- (WA) Charlene Epp, interim pastor – reported the group is in a liminal space at this time. The campus redevelopment has been put on hold due to funding approval. They host a tent city of 100 houseless people on campus currently. Megan Ramer is on sabbatical this summer and they are working with one open pastoral position. Charlene describes the church as having a big heart.

Menno Mennonite Church - (Ritzville, WA) Emily Toews/Bryce Miller co-pastors- Bryce reported they have been sharing their space with neighbors. In November they hosted the Voices of Conscience exhibit, curated by the Kauffman Museum. Invitations were sent to their Hutterite and local Seventh-Day Adventist communities. Approximately 120 visitors came to view the exhibit. They have experienced loss of several of their church members as they passed.

Eugene Mennonite Church – (OR) Tace Martin reported their group has been providing resources for the homeless partnering with Everence in the endeavor. The group continues to increase the number of school kits completed each year for MCC. They have also helped with the resettlement of refugee families. The group continues to miss the leadership of Randy Friesen as their long-time financial manager.

Portland Mennonite Church – (Portland OR) – Curt Weaver reports the congregation is in major pastoral transition with the retirement of Rod Stafford. One practice they find meaningful is to wrap high school graduates with a quilt as they transition into adulthood. Families come for this event to celebrate.

Salem Mennonite Church – (OR) – John Beechy, delegate reported they continue with the Friday night community events. It is a place where everyone feels safe and loved. The practice was started by Carl Newswanger, former pastor who recently passed away. The leadership role has been filled by a number of younger leaders which is helping them with becoming an inclusive body. They are in pastoral transition and Marlene Kropf is providing interim services.

Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church- (Canby, OR) Wilbur Kauffman, delegate states their group is aging and experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit among them.

Zion Mennonite Church – (Hubbard, OR) Steve Bomar, Pastor reports their congregation is practicing creation care as they complete the solar structure on their property to bring them to a carbon neutral state.

Ministerios Restauración – (Portland, OR) Nelly Moran Ascensio reported their group is praying for a young woman and providing assistance for her.

Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship –(OR) Cathleen Hockman-Wert, delegate, reports they have started involvement in the Good Neighbor Team process. This entails a one- year commitment to helping a family in transition. This has outfitted their group with a new look of more energy and commitment.

Albany Mennonite- (OR) Mark Nord, delegate is also the Outreach Chairperson for AMC. Special projects have helped to support several community organizations. The congregation has sponsored a young woman from Honduras and she is at the 2-year point of obtaining a work permit. The church has been involved with a small house project of 20 homes. The church has funded one house. The church participated in the Albany Pride march, co-sponsoring a booth.

Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva (Salem, OR) – Misael Araujo, delegate, reports that God has been doing great things at their church. Attendance is between 45-60. Misael's daughter is traveling in Panama as

an outreach. Their church is a church for the refugees. Many come from Colombia and their congregation helps refugees to resettle, helping them get drivers license and comforting those who have family members detained in prison. Misael asked for prayer for all the Hispanic churches in Oregon.

Igelsia Anabautista Ebenezer – (PNMC Affiliated church plant, Keizer, OR) Pastor Jesús Fuentes asked for many prayers for his congregation. They gather on Sundays and have communion once per month.

Bend Mennonite Church (OR) – Sam Adams, pastor, reports they have formed an Elders group. The church meets on Saturdays in the Bend Presbyterian church. They have communion once per month and hold a potluck meal once per month.

Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church – (Caldwell, ID) Kathy Bilderback, pastor submitted a written report. Along with regular meetings they hold an evening meal and Gather at the Table service. They explore scripture, sometimes do a service project or play games and always share a meal. Food boxes are supplied for local families as well as supporting the community garden. The group continues to support the MCC relief sale. The church building has a hospitality suite in part of the building to host friends and travelers. All are invited to be their guests!

Filer Mennonite Church – No report

Mountain View Mennonite Church - (Kalispell MT) – Janet Szabo, delegate, gave greetings to conference as well as a written report. The congregation has welcomed a new Leadership team and all have been discerning changes to their constitutional structure. The local chapter of MDS remains busy building wheel chair ramps for newly wheel chair bound individuals. Their congregation supports local houseless people with meals and provide support for new immigrants.

Prince of Peace Mennonite Church – (Anchorage AK) – No report. Pastor Eric Massanari is planning a visit with this church this fall.

Western Mennonite Church – (Salem, OR) No report

Chris Nord – Moderator - opened the meeting with a time of recognizing the supporting broader church organization with introductions including:

Iris de Leon-Hartshorn - MCUSA

Nancy Kauffmann – MCUSA, Safe Church Consultant

Rhoda Blough – Everence Stewardship Consultant

Colin Saxton – Everence Stewardship Theologian

Rachel Swartzendruber Miller - Everence

Randy Detweiler - AMBS

Jason Ault – Mennonite Mission Network

Marcus Mahling – Mennonite Insurance Plan

Duncan Smith – Corinthian Plan

Gloria Nussbaum – Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

Timothy Weible – Mennonite Village

Brisa Peacock – Camp CAMREC

Translators – Franco Gonzalo, Carmen Barajas and Roberto Navarro

The minutes from the 2023 Annual conference of PNMC were noted. The motion was made to accept the minutes as recorded by Lazaro Martinez, seconded by Brent Kauffman. Motion carried.

The ballot for leadership roles was presented. The Gift Discernment Team (GDT) uses input from churches which are matched with the gifts, skills and willingness to serve in positions. Consideration is made for geographic location, experience, gender identity, and cultural background. The PNMC board approves

the ballot. The delegate role is to mark the ballot including suggestions for future candidates. Ballots were collected and tallied by Karla Morton.

Executive Conference Minister's Report – Eric Massanari reported that he has enjoyed the learning he has experienced over the past one and a half years. He has traveled to meet the church communities and will have met them all by this fall. Eric and wife, Yolanda, will travel to Alaska to meet with the Prince of Peace Mennonite church in Anchorage, Alaska.

Eric thanked the administrative team of Barbara Buxman, Administrator and Brenda Kauffman, Communications Coordinator. Barb was not able to attend due to recovery from surgery. All were asked to pray for a smooth recovery. Brenda was not able to attend as she is a host at Drift Creek Camp and this is an extremely busy time of year at camp.

Eric reported on attending Mennonite Church USA conference. This was a time for connection with other conference ministers and discussions of broader denomination issues.

A welcome was extended to the District Pastors and the volunteer service they provide. Six of the conference churches are in pastoral transition and he thanked those pastors serving in interim service. We were asked to pray for the search teams as they await possible candidates.

Looking forward to the 500-year anniversary of the Anabaptist faith next year we anticipate a celebration at next years' annual meeting.

Finance Team Report – Deren Kellogg presented a narrative budget for review. The finance team consisted of Jack Swaim, Kathy Bilderback, Dave Hockman-Wert and himself. The budget is based on the PNMC mission with funds allocated as follows:

Promote personal spiritual development	10%
Nurture healthy congregations	42%
Make strong connections throughout conference	30%
Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world	18%

Income is primarily member church contributions (64%) and the Investment funds contributed 26%. The majority of expenses were to nurture healthy congregations at 43%.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Hockman-Wert reviewed the financial statements which were included in the delegate handbook. The giving was at an all-time low total level in 2024. The cash flow was small enough to need a drawdown on the investment funds. Actual income for 2024 was \$-47,825 and the budgeted net operating income was \$-28,217. The budgeted 2025 Net operating income is estimated at -\$51,426. We can't continue depleting the Investment fund and a course correction is being determined. It was noted that the draw downs on the Investment fund have not made a significant change in the fund balance due to the interest reinvested in the fund.

Gift Discernment Team

The members of the Gift Discernment Team (GDT) consisted of Chris Nord, Karla Morton, Rick Bollman and Gloria Nussbaum. The ballot was unanimously approved electing:

Board appointments:

- Jack Swaim – Finance Team
- Bryce Miller – Pastoral Leadership team (2) year term
- Libbie Lapp - Board member (2) year term
- Open- Gift Discernment team

Elected by the delegates results:

Dan Smith-Derksen Secretary (3) year term

Megan Ramer – Board member at large (4) year term

Continuing board members and appointees:

Chris Nord – Moderator

Karla Morton – Moderator elect

Dave Hockman-Wert – Treasurer

Gary Jewell – Member at large

Emily Toews – Member at large

Deren Kellogg -Finance Director

Nelly Moran-Ascencio – CIHAN rep

Jennifer Gingerich - Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT)

Kathy Bilderback – Finance Team (FT)

Gifts Discernment Team (GDT) – Gloria Nussbaum and Rick Bollman

Moderators Report

Chris Nord thanked the outgoing board members Julia Todd, Secretary (3 years) and Kiara Yoder, member at large (4 years). The delegate session was closed with prayer.

Break for lunch

Workshop Period 1

Nancy Kauffmann, Interim Director MCUSA – Safe Church

PNMC has built accountability with the requirement that every member church has a Safe Sanctuary Policy. The Mennonite church has had a policy in place since 2000 which addresses building policies to keep church members safe from power abuse, ministerial misconduct, and address ethical situations.

Nancy addressed thirteen common mistakes that may affect health boundaries within a congregation.

- Waiting until a congregation has an actual case of abuse or harm before addressing a policy.
- Failing to review policies on a regular basis and educating the congregations regarding the policy (especially new members)
- Not following your churches policy
- Trying as a congregation to go it alone in addressing issues. Congregations have resources in the ECM and MCUSA.
- Confusing secrecy with confidentiality. Secrecy protects the abuser; confidentiality protects the one abused
- Failing to communicate with the congregation and or victim through the process
- Allowing the offender or family members to derail the process
- Retraumatizing the victim or church survivors in the process
- Too quickly believing the accused's version
- Neglecting to challenge bad or hurtful behavior during the process
- Misusing scripture – cheap grace offered
- Not talking about sexual abuse or healthy boundaries in church life

Workshop Period 2

Three electives were offered for choice.

- 1) **Gratitude in Action: Practicing Generosity and Faithful Stewardship as the Body of Christ.** Led by Rhoda Blough (Everence Stewardship Consultant) and Colin Saxton (Everence Stewardship Theologian and Director of Church Relations) exploring some best practices for generosity and an approach to faithful stewardship aimed at helping congregations flourish.
- 2) **Braver Conversations: Learning to Depolarize Ourselves and Remain Curious About Others.** Led by Robert Hanson, member Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship and member of the PNMC Pastoral Leadership Team. Looking at The Braver Angels organization a non-partisan organization and it's works to reduce political divisions among groups.
- 3) **Diverse Ways of Being the Church-** Gary Jewell, PNMC District Pastor facilitated a panel of PNMC Congregational leaders in discussion of looking at struggles and opportunities as we seek to fulfill our mission as congregations.

Evening events – optional

Palestine – Weldon Nisly and Amy Epp

Table games

Sunday Morning Delegate Session

Board members served as discussion leaders and delegates moved to a new table for discussion on three sets of questions. Questions focused on the context of PNMC, the purpose and how our congregations relate to conference. A summary of the discussion time will be used to lead PNMC into the future and will be presented at a later date.

Announcements

- ECM Eric Massanari, reported that the Filer church has been working with him in a good and thoughtful process and has chosen to disaffiliate with PNMC. They are choosing to affiliate with Rosedale conference and want to be recognized in mutual respect as siblings in Christ. Members were asked to hold the Filer Church in prayer as they move through this process.

Closing worship

Eric Massanari and Emily Toews led this second worship time with Nancy Kauffmann sharing from Colossians 3:12-17 noting that we are God's chosen, wholly and beloved. Being part of a new community, we clothe ourselves in the virtues of Christ. Compassion, kindness, humility, meekness (strength under control), patience being slow to anger and open to new possibilities. And having gratitude, being thankful. We are to be full of Christ and not ourselves.

Invitation to the 2025 PNMC Annual Meeting

Moderator Chris Nord invited everyone to attend the next annual meeting to be held June 20-22, 2025 possibly at Drift Creek Camp.

The worship service was closed with a benediction led by Chris Nord.
Submitted, Julia Todd, PNMC Secretary

Resolution 2025:

A Call to Discipleship Amidst a Culture of Christian Nationalism

Be it resolved that we—as members of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference congregations, church plants and constituencies—affirm the following:

As Christians in the Anabaptist tradition we read the scriptures through the lens of Jesus' life and teachings. This reading of scripture, together with our prayerful listening for the Holy Spirit's guidance, and the faithful witness of our ancestors in faith and our global Mennonite community, lead us to proclaim in word and action that:

1. The blessing of Christ's love is for all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or religious identity. Faithful discipleship in Christ calls us to extend welcome and hospitality to all.
2. Discipleship in Christ calls us to a path of nonviolent love that is actively engaged in a ministry of reconciliation, peacebuilding and justice-seeking. Any violence, negligence or abusiveness in our words, actions or attitudes is a sign that Christ's work of transformation in our lives remains incomplete.
3. As Christians our citizenship is most fundamentally in the Body of Christ and the Kindom of God. Any effort to confine the good news of God's love in Christ within particular political ideologies, cultural boundaries, or national borders is contrary to our faith.
4. God's love and favor always acts to moderate, and never exacerbate, the inequitable distribution of wealth, power, privilege and prestige. Faithful discipleship requires us to spend these assets—to the extent that they are granted to us—freely and generously to lift up those who are overlooked, marginalized, abused or excluded.

As we seek to faithfully live out these convictions, we are grateful to walk this path alongside other Christians, people of many faiths, and all companions who share our commitment to build and nurture beloved community. When our words and actions fall short of these convictions, we pray for grace and mercy, and that we might yield to Christ's invitation to repentance and our continued transformation in the Love that heals and reconciles all.

Resolution Ballot

Please complete this form to register your vote with respect to the resolution
A Call to Discipleship amidst a Culture of Christian Nationalism.

Name_____

Congregation_____

Vote on the Resolution: Select the option below that best represents your position by placing an X in the blank to its right

_____ I wholeheartedly support this resolution

_____ I support this resolution despite some misgivings

_____ I do not actively support this resolution, nor do I withhold my support. I consent to the expressed discernment of the gathered body.

_____ I do not support this resolution

_____ I abstain from this vote

Comments Please feel free to add comments that provide context for your vote

2025 Ballot Bios

NOMINEES FOR AFFIRMATION BY DELEGATES:

PNMC Moderator-Elect (4-year term; 2 as Moderator-Elect, 2 as Moderator)

Janette Wisseman – Bend Mennonite Church, Bend, OR

Janette leads worship and is on the Leadership/Elder Board of Bend Mennonite Church. Born in Salem, OR, Janette grew up in the Salem Mennonite Church congregation. Janette graduated from Western Mennonite School, and after getting married to Darrel, attended and graduated from Goshen College. Moving to Central Oregon created “church grief”; deeply missing a cappella singing, and no Mennonite churches to attend. After years of prayer, Janette (and Darrel) were honored to be part of the start of Bend Mennonite Church in 2006. Janette is a retired RN. She volunteers with an organization that works with young high-risk families to keep kids safe. She is grateful to regularly spend time with her 3 grandchildren. Janette also finds fulfillment in seeing God’s creation in nature. She enjoys working in her yard and has even found therapeutic merit to weeding. Walking/hiking and being outside along the river with her three dogs bring her peace and joy.

PNMC Board Member (4-year term)

Deren Kellogg – Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA

Deren attends Seattle Mennonite Church, where he serves on the Spiritual Leadership Team. Descended on his mother’s side from Kansas Mennonites, Deren grew up attending First Mennonite Church in Urbana, IL. He graduated from Luther College in Decorah, IA with a BA and earned a PhD in US history from the University of Illinois. He is married to Melissa Kelly and they have a daughter, Madeleine Kelly-Kellogg, who graduated from Goshen College in 2025. After a decade in Jackson, MS and short stints in Santa Cruz, CA and Richmond, BC, the family found their way back to Seattle, Melissa’s hometown, in 2015. Deren works as a Grants Program Administrator for a health clinic in Seattle and enjoys reading, birding, and following the Chicago Cubs, of whom he is a lifelong fan. Deren has served on the PNMC board since 2020.

Gift Discernment Team (1-year term)

Gloria Nussbaum – Portland Mennonite Church, Portland, OR

I was born Gloria Hope Yoder in Buffalo, NY. I attended Clarence Center Mennonite Church until my father was called to be the pastor at Arcade Mennonite Church, Arcade, NY, when I was 5 years old. During my last years of high school, our church disbanded and our family attended a UCC Congregational Church. I attended Goshen College where I earned a BA in English. Later I moved to Phoenix, AZ where I joined Trinity Mennonite Church and later Koinonia (Mennonite) Fellowship in Chandler where I met and later married my husband, Harold Nussbaum.

From 1984-86 we volunteered with MCC in Miami, FL where we were part of a struggling Mennonite congregation. After Miami, we moved to Akron, PA where I worked as the administrative assistant in the Africa Dept at MCC. I was an active member of Akron Mennonite Church where I served on the Pastoral Team. In April 1998 we moved to Beaverton, OR to be closer to our daughter and grandchildren and soon joined PMC where I have been an Elder and on various committees over the years. I’ve also often been a delegate to PNMC. I’m the secretary of the PNMHS. In 2001 I started my own personal history business, Real to Reel, recording personal stories. My walk with Jesus is a critical part of my daily life.

Gift Discernment Team (1-year term)

Jan Yoder – Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, Spokane, WA

My family life growing up revolved around the Presbyterian Church we attended. It was in college I reclaimed my Anabaptist roots and joined the Spokane Mennonite Fellowship in the early 80’s. The Fellowship merged with a UCC congregation, taking the name Shalom Church, and I serve as the Everence Advocate. I have enjoyed serving on the Camp CAMREC Board and program committee, and volunteering as Camp Nurse for our summer youth camps. I had the privilege of serving on the PNMC Board for 6 years.

My husband, Gary Jewell has served as Interim pastor in many congregations in the PNMC and this has enriched our lives with many cherished connections. Our oldest daughter lives in Italy with husband and our grandson-hooray for What’s App video calls! Our youngest daughter lives in Spokane and we enjoy coffee dates to stay connected.

I have loved my work focus as a Public Health Nurse for the last 28 years, serving pregnant women and their babies in the Nurse Family Partnership program at the Spokane Regional Health District. I am trying to figure out when and how to retire in the near future.

Ballot for the Slate of Candidates

Please complete this form to vote on the Slate of Candidates

Name_____

Congregation_____

Vote on the following slate of candidates:

1. Moderator Elect: Janette Wisseman
2. Director: Deren Kellogg (4 year term)
3. Gift Discernment Team: Gloria Nussbaum
4. Gift Discernment Team: Jan Yoder

Select the option below that best represents your position by placing an X in the blank to its right

_____ I vote in support of this slate of candidates

_____ I vote to withhold my support from this slate of candidates

_____ I abstain from this vote

2025 Annual Report

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

*I have faith that I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!*

Psalm 27:13

The Illusion of Separation and the Reality of Communion

This year, as part of an annual renewal of vows and intentions by which I seek to orient my life, I decided to select a grounding bible passage. I chose this verse from Psalm 27. As I read Psalm 27's unbridled cry to God in the midst of loneliness, fear and struggle, this verse—this bare confession of faith and hope—leaps from the page.

I need the illumination of such faith and hope right now in this time of turbulence and violence in our nation and around the world. I believe the church needs this faith and hope to overcome the forces of tyranny that thrive on falsehood and fear, and that seek to separate us from the truth of the life we share with one another and with *the land of the living, in which the goodness of the Lord can be seen*.

As followers and “embodiers” of Christ, ours is the way of connection and communion.

As we continue to commemorate the 500th anniversary year of the Anabaptist stream of Christianity, we do well to remember that we are very much that: *a living stream*. Yes, we are a unique and beautiful stream, with waters that are a nourishing gift to the world. And, like streams that flow through the landscapes around us, our waters are fed by deeper, older sources, and we flow into and join other rivulets, creeks, streams and rivers on the way to the great ocean. The 16th century radical reformers drew from a rich history that remains our history, and today we are called to join together with other Christians, people of other faiths, and neighbors of no professed faith, to acknowledge our *common* humanity, to honor our *connection* to the fullness of creation, and to nurture our beloved *communion*.

Forming Christian community—such as a congregation—is not an act of separation; it is not staking a flag in the ground and claiming territory amidst the competing truth claims and perceived threats of this world. Creating Christian community is meant to be a radical expression of compassionate communion and gracious hospitality; it is meant to point to the deeper communion that we share with all people and all life. This communion is not just a “yet to be,” it *already is*. As Jesus said, “the kingdom of God already among/within you” (Luke 17:20-21).

Among and within PNMC, beloved community takes varied forms. We speak different languages when we gather. Some of us have buildings where we come together, while others gather under the vault of sky and in sanctuaries of forests and coastlands as the “wild church.” Still others meet primarily online, and connect across many miles and diverse locales. Our churches are comprised of people who are generationally steeped in the Anabaptist stream, together with relative newcomers and others who might describe themselves as Menno-curious.

Some of our congregations are led by paid pastoral staff, while more than a quarter of our PNMC churches do not have dedicated pastors and are led by gifted volunteers. Our communion includes the people who sit in pews and chairs for worship on a Sunday morning, as well as those who we see in Zoom window boxes, that fellow who joins our morning coffee group at the local bagel shop, and those living in the encampment for houseless folks next to our church building.

We must continue to think creatively and expansively about what the church is, and what Christian community means. Some of the old models and practices will need to be released, or at least allowed to evolve so as to better expand our

invitation and welcome to others. In this season when our nation is suffering terrible, fracturing division, we are called to bear witness to the Good News of Christ's love that challenges us into radical expressions of connection and community.

I encourage all of us to consider that each interaction we may have in our daily round of work, rest, socializing and play, is an extension of the Body of Christ. Each encounter is an opportunity for the sharing of kindness, compassion and all that builds a just-peace. I want to encourage us as PNMC to remain open to new constellations of Christian community, even as we may nurture and enjoy the more familiar and well-matured expressions of being together. The stream flows on, nourished by the eternal spring of God's great Love!

ECM Highlights:

Promote Spiritual Development

- This year included a concerted effort to resource and support our PNMC community around the commemoration of *Anabaptism at 500*. We have done this by sharing resources with ministry leaders and also making this a focus of our February 2025 Conference Communications Council (CCC) and our 2025 PNMC Annual Meeting. I'm grateful for all of the input people and resource creators in our conference and denomination!
- I have offered weekly contemplative prayer gatherings for PNMC ministry leaders during the Advent-Epiphany and Lent-Easter seasons.
- I seek to nurture spiritual development throughout the conference as I travel and make church visits, offer sermons, give presentations and facilitate various gatherings. I also seek to nurture spiritual development through my writing and contributions to the PNMC *eBulletin* and wider church publications.
- At the upcoming MCUSA convention I will be offering a seminar within the "spirit track" on the topic: "*Gelassenheit*: A Way of Loving Releasement"

Nurture healthy Congregations

- One new initiative this year is a quarterly gathering of leaders from our "congregation-led churches" (participants agreed this term feels preferable to "lay-led"). This is a time for mutual support, resourcing and identifying both the challenges and opportunities of being churches who gather without the leadership of pastoral staff.
- A second new initiative this year is a bi-monthly gathering of our active interim and transition pastors. This is a unique form of ministry that invites ongoing collaboration and peer-support. The conversations have been a gift to all participants.
- I meet quarterly with our PNMC District Pastors (with more frequent check-ins as needed), and I continue to deeply appreciate this circle of gifted ministers who help nurture the wellbeing of our congregations, pastors, chaplains and other ministry leaders.
- Pastoral searches continue to occupy a significant portion of my time and energies.
- This year brought the installation of two new pastors in PNMC: Brian Leisher (First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ID) and Tyler Merrill (Seattle Mennonite Church). We celebrated the licensing of Tyler Merrill (Seattle Mennonite Church), and the ordination of Rachael Weasley (Community of Hope, Bellingham, WA).

Make strong connections throughout the conference (and beyond)

- Regular attendance at PNMC leadership team meetings: Board of Directors, Finance Team, Pastoral Leadership Team, Healthy Congregations Grants Committee, Annual Meeting program and logistics planning teams.
- Regular attendance at MCUSA leadership team meetings: Constituency Leadership Council (CLC) (bi-annual), MCUSA/MC Canada Conference Ministers and Regional Church Ministers' Gathering (annual), MCUSA Conference Ministers (monthly), MCUSA Church Planting Discussion Group (monthly)
- I am currently involved in ongoing regional discussions on ecumenical bridgebuilding and confronting Christian nationalism, organized by the Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement at Seattle University.
- In July I will conclude seven years on the Board of Directors for Spiritual Directors International (SDI) an international and interfaith organization supporting the ministry of spiritual direction and companioning. I've been invited to continue as a member of their Wisdom Circle, an advisory group comprised of former chairpersons of the Board.

Call each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world

- I want to specifically highlight our efforts to support and resource the work of immigrant justice and advocacy throughout our conference and also at the denominational level. As I write this, we are planning a PNMC Immigrant Advocacy Teach-In for Saturday, May 17 on Zoom. We must continue to support and advocate for the most vulnerable members of our community in the face of tyranny, injustice and fear. Ours is a way of faith, hope and love!

Finally, I want to acknowledge that this past year brought a very significant transition to PNMC, as Barb Buxman retired as the PNMC Administrator, and Brenda Kauffman stepped into this important role. We are deeply grateful for Barb's many years of gifted, committed service to the PNMC community, and trust that retirement does not mean disappearance! We will be seeing you around, Barb! And we welcome Brenda's creativity and many gifts as our new Administrator.



Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

Board of Directors Report

Moderator's Report

Submitted by Chris Nord, PNMC Moderator, Spring 2025

As I sit down to draft this report I find that I am eagerly anticipating our upcoming annual meeting in Kalispel, MT. It is such a privilege to hold connection in Christ's body with the various MCUSA churches that are spread out over Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska and, of course, Montana. Our member churches are all enriched by these connections as we dream, worship and wonder together. Here is a brief summary of the work that the board has engaged in over the past year.

In the fall the board discussed what the appropriate role for an MCUSA conference is with respect to the allegations of abuse that were brought forward last summer against Mennonite Central Committee by several of its former employees. While MCUSA and PNMC do not have any formal oversight over MCC, we are important partners in fundraising and networking. From those discussions the board decided to draft a letter of concern which we sent to MCC leadership in the Fall. We remain in conversation with MCC over our concerns and we pray that those concerns will eventually be adequately addressed.

During the winter the Gift Discernment Team met several times to discern whom to invite into a variety of roles on the board, Finance Team, Pastoral Leadership Team and Gift Discernment Team. The result of this work will be presented in the form of a Ballot. We are grateful to the many capable people who give generously of their time and talents towards the healthy functioning of the conference.

During the Winter and Spring the board drafted a resolution, titled *A Call to Discipleship Amidst a Culture of Christian Nationalism*, that we are pleased to bring to the delegates for discussion and, hopefully, adoption this Summer. We feel like it is important during this time for member congregations to actively discern what faithful discipleship looks like in this moment when values and norms are in such a state of flux. We hope that the resolution provides us a common grounding in the gospel and in our interpretive tradition so that we are less easily drawn into reactive positions that we might later regret.

In our Spring meeting we were blessed with the opportunity to affirm that one of our church plants, Community of Hope, has met all of the obligations laid out in operational procedure 5.1.5 to receive the board's recommendation to the delegate body that it be accepted as a member congregation. And so that recommendation has been made and now we eagerly anticipate action by the delegates in June.

As this year draws to a close we are anticipating leadership transitions. My term as moderator will conclude in June and Moderator Elect Karla Morton will step into the moderator role. I have enjoyed getting to know Karla over the last two years, and I am happy to report that she will bring a level of wisdom, competence and effectiveness to the board that will greatly benefit its work going forward.

I cannot do justice to the quality of the entire board and conference staff in these brief remarks, so I will simply say that it has been a distinct honor to work with this group. They bring a healthy diversity of perspectives to the table, and they all do so with grace, wisdom, intelligence and wit.

Treasurer's Report / Financial Reports

PNMC Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year Ending 2025

Over the past five years I have often led with the state of the world as it pertains to Covid and post-Covid. So it's sort of exciting to have a new, disruptive political "pandemic" to challenge us and our economy, wouldn't you say? (No, I wouldn't say that either.)

Given the past few months with the new political administration, I am especially grateful that all of you continue to faithfully participate in this group of congregations who make up the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. We only succeed as a conference by continuing to work together, which we need more than ever.

If you were at the Conference Communication Council (CCC) meeting, you may remember that PNMC experienced a slight upturn in FY2025 after the more somber news about FY2024. The long-term trends of gradually **decreasing** income and gradually **increasing** expenses continue to challenge our ability to balance the budget, but our congregational giving in FY2025 was actually up 15% from the previous year and \$3000 over budget! Total income was up 9% from FY2024. Net operating deficit was \$7500, or 20%, better than last year.

The budget for the present fiscal year, 2025-26, sees similar trends but includes both higher projected income and expenses due to annual meeting facility payments and all-inclusive registration fees. Congregational giving is budgeted at \$115,550, total income is projected to be \$211,550, and total expenses are budgeted to be \$274,747, for a budget deficit of -\$63,197, the largest since 2008.

But doesn't the Investment Fund help cover our shortfall? It does, but the income produced by the fund is already included as part of the budgeted total income and for the past few years we have been outpacing the Fund's ability to act as a backstop.

What does this mean for the future? The two main options for balancing a budget are one or both of the following:

- a) Increase income, through fundraising, seeking grants, extra donations, etc., and/or
- b) Decrease expenses, through cutting programs, staffing, or services.

Although we do have another choice – to draw from the principal of the Investment Fund to cover the budget deficit – this is already what we rely on. A recent projection of how long the Investment Fund might last, with no adjustments to income or expenses, suggested it could be depleted in as soon as 12 years.

Given this reality, the Finance Team has been advising the Board to think about possible approaches to addressing the budget deficit. We are in the early stages of this work, but we are taking it seriously, as shown by Moderator Nord's exhortation to individuals and congregations at the CCC to consider becoming a donor or increasing the amount they give.

Submitted by PNMC Treasurer, Dave Hockman-Wert

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2025

	TOTAL			
	AS OF JAN 31, 2025	AS OF JAN 31, 2024 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
110203 Everence Checking Account	26,784.47	33,645.34	-6,860.87	-20.39 %
110206 Everence MM	83,250.36	96,523.64	-13,273.28	-13.75 %
Total Bank Accounts	\$110,034.83	\$130,168.98	\$ -20,134.15	-15.47 %
Other Current Assets				
Payroll Corrections	0.00	-48.48	48.48	100.00 %
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00	\$ -48.48	\$48.48	100.00 %
Total Current Assets	\$110,034.83	\$130,120.50	\$ -20,085.67	-15.44 %
Fixed Assets				
120100 Office Equipment				
120101 Purchased Costs	224.98	224.98	0.00	0.00 %
Total 120100 Office Equipment	224.98	224.98	0.00	0.00 %
Total Fixed Assets	\$224.98	\$224.98	\$0.00	0.00 %
Other Assets				
110600 Endowment Funds	1,197,531.41	1,077,050.75	120,480.66	11.19 %
Total Other Assets	\$1,197,531.41	\$1,077,050.75	\$120,480.66	11.19 %
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,307,791.22	\$1,207,396.23	\$100,394.99	8.32 %
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
200105 Mexico Project Fund	6,869.12	6,869.12	0.00	0.00 %
210000 Payroll Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	
210005 403(b) Salary Reduction	400.00	280.00	120.00	42.86 %
2102 Federal Withholding	0.00	2,025.41	-2,025.41	-100.00 %
2104 State Withholding (OR)	-100.64	13.02	-113.66	-872.96 %
210401 Oregon Unempl	-11.59	-8.19	-3.40	-41.51 %
Total 210000 Payroll Liabilities	287.77	2,310.24	-2,022.47	-87.54 %
211112 Payroll Tax Payable	-52.04	49.48	-101.52	-205.17 %
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$7,104.85	\$9,228.84	\$ -2,123.99	-23.01 %
Total Current Liabilities	\$7,104.85	\$9,228.84	\$ -2,123.99	-23.01 %
Total Liabilities	\$7,104.85	\$9,228.84	\$ -2,123.99	-23.01 %
Equity				
3000 Opening Balance Equity {89}	20.61	20.61	0.00	0.00 %
320700 Loan Funds				
320702 Memorial Loan Fund (Equipment)	1,015.61	1,015.61	0.00	0.00 %
Total 320700 Loan Funds	1,015.61	1,015.61	0.00	0.00 %

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2025

	TOTAL			
	AS OF JAN 31, 2025	AS OF JAN 31, 2024 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
320800 Ministry Funds				
320801 Seed Northwest	67,381.83	71,381.83	-4,000.00	-5.60 %
320805 PNMC Mennonite Women	253.00	253.00	0.00	0.00 %
320808 Healthy Congregations Grant Fund	13,566.11	16,941.11	-3,375.00	-19.92 %
Total 320800 Ministry Funds	81,200.94	88,575.94	-7,375.00	-8.33 %
34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds				
34002 Sharing Fund - Catastrophe	1,190.49	2,990.49	-1,800.00	-60.19 %
Total 34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds	1,190.49	2,990.49	-1,800.00	-60.19 %

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference
Budget vs. Actuals: FY2025 budget - FY25 P&L
February 2024 - January 2025

	Actual	Total Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Total 4101 Member Church Contributions	\$ 115,606.45	\$ 112,450.00	3,156.45	102.81%
Total 4200 Other Contributions	\$ 6,936.59	\$ 6,700.00	236.59	103.53%
Total 4400 Annual Meeting Income	\$ 13,584.27	\$ 10,000.00	3,584.27	135.84%
Total 4700 Interest/Dividend Income	\$ 1,911.88	\$ 1,200.00	711.88	159.32%
Total 4800 Investment Gains/Losses	\$ 36,619.03	\$ 45,000.00	(8,380.97)	81.38%
Total Income	\$ 174,658.22	\$ 175,350.00	(691.78)	99.61%
Expenses				
Total 5100 Exec. Conf. Minister Support	\$ 125,819.41	\$ 125,494.00	325.41	100.26%
Total 5170 District Pastor Expense	\$ 15,843.98	\$ 15,650.00	193.98	101.24%
Total 5240 Administrative Asst	\$ 9,315.19	\$ 16,618.00	(7,302.81)	56.05%
Total 5250 Communications Coordinator	\$ 6,833.94	\$ 4,474.00	2,359.94	152.75%
Total 5500 Pastoral Leadership Team	\$ 365.00	\$ 500.00	(135.00)	73.00%
Total 5530 Theological Education Team	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00	(500.00)	0.00%
Total 5900 Board of Directors	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.00%
Total 5950 Contracted Services	\$ 11,546.98	\$ 10,000.00	1,546.98	115.47%
Total 6000 Conference Office	\$ 1,930.02	\$ 9,050.00	(7,119.98)	21.33%
Total 6112 Travel Pool & Meeting Expense	\$ 23,413.95	\$ 18,950.00	4,463.95	123.56%
Total 6220 Professional Development Expenses	497.95	2,000.00	(1,502.05)	24.90%
Total 6290 Annual Meeting	\$ 7,386.44	\$ 10,000.00	(2,613.56)	73.86%
Total 6300 Conference Communications Council		250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
Total 6400 Other Expenses	\$ 12,551.72	\$ 11,610.00	941.72	108.11%
Total Expenses	\$ 215,504.58	\$ 226,596.00	(11,091.42)	95.11%
Net Operating Income	(\$40,846.36)	(\$51,246.00)	10,399.64	79.71%
Other Income				
7100 Gain on Sale of Assets	14,869.32	15,000.00	(130.68)	99.13%
7800 Realized Investment Gain/Loss	22,328.82		22,328.82	
7900 Unrealized Investment Gains/Losses	115,342.20		115,342.20	
Total Other Income	\$ 152,540.34	\$ 15,000.00	137,540.34	1016.94%
Net Income	\$111,693.98	(\$36,246.00)	147,939.98	-308.16%

TEAM / MINISTRY REPORTS

Pastoral Leadership Team

Submitted by Amy Epp, PLT Chair

The primary work of the Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) is the credentialing of a particular group of leaders: our pastors, church planters, chaplains and others doing specialized ministry in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC). We also invite these leaders into accountability for responsible and ethical engagement of their ministries and holistic care for themselves as ministering persons.

PLT has credentialed two pastors within the past year:

- Rev. **Rachael Weasley**, Community of Hope, Bellingham WA
- Rev. **Kristen Swartley**, Portland Mennonite Church, Portland OR

PLT has credentialed two people for licensing toward ordination:

- Pastor **Tyler Merrill**, Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle WA
- Chaplain **Jaqui Eicher**, member of Albany Mennonite Church, Albany OR

We thank God for their ministries in our conference and in their congregations.

In addition to the privilege of being in conversation with pastors and their communities toward credentialing, we have been working, along with the board, to update procedures for recruitment and gifts discernment. That has included an attempt to clarify and refine the expectations and roles of PLT as well as its members and chair. We trust this will be helpful in discerning and calling new members.

There has been no turn-over in PLT membership this year. Continuing to serve are Jennifer Gingerich (Chaplain), Bryce Miller (Pastor, Menno Mennonite Church), Rob Hanson (Member, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship), Sam Adams (Pastor, Bend Mennonite Church) and Amy Epp (Chair, Pastor, Evergreen Mennonite Church). Executive Conference Minister Eric Massanari works closely with PLT in an *ex officio* capacity.

Thank you for trusting us with the care and credentialing of your leaders and pastors.

PNMC AREA ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Drift Creek Camp

Submitted by Brenda Hostetler Kauffman, May 2025

Things are pretty much “back to normal” at DCC since the Covid-19 shutdown. However, summer programs have not recovered. Looking over the past 15 years, attendance is less than half of what it was prior to the pandemic. Prior to the North Creek culvert replacement/road closure in 2019, camper numbers were consistently over 300. Attendance usually ranged from 300 up to more than 320. Sadly, attendance for this summer is hovering at about 160 with some camps having only 10 male campers. The reality is discouraging as numbers have steadily declined since reopening. Moving forward, it is difficult to know how to plan. Camp costs are the same for hosting 300+ campers as it is for 200. (We do hope to reach 200 for this summer, but it’s looking unlikely.)

A question arises; do we consolidate weeks of camp and combine 3rd - 5th grades and 6th - 8th grades to have only three full weeks of camp rather than four? We are grappling with how to proceed.

The most pressing need on the horizon is the need to recruit and hire at least two camp hosts to live on-site as caretakers. The caretakers work to maintain the grounds and facilities; provide use instructions and host visiting rental groups as well as participate in DCC program facilitation and provide food service support. The role could be filled by a couple or individuals. The new cabin has room for several occupants and we are considering a variety of options for camp staffing. In addition to seeking caretakers, DCC is looking to hire someone to take over summer camp programming and/or camp food service. With the expanded on-site living, it could be possible to have these roles be filled by someone who could also live on-site.

In April, volunteers from Fairview Mennonite along with the DCC board, worked on facility projects. New LED lights were installed in the Activity Center, the dining hall, and kitchen. A woodshed lean-to was constructed to provide covered tractor parking. A small shed roof was attached to Yamhill to store firewood. New flooring was installed in the main floor bathrooms and loop-wide trail maintenance was accomplished. The bridge gate was repaired after significant damage was caused by a guest bus. There are always volunteer opportunities at DCC. With many food service groups scheduled for the fall, many kitchen volunteers will be needed. In spite of last year’s fallen tree, DCC is also in need of firewood.

The camp community continues to feel the loss of **John Gingerich**, who stood tall like a spruce tree in terms of having a heart for camp; volunteering tirelessly, and finding creative ways to provide support for the organization and staff. He is deeply missed and there are reminders of his generous heart for service all around camp. *We miss him so.*

We would love assistance with recruiting staff. As noted above, there is some flexibility in how camp’s staffing needs could be met. We are open to suggestions and new ideas! Whether it’s a couple or individuals, we need to have four people living on-site in order to meet the increased usage with weekday outdoor schools. (Currently, Lucas Hershey Groh is also a caretaker and will be staying on past the summer.) Having staff members who enjoy hosting, cooking, tinkering, cleaning, organizing, etc. is great! The job comes with the extremes of lots of people or no people....so building more of an on-site community will help ease the stress that those two extremes bring. If you know folks who might enjoy spending 2 years at DCC, please encourage them to reach out!

We are so very grateful for the volunteers who make camp possible! Every pastor, cook, nurse, crafts leader, teen volunteer and cabin counselor make summer programs rich and rewarding and we could not do it without the church community. We’d love to see our camper numbers recover. If there is a child in your life that would enjoy the camp experience, please reach out. We’d love to welcome them to DCC.

We ask for prayers and your partnership to sustain DCC for generations to come!

Mennonite Village

May 2025

Submitted by: Diane Hood

Chief Executive Officer

Mennonite Village is one of the largest continuing care retirement communities in Oregon. With more than 530 residents and over 300 staff, we live out our mission to be a Christ-centered community providing life enriching services every day.

In 2024, we welcomed 57 new residents into Independent Living, 40 residents into Quail Run Assisted Living, and 8 new residents into Lydia's House Memory Care. In addition, Mennonite Home served more than 100 residents between long-term care and short-term rehabilitation.

Mennonite Village leadership, along with the Mennonite Village Board, continued to revise the company's Master Plan for future growth. Engaging in numerous meetings with the residents of Mennonite Village, as well as the Albany community, we fashioned a targeted approach for what was identified as Phase 1 of the Master Plan.

Phase 1 includes a new, state-of-the-art memory care facility, a larger kitchen to service the dining needs of the residents, and 60 new independent living homes.

Working with SFCS Architects, from Roanoke, VA, the schematic design phase of the project was completed in 2024. There is still much work to be done before construction can begin, but the hope is that site development work may begin in the third quarter of 2025.

The Mennonite Village Foundation produced a *Community Report* documenting various milestones achieved during the past fiscal year. The report can be accessed on the Mennonite Village website, www.MennoniteVillage.org.

Mennonite Village has always placed an emphasis on community involvement. We value our role in Albany and strive to be a strong partner. In addition to being active members of the chambers of commerce for Albany, Corvallis, and Lebanon, we were once again title sponsors for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. We also sponsored Albany Parks and Recreation's summer concert series and the Oregon Senior Games. We also were honored to host the Mennonite Central Committee West Coast Bike Tour in August 2024.

In addition, this year we will host several events on our campus that are open to the greater community. Heritage Day will be held Friday, June 20 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. This event will feature a farmer's market, food trucks, campus tours and more. On Friday, July 25 we will host a free BBQ dinner, followed by an evening concert featuring *Surf's Up*, a popular Beach Boys cover band. And, finally, Saturday, November 1, we will hold our annual Holiday Market.

I want to offer a sincere thank you to the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference and to local congregations for all your support. Mennonite Village is truly the gem of the mid-Willamette Valley and your thoughtful prayers and volunteerism contribute to our unique culture.



Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

6030 South Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard OR 97032-9406

Web: pnmhs.org

Ph: (503) 266-6447

Email: pnmhs.volunteer@gmail.com

Preserving the past to illuminate the future

Submitted by Lin Rush, PNMHS Board Chair

The Historical Society seeks to preserve the stories of Anabaptist Mennonites in the Pacific Northwest. We provide safe, secure, and climate-controlled storage for congregational and personal records related to everyday Mennonite life. If your congregation holds such records, consider bringing them to the center for safekeeping.

Our February 2024 annual meeting featured Dr. Abraham Friesen who spoke on the topic, "Ukrainian Mennonites and the Recovery of an Anabaptist Vision." He shared how the Ukrainian Mennonites had lost a connection to the early Anabaptist vision and more recently had found a renewed commitment to the vision of following the early teachings of Menno Simons and other early leaders.

In September Pat Hershberger, Shirley Martin and I made a presentation to the Longview Genealogical Society at their regular monthly meeting. Sharing the story of our archives and the variety of information we preserve, created a lot of interest among their members.

We continue adding material to our archival collections. Added in 2024 were PNMC conference files from 2001-2019, a collection of 46 cassette tapes and a number of slides from Zion Mennonite Church, Portland Mennonite Church annual reports, Salem Mennonite Bulletins from 2017-2023, and Lloyd Lind and Norman & Phyllis Lind family files. In addition, the library added 90 books to our collection this past year.

We are thankful for the work of Tace Martin, who volunteered to write up extensive descriptions of the many German songbooks we hold in our collection. These descriptions will now be available when looking up a hymnal on our website.

Steve Turner, who updates and maintains our data on the MAID database, spent over 40 hours preparing our photographs for transferring them from Flickr to the MAID hosting site. This project was completed in January, so all the photos are now available to see and/or order through the MAID site.

Our work was possible due to the work of our dedicated volunteers, John Gingerich, Shirley Martin, Carolyn Gingerich, Lynn Miller, Beth Diener, Steve Turner, Carol Shank, and Tace Martin. This past year these volunteers donated over 1,200 hours to the work of the society. As I reflect on 2024, we are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of John Gingerich in January 2025. His work was instrumental in bringing us into the digital age. He edited our website, managed our social media pages and scanned and posted many of our photographs. His commitment to our work and mission will be greatly missed.

The archive is open every Wednesday. We invite you to visit us between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Appointments at other times are also possible.

We appreciate the support of our donors, including several congregations. Our work would not be possible without your ongoing and faithful support. We invite your continuing support of our mission.

Board Members: Lin Rush, Rod Fretz, Jerry Barkman, Gloria Nussbaum, Jay Beaman, Pat Hershberger, Carol Shank, Ray Smucker, and Julia Todd.

March 17, 2025

PNMC CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES:

How are you seeking to center your congregational life on Christ, on community connections within and beyond your congregation, and on practices of reconciliation and peacebuilding? How are you being transformed by God in your life as a community of faith?



Albany Mennonite Church, OR: At AMC, it has been another year of growing into our calling while deepening our identity. In fall, we reviewed the progress we've made on our "Taste & See" working vision, celebrating the ways we have grown into that vision by starting a VBS program, sponsoring a refugee, supporting the establishment of a small house village to increase affordable housing in our community, and much more. Now, we are in the midst of discerning what we're called to next, which has so far included drafting and posting a new youth coordinator job description, which we're confident we'll have filled by the time of the PNMC annual meeting. Mid-year, we paused this work to assess the ways in which our increased size and vision have created the need for new lay leadership positions and committee structures, and we're already seeing the benefits of those additions.

Like everyone, we've done this under the shadow of a contentious election and the alarming first actions of a new federal administration. So, in fall, we remembered who we are no matter what the election outcome: God's "royal priesthood"—our whole own thing under God—built on the stone who was rejected, and called to look for our salvation among the rejected. Then, in the first weeks of the new administration, we joined the rest of you in celebrating "Anabaptism at 500," where we recognized, among other things, that we carry rich memories of what it means to follow Jesus above political leaders, including and especially those who increasingly demand our compliance and loyalty. Throughout these weeks, we added to an art display at the front of the sanctuary, collecting the artistic works of congregants who shared with us about how their pieces connected to their Anabaptist identity and our congregation. Here's a picture so that you can enjoy their contributions too—a collage of sorts, reflecting who we are today at Albany Mennonite Church!

Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship, OR: Over the last year, CMF has continued to find joy and encouragement in being together as a Christ-centered community, and we are exploring new ways to worship together as a group that is smaller and older than we were a decade ago. This fall we began an experiment called "First Alternative Sundays" that are designed to take less volunteer time, such as Wild Church services where people spend time outside. This year we've also appreciated series on theodicy, songwriters in the Voices Together hymnal and Anabaptism at 500. We are enjoying the new Anabaptist Community Bible.

Community of Hope, Bellingham, WA: Community of Hope's pastor was ordained February 15th, and we are working on our full membership within PNMC! With the help of the Healthy Congregations Grant, we have been meeting nearly weekly in person, and have seen our numbers grow, as well as the depth of relationships among our church plant members. About half of our community meets in person, and another half of us still join online from around the country! We enjoy monthly Wild Church on 3rd Saturdays and monthly Zoom worship on 1st Mondays, and we welcome visitors if any of you would like to join us!

Eugene Mennonite Church, OR: We continue to be challenged by Jesus and the saints of the past, as well as those being oppressed right now. We struggle in many areas, and yet still show our love to refugees and houseless folks in our town. We have started a regular BBQ for houseless folks and still gather school refugee kit supplies for MCC to pass out.

Evergreen Mennonite Church, Kirkland, WA: While Evergreen is a small congregation of folks commuting to worship in Kirkland, WA, we find ways to have a full and faithful life as a community. In September we worshiped jointly with Seattle Mennonite Church, welcoming leaders from Mennonite Action to teach and preach. Our worship through the year has included other guests as well, plus interactive prayer stations and an all-church Christmas pageant.

We keep busy outside of worship too! In fall we served coffee and refreshments at the Mennonite Country Auction. We worked and played at our annual quilting retreat where we created a comforter for a high school senior. Families enjoyed the snow at Camp Camrec. And some of our avid Chiefs fans hosted a Super Bowl party. We have enjoyed regular fellowship meals, including a pancake bar for the beginning of Lent. In spring we again joined with SMC for a quilting and to support and host Hesston's Bel-Canto choir.

We thank God for the ways that we have been able to serve God and our communities and care for each other through the past year.

First Mennonite Church, Aberdeen, ID: The past year has been a grace-filled time of ministry and service for First Mennonite. Our annual community vacation Bible school and summer camp continue to be highlights for us. We were blessed to have nearly 50 kids from the community at VBS and another safe and successful season at Camp Palisades where campers experienced the beauty of God's creation and learned how they are created to be free, authentic and brave in Christ. As a congregation our women's ministry meets weekly for quilting and fellowship; Pastor Brian has also started a monthly men's fellowship, filled with community building, good food, and good conversation based on the book *Living that Matters: Honest Conversations for Men of Faith*.

We continue to look at how Christ showed us and taught us how to live, and how He is our lens to use in looking at the world around us. Both the Advent and Lenten seasons provide us a time of intentional focus on God's truth in our lives and a sense of connectedness with the greater church. At First Mennonite we strive to be mindful of the needs around us and pray that God uses us to shine light into a dark world, and to provide hope and compassion to those most vulnerable in our community.

Meridian Mennonite Church, ID: Meridian Mennonite Church has continued to meet and worship together. Last August we hosted a picnic in a Meridian park for our congregation, Evergreen Heights, and Hyde Park congregations. We have sought to meet together every four months to strengthen our ties with one another in the Treasure Valley. During that time we invited everyone to bring items for MCC School Kits and put those together before we worshipped together. We continue to participate with the Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival each year. We do have an upcoming change. Pastors Craig and Karla will be moving in August to Salem, OR where Karla has accepted the call to pastor Salem Mennonite Church. We desire to continue to worship together and to better understand how we can be a lay led congregation.

Mountain View Mennonite Church, Kalispell, MT: MVMC values strong relationships centered on Jesus and his ministry of healing, peace-building, and service. Worship draws from the gifts and creative collaboration of 2/3 of our congregation. Following the meditation, sharing and prayer is a prized and powerful witness to our Anabaptist values. We study scripture together Sundays and in a Community Bible Study outside. In December 2024, the congregation approved a new constitution, reaffirming our Anabaptist roots, recognizing our community as those who worship and engage, and leaning on circle dialogue to listen for the Spirit amid difference. While we greatly value relationships, some have experienced strain: a few worshipping elsewhere and a few new folks exploring the community. During this extended time of Pastoral Transition, a Gifts Assessment Facilitator returned to help the congregation explore possible paths ahead. Leadership Team discerned a proposal from a neighboring church to combine and after discussion and breaking bread, declined the invitation to merge congregations while affirmed desire to partner to serve the community. We partner with the congregation to host a preschool in our facility. Our local chapter of MDS remains active: serving the Red Lake Nation in MN, Florida, New Orleans, with a larger team this spring serving weeks in Elk, WA. We hope to reignite our Community Peacemaker Award and continue to partner with missionaries in Calais, France—contributing toward a new dryer for their migrant hospitality house. The congregation is also connected to ministries in Ukraine and supports emergent needs. In 18 months, 4 families opened their homes to local immigrants and an infant was named after one of these couples. We continue efforts collaborate with interfaith partners with acts of public witness, mercy and justice. Our Peace Garden opened and welcomes cyclists and campers passing through for the season. We host a beloved alternative gift fair before Christmas and welcome hundreds from our community. Currently, we continue to explore the best ways to support and engage our children as they grow and participate in worship. My Coins Count has been a cheerful way to give to MCC and connect sharing simple gifts with making change with God in the world. We are delighted to host conference and welcome friends to Montana.

Portland Mennonite Church, OR: For much of the past year, Portland Mennonite has been in a search process for a new settled lead pastor. However, we continue to center our lives in Jesus through worship each Sunday that involves a team of about 40 members of the congregation, worship that takes place in the sanctuary and in outdoor places. We share a worship space with Ministerios Restauración, one of the CIHAN churches in our conference. Our two congregations also co-sponsor Family Promise which provides shelter and services to houseless families. We continue to create and maintain connections in our urban setting by 'seeking the peace of the city' through our pre-school (now in its 48th year) and the many volunteers who serve those experiencing homelessness. PMC strengthens relationships within our worship community through an active small group ministry, an active congregational ministry team, and countless acts of caring for one another throughout the week. We seek reconciliation in these troubling times through our MennoAction and MennoPride Committees, and through the Racial Justice and Climate Justice teams. Whether in transition or in settled times, God's love is living, active and constant at PMC.

Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church, Canby, OR: Pacific Covenant is a group of genetic Mennonites from both Amish Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren backgrounds committed to digging deeper into Anabaptist theology, and translating the teachings of Christ into our everyday lives.

Salem Mennonite Church, OR: Recently, one of our elders, Joseph Penner, shared a heartfelt message inviting others to our church. The following are just a few excerpts from his post, but they truly capture much of what has been happening at Salem Mennonite over the past year:

"We have been without a pastor for a while, but hope to hire one this year. Of course, Mennonites believe in the concept of the "priesthood of all believers," meaning that everyone's voice is valued and has authority (authority does not rest solely with trained pastors), and it's amazing to see the way all of our lay-leaders have stepped up to keep the church running without a professional pastor. Our church attendance has been waning, but we still have a lot of vitality. We have a group that meets to discuss social justice issues, a group that makes quilts that get donated to charity, a group that is working to advance our affirmation of people who are LGBTQ, a group that supports each other through faith questions and doubts, a book club, and an adult Sunday School group that's currently reading a book about a Christian response to climate change. We also host the Southeast Keizer Community Center, which uses the fellowship hall every Friday evening for games, crafts, activities and a meal for families in our neighborhood."

Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA: What to do when best laid plans don't materialize? At Seattle Mennonite Church, we were disappointed when our affordable housing project was not selected to be funded by the City in 2024. So: early in the year, we assembled a team to explore and pursue a vision for interim campus use. With an increasingly vacant campus in anticipation of redevelopment, we knew we had an opportunity to be a resource in the neighborhood for folks currently living on the streets. We also knew that if we don't embrace the opportunity, the campus will increasingly be a place of conflict, challenge, and suffering. This wondering led to a partnership with a local grassroots org of homeless folks to host Tent City 4 (TC4) on our campus for a year. For a whole year, up to 100 people have experienced some shelter on our campus, whether as part of the tent community or in one of our buildings. The indoor space has meant TC4 has been able to shelter families with kids and some folks with disabilities. We are extending this agreement into 2026 for the indoor shelter. We were disappointed yet again for the 2025 affordable housing funding cycle, and we wonder how God might once more transform our best laid plans into something surprising, life-giving, and beautiful.

Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR: We have focused on 5 Sundays, this year, emphasizing Anabaptist stories and distinctives, commemorating 500 Years of Anabaptism.

At the invitation from Wendell and Karen Amstutz in Bolivia, we have encouraged groups from Zion to visit the Senior Center, Vida Feliz this year. As of June, 23 people have traveled to Bolivia, to serve at Vida Feliz through fellowship, cooking, serving meals, painting, cleaning, landscaping and sharing Christ's love through hospitality with this community. These stories and experiences have been meaningful to our broader congregation.

We are finding ways to use our new solar structure for VBS, Hymn Singing, Pancake breakfast followed by worship, and a gathering place for family reunions, memorial services, etc.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Everence

Mennonite Church USA

Mennonite Disaster Service

Mennonite Aid Plan / Mennonite Insurance Services

Mennonite Men

Mennonite Mission Network (MMN)

West Coast Mennonite Central Committee

Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Annual Report for the year ending January 31, 2025

Serving the Anabaptist Community:

- **Breaking Down Barriers Study Committee** — CoB Annual Conference 2024
- **Workshops and Trainings** at Bethany Theological Seminary, CoB Annual Conference, and Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center
- **Webinar** with Mosaic Mennonite Conference on *Nurturing Accessible Family Ministry*
- Disability & Theology articles in, *Vision: A Journal of Church and Theology*

Resourcing Congregations:

- **Consulting, preaching, teaching** in 7 congregations
- **Online Accessibility Audit:** In FYE 2025, three congregations received a seal of accessibility and on-going support from ADN to keep increasing access and belonging.
- **Barrier Free Grants:** In FYE 2025, we gave 8 grants.
- **Launched a Redesigned Website** with increased accessibility, refreshed resources, and information on removing barriers in the congregation.



Sharing Your Stories:

- **Connections Newsletter**
 - Chronic Illness, Winter 2024
 - Cerebral Palsy, Summer 2024
 - Baptism & Intellectual Disabilities, Fall 2024
- **Opening Doors Blog** stories of belonging, tips for inclusion



Be Involved

- **Become a Partner Congregation.**
 - Designate a **congregational disability advocate** in your congregation.
 - Give a **congregational donation** of \$500 to \$1000 annually.
- **Become a Building the Future Partner:** As an individual, donate \$1,000 per year.

Current Staff

Jeanne Davies, Executive Director
Chika Sunoto, Office Administrator
Emily Hunsbaker, Communications Director

Current Board

Mitch Stutzman, President
Laura Stone, Vice President
Lyle Miller, Secretary
Chris Stauffer, Treasurer
Rebekah Flores
Jon-Erik Misz, **Emily Krabill**

Financial Summary:

Income: \$111,492	Expenses:\$126,242	Assets (End of Year): .. \$62,105
Individual Contributions\$87,444	Staffing \$78,685	Operating Fund:\$25,105
Congregational Contributions...\$20,185	Barrier Free Grants \$4,000	Reserve Fund: \$37,000
Other Income..... \$3,863	Resources & Other \$43,557	

"People plan their path, but the Lord secures their steps."

– Proverbs 16:9 (CEB)

Your Ministries. Your Finances.

Everence 2025 report

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

Annual Meeting

June 19-22, 2025

Building strong stewardship ministries

At Everence®, we believe Christian stewardship encompasses all we are and all we have, aligning our lives with God's purposes.

Through our Stewardship Partners program, we help churches build vibrant stewardship ministries that address both congregational and personal financial needs. With faith-driven resources, we equip stewardship leaders to help your church manage finances in alignment with Christian values, fostering both financial well-being and spiritual growth.

Let us help you build a strong stewardship ministry! Visit everence.com/partners to learn more.

Churches supporting community through Sharing Funds



Faith communities can be a vital support in times of hardship – and the Everence Sharing Fund helps churches assist members in need.

Over the past six years, Everence has distributed nearly \$5 million in Sharing Fund grants, on top of additional matches from churches,

to help thousands facing hardship. You can support this important work with a fully tax-deductible donation – 100% of your gift will go directly to those experiencing financial challenges. To donate or learn more, visit everence.com/sharing-fund.

Boost your church's ministries with MyNeighbor



If your church is seeking an easy, low-cost way to boost financial support, consider the MyNeighbor credit card from Everence Federal Credit Union.

This program lets individuals contribute to your church or favorite nonprofits with every purchase. Whether for groceries, bills, or other everyday expenses, 1.50% of each purchase made using the MyNeighbor card goes directly to the charity of the cardholder's choice, such as your church. Then, in January, Everence sends checks to the selected 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, with no additional work required on your end.

Since 2017, we have donated \$2.8 million through the MyNeighbor program. It's an easy way to foster stewardship engagement and

create additional revenue for your church's ministries. Learn more at everence.com/myneighbor.

Strengthening your church's endowment fund



As of 2021, over 40% of religious organizations reported challenges in managing their endowment funds, highlighting the need for sustainable financial planning (National Philanthropic Trust, 2021). While updated data is expected, this trend emphasizes the importance for churches to actively manage their endowments for long-term stability.

Your church can develop a strategy to grow and manage its endowment to create a reliable income stream to support ministries – especially in uncertain times. By engaging your congregation and implementing thoughtful giving practices, you can lay the groundwork for lasting financial growth. Talk to your Everence stewardship consultant or visit everence.com/churches for more information.





Menno Church USA



Women in Leadership



MC USA Executive Board



MC USA Staff

As we reflect on 2024, we give thanks for God's abundant blessings and the ways we, as MC USA, continue to live out our [Renewed Commitments](#) of following Jesus, witnessing to God's peace and experiencing the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. Together, we live into our mission as a denomination that equips, empowers and inspires.

Church Vitality: Equipping healthy congregations

In 2024, MC USA's Church Vitality team worked diligently to nurture thriving congregations and support pastors and leaders. From practical tools, such as [pastor salary guidelines](#) and [The Corinthian Plan](#) healthcare program, to initiatives such as our [Wellbeing in Ministry](#) resources, we continue to prioritize the health of our churches and the wellbeing of those who serve them.

Our [Safe Church Ministry](#) empowers faith communities to prioritize safety for children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Engagement with our webinars and the updated Circle of Grace curriculum reached new heights, extending even beyond our denomination. Additionally, we introduced background checks for church employees and volunteers, demonstrating our commitment to safe spaces for worship and ministry.

Through our [Thrive church planting grants](#), we provided financial support to five new missional peace churches, breaking down barriers for church plants to proclaim the gospel and engage their communities.

We also launched two new podcasts: "[Lead/Follow](#)" with Executive Director Glen Guyton, in which leaders explore how to follow Jesus boldly, and "[The Competent Pastor](#)," hosted by Church Vitality's Michael Danner and Rachel Ringenberg Miller, which offers practical wisdom for pastors.

Peace and Justice: Living into our Anabaptist faith values

As a historic peace church, MC USA continues to lead the way in nonviolence and justice. Through our 2024 "[Learn, Pray, Join](#)" campaigns, we educated congregations on climate justice and conflict transformation, calling us to connect faith and action.

Renewed Commitments

- Follow Jesus
- Witness to God's peace
- Experience transformation

Church Vitality

MC USA's Church Vitality team empowers and equips the church every day through:

- Pastor salary guidelines
- Wellbeing in ministry resources
- The Corinthian Plan healthcare plan for church workers
- Ministerial Leadership Inquiry process

Learn more [here](#).



PeaceMail 
Menno Church USA

[Subscribe](#) to MC USA's weekly email newsletter.



www.MennoniteUSA.org



2024 Bring the Peace honorees



Glen Guyton's "Lead/Follow" podcast



2024 Hope for the Future attendees

This past year, the [Justice Fund](#) supported nine churches dismantling racism, addressing police brutality or combating poverty, while the [Bring the Peace](#) award recognized individuals who are bringing God's peace to their communities. The [Church Peace Tax Fund](#) rallied our collective voice against the destructive powers of militarism in our congregations by supporting education, grassroots activism and [Peaceful Options for Training and Careers](#).

Additionally, the [Pam De Young Net Zero Energy Fund](#) helped several congregations take bold steps toward renewable energy. Youth-led innovation shined through the [Gen Z Energy and Spirit Challenge](#), celebrating young leaders committed to climate justice.

Finally, [Women in Leadership](#) continued its work of dismantling patriarchal systems, laying the groundwork for the Women's Summit, "Beholding It Together," July 8, 2025, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Racial Ethnic Engagement: Fostering Solidarity and Transformation

Our 11th [Hope for the Future](#) conference in Dallas, Texas, Feb. 9-11, 2024, brought together 70 Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) leaders under the theme, "Breaking Chains, Mending Walls." This sacred space for dialogue and solidarity inspires hope for systemic transformation in our church and communities.

Additionally, MC USA, in partnership with the [Racial Ethnic Council](#) and the [Historical Archives](#), launched a groundbreaking initiative to preserve and amplify BIPOC stories within our denomination's history. This effort includes workshops, resource kits, and digitization projects, ensuring these voices are honored and heard for generations to come.

Looking Ahead with Hope

Together, we are building a church that embodies Jesus' radical love and justice. Thank you for your prayers, participation and support. We are stronger together, united by our call to follow Christ and transform the world.

Our Mission

To share with others the gift of God's love through our worship, witness and life together. We claim Jesus as the center of our faith, community as the center of our lives and reconciliation as the center of our work.

Our Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

**FOLLOW
JESUS²⁵**

CONVENTION.MENNONITEUSA.ORG



Join us for [Follow Jesus '25](#)
Greensboro, North Carolina
July 8-12, 2025. Scan for info:



www.MennoniteUSA.org



MDS volunteers served
52,027 days
helping
513 households
recover from disaster.



2023-2024 MDS ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Building HOPE



"If my mother could see me now."

MDS volunteers built Betty Holloway (pictured left) a new home in Moss Point, Mississippi, after a tornado ripped through the town in June 2023. When Betty moved in a year later, she was remembering her mother, who passed away before the storm.

"If she could see me now—my mother would be 109 years old," said Betty. Many of the damaged homes, like Betty's had been in families for generations.

Speaking of generations, many young people volunteered not only in Moss Point but across the U.S. and Canada. As Kari Weaver, 20, from Apple Creek, Ohio, volunteered in Moss Point, she said she simply really enjoyed serving others. "I had more fun here than I did on vacation," she said.

The impact MDS has on disaster survivors is often indescribable. After MDS helped Jade Shamen from British Columbia build a new home in the wake of a wildfire, Jade said: "It is a tremendous thing to have this happen. To have a house built for you, it's beyond words."

For all the volunteers who swung hammers, prayed, crafted wall hangings, cooked, or lend a listening ear,

THANK YOU!



6,486 volunteers
from across Canada and the U.S.
gave their time, skills
and compassion to build
135 new homes,
complete
287 repairs,
finish
49 cleanups,
and build
9 new bridges
for households who
experienced a disaster.

This volunteer labor is a value* of
**\$13.94 million USD/
\$19.23 million CAD**

All statistics from 8/1/2023 through 7/31/2024.
*Labor value based on a volunteer rate of \$33.49 USD/
hour. (www.independentsector.org)

Respond. Rebuild. Restore.



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

www.mds.org

MDS U.S. Office
583 Airport Lititz
PA 17543 USA
tel: 717-735-3536
fax: 717-735-0809
toll-free: 800-241-8111
mdsus@mds.org

MDS Canada Office
200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2J1 Canada
tel: 204-261-1274
fax: 204-261-1279
toll-free: 866-261-1274
mdscanada@mds.org

Mennonite Aid Plan / Mennonite Insurance Services



Mennonite Aid Plan and Mennonite Insurance Services have entered 2025 with exciting leadership changes and continued momentum in serving our community with integrity and purpose.

Leadership Transition

After 15 years of dedicated service, **Jerry Linscheid** retired as CEO on December 31, 2024. Jerry joined Mennonite Aid Plan in 2009 and, through unexpected early leadership responsibilities, helped guide the organization with steady hands and a deep sense of mission. His background in law and commitment to service played a critical role in the organization's growth and operational strength.

In November 2024, **Kevin Lucke** was named CEO. Kevin brings more than 30 years of experience in the insurance industry, having served in roles across claims, marketing, underwriting, and executive leadership. He holds a BA in business/economics from George Fox College and brings a passion for community-focused leadership. Kevin's vision includes expanding outreach, strengthening partnerships, and maintaining the trusted service Mennonite Aid Plan is known for.

Organizational Focus in 2025

Under Kevin's leadership, Mennonite Aid Plan is focused on:

- Strategic growth into new communities aligned with our values
- Continued excellence in customer service
- Enhancing technology and operational efficiency
- Strengthening relationships with Mennonite and Anabaptist partner organizations

Mennonite Aid Plan remains deeply committed to providing competitively priced, reliable insurance products supported by compassionate service.

Looking Ahead

The leadership transition marks an exciting new chapter for Mennonite Aid Plan. With strong foundations and a renewed sense of purpose, the organization is poised for thoughtful growth and long-term impact.

If you have any questions or would like more information about our services, please contact us:



Mennonite Aid Plan / Mennonite Insurance Services

P.O. Box 878

1110 J St., Reedley, CA 93654

Phone: (559) 638-2327

Email: Mennonite@mennoniteinsurance.com

Website: www.mennoniteinsurance.com

2024 has been full of exciting work and meaningful connections as the work of Mennonite Men continues to benefit our communities and congregations. Our three programs—JoinTrees, JoinMen, and JoinHands—continue to thrive as we invite men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus for God's shalom.

To learn more about our work, download resources, or contribute to our programs, visit mennonitemen.org.

Steve Thomas, Mennonite Men U.S. Co-Coordinator
stevet@mennonitemen.org | (574) 202-0048

Jon Zirkle, Mennonite Men U.S. Co-Coordinator
jonz@mennonitemen.org | (574) 612-5063

Don Neufeld, Mennonite Men Coordinator for Canada
don.neufeld@outlook.com | 905-650-1577



Mennonite Men

Engaging men to grow, give and serve.

JoinTrees

Planting trees to restore the earth



JoinTrees is our campaign to plant one million trees by 2030. This campaign targets climate change—an existential threat to life on our planet. By increasing tree and forest cover with this JoinTrees campaign, our goals are to help: (1) mitigate global warming, (2) serve climate justice, and (3) support vulnerable communities.

Our vision is a healthy, thriving planet where God's abundant life of shalom is enjoyed by all from generation to generation.

This year we funded tree planting with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to restore trees on properties destroyed by destructive fires and floods. This is part of our partnership with MDS to respond to natural disasters like these that are projected to increase with climate

change.

We continue to work with large-scale agroforestry projects in the global south for climate action and assisting vulnerable communities experiencing environmental injustice. In these settings, trees help sequester carbon, cool the planet, regenerate soils, and provide fruit and nut crops to support these communities.

For our next projects, we plan to assist seven Mennonite communities in DR Congo and Angola with a second round of planting 50,000 trees. We now need to raise \$60,000 for these projects.

Along with individual donations to make these grants, we invite carbon offset contributions from households, churches, and businesses seeking to reduce their carbon footprint and support climate action. To learn how you can participate in this campaign to restore God's Earth, visit mennonitemen.org/jointrees.

JoinHands

Sharing resources for new church buildings



JoinHands is our program for giving and grantmaking. Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we provide grants to help new congregations acquire their first church building. Mennonite Men has given over 2.3 million dollars to new congregations for this purpose.

We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands. We especially ask churches pursuing building projects to give as a way of sharing resources and serving "fair balance" with congregations in need.

We recently presented a \$40,000 JoinHands grant to Chin Emmanuel Church in Houston, Texas for purchasing

a church building. This young congregation founded by refugees from Myanmar fleeing ethnic and religious persecution, is now part of Western District Conference in Mennonite Church USA and flourishing with more than 200 people.

Congregations like this are prominent among new churches in Mennonite Church USA. Approximately half of all new MC USA congregations are from ethnic-racial backgrounds. This trend reflects the church's increased racial and ethnic diversity where congregational growth has been most significant.

Mennonite Men is the only Mennonite organization that makes grants to new churches for their first meeting places. We are now raising funds to make our next \$40,000 grant for a new church

JoinMen

Gathering men and promoting their growth



JoinMen provides gatherings and resources from an Anabaptist perspective to promote healthy masculinity, Christian formation and community. We desire that all men find a place of belonging among men who are strong, loving and wise as we follow Jesus in building God's shalom.

Gatherings provide opportunities for men to join together and engage issues in community. More than an event, these experiences are also meant to encourage participants to be part of an ongoing men's group and growth process. A full list of gathering themes we offer can be found at mennonitemen.org/joinmen.

On a weekend in November, eleven men ages 31-55 from six different Mennonite congregations gathered at The Hermitage (Michigan) for retreat. Our time together included eating meals in silence, small group discussions, wider group reflection, prayer, deep sharing, and wandering the woods. There was also journaling, drumming, a campfire, sketching, and rituals. We are moved to witness firsthand that men in their younger years want these experiences.

Please support Mennonite Men and our efforts to join men together through retreats, workshops, book studies, and online resources. Gifts designated to JoinMen support these offerings and make it possible to reach more men who want to engage, grow, and serve in the ways of Jesus for God's shalom.

Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus for God's shalom

Be local. Be global. Be the Gospel.

Note: Underlined words indicate active links.

When the people of God take Jesus' call to live lives of peace seriously, there is hope.

In the midst of war and strife, God is still at work, and we are committed to joining in that work. Here are some ways in which you can join in, too:



Partner with workers across the street and around the world through financial support. Contact KarenH@MennoniteMission.net to support workers financially.



Support Mission network ministries and workers by becoming a prayer partner. Visit our website to join in: MennoniteMission.net/Prayer.



Explore which service options might be the best fit for adults and youth in your congregation: MennoniteMission.net/Serve.



Learn about social justice through a spiritual lens by participating in a Just Peace Pilgrimage: MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace.

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds" (Psalm 9:1, NIV). We, at Mennonite Mission Network, are full of gratitude for the wonderful deeds of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. We have been blessed by our continued partnership and your active support through prayers, participation and financial gifts. We look forward to our



continued journey together, as we respond to the call to be part of God's reconciling movement in the world.

Marisa Smucker, Executive Director

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference partnership

WORKER SUPPORT AROUND THE WORLD

Worker support

Joseph and Rachel Givens, serving in Calais, France

- Mountain View Mennonite Church

SERVICE SITES

Service Adventure unit

- Anchorage, Alaska

SOOP

- Drift Creek Camp

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

SOOP

- **Ken and Nancy Beachy**, Phoenix, Arizona
- **Gene and Judy Gascho**, Phoenix, Arizona
- **Kathy Howell and Barbara West**, France
- **Janice and Lynn Miller**, Phoenix, Arizona

PRAYER PARTNERS — 31

CONGREGATIONAL GIVING AND MISSION SUPPORT

During Mission Network's past fiscal year, August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference congregations gave **\$40,129**. Thank you!

2025 report for Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

MCC U.S. and West Coast MCC
559 638 6911 • westcoast@mcc.org • mcc.org



At left, Mary Nyashin Tsief, 70, who receives monthly food packages of sorghum, beans and oil through an MCC-supported project, leads visitors to her dwelling in a camp in Rubkona, South Sudan, for families displaced by conflict or flooding. (MCC photo/Mackenzie Schwarz)

Mary Nyashin Tsief has been living in the Rubkona Internally Displaced Peoples Camp in South Sudan for the past four years. Her family is among the hundreds of thousands of people displaced within Unity State due to immense flooding. These disasters have wiped out crops, farms, livestock and all cultivable soil, making it nearly impossible to grow food or access markets. Violence and economic turmoil have exacerbated those challenges meaning Mary's family often doesn't have food to eat.

But thanks to your continued support, MCC's partner, Episcopal Church of South Sudan-South Sudanese Development and Relief Agency (ECSS-SSUDRA), has provided 800 families (3,071 people) with emergency food baskets every month for an entire year. Priority has been given to families like Mary's who have no source of reliable funds to purchase food and no ability to produce their own food.

With thanksgiving,

Ann Graber Hershberger, MCC U.S. Executive Director

Dina Gonzalez-Piña, West Coast MCC Executive Director

Kevin Malamma, U.S. Board Member

MCC's 2025 guiding scripture

"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him.

John 1:39 (NIV)

West Coast MCC 2024

- West Coast MCC Bike Ride - Grateful to all those who participated and raised funds for MCC.
- Peace Camp in Portland, OR - 16 young adults and leaders came together and explored the topics of Envisioning Shalom, Embracing Conflict, and Embodying Reconciliation.

PNMC Partnership

- Idaho Mennonite Relief Sale - \$58,000
- Mennonite Country Auction - \$115,886.01
- Oregon Mennonite Festival - \$160,000 (includes proceeds from WC Bike Ride)
- Church contributions: \$63,590 plus Material Resource Contributions
- MCC Staff from PNMC & PSMC Churches: Art Montoya, Joshua Garber, Daniela Lazaro-Manalo
- PNMC & PSMC Board Members: Kiara Yoder, Una Lee Jost, Nancy Chupp, Twila Lehman, and Nelly Ascencio.

“Seeing, embracing and loving the immigrant communities amongst us is a witness of Christ's redemptive work in us.

-Dina Gonzalez-Piña

Staff across the country are giving increasing numbers of Know Your Rights presentations in churches, schools and the community. One pastor, who hosted a WC MCC training for her congregation of immigrants, says she and her husband, have been asked by at least three families to be their children's

temporary guardians. "They are concerned, and as they say, 'Who else can we trust? We don't have any relatives here.' And if they do, they are in another state, and most of them are undocumented too," the pastor says. She and her husband agree to support them "because my thinking is that the church is here to help."



REPORTS FROM MENNONITE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Bethel College

Bluffton University

Goshen College

Eastern Mennonite Seminary

Eastern Mennonite University

Hesston College



Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world.

Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — in person or at a distance, full time or part time — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

Degrees and programs (* = distance-friendly program)

- Master of Divinity*
- Master of Arts in Christian Formation
- Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism*
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- Doctor of Ministry in Leadership*
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction*
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies* (choose your own courses)
- Mennonite Education Agency Hispanic Ministries – AMBS Graduate Certificate in Theology* (in Spanish)
- Journey Missional Leadership Development Program* (undergraduate-level certificate)

ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs

We offer generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and matching grants for both full- and part-time graduate students. You *can* afford seminary!

ambs.edu/affordability

Leadership and enrichment

Grow your ministry skills and gain Anabaptist approaches to today's leadership challenges through our nondegree offerings. (* = distance-friendly program)

Short-term options

- Practical Leadership Training modules*
- Online Short Courses*: six weeks, discussion-based, noncredit (no grades, no papers!)
- Invite AMBS*: request a speaker (in person or online)
- Pastors & Leaders conference*: Feb. 23–26, 2026

Offerings of one to two years

- Transition to Leadership*: program for new pastors
- Ministry Reflection Circles*: reflect on current ministry challenges with the support of a group
- Spiritual Direction Seminars*

ambs.edu/leadership-and-enrichment



(Above) In April 2024, 13 women and nine men from four countries — Ethiopia, South Africa, Tanzania and the U.S. — graduated from AMBS.

Conference connections

- **Master of Divinity student:** Dave Johnson (Portland)
- **Master of Arts student:** Mir Knego (Prince of Peace)
- **Graduate Certificate student:** Julie Allyn (Hyde Park)
- **Journey participant/mentor:** Jaqui Eicher/Linda Dibble (Albany)

AMBS statistics

- In 2024–25, 149 graduate students are enrolled at AMBS: 82 from the U.S., four from Canada and 63 international students. Ten students are pursuing the Spanish-language Graduate Certificate in Theology.
- The undergraduate-level Journey program has 41 participants in Canada, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Tanzania, Uganda and the U.S.

Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course:
 - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
 - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
 - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture
 - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
 - Challenging Christian Nationalism
 - Biblical Interpretation Across the Two Testaments
- ambs.edu/online-short-courses
- Take a graduate-level course — online or on campus. Nonadmitted students get 50% off tuition for their first three credit hours! ambs.edu/upcoming-courses
- Schedule a virtual or in-person visit and learn about what AMBS has to offer! ambs.edu/visit
- Stay connected: facebook.com/followAMBS • instagram.com/ambs_seminary • youtube.com/ambsedu • ambs.edu/subscribe

2025 Annual Report

Finding a voice in a loud, cluttered world isn't always easy. Students in our senior-level Bible and religion required course, Basic Issues of Faith and Life, have been engaging with two texts that delve into the struggles of facing injustice and problematic social constructs, yet each offers a vision of hope and redemption for the future: the book of *Isaiah* from the Old Testament, and *So We and Our Children May Live* by Sarah Augustine and Sherl Hostetler. Conversations on campus around justice, security, diversity, and inclusion abound. As President Jon Gering stated in his opening message to faculty and staff in the fall, borrowing from Walt Whitman, "we contain multitudes." We can disagree with each other, and even have conflicting feelings within ourselves, but our complexity makes us stronger as we work together towards a brighter future for campus and community.

The higher education climate is anything but normal right now. Bethel continues to take steps to secure our future and remain relevant in a quickly changing world. Our employment experiences program officially launched this fall, with every freshman student required to log 80 hours of work per semester. As it is with most new programs, there have been some issues to work out along the way. We are still on track to become a federally designated work college. Students are paid for this work in scholarships, reducing the amount of financial debt with which they will graduate. This unique designation and tuition help will position us as an attractive option as all colleges face the decline of graduating high school students.

With the completion of our *Engage the Future* capital campaign, construction began on the new Wellness Center. As of this writing, it is on schedule to be completed and open for the fall semester. A full size indoor court will ease practice schedules for student teams and also provide community members with options for basketball, volleyball, and pickleball. New cardio and weight equipment, and an indoor walking track, will serve students and the community better by separating them from team workouts. A spacious lobby with plenty of natural light will create a welcoming environment for all who wish to use the facility. Alongside this major physical improvement, the campaign provided funds for campus upgrades in technology, staffing, and more, all with a focus on student wellness.



We have also been working to secure our financial future with alternative revenue streams. Working with strategic partner Core Education Group, we have already launched a program of workforce development certificates. These online courses offer training in specific professional areas and are available to anyone worldwide through our website. Thirty-six programs are currently available directly to consumers, with more possible in the future and courses tailored specifically to business groups in the works. Other ideas for alternative revenue are also being discussed.

Thank you for your continued support!

Ben Lichti, coordinator for alumni and church relations



2025 Report to Pacific Northwest Conference

ANABAPTISM AT 500

During the spring 2025 semester, Bluffton University hosted numerous events in conjunction with the celebration of Anabaptism at 500. During this time of commemoration, Bluffton reflected on its faith heritage as a Mennonite institution. **Dr. John D. Roth**, emeritus professor of history at Goshen College and project director for Anabaptism at 500 for MennoMedia, was a featured speaker at many of these events. Bluffton will continue its commemoration of Anabaptism at 500 in the **fall semester**. A full list of events can be found at www.bluffton.edu/anabaptism500

BLUFFTON COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Bluffton College Foundation, a newly established 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to supporting the long-term success and development of the Bluffton campus was launched Feb. 14, 2025. **Edward Diller '69** was named chairman of the board, which will be made up of Bluffton alumni and Mennonite-affiliated friends and donors. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.bluffton.edu/foundation

SPIRITUAL LIFE WEEK

Rev. Dr. Maxwell Kennel, pastor, Hamilton Mennonite Church, and director, Pandora Press, was the spring semester's Spiritual Life Week speaker. Rev. Kennel spoke at Forum on Tuesday, March 25, and also at Chapel on Thursday, March 27, focusing on the theme "Faith and Memory" in connection to the university's commemoration of Anabaptism at 500.

THE LION AND LAMB PEACE ARTS CENTER

The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center hosted a Taiko Japanese drumming workshop, Feb. 18, open to students, faculty, staff and community members. Additionally, the **"Teaching Peace to Children"** program, a series of sessions on issues such as conflict resolution and cultural understanding, began again in early March. The Lion and Lamb also welcomed **interim assistant director Georgia Adams** in early February.

EARLY ANABAPTIST BIBLES

Dr. John D. Roth, Dr. Gerald J. Mast, Dr. Raymond F. Person, Jr. and local participants in Anabaptist Bible study groups celebrated the release of the Anabaptist Community Bible Sunday, March 9, as part of Bluffton's Anabaptism at 500 series. **Musselman Library** also hosted an exhibit "Pages of Persistence: An exhibit of early Anabaptist Bibles," March 9-23.

125TH COMMENCEMENT

Bluffton University welcomed its 125th graduating class this May. **Dr. Perry Bush**, emeritus professor of history, was chosen to be the Commencement speaker during the May 3 ceremony in Sommer Center.

MERGER STOPPED

Bluffton University was informed that the University of Findlay Board of Trustees voted on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, not to proceed with the joint application to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for merger approval and to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding signed on March 19, 2024. To learn more visit www.bluffton.edu/strategic-faq

Dr. J. Alexander Sider appointed Interim President

Bluffton University announced Feb. 26, 2025, that **Dr. J. Alexander Sider** was named interim president effective immediately. Dr. Sider, a longtime member of the Bluffton faculty and previously Dean of Academic Affairs, has served the university in various roles since joining in 2006. His leadership, deep knowledge of the institution and dedication to Bluffton's mission make him well-qualified to guide the university through this transition. The university's Board of Trustees will work closely with Dr. Sider to ensure a smooth transition and continue to advance Bluffton's mission of "preparing students of all backgrounds for life as well as vocation."

Save the date

"Grace and Peace" Concert

Oct. 26, 2025, Yoder Recital Hall

Bluffton University Homecoming

Oct. 4, 2025

MC USA Convention

July 8-12, 2025, Greensboro, N.C.

Stay tuned for more information about the Bluffton University Alumni Meetup. Meet with fellow alumni and visit with Interim President Sider.

Stay up to date!

Visit www.bluffton.edu/news for the latest information!

For more information, contact
Gerald Mast
Church relations coordinator
and professor of communication
mastg@bluffton.edu

2024-25 Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

MISSION

Goshen College transforms local and global communities through courageous, creative and compassionate leaders. Shaped by Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, we integrate academic excellence and real-world experience with active love for God and neighbor.

VISION

Goshen College will cultivate joy, growth and purpose, preparing students to thrive in life, leadership and service. Rooted in the way of Jesus, we will seek inclusive community and transformative justice in all that we do.



Rebecca J. Stoltzfus '83
President

president@goshen.edu

► Read the president's blog at:
goshen.edu/president-blog



Dan Koop Liechty '88
Director of alumni engagement
& international student adviser

alumni@goshen.edu



Jen Shenk '94
Campus pastor

jshenk@goshen.edu

► Watch past campus
chapels and convocations:
goshen.edu/podcasts

CAMPUS NEWS

Our Campus Ministries 2024-25 theme: *Rooted in Love*

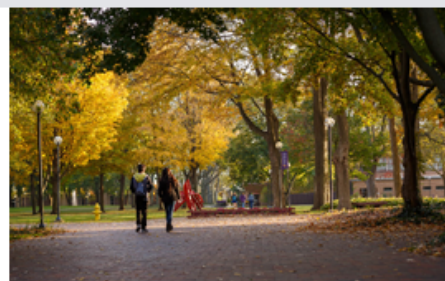
Jesus calls us to love God and our neighbor as we love ourselves. We get better at love by practicing it — first by receiving God's love and then extending it to others. Practicing love is a lifelong process, and it isn't easy! But the choice to start with love will bear fruit over time. May we commit ourselves to the active practice of loving well, so that we can take root, grow and flourish!

Academic Success Center Offers Holistic Support

A new Academic Success Center has expanded student services in new space at the campus' Good Library. Michelle Blank, director of academic success, said, "We have greater capacity to journey alongside our students as they strive toward success." The center offers accessibility services, testing, tutoring, writing support, coaching, advising, Hispanic and inclusive student programs. The center is already popular with students.

New Master of Arts in Teaching addresses teacher shortage

A new Master of Arts in Teaching program will admit students in fall 2025. The program addresses the significant need for teachers amid shortages nationwide. It also includes a bonus, an English Learners License. The curriculum and format are tailored to the school schedule. The evening classes are remote, slowing down during the school year and accelerating during the summer.



CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

\$24,000

Amount Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference churches are giving 6 students for the 2024-25 school year.

The Goshen College Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

GLOBAL EDUCATION

Students from the conference are involved on- and off-campus in many edifying ways, but we specifically recognize students who have studied and served through GC's Global Education program. **Jacob Friesen** from Portland Mennonite Church spent the 2025 Spring semester studying and serving in Tanzania.

FEATURED LINKS

Campus News
goshen.edu/news

Campus Events
goshen.edu/calendar

Music Center Events
gcmusiccenter.org/events

Athletics Events
goleafs.net/calendar

Study-Service Term Blogs
goshen.edu/sst

Graduate Certificate in Faith-Based Peacebuilding Launches

“What peacebuilding is, to me, has to be and is undergirded by my faith,” affirmed Keren Kandel, one of the first three graduates of EMS’s new certificate program. She described how she both learned about principles *and* put them into practice in the community. Students in the 18-credit program take courses on campus or online, with flexibility built into the degree so students can choose relevant courses in theology, biblical studies, racial justice, conflict analysis and peacebuilding.

EMS Celebrates 2023 Graduates

On May 7, EMS celebrated its largest graduating class since before the pandemic in 2019. Nineteen graduates earned master’s degrees in Christian leadership, divinity, and religion; and certificates in Christian studies, general theology, and faith-based peacebuilding. 2022-23 seminary enrollment was strong, with a 14% increase over the previous year.



Seminary graduates receive a blessing at EMU commencement

Conflict Transformation Trainings Equip Ministry Leaders

The first series of workshops in conflict transformation, trauma resilience, and adaptive leadership were held in the spring 2023. Director Dr. Jacob Cook works with leaders at EMS and EMU’s Center for Justice and Peacebuilding to equip pastors and lay leaders through digital content, online courses, regional on-site



Participants learn trauma-aware practices in May 20 workshop

trainings and on-campus workshops. Utilizing a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., EMS is developing these interdisciplinary leadership workshops and trainings that integrate personal spiritual formation, biblical and theological frameworks, and conflict transformation skills. More offerings are forthcoming, and custom-designed trainings are available on EMU’s campus or at your location.

EMS Averages 82.5% Tuition Scholarships for 2023 Admits

Students admitted to EMS master’s programs in 2023 were awarded, on average, scholarships covering 82.5% of their tuition. Thanks to generous donors, applicants can receive up to 100% tuition scholarships on the basis of merit and financial need. Plus, now that all EMS courses are available virtually, EMS is seeing an increase in attendance from students outside of Virginia and beyond the U.S. EMS’s Zoom technology and online learning management system make our synchronous learning dynamic and formative. Apply now or recommend EMS to someone you know! Visit emu.edu/seminary/admissions/grad

Statement of Purpose

Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepares servants of Christ to minister together locally and globally. In response to God’s gracious call, we invite students to embody and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God’s Spirit as wise interpreters, mature practitioners, discerning communicators, and transformational leaders.

- ▶ Susan Schultz Huxman, *president*
 - ▶ Daniel Ott, *seminary dean*
 - ▶ Sarah Ann Bixler, *associate dean*
- emu.edu/seminary
540-432-4260**

Conflict Transformation and Trauma Resilience Workshops

Equipping pastors and lay leaders on campus and online

emu.edu/seminary/workshops



*EMU prepares students to serve
and lead in a global context*

SPRING 2025

PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings to our friends from President Huxman at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU)!

In May, on a beautiful spring day, we sent forth 347 graduates to new opportunities and new communities with a charge to witness faithfully, serve compassionately, and walk boldly in the way of peace. This was the "COVID Class of 2024" --- many of whom entered in 2020 as we were engulfed in a pandemic and had never experienced a high school graduation or an in-person visit to campus. Two weeks later, EMU hosted the Marpeck Dean's Conference. This biennial Mennonite Higher Education Conference brought nearly 90 faculty and staff from Mennonite and Marpeck Fund institutions of higher education across the US and Canada.

During the spring semester, students traveled to Guatemala and Cuba where they lived with host families, studied Spanish, and traveled to other parts of the country. This summer, EMU students are experiencing intercultural learning in Switzerland and Italy, at the US/Mexico border, and in Washington, DC.

Two Key milestones for EMU:

1. The EMU at Lancaster campus moves to a new location in Lititz, PA in July. The facility, owned by the eCommerce tech company Listrak, Inc., will provide a more visible location, closer access to our flight training partner, the Lancaster Airport, and a growing network of partnerships with long-term care facilities.
2. The PBS Viewpoint Series with Dennis Quaid did a documentary on us. Their research revealed that we do diversity, equity and inclusion very well for a Christian university. You can go to [EMU's Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid website](#) to read the national news article and watch the 30-second commercial and the 6-minute documentary with the Dennis Quaid segment.

Finally, Eastern Mennonite Seminary (EMS) will launch a Doctor of Ministry in Peacemaking and Social Change in the fall of 2025, our second doctoral program at EMU (after Doctorate of Nursing Practice). This fully asynchronous doctoral program draws on EMU's reputation as a leader in peace and justice and taps into one of the few growing areas in theological education. 33% of current students are actively serving in pastoral leadership roles while attending seminary, half of our students are Mennonite, and half are preparing for ministry as a second or third career.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer and support,

In gratitude,

Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D.
President, EMU

How can EMU serve you?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker:
540-432-4200 or
ChurchRelations@emu.edu

Central District Conference Connections to EMU

Students

Spring semester 2025 has seven undergraduates, three seminary, and five graduate students enrolled from the Central District Mennonite Conference.

Giving

Central District Mennonite churches gave over \$35,300 in matching church grants to their students during the year ending June 2024.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, president
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, vice president for advancement
- ▶ **Laura Daily**, director of advancement operations
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, vice president for enrollment and strategic growth
- ▶ **Luke Litwiller**, director of undergrad admissions

Our Vision

We will open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice, and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.

Bible Department & Everence partner present a Weekend College

Professors Nick Ladd and Michele Hershberger joined with Everence to bring a Weekend College to Mountain States Conference of Mennonite Church USA. This conference, entitled There is a Balm in Gilead, focused on the topics of burn-out and polarization. Nick and Michele addressed these topics: causes and remedies for pastoral burn-out, a biblical understanding of unity and principles for leading conflictual groups toward healthy conversations. To bring these presentations to your conference, contact michele.hershberger@hesston.edu.



Michele Hershberger talks with pastors at Mountain States Mennonite Conference retreat in Denver.



Why Hesston College

An Ohio native, Isaac Troyer '22, '24, became familiar with the Hesston College Experience early on as part of the business management program. Now an HC alum, Isaac reflects on the close-knit community he found at Hesston. "We talked multiple times in class about the importance of having a safe, comfortable and nurturing environment in order to have an effective team," he says. "Our class works together well and made a safe place to learn and grow together. As I move on from Hesston, I am confident that the education I have received and the skills I have developed will help me succeed in the future."

Nursing Club shows support for local youth

The Hesston College Nursing Club demonstrated the greater Hesston community's generosity through a fundraising effort benefiting Hesston public schools to settle unpaid student lunch balances and enrollment fees. The club collected donations from local businesses, assembling three baskets to be offered through raffle ticket sales, and was able to meet their \$1,000 goal which will resolve the majority of overdue accounts for the school district.

Academic new direction

In fall 2023, the Hesston College Board of Directors announced the college will shift its academic focus to bachelor's degree offerings. Associate degrees, though still available to all students, will become secondary. "We have firmed up an identity for the college, one that is expressed in the programs we're setting up and relevant to today," says Dr. Ross Peterson-Veatch, interim president. Under this new direction, faculty developed three new four-year programs which are now approved to begin in fall 2024. They are: 1) health science (encompasses pre-medical, pre-vet, pre-dentistry, etc.); 2) health and human performance (pre-physical therapy, pre-athletic training and exercise science), with tracks in wellness and recreation sports studies; and 3) sports management. "Hesston looks to continue expanding our professional degree offerings," Peterson-Veatch shares. "We are currently preparing to explore computer science and related careers like cybersecurity."

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Vision: Healing & Hope

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Mission Statement

P*romote personal spiritual development*

N*urture healthy congregations*

M*ake strong connections throughout the conference*

C*all each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world.*



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