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Why a Resolution? A Letter From the Moderator



Dear PNMC family,

In just a few short weeks we will gather on the beautiful shores of Flathead lake, nestled in Montana's Rocky mountains, for our PNMC annual meeting. In our gathering the board will ask the delegates to deliberate on **A Call to Discipleship Amidst a Culture of Christian Nationalism**. This resolution was drafted collaboratively by myself and our Executive Conference Minister, Eric Massanari several months ago. It has been vetted and approved by the board. In short, it has been in my consciousness long enough that I no longer feel the need to justify its existence. But I realize that it is brand new to most of you, so I would like to briefly share with you why I believe that collectively discerning and eventually affirming this resolution is a valuable next step. I see three benefits to this course of action: this resolution reminds us who we are, it orients us into an affirmative stance and it reminds us that we are not alone.

We Mennonites are a small branch of a large and diverse faith community that spans the globe and is adapted differently in different cultural settings. While this faith community expresses tremendous diversity in our understanding and practice of faith, all branches of the community trace their origins back to the person of Jesus of Nazareth, whose life and teachings form the bedrock of our faith. This foundational identity faces a challenge by a powerful cultural movement that names itself as belonging to our faith community, Christian Nationalism, but has adopted ideology and practices that are antithetical to the witness of Jesus. As we seek to remain true to our faith in the face of this tremendous challenge it feels critical that we remember and re-affirm together who we are.

As the news cycle has become increasingly toxic and virulent over the last ten years I have often found myself gripped by moral outrage. I suspect that many of you can relate. But there is risk in giving that outrage too much space in our mind and heart. Back in my mountain biking days I learned—often in painful ways—that when I am relying on split-second reactions while traveling at speed down a technical trail, the bicycle steers towards the object of my focus. So if I want to stay on the path, I need to focus on the path. Focusing on the tree that I really want to avoid turns out to be a bad idea. I believe a similar dynamic is at play in this moment of challenge. We need to be guided and motivated by the good ends that our faith points us towards and not the toxic ends that we hope to avoid. I believe that this resolution will help to orient us into such an affirmative stance.

Finally, by discerning and affirming this resolution together we are reminded that we do not face this challenge alone. We may feel isolated in our everyday lives by holding a faith that seems so out of step with the mainstream, but we are not alone. When we walk the path of discipleship we are always in the presence of Jesus and our faith ancestors. But more concretely this resolution calls us to affirm that we face these challenging times together, providing mutual support and encouragement. While the news is bleak and the future seems uncertain, I am encouraged to be united in purpose and faith with you, my dear church family. And so I look forward to our meeting with hope and joy.

Chris Nord, PNMC Moderator

We look forward to seeing you in Montana!
Thank you to the folks at Mountain View Mennonite for your generous hospitality and help with logistics.



Thank you in advance for everyone's flexibility and grace as we navigate travel, group living, and shared spaces.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Bedding or sleeping bag & pillow (*Sleeping bags fit any bed!*) | Bring your personal toiletries, including sun screen
- Towels (*for showering and beach towels & swimsuit if you plan to enjoy the lake or the sauna!*)
- Flashlight, sturdy shoes, warm clothes for chilly evenings
- If you have one, please bring your copy of *Voices Together* | Bring your own copy of the *Delegate Handbook* (*digital or printed*)
- If food allergies are an issue, bring along some snacks for "just in case"
- **Bring your sense of adventure!** The camp setting allows for unique opportunities to disconnect from social media and phones in order to make meaningful, direct connections with one another.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

[Rooted and Grounded Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship: Sept. 18–20](#) | "Kinship with All Creation: Pursuing Relationship, Justice and Community." Speakers: Wendsler Nosie, Sr., PhD, of the Apache Stronghold and the American University of Sovereign Nations; T. Wilson Dickinson, PhD, of Lexington Theological Seminary; and Douglas Day Kaufman, ThM, of the Anabaptist Climate Collaborative. *Selected portions of the conference will be livestreamed.* Paper and workshop proposals due June 1. ams.edu/rootedandgrounded

Mennonite Church USA



Left: MC USA delegates at the [Mennonite World Conference](#) gathering at Schönblick Christliches Gästezentrum, Germany.

500 years ago the Anabaptist movement began with a separation. Today, Mennonite World Conference is thankful for harmonious relationships with Christian world communions.

We share a common witness to the gospel.

Representatives from 13 global communions and 3 multilateral ecumenical organizations have recently gathered in Zurich for the commemoration of the global Anabaptist family.

#anabaptism500 #mwcm #TheCourageToLove

"There's a book called *Anabaptist Essentials* and it says that Jesus is the centre of our faith, community is the centre of our lives, and reconciliation is the centre of our work. That's Mennonite World Conference and that's why I'm part of this global body."

Ron Byler, [Mennonite Central Committee - MCC](#)

[Click here](#) to watch a brief interview with Ron Byler.



Upcoming e-Bulletins:

June 16 (*submissions due by 6/9*)

July 14 (*submissions due by 7/7*)

Aug 4 (*submissions by 7/28*)

Aug 18 (*submissions due by 8/11*)

If you would like to contribute, please send a brief announcement in Spanish & English with website links to brenda@pnmc.org. Our goal is to provide a valuable resource, not an In-Box jammer. If space is tight, we may omit announcements that are not as pertinent to PNMC. Announcements will run ONE time only, unless specified otherwise. *We welcome your feedback!*

For more PNMC updates: <http://pnmc.org> e-Bulletin Archives: <http://pnmc.org/Resources/eBulletin>