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Duncan Smith Appointed as PNMC's Conference Safety Liaison

Eric Massanari, Executive Conference Minister

With the adoption of the new **Abuse Prevention & Accountability Resource**, the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference joins all other MC USA conferences in appointing a **Conference Safety Liaison (CSL)**. The essential functions of the conference CSLs will include:



- Attending regular abuse prevention and response trainings with the Denominational Minister for Church Safety (DMCS)
- Facilitate abuse prevention and response training with credentialed ministers in our conference
- Facilitate abuse prevention and response training for PNMC congregations
- Assist the conference ministry team in ensuring that all candidates for ministry positions in PNMC, together with all credentialed ministry leaders, have completed the Ministerial Leadership Information (MLI) process and undergone appropriate background checks
- Ensure compliance with the MCUSA Abuse Prevention & Accountability Resource at the conference level
- Together with the DMCS, receiving and serving as a first responder for allegations of ministerial abuse within the conference

Within PNMC we are establishing this as a volunteer position, very similar to our existing District Pastor roles in the conference. Like our District Pastors, the CSL will receive a monthly stipend (\$250) and support for expenses incurred while fulfilling duties.

I am grateful and pleased to be able to share with you that **Duncan Smith**, former PNMC Conference Minister and outgoing Director of the MCUSA Corinthian Plan, has agreed to serve as our first PNMC Conference Safety Liaison. We are excited to have Duncan's wealth of experience and pastoral gifts to help shape this important new role!

Mark your calendar for the **2026 Conference Communications Council**.

The CCC will take place **Saturday, January 31**, beginning at 8:30 that morning on Zoom. **Pastor Samuel Moran** of Ministerios Restauración, Portland, OR, will be presenting.

We will keep you informed as details come together, but for now, here is an overview of the day's agenda: (All times are PST.)

- 8:30am Welcome, Eric Massanari, ECM
- 8:45 Opening prayer and Lectio meditation - Eric
- 9:00 Guest Speaker: **Samuel Moran**, Pastor of Ministerios Restauracion (Portland, OR)
- 9:45 BREAK
- 10:00 Roll call and sharing from our PNMC congregations - **Karla Morton**, Moderator
- 10:50 BREAK
- 11:00 Board-led reporting and agenda -- Karla
- Noon Closing prayer and adjourn

Don't delay! Online registration is available [HERE](#).

We are thankful for you!
 Anything you can give to support healthy congregations in PNMC would be most welcome.
 The "Conference" is all of us.

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The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference appreciates your support. Please consider a gift to help PNMC continue its work.

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Gifts can be sent by check to:
 PNMC, 22455 Finn Rd., Sheridan, OR 97378
 Online donations can be made [at this link](#).

We are so grateful for your support!

Portland Mennonite Church Hosts Anabaptist Symposium

Kristen Swartley, Portland Mennonite Church

On **November 7-9**, PMC offered a symposium with the theme “**Anabaptism @ 501: Practicing Faith – Weaving the Work of Justice.**” **Nekeisha Alayna Alexis** and **Jamie Pitts**, both from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), led the gathered group through a reflection on the 500 year anniversary of our Anabaptist faith, what it means to practice our faith today, and how we might look forward into the next 500 years.



Throughout the weekend, leaders used the imagery of weaving and we had a visual centerpiece that featured a large loom. People brought items that represented their Anabaptist identity and practice to place around the loom. We talked about weaving together various threads of our Anabaptist story and practice. When PMC has recently talked about the church we dream of becoming, we have named some contrasting themes. We want to be true to our Anabaptist history and clear about who we are in this identity. On the other hand, we want to be inclusive of people who are new and different. How do we hold these two very different things together or **how might we weave these themes together?** We might think that these are easy things to do. But, holding our Anabaptist story well could take some work. And, being inclusive is not just a name we give ourselves, we must continually work at how we are engaging the “other” and breaking down social injustices. So, we invited some special speakers here to help us reflect on some of these threads and invited folks from PNMC churches to join us.

Similarly, Jamie and Nekeisha work in different disciplines and brought different threads of learning. Nekeisha Alayna Alexis is a speaker/consultant for AMBS. She supports individuals, communities and organizations, as they grow in intercultural competence, challenge systems of White and other domination, work at undoing racism, and create spaces of justice, belonging, right relationships and joy. Jamie Pitts is professor of Anabaptist theology and history, and his teaching includes an emphasis on global Anabaptist traditions past and present. His current research interests include theological method, pneumatology, reconciliation, and postcolonial mission. During the weekend, Nekeisha offered us the thread of being strategic about our work at intercultural competence and undoing racism, and Jamie offered us the thread of reflecting on how Anabaptists throughout history have related to the Holy Spirit. We attempted to weave these ideas together, and through these lenses we had conversations about what it means to be Anabaptist in this world today and into our future.

The weekend started on Friday night with a worshipful introduction to our themes. Saturday morning, Jamie led us in a workshop on the Holy Spirit, and Nekeisha did consulting work with PMC’s Racial Justice and Sanctuary of Belonging teams. We had a delicious lunch of Venezuelan food made by the **Lopez family**. We then heard from Jamie and Nekeisha about some of the ways that we can weave together the threads they brought us. We got a chance to have discussion about the recent books they have both published. Throughout the weekend we shared times of prayer, discussion, and singing together. Nekeisha and Jamie stayed to preach for PMC’s Sunday morning service and had a Q&A during our Sunday School hour following the service. Nekeisha also joined Ministerios Restauración on Sunday afternoon for their worship service and preached a sermon which was translated by **Nelly Ascencio**.

Various people joined us this weekend. We had many PMCsers involved, an average of 30-40 at any given time, and somewhere around 50 people throughout the weekend. We had one attendee from Salem Mennonite Church and several from Ministerios Restauración. We are grateful for the work of **Madga Moreno** who we hired to interpret during the weekend and for a generous grant from the PNMC that made this interpretation possible. Additionally, we had many volunteers help out in different ways. We are so grateful for all those who helped make this event possible for people at PMC and our larger regional conference!



During this weekend we worked at weaving various threads together. In celebrating our 500 year history as Anabaptists, we drew the thread of Anabaptist history and stories, and thought about what these things mean for us today. We drew the thread of wondering what it means to practice our faith today – and noted that working at peace and justice are integral to how we enact our faith. We drew the thread of thinking theologically about the Holy Spirit with questions like: what does it mean to listen for the Holy Spirit’s calling in our lives, not just in movements that arise but in our institutions? We drew on the thread of antiracism work and how to be strategic about making change. These threads and frameworks will continue to give us inspiration as we move into 501 years of Anabaptism and beyond.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Camp CAMREC

CAMREC, Leavenworth, WA, is looking for a self-starter with broad maintenance skills and a passion to further the camp's mission through facilities and grounds maintenance with a focus on safety and care for the natural environment. CAMREC is located on 240 acres in the east foothills of the Cascade Mountains where douglas and grand firs, ponderosa pines, vine maples, and wildflowers abound, providing a natural habitat for birds and animals. CAMREC provides year-round retreat from the daily noise of life to renew the gift of peace found in God's creation. Recreational opportunities nearby include downhill and cross country skiing, white water rafting, rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, and trail running. The flexible, year-round, full-time position includes provided housing. Quality schools and nearby employment opportunities are available 12 miles away in the Bavarian themed tourist town of Leavenworth or 4 miles away in Plain. For a full position description, including details on how to apply, please visit camrec.org.

Evergreen Mennonite Church

Mennonite Action Washington just wrapped the first part of a project we called Community Quilting for Palestine. **Pastor Amy Epp** explained, "We're very aware in the Seattle area that Mennonites are a small community and that we benefit from collaborating with our allies and neighbors in justice movements. With that in mind we reached out to churches around Seattle to see if they'd like to join us in one of the things that Mennonites love: quilting. Over the course of three Saturdays in October and November we were hosted by three different communities, engaged over 30 quilters, of all ages and genders, some of whom had never quilted before, some of whom were our guides and teachers. We used many shades of the Palestinian flag with contributions from many fabric stashes to put together not one but two quilts!"



Pastor Amy explained that the intention behind this project was and is both to building solidarity and community here in our region between Mennonites and our Christian kin and to be in solidarity with the people of Gaza. In the second phase of the project, we are calling on all of our networks to support this solidarity work by entering to win one of the quilts. We invite anyone and everyone who would like to both support this project and care for people in Gaza to donate to the Sameer Project. Every donation, no matter the amount, will be entered once to win. After donating, send confirmation of your gift (we recommend \$20 or whatever you can afford) to MennoniteActionWA@gmail.com. The deadline is **December 16**, and the first draw will get first choice of the two quilts.

With the winter setting in and famine and hunger no longer in the news, our friends in Gaza need us more than ever. Please join us and share this opportunity with anyone who might be interested! More videos and images of this project can be found and shared on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).

Mountain View Mennonite Church



Folks from MVMC gathered in mid-November to host the church's annual **International Gift Festival**. MVMC member **Twila Brenneman** leads a local retail shop and has an incredible eye for staging the festive gathering. The event not only supports fair-trade artisans but also welcomes valley neighbors for a beloved annual tradition. After months of planning, the festivities began with the church's unwrapping party the Sunday before the sale, then Twila's family and many local friends mark their calendar to fly out, volunteer and help the congregation with the sale which will support education, medical relief and creative artisans transforming their communities around the world. In addition to the sale which raised close to 20k, through a concert and local pie auction that weekend another \$1,800 was raised for The Sparrow's Nest - a local non-profit housing and offering wrap-around support to homeless HS students pursuing their education and graduation.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mennonite Church USA

Click [here](#) to jump in on the Advent at Home resources and [here](#) for the latest edition of *PeaceMail*.

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Dec 15 (submissions due by 12/8)

Jan 5 (submissions due by 12/29)

Jan 19 (submissions due by 1/12)

Feb 2 (submissions by 1/26)

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>