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## Drew Strait Workshop in Idaho

Julie Allyn, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship

On an unseasonably warm November weekend, the ecumenical community in Boise, ID was grateful to welcome **Dr. Drew Strait** to speak on the history, movement, and trajectory of Christian nationalism in the United States. This political ideology has resulted in social and political problems, as it encourages divisiveness and othering, while directly targeting marginalized communities with oppressive legislation, discrimination, and outright xenophobia. Perhaps the most overt expression of this harmful ideology culminated in the Capitol Insurrection on January 6, 2021, during which people made nationalism their faith, with the flag as their idol. This prompted Drew to research and write *Strange Worship: 6 Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism*, on the idolatry of nationalism, and reclaiming Christianity by teaching and living God's kingdom values as demonstrated in the life and teachings of Jesus.

Drew's Saturday seminar, hosted at Boise First Congregational United Church of Christ, was attended by over 220 people from at least 12 congregations from across the Treasure Valley. He also took time to meet with 19 local clergy and faith leaders on Friday at the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, and preached for 3 congregations at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship on Sunday morning. This weekend of ecumenical education and fellowship was organized by 6 congregations who are members of the Interfaith Equality Coalition in Idaho. We were able to fundraise and organize over about 3 months to bring this weekend with Drew to Boise.

Our weekend with Drew strengthened existing ecumenical relationships and invited new ones to develop. This group will continue to organize interfaith events and actions, including vigils and demonstrations at the Idaho Statehouse during the upcoming legislative session. We are currently working on a merger with Interfaith Alliance, a national coalition of faith-based communities engaged in social justice activism. This partnership will provide us with more resources to support the work of challenging Christian nationalism in our state, and the ills that it causes. I am heartened that Drew's weekend in Boise has inspired ongoing community organizing in interfaith spaces to resist oppression through non-violent action. To learn more about Drew's work and book, I encourage you to visit [drewstrait.com](http://drewstrait.com).



Delegates at the PNMC Annual Meeting in Kalispell, MT voted in June to pass the **2025 Resolution**. The document is a *Call to Discipleship Amidst a Culture of Christian Nationalism*. For clarity, the Resolution was recently amended by the PNMC Board of Directors to include a definition of the term Christian Nationalism. Find the updated version [here](https://www.pnmc.org).

## Love Grows Deep

by Jaqui Eicher

These deep, dreamy groves  
inside me have been found  
(I thought they'd  
disappeared—  
the way of unused things).

These sweet, drowsy places:  
I was never sure of their existence  
but caught glimpses of them  
as I grew and loved, and lost.

Now sunlight enrobes what  
has been all my life shaded.  
Love grows extraordinarily  
deep in the humus of struggle.

Promise of fruit greets me  
every day and I wait, patient,  
as the graceful seeds growing  
unfold with time, and blossom.

Meet Jaqui:



"I currently work part time as a Chaplain at Mennonite Village in Albany where I am responsible for giving a message to different care areas three times a week, every other week. I also teach some therapeutic art classes and lead a book circle in addition to leading hymn sings occasionally.

I also work part time as the Youth Coordinator at Albany Mennonite Church, leading Sunday School every other week and organizing Youth activities.

All of this work is undergirded by my studies at AMBS as a student in the Journey program, which I am deeply invested in and find extremely rewarding."

**Conference Communication Council, Sat., Jan. 31, 8:30am –12:00pm (PST/Zoom)**

**Pastor Samuel Moran** of Ministerios Restauración, Portland, OR, will present



(with live interpretation) on "El Ministerio de Todos Los Santos" (*The Ministry of All the Saints*). During the Roll-Call, Karla will invite one congregation at a time to introduce themselves and share a response to the question that build upon Samuel's topic: **How does your community invite "the ministry of all the saints" in your congregational life?** Eric will welcome folks as they gather at 8:30am followed with an opening prayer and meditation. Samuel will present at 9:00am and the Roll-Call sharing, led by Karla, will begin at 10:00am. The board will report at 11:00am and adjourn at approximately

12:00pm. **Don't delay! Register online [HERE](#) by January 23!**

## PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

### Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

All are invited to attend the upcoming **PNMHS Annual Meeting, Saturday, February 21, 2026**, at Zion Mennonite Church. The event kicks off with a luncheon and business meeting at 12:00pm. The 1:30pm program will follow featuring **Jeryl Hollinger** with the presentation entitled **Montana Bound—A history of the Mountain View Mennonite Church, Kalispell, MT.** *Jeryl and his wife, Mary, live in the foothills of the Swan Mountains in northwest MT. His spare time goes into a variety of community clubs and fruit trees, berry bushes, and vegetable garden that feed them most of the year. Jeryl is the retired pastor of the Mt. View congregation.* The luncheon cost is \$15/person. An RSVP is needed for lunch only. To reserve a meal, contact **Jerry Barkman** by **February 13** at [treasurer-pnmhs@canby.com](mailto:treasurer-pnmhs@canby.com) or 503-871-6413. An offering to support the work of the Historical Society will be taken and guests are invited to visit the archives following the afternoon presentation.

### Seattle Mennonite Church

Seattle Mennonite Church, located in the Lake City neighborhood of Seattle, invites applications for the position of **Property Manager**. This is a permanent, part-time, on-site position that executes the daily, weekly, and monthly tasks related to administering church properties. SMC has a small campus of three buildings and parking lots, and are looking for a great candidate to join the team. The Property Manager is responsible for the church's financial, legal, and compliance matters as they relate to its properties. The Property Manager is also responsible for overall property and project management. This position works in close collaboration with the volunteer Stewardship Council, the Maintenance Manager, pastors, and staff. A full job description and desired qualifications can be found [here](#).

## MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### Eastern Mennonite Seminary

#### [Practicing Conflict Transformation in Community Training Event](#)

Take up the tools you need to navigate conflicts and respond to harms with clarity and compassion. Whether you're a community leader, educator, faith leader, or seeking healthier relationships, this training offers practical, real-life strategies. Through interactive sessions, real-world scenarios, and reflective practice, learn how to transform conflicts into opportunities for growth and positive change. [Learn more and register today.](#) **March 12-14, 2026**, Village Church, Beaverton, OR.

### Mennonite Church USA

The recent issue of *PeaceMail* has several articles to note:

1. **Nancy Kauffmann** article on maintaining **Safe Church** policies [here](#) and a webinar opportunity [here](#).
2. There is time to register for the upcoming [grief and resilience webinar](#) on **January 22**.
3. Learn about MMN's Anti-racism grants [here](#). | Application deadline is **Jan. 31, 2026**.

### Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Feb 2 (submissions by 1/26)

Feb 16 (submissions due by 2/9)

Mar 2 (submissions due by 2/23)

Mar 16 (submissions due by 3/9)

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

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