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Seeking Unity Through Nonconformity—2026 PNMC Annual Meeting

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister



PACIFIC NORTHWEST
MENNONITE CONFERENCE

ANNUAL MEETING

Albany Mennonite Church, June 25-28, 2026

"Seeking Unity Through Nonconformity".
Luke 6:17-47 / Sermon on the Plain

The PNMC Annual Meeting is the one wonderful time each year that we come together in person from across the broad geographic sweep of our conference community. During these days of fellowship, worship, learning, play and mutual discernment we nurture the health and wellbeing of our vibrant PNMC community, and with God's help we inspire our common ministry in the world. This gathering is open to all, and we hope that YOU can join us this year in Albany, OR (**June 25-28**)!

We are grateful to be hosted by the **Albany Mennonite congregation**, together with the support of **Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship**. We chose our theme, "**Seeking Unity Through Nonconformity**," as a way to explore together what it means to be followers of the Way of Jesus in these times of great turbulence, violence and upheaval in our global human community. How are we called to bear witness, with our whole lives, to the Way of Christ in the world today? How does this Way call us to move beyond many of the ideologies and entrenched positions that too often keep people apart from one another? In what ways does Christ's Love call us to live in nonconformity with the patterns and structures of the society in which we live?

To help us reflect on this theme, we will ground ourselves in a passage of scripture that has long been a centering text for Anabaptist Christians: **The Sermon on the Mount** (or, as it is described in the Gospel of Luke, "The Sermon on the Plain"). The words of **Luke 6:17-47** will guide us as we listen also for what 16th century Anabaptist **Hans Denck** described as the "**inward Word of God**" that speaks in the depths of our listening hearts.

You will hear sermons from **Dwight Friesen** (Professor of Applied Theology at the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology), **Rachel Ringenberg Miller** (Denominational Minister of Church Vitality for Mennonite Church USA), and **Rachael Weasley** (Pastor of Community of Hope Church in Bellingham, WA). You will join in a wide variety of rich seminars and workshops, and we will gather in communal discernment and dialog in our plenary sessions. And we **will sing and play and break bread together!**

Come join us!

Thursday, June 25:

1-4pm Ministry leaders retreat
4:30-7 Ministry leaders picnic
6:30 Registration opens at Albany Mennonite Church
7:30 Opening gathering & Hymn Sing

Friday, June 26:

8:30-10am Morning Worship
10:30—Noon Plenary Session
12pm Lunch at AMC
1:30 Seminar/Activity Period 1
2:45 Break
3:15 Seminar/Activity Period 2
4:30—7:00pm
Dinner on your own
7-8:30pm Evening Activity

Saturday, June 27:

8:30-10am Morning Worship
10:30—Noon Plenary Session
12pm Lunch at AMC
1:30 Seminar/Activity Period 1
2:45 Break
3:15 Seminar/Activity Period 2
4:30—7:00pm
Dinner on your own
7-8:30pm Evening Activity

Sunday, June 28:

Morning brunch and concluding worship together at Albany Mennonite Church

Look for registration details at www.pnmc.org later this week. Hotel information will be posted soon. If you plan to book a room, plan early as availability wanes in the summer months.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



First Mennonite Church of McMinnville

Following a prolonged illness, former pastor **Simon Rendon** of McMinnville, OR, passed away. Simon was the former and longtime pastor of Iglesia Rio de Vida and River of Life Fellowship (now First Mennonite Church of McMinnville). He was involved with the McMinnville congregation for more than 60 years and retired in 2024. Simon was a key facilitator of PNMC's connection with sister Mennonite congregations of Northwest México in Sinaloa and Sonora, where he built many lasting relationships through annual trips to serve there. Simon's wife, [Socorro](#), died in late November of 2025. Their family welcomes your prayers at this time of grieving and giving thanks for his richly lived life in loving service to many. Simon and Socorro dedicated their lives to serving others. They each will live on in the lives of the thousands of people they blessed and led to personal relationships with our one and only Savior, Christ Jesus. Please hold them in your heart of prayer. Read his obituary [here](#).

Ministerios Restauración

Ministerios Restauracion, Portland, OR, is **grateful for the ongoing prayers and support of sister PNMC congregations**, as threats to immigrant communities have increased. When two members of the congregation were detained and deported to Guatemala in January, many of you responded with prayers, messages of concern, and contributions to fundraisers established by friends of the two men detained. Both men have now been reunited with their spouses and children in Guatemala, and are trying to adapt to this unexpected turn of events. The Ministerios Restauracion congregation is accepting donations for Erwin, to help support his family of four children. Please send checks to Ministerios Restauracion at 1312 SE 35th Ave., Portland OR 97214-4236.

Salem Mennonite Church

Conscientious Objector Workshop, Saturday, May 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at SMC (1045 Candlewood Dr. N, Salem)

With recent conflicts around the world, many young people are exploring their convictions about participation in war. This workshop will guide participants through the process and help them prepare the necessary documentation. **Who should attend:** High school and college students, recent graduates, parents, grandparents, pastors, youth pastors, and interested adults. Join us with **Nathan Toews**, Peace Education Coordinator with Mennonite Central Committee, to learn how to apply for conscientious objector status. For more information, contact Pastor Karla, pastor@salemmennonitechurch.org.

Please note: *The Selective Service will begin to automatically register young men between the ages of 18-25 in December as part of the [2026 National Defense Authorization Act](#) and the Army has raised its "[maximum recruitment age](#)" to 42 years, which causes concern over a possible military draft. Men, in particular, are in this pool and it's important that if you are a CO, that you begin the process of making it known as soon as possible. With the automation of Selective Service Registration, you will no longer be able to write on a card that you are a Conscientious Objector, so it's imperative to begin that process soon. Please share this information with those who you believe would be in this age range of 18-42 years of age. We don't know what this current administration will do, but since they wish to change the "Department of Defense" to the "Department of War", it would appear to many that starting wars and/or engaging in war is a priority. We can see that with the incursion into Venezuela and the current war with Iran.*

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society

Click [here](#) to read the [PNMHS Spring Newsletter!](#) The 2026 Spring edition of the "Our Heritage" newsletter draws heavily on historical material found in our archival holdings. In this issue you will find:

1. A summary of our February 21 annual meeting featuring a history of the Mountain View Mennonite Church in Creston, MT as told by former **Pastor Jeryl Hollinger**.
2. A continuation from our fall newsletter of the interesting communications between the PCC Mission Board and **Allan Good**, Pastor of Portland Mennonite Gospel Mission from 1922 to 1932.
3. A story from a 1994 edition of the Societies newsletter about Zion Mennonite burial practices in 1911.
4. A collection of letters to the Words of Cheer publication from Oregon writers seeking pen pals.
5. A letter to the Weekly Budget in 1895 by an Oregon writer who shared about her three-day trip to get to the Oregon coast.

We welcome your feedback! Please let us know if you find these types of historical articles of interest. It will help guide us as we produce future issues. Also, if you would rather receive future issues by mail, let us know at pnmhs.volunteer@gmail.com.



Drift Creek Camp

Register now for summer programs for youth grades Kindergarten through 12.

Online registration is available [here](#).

If you know of a child who would benefit from the camp experience, consider a "campship" to make it possible for them to attend. Your gift supports both the child and Drift Creek!

Buddy Camp: June 12-14; **Grades 3 & 4:** June 14-19; **High School Camp:** June 21-26
Grades 7 & 8: June 28-July 3; **Grades 5 & 6:** July 5-10

Basketry

A simple act of integration—
weaving what we've been given
into something good,
maybe even useful.



Wholeness springs
from meager parts:
long scented pine needles
from our forest path,
and simple needle
pulling waxed thread.



Holding these together
is humanity:
loving hands
turn parts into whole
to help you carry your load.

-Jaqui Eicher
Albany Mennonite Church

MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mennonite Voluntary Service

Are you a young adult (or know a young adult) who is wondering “what's next?” Do you want space, time, and support to further discern the path of your life? Are you spiritually curious? Do you wonder what it means to live your values in the world? Are you interested in building intentional community as you actively serve others? Joining Mennonite Voluntary Service might be right for you! MVS is a faith-based nonprofit rooted in Mennonite Church USA. Each local site partners with area nonprofits and community based organizations to serve the community's needs and work toward social justice by pairing young adults with work experiences. This transformative opportunity is designed to challenge and support you during a time of change and uncertainty, helping you discern in your vocational and spiritual journeys. Becoming a fellow of MVS requires a willingness to engage in anti-racist and compassionate social justice practice, learning more about what living a life of service means for you. As a Fellow, you will explore what it means to live your values in the world, challenging racism, inequality, and environmental degradation, all while sustaining your spirit and developing meaningful relationships. This is a program of personal, professional, and spiritual growth rooted in social justice values. Young adults in any faith tradition, including no faith tradition, are invited to explore and discern individual calling while living together in intentional community.

Reach out to any local leader to find out what life is like in the MVS program.

Alamosa, CO: Alice Price aliceprice1950@gmail.com

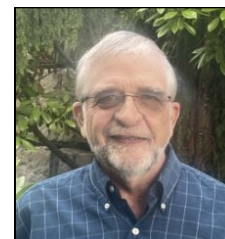
San Francisco, CA: Joanna Lawrence Shenk joanna@menno.org

Tucson, AZ: Lisa Showalter tucson.mvs@gmail.com

Mennonite Church USA

For the last 12 years **Duncan Smith** has served as **Director of The Corinthian Plan**. In reflecting on the assignment, he said, “It has been my privilege. Serving in this position has been both fulfilling and challenging. It is time for someone to serve with new energy and ideas.” Duncan’s tenure as Director concluded in the spring of this year and in looking back, Duncan expressed his gratitude for the congregations who have participated. He explained, “Without congregations participating with their staff, obviously, there is no TCP. I have enjoyed interacting and troubleshooting with many of you, especially when we met your needs.” *Read more [here](#).*

By sponsoring The Corinthian Plan, MC USA has provided opportunity for congregations to access comprehensive health coverage. The intent of The Corinthian Plan has been to find ways to provide the best comprehensive health plan and other benefits at the best cost. In many ways TCP has succeeded, even in the midst of current challenges. **Susan Burkholder** has been named the new TCP Director. She will bring new energy and ideas at a critical time in the life of The Corinthian Plan.



Listening Through Our Bodies

by Iris de Leon-Hartshorn

In the MC USA 2026 Spring Newsletter, Iris de Leon-Hartshorn shares a personal reflection about her weight loss journey. Iris works for Mennonite Church USA as Associate Executive Director of Operations. She lives in Portland, OR with her husband of 53 years, Leo, whom she describes as the love of her life. In this reflection, Iris takes a vulnerable look at her own health and generously shares ideas for discovering ways to treat our bodies as the temples that God created.

Follow [this link](#) to read more.

Eastern Mennonite Seminary

Not every leader is called to the pulpit, but every leader is called to lead faithfully. The [MA in Christian Leadership](#) prepares students for church, nonprofit and community-based leadership. With this flexible, 48-credit program, participants will gain:

- A strong theological foundation for leadership
- Options to focus on areas like restorative justice, youth ministry, or peacebuilding
- Hybrid and online formats that fit into your life and ministry
- Opportunity to work towards APC board certification if interested in chaplaincy

Mennonite Church USA

Follow [this link](#) to read the latest edition of *PeaceMail*.

Upcoming e-Bulletins

May 4 (submissions by 4/28)

May 18 (submissions by 5/11)

June 1 (submissions by 5/25)

June 15 (submissions by 6/8)

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>