



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

Please share widely. If you receive this e-bulletin via more than one address, let us know which address you prefer. To submit announcements or manage your subscription, email brenda@pnmc.org. See schedule on second page for publication dates and submission deadlines.

Conflict Transformation Training

Karla Morton, PNMC Moderator

A mid-March conflict transformation workshop was held in Beaverton, OR. The training brought together MC USA, MCC, and EMU, which excited me! It's not often that we have a workshop here in the West from our institutions in the Midwest and East. Interestingly, the training was sponsored by a "nominal" Baptist congregation, The Village Church Beaverton. This is a congregation that is very multi-cultural, and one of their pastors had been a part of a training a year ago and wanted to bring what she learned to more of the church's leadership! This was a blessing for us, although I do wish that more Mennonites had been in attendance.



Women of MC USA who attended the Conflict Resolution Training

It was a rich experience to be a part of a multi-cultural faith community. The congregation's leadership was warm and welcoming to those of us joining from the West (and a few Canadians came, too). The Mennonites in attendance were from the PNMC, Mountain States Mennonite Conference, and Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference. Besides me, **Kiara Yoder** and **Pastor Kristen Swartley** represented PNMC congregations (Zion and Portland respectively). It was nice to welcome members of the broader Mennonite Church to the PNW.

Our workshop leaders were **Sue Park-Hur, Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, and Jim Amstutz**. We learned about trauma and to understand how it impacts us as individuals and congregations. We used case studies to discuss and role-play difficult issues and ways to engage within situations where conflict occurs, as we know that even in our churches we have conflict.

I found it interesting to engage with people in a different stream of the Christian faith tradition to learn and practice peacemaking and conflict transformation. We were reminded that conflict is common and when engaged in with love and respect can lead to new growth. To be honest, I would love to have the reason that The Village Church Beaverton may have had in wanting this workshop – many cultures in one congregation! Learning to manage and navigate cultural differences in order to strengthen the community of faith may have been the impetus for this workshop/training, and it led to new connections for many of us in the Mennonite community.



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

Save the dates!

Registration
Coming soon!

Look to pnmc.org

Thursday, June 25:

1-4pm Ministry leaders retreat
4:30-7 Ministry leaders dinner
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

Reporting from the Trees/Land/Jesus Delegation to the West Bank of Palestine

On Zoom: Tuesday, April 7 6:30-8:00pm Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting | <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83870395987> | Meeting ID: 838 7039 5987

You are invited to join in an evening meetup on Zoom to hear stories from PNMC members who joined in the recent *Trees/Land/Jesus Delegation to Palestine*, sponsored by MennoPIN and Mennonite Men. Our group spent almost three weeks in the West Bank of Palestine, planting olive trees with Palestinian farmers and meeting with Palestinian peacemakers, theologians and activists. We are eager to share our experience and hope you can join us! If you have questions please contact **Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister** at eric@pnmc.org.

PNMC Representatives:

Portland Mennonite Church: Lisa Hughes, Tyler Friesen, Noah Massanari

Seattle Mennonite Church: Liam Elias, Morlin Elias

Evergreen Heights Mennonite Church: Mike Oesch, Lorren Oesch, Jake Holub

PNMC Conference Minister: Eric Massanari



Turning Toward

Adapted from a Palm Sunday reflection at Portland Mennonite Church, March 29th, 2026:

Written by Trees/Land/Jesus Delegation participant, Noah Massanari

As we enter into the Easter season, we each carry many things: suffering, hope, grief, joy. We carry a dissonance among them. This week, as I revisit and listen to stories centered in Jerusalem, I carry the memories of my first day spent in occupied East Jerusalem, along with those of the Menno PIN and Mennonite Men olive tree planting delegation in Palestine this February. The delegation joined the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center at several stops along their Via Dolorosa path, a contemporary Way of the Cross that links Jesus' suffering to the Palestinian struggle as participants visit sites that carry significance in the history (past and present) of the ethnic cleansing and occupation of Palestinian people. One such station was the rubble of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) headquarters. UNRWA provides education, health services, and relief aid to more than 5 million displaced Palestinians across the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. In January of this year, in an escalation of the already existing repression of UNRWA's operations, Israeli authorities bulldozed this complex, further eroding the status of Palestinian refugees.

As we walked in prayer around the facility, listened to stories and testimony, and engaged in the civil act of bearing witness, I became aware at this moment of my internal impulse to turn away. I was reminded of our tendency, often in our privileged lives, to detach ourselves from suffering and brokenness, turning away from the realities of colonial and oppressive power in its many forms, and from consideration of our own complicity in the systems that perpetuate them. Our delegation was challenged and asked by those we met, on this day and throughout our time in the West Bank to not turn away. To turn instead toward Palestinian's suffering and to walk alongside in shared struggle. One invitation came in the form of a sign posted at the Tent of Nations farm where we joined with the Nassar family to plant trees. It read: "If you come only to help me, then you can go back home. But if you consider my struggle as part of your own survival, then perhaps we can work together."

I am deeply grateful for the many people we met and shared space with in the West Bank who embody a spirit of courageous solidarity. We witnessed farmers' steadfast commitment to being of and with the land, educators joyfully creating spaces that empower children and young people, and humanitarian organizations working tirelessly to provide resources to refugees and displaced people. All of these acts are rooted in a shared struggle and a shared hope.

With the following prayer, I invite each of us to consider what we are carrying, what we may be asked to turn toward, and what we may be asked to walk alongside.

*Root of peace and branch of mercy,
guide us as we enter the world with humility and vulnerability,
embracing the mystery of your unitive presence.*

*Strengthen our commitment to the way of peace and justice
as we turn toward brokenness, towards dissonance,
as we walk alongside one another
on the path of healing.*

-Noah Massanari



Noah Massanari

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Bend Mennonite Church

Please hold PNMC Moderator-Elect, **Janette Wisseman** and her husband, **Darrel**, in prayer. Darrel recently suffered two strokes. He is recovering at home with Janette providing care. There is much to navigate and they appreciate your prayerful support.

Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship — Meet new pastor, Jonathan Mark:

I grew up in Goshen, IN, and attended Kern Road Mennonite Church. I studied environmental studies and peace, justice, & conflict studies at Goshen College. These studies opened my heart to the wounds of humanity and God's creation. Yet, I did not know what vocation God was calling me toward. After graduating I spent a year of MVS in Seattle, WA. It was there that various mentors at Seattle Mennonite inspired me to pursue pastoral ministry. So, I attended seminary at Duke Divinity School to get a wider view of Christianity beyond the Mennonite perspective. My first pastoral position was at First Mennonite Church in Reedley, CA from 2019-2026. Then I accepted the call to serve Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship starting in March 2026.



So far, I have enjoyed serving the church. It has been invigorating to study our ancient scriptures and still find meaning for our lives today. How does Noah's covenant with God and every living creature bind us to creation in our industrialized world? How does the Levitical command to love the stranger as a native-born shape our response to policies of mass deportation? I've always focused on obedience to Christ, teaching people how to listen to the voice of the prophets and Jesus and respond faithfully. Yet it touches my heart how people come up to me after a sermon which I thought was challenging to tell me how thankful they are for my words of comfort and reassurance, which is the Holy Spirit speaking into their lives when I did not even know they were going through a difficult time.

I am thankful for the opportunity to come to the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. I am thankful for our conference minister, Eric, who has been a great support over the years. I am thankful for being a little closer to my family in Oregon. I am thankful for this fellowship in the city of Boise that has welcomed me with such warmth. I look forward to my time among you.

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.

Mennonite Disaster Service, Oregon Unit

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the OR Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service is scheduled for **April 25, 2026**, at St. Barnabus Episcopal Church, 2201 SW Vermont St., Portland, OR. To register, please contact Clyde Hockman, by email at agent1943@canby.com or by phone at 503-592-4490 before the **April 18, 2026 deadline**. Please include your name, email address and telephone number. The free event will begin at 9:00AM and a complimentary lunch will be provided. Speaker **Ralph Bloeman** will address fire mitigation in our communities and **Quinn Butler** will present on flood and earthquake preparation.



MENNONITE CHURCH USA & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

AMBS Trees of Life Retreat: May 29–30 (Friday at AMBS; Saturday at Camp Friedenswald).

This retreat led by **Janeen Bertsche Johnson, MDiv, DMin** candidate, will weave together study of biblical texts about trees; understanding of trees as organisms and within ecosystems; ecological issues; and spiritual practices. It can be taken for credit or as a noncredit retreat. Limit: 15 participants. Register by May 4 for the for-credit course or by May 22 for the noncredit retreat. ambs.edu/trees

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary 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. Explore a variety of learning opportunities at ambs.edu.

Mennonite Church USA

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

Upcoming e-Bulletins:

Apr 20 (submissions due by 4/13)

May 4 (submissions due by 4/20)

May 18 (submissions due by 5/11)

June 1 (submissions by 5/25)

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>

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference | 22455 Finn Rd. | Sheridan, OR 97378 | www.pnmc.org