



PACIFIC NORTHWEST  
MENNONITE CONFERENCE

# ANNUAL MEETING

Albany Mennonite Church, June 25-28, 2026

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**“Seeking Unity Through Nonconformity”.**

Luke 6:17-47 / Sermon on the Plain

32nd Annual Meeting

# DELEGATE HANDBOOK

June 25-28, 2026



Pacific Northwest  
Mennonite  
Conference

An area conference of Mennonite Church USA

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# Welcome to Oregon!

*“Seeking Unity Through Nonconformity”  
Luke 6:17-47 ~ The Sermon on the Plain*

Dear Delegates of the PNMC,

It is my joy and pleasure to welcome you to **Albany Mennonite Church in Albany, Oregon for the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference!** We are grateful to the congregations of AMC and Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship for hosting us for this 32nd annual delegate assembly. It is always a joy-filled time to meet together, see old friends, make new ones, and worship God together!

We will again begin our gathering on Thursday evening with a hymn sing and close with a brunch before our morning worship. In between we will have opportunities to worship with one another, learn together, serve together, and engage in times of fellowship. I hope that you will enjoy your time here in the Willamette Valley as we seek together to be God’s people in a time where too often the unity of the Body of Christ has been tested. Here we will pursue ways that we can continue as Christ’s body remembering that we do not conform to this world but to the Call to follow Jesus. As Hans Denck said, “No one can truly know Christ unless they follow him in life.”

May we, as diverse yet unified followers of Jesus from around the Pacific Northwest, grow in our unity to serve the Living God here and when we return to our home congregations.

In the Relentless Love of Christ,  
Karla Morton  
PNMC Moderator

## 2026 PNMC Annual Meeting General Schedule:

### THURSDAY, JUNE 25

- 6:30 Arrival and registration (dinner on your own before arrival)
- 7:30pm **Hymn Sing** (AMC Sanctuary) | *Open to all, registration not required*

### FRIDAY, JUNE 26

- 7:30am Breakfast for *new* PNMC Delegates
- 8:30-10:00am **Morning Worship**, Dwight Friesen preaching (AMC Sanctuary)
- 10:30am **Plenary Session #1** (AMC Fellowship Hall)
- 12:00pm Lunch (AMC Fellowship Hall)
- 1:30pm **Seminar/Activity Period #1**
  - A. Healthy Congregations/Healthy Leaders, Rachel Ringenburg-Miller (Sanctuary)
  - B. Becoming With: How Do We Become Communities That Can Credibly Be With Gen Z? Dwight Friesen and Rob Kirby, (Fellowship Hall)
- 2:45pm Break
- 3-5pm Service project for Jackson Street Youth, facilitated by Lisa Ebersole (indoor & outdoor)
- 3:15pm **Seminar/Activity Period #2**
  - A. Abuse Prevention & Accountability, Duncan Smith (Sanctuary)
  - B. Mennonite Action/Faithful Resistance, Julie Allyn (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30-8:30 **Lament and Moral Injury (and Somehow Hope) – A Writing Retreat**, Jaqui Eicher,
  - *Open to all, registration not required*

### SATURDAY, JUNE 27

- 8:30-10am **Morning Worship**, Dwight Friesen preaching (AMC Sanctuary)
- 10:00am Break
- 10:30am **Plenary Session #2** (AMC Fellowship Hall)
- 12:00pm Lunch (AMC Fellowship Hall)
- 1:30pm **Seminar/Activity Period #1**
  - A. New Approaches to Baptism/Membership, Peter Epp, Sara Rempel (Sanctuary)
  - B. Worship with the Anabaptist Community Bible, Cathleen Hockman-Wert (Fellowship Hall)
- 2:45pm Break
- 3-5pm Service project for Jackson Street Youth, facilitated by Lisa Ebersole (indoor & outdoor)
- 3:15pm **Seminar/Activity Period #2**
  - A. The Enneagram and Spiritual Growth, Marlene Kropf & Cynthia Hockman-Chupp (Sanctuary)
  - B. What Every Church Needs, Steve Bustos, Everence (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00-8:30 **A New World, A New Song**, Michael Collier (Sanctuary)
  - *Open to all, registration not required*

### SUNDAY, JUNE 28

- 9:30am Brunch
- 11:00am **Worship at AMC**, Pastor Rachael Wesley preaching (AMC Sanctuary)  
*Thank you for attending!*

# PLENARY SESSION AGENDAS

## Friday, June 26, 2026

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer – Karla Morton
2. Introduction of Guests
  - a. Agencies will introduce themselves and their purpose
  - b. Eric Massanari will introduce guests
3. Reports
  - a. Moderator – Karla Morton
  - b. Executive Conference Minister – Eric Massanari
  - c. Treasurer – David Hockman-Wert
  - d. Gift Discernment Team – Karla Morton
  - e. Pastoral Leadership Team – Amy Epp
  - f. Finance Team – Deren Kellog
4. Roll Call of Congregations
  - a. Congregations will provide a brief greeting and respond to this prompt: ***How are you experiencing unity in the life of your congregation in surprising ways?***
5. Closing Remarks and Prayer for lunch

## Saturday June 27, 2026

1. Welcome to the day and collection of Ballots– Karla Morton
2. Explanation of this time of reflection and response to Luke 6: 17-47
  - a. Lectio Divina
  - b. Listen to the reading of the scripture
  - c. Give response at table groups
  - d. Listen to the second reading of the scripture
  - e. Listen to responses to the questions at table groups
3. Board members are listeners
  - a. Board members will share responses and reflections from their tables with the delegates
4. Closing of the session with remarks and prayer

## Plenary Session Questions

### Focus: Seeking Unity Through Nonconformity – Luke 6:17-47

#### Looking Back:

- ✓ Discuss the ways that your congregation used *Resolution 2025: A Call to Discipleship Amidst A Culture of Christian Nationalism* to support the ministry and witness of your community. What went well? What was difficult?
- ✓ Did your congregation use the worship materials that were developed to support the resolution? If so, how were this experienced by your congregation? How did this impact your congregation and shape it for this time we are in?
- ✓ If your congregation did not use the worship materials, were you able to have conversations around this topic? Why/Why not? What more would you have liked to help you discuss the 2025 PNMC Resolution in your congregation?

#### Looking Forward:

- Thinking about our text for our 2026 Annual Meeting (Luke 6:17-47) and our focus: Seeking Unity Through Nonconformity, please consider these questions: In what ways is your congregation practicing unity now? In what ways are you practicing nonconformity?
- In Luke 6: 18-19, we read: “They came to hear him and to be healed from their diseases, and those bothered by unclean spirits were healed. The whole crowd wanted to touch him [Jesus] because power was going out from him and he was healing everyone.” With this preface to Jesus’ Sermon on the Plain:
- We have power in and through Jesus. How is this power different from the powers at work in our world? What is our unique power as Anabaptist Followers of Jesus? What power and gifts are we needing to receive and welcome from others to strengthen our faith and our witness?
- How can we/do we use that power for healing and hope in our communities?
- What does your community of faith need to resource you in the year ahead to find ways to find unity through nonconformity?
- What else would you like to add to the conversation based on our theme and continued call to be a prophetic witness?

# **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference DELEGATES: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO**

*(March 2013)*

## **WHO IS THE PNMC DELEGATE BODY?**

1. Each PNMC member congregation is entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five of its members, or fraction thereof. (PNMC bylaws, Article III, 3, g)
2. All ordained or licensed ministers, whose ministerial credentials have been recognized by PNMC and who are considered active, with charge are entitled to be delegates. (PNMC Bylaws, Article III, 3, g)

## **WHO SHOULD CONGREGATIONS CHOOSE TO BE THEIR DELEGATES?**

1. Congregations have the freedom to choose who will best represent their congregation in the PNMC delegate body.
2. Delegates should be members of the congregation they represent. Preferably, some of a congregation's delegates will bring a congregational leadership perspective having continuity with the congregation, understanding the range of views in the congregation and their own views respected within their congregation.
3. Delegates should hold to the vision and commitments of PNMC (Bylaws Article III, 2):
  - a. The vision and mission statements of Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
  - b. Common Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective, as updated from time to time, as their “statement of faith for teaching and nurture in the life of the Church”
  - c. Commitment “to seek to understand and interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit in the Church”
  - d. Commitment to participate in discerning and living out statements of Christian faith and life made by Mennonite Church USA and PNMC
  - e. Commitment to participate in the life and mission of PNMC and Mennonite Church USA through delegate representation and financial support.

## **WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?**

1. **Fulfill the role as defined in the PNMC bylaws:** (Article IV, 2):

**Purpose:** Delegates appointed by the Member Congregations have the authority to transact the business of PNMC, including but not limited to the following actions:

- a. Discuss and decide major issues of policy for PNMC, and discern the voice of the Spirit in the midst of the Member Meeting.
- b. Provide opportunity to speak to the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies.
- c. Receive reports from the Board, PNMC staff, teams and other conference activities. Reports shall be presented in writing and shall include financial accounting.

## **WHAT DO DELEGATES DO?, CONTINUED**

d. Elect the following as needed:

- (1) Moderator Elect.
- (2) Board members to fill new terms and vacancies.
- (3) Secretary and Treasurer.
- (4) Gift Discernment Team members. This team identifies and recommends persons to the Board to fill elected positions which need to be affirmed by the delegates at the annual Member Meeting.  
*(There may also be other elections as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.)*

### **2. Gathered Discernment:**

PNMC is comprised solely of Mennonite congregations in the Pacific Northwest. These congregations meet in annual assembly the fourth weekend of June. The delegate body assembly is a forum for these congregations to talk together and to discern together the voice of the Holy Spirit. This forum helps the church move beyond its usual congregational ways of thinking and acting. Discernment happens as delegates together Dwell in the Word, meditate, pray, share, discuss and listen to one another. The value of this discernment is not realized primarily in formal actions. It is realized in the worship and dialogue itself as it informs, inspires and builds up our conference, denominational and congregational life.

### **3. Communication channel:**

It is our intent that delegates help the conference stay focused on the value of PNMC to congregational life: 1. guiding through pastoral transitions; 2. helping plan for the future; 3. resourcing lay leaders; and 4. strengthening the ministry of pastors. This is accomplished by:

- a. Delegates represent their congregation's voice into the PNMC body. They receive PNMC staff and board reports and interact with the board and staff to provide counsel and direction.
- b. Delegates represent the PNMC body to their home congregations by relaying annual delegate session discussions.
- c. Throughout their term as delegate each provides a primary interaction service between PNMC staff and board and their home congregation. They may be sought for counsel or communication between the annual delegate sessions via email or snail mail.
- d. One congregational delegate shall serve on the Conference Communications Council.

## **THE DELEGATES' TERM OF SERVICE**

In the fall of each year, the PNMC office will request a list of its delegates from each congregation. One of the delegates should represent the congregation, along with a pastor, at the winter Communications Council meeting. We hope that all the delegates shall represent the congregation at the summer annual assembly. Delegates shall serve in that role until a different list of delegates is requested the following fall.

## Table Group Covenant

### The Delegate Body of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

*Adapted from "Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective"  
Article 16, Church Order and Unity*

We gather as a part of the church of Jesus Christ, one body with many members, who by the work of the Holy Spirit are brought together into a dwelling place for God.

As God's people we gather, at **Albany 2026**, we are the church, a holy temple, a spiritual house, with Christ Jesus himself as our foundation.

We recognize the need to consult together in order to maintain unity on important matters of faith and life. Love and unity in the church are a witness to the world of God's love.

In our deliberations and decision-making we covenant with each other to listen and speak in a spirit of prayerful openness and with the Scriptures as the constant guide. In humility we are open to both give and receive counsel. We know that discernment will include points of agreement and of disagreement, words of affirmation and of dissent. In our discernment we are prepared to wait patiently as we seek a word from the Lord leading toward consensus rather than make hasty decisions.\*

We rejoice in the multiplicity of people, gifts, ideas, and opinions that are present in this gathering of the delegate assembly of the Pacific Northwest Conference.

We covenant together:

- to assume the best intentions of all persons who participate at this table and this assembly.
- to pray for one another and the Conference leaders.
- to be patient and kind.
- to speak honestly and directly.
- to practice humility and be willing to change or be corrected.
- to listen actively and carefully.
- to respect the views of those who may not agree with the majority.
- to respect the wisdom of the greater assembly and of those at our assigned tables.

(Table leaders may lead their table in prayer.)

*\* Consensus means that the delegate body has listened carefully to all voices, majority and minority together, and sought the unity of the Spirit. Consensus is reached when the delegate body has come to a common mind on a matter, or when those who dissent have indicated a readiness to accept a group decision. Consensus does not necessarily mean complete unanimity.*

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

31st Annual Delegate Meeting Minutes, June 19-22, 2025

## Flathead Lake Lutheran Camp – Kalispell, MT

*“Called in the One Body, and Thankful”*

*(Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17)*

### 2025 PNMC Annual Meeting - Minutes

Friday, June 20:

Welcome intro and video presented by Flathead Lake Lutheran Camp staff

Welcome Message & opening in prayer - Moderator, Chris Nord

Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved

#### Motion to welcome new member congregation

Chris introduced a motion made to welcome the **Community of Hope** in Bellingham, WA into full membership within PNMC. He presented the procedure references for how this is done, with a vote by the delegates after hearing from various parties of the application for membership.

- First to share was Pastor, Rachael Weasley who gave her own personal testimony about how the Community of Hope (COH) came into being as a church plant and what its ministry looks like today, the ways it's uniquely meeting needs for those to engage with the church
- A few church members gave their own sharing about what it means to them personally to be part of COH. (Bill and Margaret Loewen, Duncan Smith and Charlene Epp)
- Vote to welcome COH passed unanimously

**Roll Call of member churches** - individual representatives from each congregation who had a delegate present spoke on something significant the church is doing or has done over the past year. Special notice was made by Executive Minister, Eric Massanari, to recognize the congregations who did not have anyone present, in particular, those from the CIHAN churches whose members did not attend due to political turmoil around ICE raids to detain and deport non-citizens. CIHAN members did not feel it would be safe enough for them to make the trip.

#### Reports:

**Executive Conference Minister's report:** Eric Massanari

Eric related some stories of the conference which he titled “An Elevator to Someplace Else.” The context describes how this year, the place many congregations found themselves in was not one necessarily determined by choice, but that they had arrived similarly to others in ways that enabled a new degree of supporting each other. Primarily, this referenced 8 of the 24 member churches who are currently being lay-led, without any employed pastor.

Eric reflected on this year's celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism and how the Mennonite forbears had greater insight than “following the script of Christ.” Specific relevant insights for our contemporary context, such as:

- Ministry today involves moral injury.
- Healing is an act of communion.
- Valuable connections with other denominational counterparts

Current climate is a difficult time for pastoral searches - many congregations/members also look to be nurtured through individuals and from other communities of faith

This reality has also led to some congregations developing new models of community, which is a good thing.

### **Moderator's Report:** Chris Nord

Chris presented a brief review of work which the Board engaged in over the last year.

### **Treasurer's report:** Dave Hockman-Wirt

Dave shared the overall Financial picture of PNMC funds. He noted there four withdrawals have been made from the financial reserves since 2023. The Investment fund is basically stable.

### **Finance Team report:** Deren Kellogg

Deren reviewed the work of the Finance Team, specifically how they are looking for ways to reduce the conference deficit and increase financial sustainability.

He also mentioned the two types of Conference grants and some changes in their administration which the Board approved; The Healthy Congregations Committee and the Seed Northwest Grant. These two will now have one oversight/approval committee.

### **Resolution:** *A Call to Discipleship Amidst a Culture of Christian Nationalism*

Chris introduced this resolution which was drafted by him and Eric. The PNMC Board had already discussed it at their last meeting and was putting it forward to the delegates for their review and vote. After time for discussion and reflection, the resolution would be voted on during the afternoon plenary session.

**Morning session adjourned with prayer.**

### **Afternoon Workshops**

Three workshops were presented which attendees could choose from:

1. Worship That Does Not Conform to the Patterns of this World - ?
2. Jesus Who Does Not Conform to the Patterns of this World - Craig Morton & Sam Adams
3. Financial Stewardship That Does Not Conform to the Patterns of this World - Everence

### **Evening Worship**

Message delivered by MCUSA Executive Director, Glen Guyton

### **Saturday, June 21**

#### **Morning - 2nd Plenary Session**

Opened with prayer

#### **Discussion about the resolution**

Questions were discussed at round tables and then answers shared to the whole group by individuals from each table.

Questions included:

- Question: In what ways does this resolution feel exciting, challenging or life giving? Do you have any misgivings about this resolution that you would like to discuss at your table?
- As you reflect over your congregation's life during the last few years, in which ways do you see your congregation already expressing the vision of discipleship stated in this resolution?
- As you think about the next few years, does the vision of discipleship stated in this resolution spur any new ideas that you would like your congregation to explore?

It was highlighted during discussion that there should be added a clearer definition of "Christian Nationalism." Chris reminded the body the Resolution was already approved by the Board and was not there to be further revised and edited. However, Eric noted the definition could be done as a footnote addition. After further open dialogue from these questions and reflection on the Resolution, the Delegate body voted. The Resolution passed by simple majority.

### **Slate of candidates**

Several candidates have been nominated for roles which require a vote. These included:

- Moderator Elect: Janette Wisseman
- Director: Deren Kellogg (4 year term)
- Gift Discernment Team: Gloria Nussbaum
- Gift Discernment Team: Jan Yoder

Delegates voted by ballot. There was 100% approval of these nominees.

Additionally, there were several positions which do not require voting, but simply Board approval, which had already taken place at the last Board meeting. These included:

- Pastoral Leadership Team: Amy Epp (4 year term)
- Pastoral Leadership Team: Rob Hanson (4 year term)
- Finance Team: Kathy Bilderback (2 year term)

### **Blessing of Leadership**

When the vote had been announced, there was prayer of thanks and blessings for these volunteers in their upcoming time of service to the Conference. This was followed by two specific recognitions and giving of gifts.

1. Recognition of Barbara Buxman's service with PNMC and her retirement  
Many members expressed their thanks for the many years of service by Barbara with PNMC and how much she meant to them. Barbara received a prayer shawl as a gift of gratitude.
2. Pastors in the conference were recognized and thanked for their leadership and faithfulness. Each pastor received a cubic-shaped candle holder purchased from Ten Thousand Villages which had "Peace" spelled out in several languages on its different sides.

### **Transfer of Moderatorship**

Chris Nord officially ended his term of service as the Conference Moderator, and introduced Karla Morton as the new one to serve the next two years.

### **Afternoon**

Several workshops were held allowing attendees to choose which they wished to attend. These included:

1. Leadership That Does Not Conform to the Patterns of this World - Glen Guyton
2. Creation Care That Does Not Conform to the Patterns of This World - Sarah Augustine

### **Evening Worship**

Message delivered by Sarah Augustine, Director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

### **Sunday, June 22**

The Annual Meeting ended with Brunch hosted by the Mountain View Mennonite Church at their location, followed by worship together in their building led by Transition Pastor, Miriam Mauritzen

# **BALLOT 2026**

## **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**

### NOMINEES TO BE ELECTED BY DELEGATES:

#### TREASURER

**Dave Hockman-Wert** – Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship, Corvallis, OR, 3-year term - *Expires 2029*

Dave has been PNMC treasurer for the past eight years, demonstrating that working with numbers is his happy place. He is a member of Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship and, like all CMFers, has taken on many roles to help the fellowship function (song leading, worship leading, preaching, worship committee, pastoral team, and delegate). He retired last year from a 23-year career in the federal government, most recently working for the US Forest Service as a biologist/GIS specialist. Previously, Dave served on the PNMC board on three different occasions (1997-99; 2006-10; 2014-15), including one term as Moderator (2008-10). Last, but definitely most important, Dave has been married to Cathleen for nearly 30 years.

#### PNMC At-Large Board Members

**Emily Toews** – Menno Mennonite Church – Ritzville, WA - 4 year term, *Expires 2030*

Emily Toews loves the church. As a youth she sat on her church's youth committee and on the Mennonite Youth Council of Eastern Canada. Later she was a student representative on both the Canadian Mennonite Bible College (now Canadian Mennonite University) and AMBS boards. Most recently, while she was pastoring in Saskatchewan, Canada, Emily was a member of the Mennonite Church Canada Engagement Council. Emily is many things, including a pastor, teacher, gardener, quilter, bookworm, animal and nature-lover, and coffee drinker. She and her husband, Bryce Miller, co-pastor Menno Mennonite Church and delight in their imaginative and lively children, Luke (10) and Anna (9).

**Libbie Lapp** – Mountain View Mennonite Church, Creston, MT – 2-year term, *Expires 2028*

I joined Mountain View Mennonite Church, Kalispell, MT in 2000. Since then, I have served as Leadership Team Board Chair, Elder, Treasurer, and Youth Group Leader. My current responsibility is facilitating our Peace Garden/Bike Station project. My husband and I live a mile from the church in Creston, MT. We have two grown children who live in Minneapolis and Denver.

I attended South Dakota State University, attaining my pharmacy degree in 1988, and Rocky Mountain College for my Physician Assistant degree in 2004. My career as a physician assistant will end in October, 2024, and I am looking forward to an active retirement.

I enjoy bicycling (bike-packing), hiking, and cross country skiing, which are all easy to do in this beautiful corner of Northwest Montana. I have written two screenplays, and have many more literary ideas that are waiting to be transformed into written word. It will be an honor and privilege to serve as At-Large Board Member for PNMC.

#### Gift Discernment Team

**Jan Yoder** – Shalom Church, Spokane, WA – 1-year term, *Expires 2027*

Jan grew up in Hawaii in a Presbyterian home where church was a central part of her life, and made her way to Spokane, WA to attend Whitworth College. While there she discovered her Anabaptist roots, met Gary Jewell, who also attended the Mennonite fellowship, and proceeded to become her husband and then an ordained Mennonite minister. Gary and Jan have 2 wonderful adult daughters and a wonderful son-in-law. Jan is a full-time Public Health Nurse in Spokane, working with first-time pregnant moms and their infants in their homes. She attends Shalom Church mostly and other churches where Gary might be. Jan has enjoyed being the Everence Advocate at Shalom for many years, and also enjoys bike riding, backpacking, canning, sewing and attending conference meetings.

### Gift Discernment Team, continued

**Judy Nord** – Albany Mennonite Church, Albany, OR – 1-year term, *Expires 2027*

Judy grew up in the Mechanic Grove Mennonite Church (Lancaster Conference) in southern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. After graduating Nursing school, she met and married Mark Nord in Chicago where they were both studying Bible and missions. From 1971 to 1984, they worked with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Indonesia, Central America, and southern California. From 1985 to 1990 they served as Country Representatives with MCC in Bangladesh. After returning to the U.S., Judy reactivated her nursing career, specializing in physical rehabilitation first in central PA, then in the DC area where she and Mark lived until moving to Oregon in 2017. They were active in Allegheny Mennonite Conference first as members of University Mennonite Church in State College, PA, then as members of Hyattsville Mennonite Church in Hyattsville, MD. Judy served on the Leadership Commission of Allegheny Conference for several years.

At Albany Mennonite church, Judy has served in the worship ministry—completing nine years in October, the last six of which as Worship Committee chair. She and Mark have two sons, Eric and Chris, who accompanied them in their international work and graduated from Goshen College.

### Nominees for affirmation by delegates (board-appointed):

#### FINANCE TEAM

**Cleon Claassen** – Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, WA, 2-year term - *Expires 2028*

Cleon is a CPA and has been serving clients in the Columbia Basin for over 40 years.

He is married to Elizabeth, and they have two adult children and five grandchildren—all boys, which they enjoy immensely. Cleon has been Assistant Moderator and Moderator of PNMC and has also served on the MC USA Executive Board.

#### PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Sam Adams (4-year term)** – Bend Mennonite Church, Bend, OR, 4-year term – *Expires 2030*

Sam Adams, with his wife Andrea, planted Bend Mennonite Church in 2006 where he continues to serve as the pastor. Sam earned his PhD in theology from the University of St Andrews and, in recent years, has been teaching theology at the graduate level as a professor at Kilns College, also in Bend. Sam and Andrea have been married for more than twenty years. They have three kids, Owen, Everett, and Eleni. Sam owns a carpentry business and, when he gets a few spare moments, enjoys trail running and rock climbing. As someone who believes deeply in the mission of the Mennonite church and the importance of our mutual support and accountability, Sam is looking forward to serving the PNMC and our churches by serving on the Pastoral Leadership Team.

# 2025-2026 Annual Report

Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

## Being the Church

I want to share with you the most prophetic and challenging words I heard this year regarding the state of the church:

*In my relating to the church in the United States, I have noticed that you spend an inordinate amount of time trying to maintain the status quo, trying to be nice to each other and keep people together. [As Christians] we are not asked to keep people together. We are asked to follow and be faithful to a way of life, the Way of Jesus . . . It's time to stop being the corporate church and it is time to be the church.*

The words were spoken by Omar Haramy, Executive Director of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem. He spoke them to a group of us from the U.S. and Canada who were part of a delegation to the West Bank of Palestine in February. His message left me uncomfortable and uneasy, in no small part because “executive conference minister” is certainly a role that sits squarely in the structures of the corporate church. I wonder, how much time have I spent in varied forms of ministry trying to keep people together, only to discover that it wasn't what they really wanted?

Omar's words land a bit like Jesus' own words to his disciples long ago:

*Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I haven't come to bring peace but a sword. I've come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. MATTHEW 10:34-35*

Certainly not the most comfortable passage for Christians who profess the nonviolent and compassionate love of Christ, and definitely a disturbing word for those of us who've been taught to be nice, no matter what. Even when we understand that Jesus is speaking figuratively and metaphorically, we should be disturbed when we realize that he is speaking prophetically and directly, to us. Discipleship is disturbing and disrupting.

The truth is, the Way of Jesus does not comfortably conform to the ways of the world that we humans have created for ourselves. It does not fit or play nicely alongside our human patterns of violence, negligence, prejudice, oppression, greed, individualism and self-interest. The Good News is not good news for those who are intent on seeking power, wealth, influence and control at the expense of others, and to the detriment and diminishment of the image of God they themselves bear in their hearts.

The Body of Christ is not circumscribed by corporate structures or organizational policies and procedures. At their best, such systems can help create a vessel for the church to manifest in the world. But they are not the church. They can help hold the thing, but they are not the thing! Sometimes, in order to stay true to the thing that Christ calls us to—the embodiment of beloved community—we will experience fracturing in our relationships, we will experience the loss and death of institutional forms we might have once held dear, we will know there is a cost that comes with a way of discipleship that does not conform to many of our human habits and patterns.

Faithfulness to the calling of Christ in the community of faith is not only about costs and losses, however. I have been reminded that when we seek to be faithful to Christ's call upon our lives, it brings connections with others who are seeking to follow the Way. Over the last year I have had increasing opportunities to work with other Christian denominations and communities who are just as committed as we are to living out the nonviolent and justice-seeking love of Jesus in our wounded world. We need these

relationships; they allow us to give and to receive so many gifts. Another exciting new emergence is a growing relationship with the Village Grace Church in SW Portland, Oregon, who have approached us and asked for a time of mutual dialog and discernment around whether they might join PNMC and MC USA.

We must remember that the church is not a thing, of course. Church is not something we go to. Church is not something to attend. It is not a building. It is not a one-hour period in our week. The Church is a way of being and relating that we commit to together; not just with likeminded and like-believing folks, but with all who seek to follow Christ's Way. By the power of God's Holy Spirit, may we be courageous, compassionate and wise enough to be the church.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The following are some highlights from the last twelve months, organized according to our four-part PNMC Mission Statement:*

## **P**romote personal (and communal!) spiritual development

- Regular contributions to the PNMC e-Bulletin, frequently with a focus on spiritual nurture and formation.
- Regular preaching, teaching and resourcing visits with PNMC congregations.
- Following the passage of the 2025 PNMC resolution, "A Call to Discipleship Amidst A Culture of Christian Nationalism," I joined several PNMC leaders in creating a set of materials for a worship series on the resolution and its themes. These were distributed to PNMC congregations in the fall of 2025.
- Created and led a seminar for the 2025 MCUSA Convention in Greensboro, NC, "Gelassenheit: A Way of Loving Releasement." Since then, I have had the opportunity to share elements of this seminar with several PNMC congregations.
- Currently working on a book-length project on this same theme. Gratefully, I am working with an editor and publishing house, and hope to have a manuscript completed by the end of 2026.

## **N**urture healthy congregations

- I have made visits (preaching/worship leading/resourcing/pastoral care) with nearly all of our 23 churches in PNMC over the past year, either in person or via phone and videoconferencing.
- We continue to hold a quarterly gathering (on Zoom) for representatives from our 8 congregation-led churches who do not have dedicated and paid pastoral staff.
- The meetings with these congregation-led churches led to the formation of a PNMC Speakers Bureau resource that will soon be shared with the PNMC community.
- Assisted with successful pastoral searches at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship and Portland Mennonite Church.
- Discerned and distributed Healthy Congregations Grants for three congregations (Mountain View Mennonite Church, Portland Mennonite, and Community of Hope).
- Organized and facilitated the Conference Communications Council meeting on January 31, 2026.
- Created job description and hired for the new PNMC Conference Safety Liaison (CSL) position. Welcome Duncan Smith!
- Meeting regularly with PNMC District Pastors and supporting their efforts caring for PNMC congregations and ministry leaders.
- Participated in service of releasement and blessing for the Western Mennonite Church (Salem, OR) as they withdrew membership from PNMC and MC USA.
- Working on creating a new PNMC website with the help of the LightBox team in Goshen, IN (hope to go live with it later this year!).

## **M**ake strong connections throughout the conference (*and beyond!*)

- Attended and led seminar at 2025 MCUSA convention in Greensboro, NC.
- Attended annual MCUSA conference ministers' retreat in Austin, TX (12/25)
- Attend monthly meetings of MCUSA conference ministry staff
- Interviewed several conference minister colleagues about strategic planning and board development initiatives in their conferences.
- Ongoing dialog with the Village Grace Church in SW Portland, who has asked to explore the possibility of membership in PNMC and MCUSA.
- Regular participation in Mennonite Action WA and national Mennonite Action meetings and efforts.
- Regular meetings with ecumenical and interfaith leaders in the region, particularly in Idaho and Washington.
- Preached at the Prayer Service for Christian Unity at St. James Cathedral in Seattle, January 2026.
- Concluded my seven years serving on the Board of Directors for Spiritual Directors International (SDI). I will continue supporting SDI as a member of their Wisdom Council.

## **C**all each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world

- Joined the "Trees/Land/Jesus Delegation" to the West Bank of Palestine, sponsored by Mennonite Palestine Israel Network US and Mennonite Men (February 2026).
- Organized and facilitated a webinar for the PNMC community, reporting on the February "Trees/Land/Jesus Delegation." All nine members of PNMC who were part of the delegation took part in leading the webinar.
- Currently serving on the MCUSA Structure Review Task Group – charged with working on behalf of MC USA Executive Board to discern needed change in denominational structures and resourcing.
- Attended lecture series on "Confronting Christian Nationalism" led by Drew Strait, Professor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Boise, ID (Nov 2025).
- Current continuing education includes a "Faith and AI" webinar series for ministry leaders, sponsored by the United Methodist Church.



Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister

# Board of Directors Report

## Moderator's Report

Submitted by Karla Morton, PNMC Moderator, Spring 2026

After becoming Moderator in June, I left our 2025 annual meeting quite quickly and unexpectedly to care for my son, Ian, who suffered a stroke. I began that time in Chicago, but was able to attend the MC USA convention in North Carolina. While there I was able to meet with other Moderators in attendance and begin to develop some relationships that I was able to continue during Zoom meetings for Moderators.

In those Zoom meetings, I would hear other Moderators talk about having a conference-wide vision for 1-2 years, and have begun to consider that for the PNMC as well. We began that with the 2025 Resolution: A Call to Discipleship Amidst A Culture of Christian Nationalism. This was followed up with worship resources (that I did not coordinate).

Near the end of Moderator Chris Nord's term, he and I worked together to begin the process of ECM Eric Massanari's three-year review. We used resources from MC USA's Church Vitality offices to create questions in regard to Eric's ministry as Executive Conference Minister. We used the Appreciative Inquiry questions that were modified to better cover the work that Eric does. We received a little over 50% of responses and with the help of Moderator-Elect, Janette Wisseman, and Finance Team Chair, Deren Kellogg, I put together a narrative of responses to share with Eric and the PNMC Board of Directors. We were glad to see the high number of positive statements and responses regarding the ministry Eric has done in our conference. As a Board, we were happy to offer Eric another three year contract with the PNMC.

I attended the Constituency Leaders' Council in April. There I was able to meet with other Moderators, members of MC USA and gain greater understanding of the ways other conferences develop a vision for the coming year. We will be talking about what vision we will have coming out of this annual meeting during table groups, but my hope is to help establish ways in which the conference leadership hears more fully from the congregations we serve in order to move forward with greater unity as the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference in years to come.

With gratitude and humility I submit this year's Moderator's report. I seek your prayerful support for the coming year.

In the Peace of Christ,

Karla Morton  
Moderator

## Treasurer's Report / Financial Reports

### PNMC Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year Ending 2026

What a strange, goofy world we live in. These are the days when I really feel the exhortation to be “in the world but not of it.” We’ve had wars (and rumors of wars), which at first caused havoc with investments. Then it all just dissipated and the market continued on its merry upward way. It won’t always be this way, but it is now. <throwing up hands emoji>

If you were at the Conference Communication Council meeting in February, you may remember that PNMC continued its positive trends in FY26 after the improvement in FY25. The long-term trends of **decreasing** income and **increasing** expenses continue to challenge our ability to balance the budget, but our congregational giving in FY26 increased 1% from the previous year and was \$1225 over budget. Additionally, our total income was up 27% from the previous year, \$11,000 over budget! The income surplus happened in large part thanks to a huge response to the Board and Moderator’s previous exhortations to PNMC individuals to increase their giving. Individual donations totaled \$19,400, whereas we budgeted only \$2500. Perhaps most amazingly, the **net operating deficit was only \$2368**, \$38,000 less than last year and almost \$61,000 less than we budgeted. Way to go! This nearly-balanced budget came about thanks to both the increased income and total expenses that were almost \$50,000 below budget.

The budget for the present fiscal year, 2026-27, sees similar trends but includes both lower projected income and expenses due to lower annual meeting costs. Congregational giving is budgeted at \$116,550, total income is projected to be \$182,050, and total expenses are budgeted to be \$253,715, for a projected budget deficit of -\$71,665, \$8000 bigger than last year. But as we saw last year, a projected deficit of -\$63,000 turned out to be only -\$2368.

Perhaps it would be helpful to dig into a few details of why our expenses were so much lower than budgeted for FY26, so you don’t think we’re just making up these numbers. Staff expenses were lower than budgeted. Thanks to free translation tools, we have been able to save money as we translate the e-Bulletin and other communications. Although we budgeted for it again last year, we did not start working on the PNMC website updates with LightBox until this fiscal year. We were able to achieve travel cost savings across the board, thanks to everyone’s efforts. And the largest amount of budget savings on expenses was an almost \$16,000 lower cost for the Montana annual meeting than anticipated. You can see the actual numbers, if interested, in the accompanying profit and loss (P&L) report for FY26.

What does this mean for the future? While we still can’t project balanced budgets, we are sometimes able to get close to one in reality. It might seem strange coming from one who voted for a balanced budget 20 years ago, but after years of observing PNMC finances, I would recommend we not be overly concerned about projected budget deficits. Instead, pay close attention to our actual year-end results and the Investment Fund balance. As long as the Fund is remaining relatively stable, our financial health as a conference is likely to be relatively stable.

I am still grateful that all of you continue to faithfully participate in this group of congregations who make up the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference.

Submitted by PNMC Treasurer, Dave Hockman-Wert

# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

## Balance Sheet As of January 31, 2026

	TOTAL			
	AS OF JAN 31, 2026	AS OF JAN 31, 2025 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
110203 Everence Checking Account	26,512.61	26,784.47	-271.86	-1.01 %
110206 Everence MM	90,328.79	83,701.58	6,627.21	7.92 %
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$116,841.40</b>	<b>\$110,486.05</b>	<b>\$6,355.35</b>	<b>5.75 %</b>
Other Current Assets				
QuickBooks Tax Holding Account	2,296.94		2,296.94	
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$2,296.94</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,296.94</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$119,138.34</b>	<b>\$110,486.05</b>	<b>\$8,652.29</b>	<b>7.83 %</b>
Fixed Assets				
120100 Office Equipment				
120101 Purchased Costs	224.98	224.98	0.00	0.00 %
<b>Total 120100 Office Equipment</b>	<b>224.98</b>	<b>224.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$224.98</b>	<b>\$224.98</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
Other Assets				
110600 Investment Funds	1,261,805.74	1,197,531.41	64,274.33	5.37 %
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$1,261,805.74</b>	<b>\$1,197,531.41</b>	<b>\$64,274.33</b>	<b>5.37 %</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,381,169.06</b>	<b>\$1,308,242.44</b>	<b>\$72,926.62</b>	<b>5.57 %</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
200105 Mexico Project Fund	1,819.12	6,869.12	-5,050.00	-73.52 %
210000 Payroll Liabilities	174.43	0.00	174.43	
210005 403(b) Salary Reduction	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00 %
2102 Federal Withholding	1,858.44	0.00	1,858.44	
2104 State Withholding (OR)	-100.64	-100.64	0.00	0.00 %
210401 Oregon Unempl	-9.09	-11.59	2.50	21.57 %
<b>Total 210000 Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>2,323.14</b>	<b>287.77</b>	<b>2,035.37</b>	<b>707.29 %</b>
211112 Payroll Tax Payable	237.34	-52.04	289.38	556.07 %
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$4,379.60</b>	<b>\$7,104.85</b>	<b>\$-2,725.25</b>	<b>-38.36 %</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$4,379.60</b>	<b>\$7,104.85</b>	<b>\$-2,725.25</b>	<b>-38.36 %</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$4,379.60</b>	<b>\$7,104.85</b>	<b>\$-2,725.25</b>	<b>-38.36 %</b>
Equity				
3000 Opening Balance Equity (89)	20.61	20.61	0.00	0.00 %
320700 Loan Funds				
320702 Memorial Loan Fund (Equipment)	1,015.61	1,015.61	0.00	0.00 %
<b>Total 320700 Loan Funds</b>	<b>1,015.61</b>	<b>1,015.61</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>



# Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

## Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2026

	TOTAL			
	AS OF JAN 31, 2026	AS OF JAN 31, 2025 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
320800 Ministry Funds				
320801 Seed Northwest	67,381.83	67,381.83	0.00	0.00 %
320805 PNMC Mennonite Women	253.00	253.00	0.00	0.00 %
320808 Healthy Congregations Grant Fund	11,496.11	13,566.11	-2,070.00	-15.26 %
<b>Total 320800 Ministry Funds</b>	<b>79,130.94</b>	<b>81,200.94</b>	<b>-2,070.00</b>	<b>-2.55 %</b>
34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds				
34002 Sharing Fund - Catastrophe	1,190.49	1,190.49	0.00	0.00 %
<b>Total 34000 Sharing/Reserve Funds</b>	<b>1,190.49</b>	<b>1,190.49</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00 %</b>
3500 Net Assets Available	709,578.43	709,578.43	0.00	0.00 %
3900 Retained Earnings	508,131.51	395,986.31	112,145.20	28.32 %
Net Income	77,721.87	112,145.20	-34,423.33	-30.70 %
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,376,789.46</b>	<b>\$1,301,137.59</b>	<b>\$75,651.87</b>	<b>5.81 %</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$1,381,169.06</b>	<b>\$1,308,242.44</b>	<b>\$72,926.62</b>	<b>5.57 %</b>

**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference**  
**Budget vs. Actuals: FY2026 budget - FY26 P&L**  
February 2025 - January 2026

	Actual	Total Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Total 4101 Member Church Contributions	\$ 116,775.51	\$ 115,550.00	\$ 1,225.51	101.06%
Total 4200 Other Contributions	\$ 19,415.21	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 12,715.21	289.78%
Total 4300 Other Income	\$ 989.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 989.50	
Total 4400 Annual Meeting Income	\$ 30,881.00	\$ 47,500.00	-\$ 16,619.00	65.01%
Total 4700 Interest/Dividend Income	\$ 1,627.21	\$ 1,800.00	-\$ 172.79	90.40%
Total 4800 Investment Gains/Losses	\$ 52,966.65	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 12,966.65	132.42%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 222,655.08</b>	<b>\$ 211,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,105.08</b>	<b>105.25%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Total 5100 Exec. Conf. Minister Support	\$ 133,603.34	\$ 131,848.00	\$ 1,755.34	101.33%
Total 5170 District Pastor Expense	\$ 16,075.38	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 325.38	102.07%
Total 5180 Conf Safety Liaison Expense	\$ 250.00			
Total 5240 Administrative Asst	\$ 13,191.59	\$ 27,989.00	-\$ 14,797.41	47.13%
Total 5500 Pastoral Leadership Team	\$ 660.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 160.00	132.00%
Total 5530 Theological Education Team	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00	-\$ 1,000.00	0.00%
Total 5900 Board of Directors	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00	-\$ 500.00	0.00%
Total 5950 Contracted Services	\$ 3,190.99	\$ 10,000.00	-\$ 6,809.01	31.91%
Total 6000 Conference Office	\$ 1,543.58	\$ 9,050.00	-\$ 7,506.42	17.06%
Total 6112 Travel Pool/Meeting Expense	\$ 19,270.93	\$ 24,750.00	-\$ 5,479.07	77.86%
Total 6220 Prof Development Expenses	112.59	2,000.00	-1,887.41	5.63%
Total 6290 Annual Meeting	\$ 23,624.50	\$ 39,500.00	-\$ 15,875.50	59.81%
Total 6300 Conf Communications Council	300.00	250.00	50.00	120.00%
Total 6400 Other Expenses	\$ 13,200.27	\$ 11,610.00	\$ 1,590.27	113.70%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 225,023.17</b>	<b>\$ 274,747.00</b>	<b>-\$ 49,723.83</b>	<b>81.90%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(\$2,368.09)</b>	<b>(\$63,197.00)</b>	<b>\$ 60,828.91</b>	<b>3.75%</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
7100 Gain on Sale of Assets	14,865.24	15,000.00	-134.76	99.10%
7800 Realized Investment Gain/Loss	15,270.88		15,270.88	
7900 Unrealized Investment Gains/Losses	49,953.84		49,953.84	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$80,089.96</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 65,089.96</b>	<b>533.93%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$77,721.87</b>	<b>(\$48,197.00)</b>	<b>\$ 125,918.87</b>	<b>-161.26%</b>

**Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
FY2027 budget**

February 2026 - January 2027

	Actual FY26	Budget FY26	Budget FY27	Difference with last year
<b>Income</b>				
Total 4101 Member Church Contributions	\$ 116,775.51	\$ 115,550.00	\$ 116,550.00	\$1,000.00
Total 4200 Other Contributions	\$ 19,415.21	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$8,300.00
Total 4300 Other Income	\$ 989.50	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00	\$500.00
Total 4400 Annual Meeting Income	\$ 30,881.00	\$ 47,500.00	\$ 9,000.00	(\$38,500.00)
Total 4700 Interest/Dividend Income	\$ 1,627.21	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,500.00	(\$300.00)
Total 4800 Investment Gains/Losses	\$ 52,966.65	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 222,655.08</b>	<b>\$ 211,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 182,050.00</b>	<b>(\$29,500.00)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Total 5100 Exec. Conf. Minister Support	\$ 133,603.34	\$ 131,848.00	\$ 145,229.00	\$13,381.00
Total 5170 District Pastor Expense	\$ 16,075.38	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 15,980.00	\$230.00
Total 5180 Conf Safety Liaison Expense	\$ 250.00		\$ 3,450.00	\$3,450.00
Total 5240 Administrative Asst	\$ 13,191.59	\$ 27,989.00	\$ 28,806.20	\$817.20
Total 5500 Pastoral Leadership Team	\$ 660.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$700.00
Total 5530 Theological Education Team	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$0.00
Total 5900 Board of Directors	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$0.00
Total 5950 Contracted Services	\$ 3,190.99	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	(\$2,500.00)
Total 6000 Conference Office	\$ 1,543.58	\$ 9,050.00	\$ 9,400.00	\$350.00
Total 6112 Travel Pool/Meeting Expense	\$ 19,270.93	\$ 24,750.00	\$ 22,750.00	(\$2,000.00)
Total 6220 Prof Development Expenses	112.59	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$0.00
Total 6290 Annual Meeting	\$ 23,624.50	\$ 39,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	(\$33,500.00)
Total 6300 Conf Communications Council	300.00	250.00	\$ 250.00	\$0.00
Total 6400 Other Expenses	\$ 13,200.27	\$ 11,610.00	\$ 13,100.00	\$1,490.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 225,023.17</b>	<b>\$ 274,747.00</b>	<b>\$ 253,715.20</b>	<b>(\$21,031.80)</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(\$2,368.09)</b>	<b>(\$63,197.00)</b>	<b>(\$71,665.20)</b>	<b>(\$8,468.20)</b>

# TEAM / MINISTRY REPORTS

## Pastoral Leadership Team

*Submitted by Amy Epp, PLT Chair*

The primary work of the Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT) is the credentialing of a particular group of leaders: our pastors, church planters, chaplains and others doing specialized ministry in the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference (PNMC). We also invite these leaders into accountability for responsible and ethical engagement of their ministries and holistic care for themselves as ministering persons.

PLT has affirmed a Licensing Toward Ordination credential for two people within the past year:

- **Brian Leisher**, pastor at First Mennonite Church of Aberdeen (ID)
- **Kevin Seidel**, incoming pastor at Portland Mennonite Church, Portland OR

PLT has recognized the transfer of an Ordination credential for one person:

- **Jonathan Mark**, pastor at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise (ID)

PLT has affirmed a denominational transfer of an Ordination credential for one person:

- **Susan Lanford**, chaplain and a member of Portland Mennonite Church.  
Susan was previously ordained in the American Baptist Church. PLT affirmed her ordination within PNMC.

We thank God for their ministries in our conference and in their congregations.

There are several conversations ongoing with congregations and individuals about call and credentialing. We have also been working on creating processes and documents that accurately guide our work and clarify expectations and procedures both for our members and for the pastors with whom we are working. That has included accountability guidelines for chaplains and revision of the PLT job description. In addition to these basic tasks, we have been considering our role in the changing landscape of abuse accountability and prevention, including meeting with and learning from Duncan Smith, PNMC's Conference Safety Liaison.

There has been no turn-over in PLT membership this year. Continuing to serve are Jennifer Gingerich (Chaplain), Bryce Miller (Pastor, Menno Mennonite Church), Rob Hanson (Member, Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship), Sam Adams (Pastor, Bend Mennonite Church) and Amy Epp (Chair, Pastor, Evergreen Mennonite Church). Executive Conference Minister Eric Massanari works closely with PLT in an *ex officio* capacity. In the coming year, Jennifer Gingerich will begin serving as co-chair.

Thank you for trusting us with the care and credentialing of your leaders and pastors.

# PNMC AREA ORGANIZATION REPORTS

## Drift Creek Camp

*Submitted by Brenda Hostetler Kauffman, May 2026*

The last year was included several staff transitions. *(We are so very grateful that our staff positions have been filled!)* It is a joy to welcome new folks, but it always comes at the painful cost of having to say goodbye to others. So while we welcomed Kyle Diller back to Oregon after living in Kansas for several years, we sent Chris Colvin and Lilly Kauffman off with well wishes as they returned to the valley. Then earlier this year we welcomed Andria Barker and Cody Nicholson to the crew while Lucas Hershey Groh is rounding out his second full year with plans to remain another year as part of the on-site team. With increased winter and outdoor school activity, Drift Creek doesn't seem to have a "slow time" anymore, so it has been fantastic to have a team of people at camp to share the load, especially with helping in the kitchen and serving guest groups.

These days we are preparing for summer camp. We have a great crew of college students lined up from all over the country! Most are graduating seniors and are spending the summer at DCC before jumping into their careers. *(What a wonderful delight to have older students available to serve as counselors!)* Camper attendance, however, continues to be sluggish in these post-Covid years. Although we are noticing a lot of new first-time campers registering so that is reason to be hopeful. There is just uncertainty about whether we should consolidate camps and operate for one week less. We are trying to figure out how to balance the grocery budget and diesel costs as summer nears.

The winter months were pretty wild this year, at least in terms of WIND! Countless trees toppled over within the loop. *We had an arborist identify hazard trees in the fall, but ironically, none of those trees fell!* The storm damage made a real mess and the clean-up effort was pretty massive! Giant limbs and debris blanketed the fields and the parking areas. The Octoball pit was completely destroyed. One tree knocked the gutter off the front of the lodge and some significant damage occurred on the corner of the Activity Center roof.... But mostly, there were just a lot of branches and debris in every direction! A few of the hazard trees were taken down in January and then a few more in April. There is still much work to do in terms of processing the wood. We plan to keep tending to the hazard trees after summer programs.

**We are so grateful for volunteers who make camp possible! What a gift to have Peter Epp, Karla Morton, Phil Rempel and Teresa Moser willing to serve as camp pastors!!! Thank you!** Every pastor, cook, nurse, crafts leader, teen volunteer and cabin counselor make summer programs rich and rewarding and we could not do it without the church community. We'd love to see camper numbers recover in the years ahead. If there is a child in your life that would enjoy the camp experience, please reach out. We'd love to welcome them to DCC.

***We ask for prayers and your partnership to sustain DCC for generations to come!***

**Mennonite Village**  
**April 2026**  
**Submitted by: Diane Hood**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Mennonite Village is one of the largest continuing care retirement communities in Oregon, with more than 530 residents and over 300 staff. We are grateful for the residents and staff who make this Village the special place that it is.

In 2025, we welcomed 40 new residents into Independent Living, 21 residents into Quail Run Assisted Living, and 13 new residents into Lydia's House Memory Care. In addition, Mennonite Home served more than 105 residents between long-term care and short-term rehabilitation.

This past year saw significant progress for Mennonite Village's Master Plan. Phase 1, which includes the construction of a new Lydia's House memory care community, 60 independent living homes, and a new production kitchen, moved forward. Design of the memory care, homes, and kitchen were completed and permits submitted at the end of 2025. City approval is anticipated in 2026.

We are especially excited about plans for a new Healing Garden to go within the courtyard of our new memory care facility, which will provide secure, accessible outdoor space designed to promote peace, connection, and well-being for residents, families and caregivers. This \$250K project is funded through philanthropic support which includes fundraisers, private gifts and grant support.

To secure bond financing for the project, the Mennonite Village's marketing team began pre-sales of the independent living homes. The goal was to secure deposits on 70% (42) of the homes. As of this time, deposits have been placed on over 85% of the homes, demonstrating the strong demand for senior living homes. Construction on these homes is projected to begin this summer.

The Mennonite Village Foundation produced a new *Community Report* documenting various milestones achieved during the past fiscal year. The report can be accessed on the Mennonite Village website, [www.MennoniteVillage.org](http://www.MennoniteVillage.org). Mennonite Village has always placed an emphasis on community involvement. We value our role in Albany and strive to be a strong partner. In addition to being active members of the chambers of commerce for Albany, Corvallis, and Lebanon, we were once again title sponsors for the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

In addition, this year we will host several events on our campus that are open to the greater community. Heritage Day will be held Friday, June 26 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. This event will feature a farmer's market, food trucks, campus tours and more. On Friday, July 24 we will host our annual Summer Celebration with a free BBQ dinner, followed by an evening concert featuring the tribute band *Forever Simon & Garfunkel*. And, finally, Saturday, November 7, we will hold our annual Holiday Market. Please come and join us!

I want to offer a sincere thank you to the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference and to local congregations for all your support. Mennonite Village is truly the gem of the mid-Willamette Valley and your thoughtful prayers and volunteerism contribute to our unique culture.



Administrative  
Office 325 SW  
Elmwood Ave.  
McMinnville, OR

97128 Phone 503-474-1213

March 17, 2026

Big news from Oregon Mennonite Residential Services this year! We have had a desire to expand services beyond “residential” for many years and this year we took action; it also happens to be our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year! The expanded service lines meant an update to our name as we were no longer “just Residential”. Our mission and values remain the same. Please see the announcement on page 2.

*Our mission: Guided by Jesus’ example of love and compassion, TrueNorth supports individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities so that all - employees and people served - are treated with dignity and respect, feel a sense of belonging, see their abilities valued, and experience personal growth.*

An excerpt from our 2023 PNMC annual report:

*Prior to the pandemic, many of the individuals we support attended Day Services Activities (DSA) operated by other providers in our areas. Unfortunately, capacity for this service has not recovered. Many of the individuals we serve are now spending more time at home. OMRS hopes to establish a DSA program, with an emphasis on creating an atmosphere where true community inclusion exists for those we serve and others in our area. If you are curious how you might support inclusion for people who experience IDD in your communities, congregations, and other places you go, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us. The answer will likely be along the lines of “don’t be afraid to relate”, “share common interests and hobbies”, “make reasonable accommodations for accessibility, sensory needs, and communication”.*

It is incredibly exciting to see our vision coming to life as we have just secured a building to operate our new day services program. In just a few short months over 24 individuals have enrolled in the program with more coming every day.

We appreciate the various ways in which you show your support. We hope you feel free to contact us should you be aware of a situation in which we might be helpful.

Blessings to you and yours.

Loralei LaVoie  
Executive Director  
TrueNorth formerly known as OMRS



## *Pacific Northwest Mennonite Historical Society*

6030 South Whiskey Hill Road, Hubbard OR 97032-9406

Web: [pnmhs.org](http://pnmhs.org)

Ph: (503) 266-6447

*Preserving the past to illuminate the future*

### 2025 Annual President's Report

Submitted by Lin Rush, PNMHS Board Chair

The Historical Society seeks to preserve the stories of Anabaptists, especially Mennonites, in the Pacific Northwest. We provide safe, secure, and climate-controlled storage for congregational and personal records related to everyday Mennonite life. If your congregation or you personally hold such records, consider bringing them to the center for safekeeping.

Our March 2025 annual meeting featured Michele Hershberger, Bible professor at Hesston College, Hesston, KS. Her topic was, "What's So Bad About Being a Christian Nation." Beginning with Biblical passages, she tied them into early Anabaptist leaders' interpretations and teachings. The early Anabaptists knew that: 1. God's people are trans-national; 2. The church should never use a government to enforce its brand of Christianity; and 3. We have only one allegiance which is to Christ. The challenge she left for us was: 1. Tell your stories; 2. Speak of your faith with respect and love; 3. Practice talking to Christians who embrace the US as a Christian nation; 4. Advocate for minorities; and 5. Practice "power under rather than power over." Luke 22:25-27.

The year 2025 began on a sad note when long-time volunteer, John Gingerich passed away suddenly in January. He had volunteered for many years and was instrumental in transitioning our record keeping and archival information from the written documentation to the digital electronic era. He scanned thousands of photos which are available online, set up our web page and updated it, posted a blog of our work, updated our Facebook page, and added thousands of books to an online catalogue searchable by anyone. He is deeply missed and his legacy lives on in the digital presence he was instrumental in building.

A major accomplishment this year was the re-introduction of our twice-yearly newsletter after a hiatus of ten years. We welcome the submission of stories of general interest to our Anabaptist constituency.

We continue adding material to our archival collections. We received materials from Menno Mennonite Church, Hopewell Mennonite Church, Lebanon Mennonite Church, and Zion Mennonite Church. We also received four reproductive prints of early Anabaptist leaders, Menno Simons, George Blaurock, Conrad Grebel and Feliz Manz. In addition, the library added 20 books to our collection this past year.

We are thankful for Jay Beaman's contribution to the board. He resigned from the board in September to devote time to a writing project. He was instrumental in helping us resurrect our Newsletter and bringing the "Voices of Conscience" exhibit to Portland in 2024.

The archive is open every Wednesday. We invite you to visit us between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Appointments at other times are also possible.

We appreciate the support of our donors, including several congregations. Our work would not be possible without your ongoing and faithful support. We invite your continuing support of our mission.

Our work was possible due to the work of our dedicated volunteers, Shirley Martin, Carolyn Gingerich, Lynn Miller, Beth Diener, Steve Turner, Carol (Shank) Gingerich, and Marlene and Joe Harris. We are also indebted to the board members listed below, who help guide the work of the historical society.

Our board members are Lin Rush, Rod Fretz, Jerry Barkman, Gloria Nussbaum, Pat Hershberger, Carol (Shank) Gingerich, Ray Smucker, and Julia Todd, Lynn Miller, and Dianna Eshleman.

# PNMC CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES:

**Albany Mennonite Church, OR:** We here at Albany Mennonite Church are so delighted to be co-hosts of the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference annual meeting this year. It is our distinct honor and pleasure to welcome delegates, presenters and guests from the far-flung corners of our region into our space.

As I reflect on this year's theme of unity through non-conformity, a couple of updates from our congregational life come to mind. The first is that our congregation and First Christian Church of Albany are both actively working to develop and deepen the relationship between the two congregations. Our two churches share quite a bit of common ground, much of which is in areas of nonconformity to the mainstream power centers of the church in our North-American context.

We recently had a pulpit swap and a joint outdoor service. In the past we have had a shared table at the Albany pride parade. This summer we are planning a series of social events.

Another update that you may have noted as you approached our buildings: we have solar panels! They were just installed this Spring. As I write this report, we are still awaiting final inspection but I hope the array will be operational by the time you all arrive for the annual meeting. While it may be a stretch to try to fit this update into the mold of "unity through non-conformity," I will note that on a national level "drill baby, drill" seems to be the dominant attitude when it comes to energy. Our decision to install a solar array is, on one hand, very practical. It just makes good sense from a stewardship perspective. But I would also like to think that it is a statement of values that refuse to conform to the "drill baby, drill" values system. We believe that creation is a good and generous gift, and we seek to relate to creation in caring and respectful ways.

**Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship, OR:** This past year, CMF made its latest collective big decision (utilizing the Agreement on Procedures approach to decision-making). We haven't always been good at making collective big decisions, but following our Healthy Congregations workshop with pastor Bill Blank a few years ago, we were able to write -- and agree on -- a "who we are, why we are" statement (aka "mission statement"). Energized by our success, we then formed a new committee to focus on sustainability -- not sustainability as in the environment, but the sustainability of our fellowship itself. After a few years of difficulty filling our worship committee and a growing sense of burnout, we realized the sustainability of our long-term pastorless model might be in jeopardy. So I am pleased to report that this year we agreed to create an emergency worship planning backup plan, in the event a worship committee cannot be assembled the usual way. This reduces the pressure on the nomination committee, which has unexpectedly led to the nominating process going quite smoothly this year. Perhaps inspired by all the discussion about the importance of the worship committee in the life of our fellowship, our worship services have been great, including series on peacemaking, indigenous justice, and Generous Abundance (in-house Lent series); energetic and joyful music; and hilarious sketches, including the CMF-written Advent series featuring the Four Wisemen (did you know about the fourth one?).

**Community of Hope, Bellingham, WA:** This year our church plant continued to mature in our fellowship and financial sustainability. We continue to worship once in-person and once online each month, but this year we added two weekly activities: online silent prayer and communal meals (thanks to the PNMC Healthy Congregations grant!). This year for the first time, our local in-person congregation roughly matches numbers with those joining us online from across the country: we've grown! As we hoped, we are becoming less grant-dependent. In the last two years we transitioned from roughly half to nearly entirely funded by offerings. We are continuing to fundraise so we can afford to increase our pastor's hours (currently 15 hours a week) and expand our programming. In the fall, we wrapped up our Queer Theology Sunday School program for the time being with a wonderful event about the history of queer Christian faith communities. We look forward to Pastor Rachael's first Sabbatical from August to November this year.

**Eugene Mennonite Church, OR:** This has been a time of transition for Eugene Mennonite as we bid farewell in December to Pastor Steve Kimes and his wife Diane after 7 years; we're grateful for his bringing us to a greater awareness of the needs of houseless neighbors in our community and for his willingness to challenge us with new perspectives and ways of living out the Gospel. As we begin this new season as a congregation-led community, we're appreciating the opportunity to share with each other our passions and interests as each month a different person plans and leads our twice monthly services. Our annual project of putting together 1000 school kits for MCC involves members of our community beyond EMC. We continue to enjoy gathering and singing together as well as supporting outreach to our community in various ways. Our hope is to continue to offer a way of peace in a time of deep turmoil in our country, to witness to a vision of Spirit-led resistance and action on behalf of vulnerable people in our community.

Evergreen Mennonite Church, Kirkland, WA: Evergreen is a small congregation commuting to worship in Kirkland, WA from all around the area, but we still find ways to have a full and faithful life as a community. Our primary time together is on Sunday mornings. Many of our members find the education hour even more meaningful than worship. This year that time has included Bible study series and a book study about confronting Christian Nationalism. We give thanks for the many people who contribute their gifts to worship and for the many ways that we can worship together, including Bible study and discussion, engaging worship stations and drama.

As pastor I'm also grateful for the fellowship and service of our congregation. We serve each year as the refreshment booth at the Mennonite Country Auction. Several of our members have been active responding to flooding with Mennonite Disaster Service in Washington. Others are involved in the ecumenical outreach work in our community, representing Mennonites as we show up for inclusion, justice and love along with our interfaith neighbors. Together, we hold monthly potluck meals and the occasional event, like an annual Superbowl Party (go Seahawks!) our quilting retreat weekend and the church picnic to kick off summer.

We thank God for the ways that we have been able to serve God and our communities and to care for each other through the past year.



Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, Boise, ID: Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship was blessed with a grant from the Lilly Foundation to participate in a year-long study about how to be disciples of Jesus in the context of White Christian Nationalism. In line with that commitment we co-sponsored a seminar with Dr. Drew Strait to share about his book, *Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism*. In August, gathered with other Mennonites in Treasure Valley for a joint worship service at the original site of the Antioch Church, which was the first Mennonite Church established in Idaho. In September we attended the Boise Pride Parade, joining with other small Christian churches to hand out

LGBTQ children's books recommended by the American Library Association. In January, we called Jonathan Mark to be our settled pastor and they began in March. Gary Jewel and Eric Massanari joined us for an installation service on March 8th. On April 11th, we joined with Idaho Mennonite churches to facilitate the 20th anniversary Idaho Mennonite World Relief Festival. Thanks to the vision of Emma Ruth-Stein, this summer we will have our inaugural Peace Camp (a VBS-like event) for children kindergarten to 4th grade.

Meridian Mennonite Church, ID: This past year has been one of change at Meridian Mennonite Church. Since our pastors were called to Oregon, we have embraced our new identity as a congregationally-led church. We have also been able to deepen relationships with not only each other but with the other Mennonite churches in our area. All of the congregations are acutely aware of the challenges that come with being a Mennonite church in the West. Through prayer and patience, we have been able to keep our relief sale going together and, in the past year, have begun a project to restore Antioch cemetery, along with the current owners. This was the church cemetery for the first Mennonite church in Idaho and some of those buried there were involved with the formation of the Pacific Coast Conference, which is now PNMC. We have also begun leadership meetings with the three churches in the Treasure Valley to best discern how we should move forward as a united church. Those meetings have already borne fruit and more is yet to come. We look to the future with hope.

Portland Mennonite Church, OR: Throughout 2025, Portland Mennonite Church continued to share liminal experiences which began September 2024 -- to search for and call our next Lead Pastor. Set against this backdrop of transition, the congregation has faithfully and energetically invested people, skills, time, finances, study, prayer, and discernment into active expressions of our mission: *seeking the peace of the city*.

We celebrate God's goodness and guidance in these markers of the past year:

- Ongoing prayers for people and nations ravaged by war.
- Focused studies/discussions on Palestine, Gaza, and Christian/white nationalism.
- Sponsoring a 3-day symposium, "Anabaptism@501."
- Adult formation series on Anabaptist understandings of spiritual formation, reading scripture, and acting out our faith; peace theologies - especially in our current American context; and Anabaptist history.
- Ongoing physical presence at marches, rallies, and at Portland ICE headquarters, through the leadership of MennoAction Portland.

- Racial justice commitments through reparations to local recipient organizations.
- Supporting vulnerable Venezuelan families in need.
- Sharing space and faith with our sister congregation, *Ministerios Restauracion*.
- Supporting our beloved Drift Creek Camp, including winning the prize for the largest number of attendees during the summer program! In addition, several PMC members serve as directors on the camp board and several PMC youth served as camp staff in 2025.
- “Kids Care Club,” a group of our children who organized this club and lead the congregation in community clean-up projects.
- Supporting PMC members who joined the Palestine flotilla, who sang or offered supportive presence at Portland ICE, who marched in the Portland Pride Parade, who participated in the Just Peace Pilgrimage to the homeland of the Yakama Nation, and who traveled with MDS disaster relief teams.
- Joining with other local peace churches for the “Anabaptism@500: Peace Pilgrimage Bus Tour.”
- Traveling to Greensboro, NC for the MCUSA Convention, including 20 teenagers and their sponsors.

We concluded the year with a candidate weekend which led, in February 2026, to calling our next Lead Pastor, Kevin Seidel, coming to PMC from Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Throughout 2025, Portland Mennonite Church continued to share liminal experiences which began September 2024 -- to search for and call our next Lead Pastor. Set against this backdrop of transition, the congregation has faithfully and energetically invested people, skills, time, finances, study, prayer, and discernment into active expressions of our mission: seeking the peace of the city.

**Pacific Covenant Mennonite Church, Canby, OR:** Pacific Covenant is a group of genetic Mennonites from both Amish Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren backgrounds committed to digging deeper into Anabaptist theology, and translating the teachings of Christ into our everyday lives.

**Salem Mennonite Church, OR:** In mid-August our new pastor, Karla Morton, began with her first service held outdoors by the Willamette River. She has been getting to know the congregation and we are glad to have a settled pastor. We continue to have small groups that meet regularly and two Sunday School classes developed for our younger members. The Southeast Keizer Community Center meets here on Fridays during the school year. We have participated in the Mennonite Action training in Portland, been a singing presence at the “No Kings” rallies in Salem, and are a visible presence during the meeting time of Comunidad Cristiana Vida Nueva. Our quilters quilt and organized a Comforter Warm Up to tie comforters for MCC. Our elders had a retreat to work on membership and presenting a membership covenant for the congregation. We are excited to send several young people to Drift Creek Camp through our campership fund. In May we held a workshop with Nathan Toews of MCC, to present to our congregation and the larger church community, How to Become a Conscientious Objector to War. We also used the worship planning created by PNMC pastors on the resolution on White Christian Nationalism in our worship. As we focus on Jesus, we continue to seek to be his followers in Salem by loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

**Seattle Mennonite Church, Seattle, WA:** We learned the beautiful Arabic hymn, “Ya hamala Allah” (VT 321), for our Lenten journey through John’s passion narrative. 10/10 recommend. Our longtime dream to develop our campus into affordable housing, with our church on the street level, has been deferred due to lack of public funding. In the meantime we have been able to host about 150 people on our campus in a city-sanctioned Tent City. About 25 of those folks, including families with kids and those living with disabilities, have found shelter inside one of our buildings. That community has (re!)named it: BrickHouse Shelter. Our Easter worship included a communion of delicious sweet breads, served by our youth in overflowing baskets (seconds and thirds were not only allowed, but encouraged!). We give thanks that no one was seriously injured in the breaking of our inaugural homemade Easter piñata. While the candy mostly got snatched up by our youngest ones, the ample number of butterfly temporary tattoos were an intergenerational hit!



**Zion Mennonite Church, Hubbard, OR:** After so many faithful years of service Pastor Jana Gingerich will be retiring in December, 2026. We are so thankful for the ways she has impacted our congregation. Pastor Steve Bomar has recently completed his fifth year at Zion and before Jana retires he will be on sabbatical this summer. It will be Steve's first sabbatical in over 25 years of pastoral ministry.

# **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

**Anabaptist Disabilities Network**

**Everence**

**Mennonite Church USA**

**Mennonite Disaster Service**

**Mennonite Aid Plan / Mennonite Insurance Services**

**Mennonite Mission Network (MMN)**

**West Coast Mennonite Central Committee**

# Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Annual Report for the year ending January 31, 2026

## Serving the Anabaptist Community:

- **Ministers' Continuing Education Event, Dinner Event, and Workshop** – Church of the Brethren Annual Conference 2025
- **Workshops and Worship Panel** at Mennonite Church USA Convention 2025
- **Workshops** at National Older Adult Conference, Ventures (McPherson College), Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board
- **Webinar** on Estate Planning with Everence and a disability trust lawyer
- **Camp KIND** with Amigo Centre for disabled children and their families
- **All In Project**—worship for everybody, funded through Lily Endowment

## Resourcing Congregations:

- **Consulting, preaching, teaching** in 8 congregations
- **Barrier Free Grants:** 11 grants for congregations to increase their accessibility
- **God's First People Bible Study** curriculum created for adults with intellectual disabilities covering stories from the Old Testament.
- **Worship for the Whole Body** a resource created by Disability Ministries Network and Baylor University with input from ADN congregations.



## Sharing Your Stories:

- **Connections Newsletter**
  - Blindness, Spring 2025
  - Summer Update 2025
  - International Partners, Fall 2025
- **Opening Doors Blog** stories of belonging, tips for inclusion



## Be Involved

- **Become a Partner Congregation**
  - Designate a **congregational disability advocate** in your congregation.
  - Donate as a **partner** (\$100) or **sustaining partner** (\$500-1000) congregation
- **Donate as an individual** – any amount is helpful
  - Become a **Bethesda Partner** (\$1000/year) or **Leader** (\$2500/year)

## Staff

**Jeanne Davies**, Executive Director  
**Chika Sunoto**, Office Administrator  
**Sarah Werner**, Communications Director  
**Keli Boyer**, All In Project Director

## Board

**Mitch Stutzman**, President  
**Laura Stone**, Vice President  
**Lyle Miller**, Secretary  
**Chris Stauffer**, Treasurer  
**Jon-Erik Misz**, **Emily Krabill**  
**Rebekah Flores**  
**Karen McKeever**  
**Jonathan Shively**

## Financial Summary:

<b>Income:</b> .....	<b>\$404,431</b>	<b>Expenses:</b> .....	<b>\$241,171</b>	<b>Assets (End of Year):</b> <b>\$227,945</b>
Individual Contributions .....	\$108,350	Staffing .....	\$155,842	Operating Fund: .....
Congregational Contributions ...	\$21,510	Barrier Free Grants .....	\$5,225	Lilly Grant Fund: .....
Foundation grants .....	\$3,500	Resources & Other .....	\$80,104	Reserve Fund: .....
MHS Association/Lilly .....	\$264,165			\$39,580
Other Income .....	\$6,906			

www.anabaptistdisabilities.net • 574-343-1362 • [ADN@AnabaptistDisabilities.net](mailto:ADN@AnabaptistDisabilities.net)

*"People plan their path, but the Lord secures their steps."*

– Proverbs 16:9 (CEB)

# Your stewardship ministry journey. Let's go.

## Everence 2026 report

Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference  
Annual Meeting  
June 25-28, 2026

### 80 years of stewardship ministry

Last year marked a milestone for Everence® – 80 years of mutual aid, stewardship, and a commitment to the belief that all that we are and all that we have belong to God.

Throughout 2025, we reflected on our origins. In 1945, our organization was created to help church members carry out the historic Anabaptist tradition of sharing financial hardships with one another through mutual support.

This year, we look to the journey ahead, ready to continue our work of supporting churches and their members as they find effective ways to be more generous and develop meaningful stewardship ministries with faith-driven resources and expertise.

Let's chart your stewardship ministry, together. Learn more at [everence.com/churches](https://everence.com/churches).



### A lasting impact through Sharing Funds

The Everence Sharing Fund is a long-standing part of our commitment to helping our clients and members through difficult times.

Each year, the Sharing Fund helps churches provide their members with financial assistance during personal hardships through matching grants. Since 2019, Everence has distributed nearly \$6 million in Sharing Fund grants, with churches making additional matches, multiplying our collective impact.

To learn more about how your church can qualify for Sharing Fund grants or to donate, visit [everence.com/sharing-fund](https://everence.com/sharing-fund).

### MyNeighbor card is generous faith in action



It's easy to make a difference with the MyNeighbor credit card from Everence Federal Credit Union.

The program offers a unique opportunity for individuals – like your church staff or members – to contribute to their church or favorite nonprofit each time they use their card. For every grocery, gas or other purchase you make with your MyNeighbor card, Everence will donate 1.5% of the transaction total to your selected Neighbor the following year.

Since 2017, Everence Federal Credit Union has donated \$3.3 million through the MyNeighbor program.

Learn more at [everence.com/myneighbor](https://everence.com/myneighbor).

### Charitable services for congregations

Wherever your church is headed, Everence Charitable Services is ready to join you on your journey. There are many generous ways your members can financially support your church's ministries, and Everence can partner with you to inspire and encourage a wide variety of unique gifts.

With help from our stewardship consultants, you can develop a meaningful stewardship plan of education events and tools to support your church's future and your members over the long term. We can also work with your church to establish, grow and manage its endowment fund. To learn more, talk to your Everence stewardship consultant or visit [everence.com/churches](https://everence.com/churches).





# Mennonite Church USA



Delegate Assembly



Biennial Convention, Greensboro, North Carolina



Women's Summit, Greensboro, North Carolina

*MC USA seeks to equip conferences and congregations for faithful witness, so God's healing and hope can flow through us into the world. We remain rooted in Jesus, centered in community and committed to reconciliation.*

## Reimagining Our Future Together

In 2025, we launched the **"Reimagining MC USA"** initiative, a journey to face challenges within today's faith landscape, reimagine our structure, and engage congregations in shaping a hopeful, Christ-centered future together. Our four strategic priorities are governance, organizational structure, agency relationships and mission alignment. This work aims to strengthen the interconnectedness among agencies, conferences and congregations so that we can combine resources to do together what none of us can do alone.

### Delegate Assembly: Equipping the Church for Tomorrow

More than 350 delegates gathered in Greensboro, North Carolina, for our biennial Delegate Assembly. In a spirit of hope, delegates approved key measures to equip the church for faithful ministry, including:

- Adopting a churchwide Abuse Prevention and Response resolution that established one uniform policy across MC USA.
- Approving bylaw changes drawing Mennonite educational institutions more fully into our shared structure and strengthening alignment between educational priorities and denominational mission.
- Reaffirming our commitment to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers through an updated churchwide statement.

### Faith Formation: An Intergenerational Witness

More than 1,640 people gathered for the 2025 MC USA Biennial Convention, our highest attendance in three conventions and our most ethnically diverse convention to date. Young people filled worship services and seminars to overflowing, engaging Scripture deeply and claiming their place in the church. Convention remains a sacred space where faith becomes personal and communal — forming communities of love and service.

The Women's Summit, held alongside Convention, gathered 185 women for worship, storytelling and leadership development. The intergenerational setting amplified younger voices and strengthened networks of support for women in ministry.

## Renewed Commitments

- Follow Jesus
- Witness to God's peace
- Experience transformation

## Church Vitality

MC USA's Church Vitality team empowers and equips the church every day through:

- Abuse prevention and response
- Hispanic Ministries
- Well-being in ministry
- Pastoral support
- Congregational support

Learn more here.



Subscribe to MC USA's weekly email newsletter.



[www.MennoniteUSA.org](http://www.MennoniteUSA.org)



BIPOC Scholarship recipients



2025 Hope for the Future attendees



Prayer vigil in Washington, D.C., on eve of court hearing.

### Peace and Justice: Stepping Forward in Faith

In January 2025, we joined more than two dozen Christian and Jewish bodies in filing a federal lawsuit challenging the rescission of protections for houses of worship during immigration enforcement actions. Our participation in this lawsuit reflects our faith in Jesus, who calls us to love our neighbors, welcome the stranger and seek justice for the oppressed.

Denominational leaders also joined national faith statements, publicly rejecting political violence and the demonization of migrants. Through MC USA's Justice Fund initiative, we provided tangible support to congregations responding to immigration and climate injustice in their local communities. We also recognized Mennonite peacemakers through our Bring the Peace award program.

### Racial Healing and Repair

At our 2025 Hope for the Future gathering in Goshen, Indiana, we marked the 30th anniversary of the Damascus Road Anti-Racism Process. BIPOC leaders and allies drew together to honor the founders and the decades of work to bring institutional transformation.

In the fall, denominational leaders walked alongside Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church, as tribal leaders honored children who died at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, acknowledging a system of oppression in which Mennonites were complicit. Through Project SACRED, MC USA continues to acknowledge, collaborate and work toward repair — walking humbly alongside Indigenous partners as they lead.

### Education and Leadership Development

By integrating Mennonite education more fully into our denominational structure in 2025, we strengthened collaboration and stewardship. Amy Yoder McGloughlin, our new denominational minister of education, now oversees partnerships and educational ministries across the church.

We also continue to invest in the future of church leadership through the MC USA Scholarship for BIPOC Students. Nine students received scholarships from three partner schools for the 2025-26 school year.

“Let us plan boldly, act faithfully and trust deeply. The future is uncertain, but the God who leads us is not.”

*Glen A. Guyton, Executive Director, MC USA*

### Our Mission

To share with others the gift of God's love through our worship, witness and life together. We claim Jesus as the center of our faith, community as the center of our lives and reconciliation as the center of our work.

### Our Vision

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.



Join us July 6-10, 2027, for the MC USA Biennial Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.



[www.MennoniteUSA.org](http://www.MennoniteUSA.org)

# VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION 2024-2025



**MDS VOLUNTEERS SERVED  
53,850 DAYS  
HELPING  
926 HOUSEHOLDS  
RECOVER FROM DISASTER**

**6,848 volunteers**  
from across Canada and the  
U.S. gave their time, skills and  
compassion to build  
**79 new homes,**  
complete  
**460 repairs,**  
finish  
**378 cleanups,**  
and build  
**9 new bridges**  
for households who  
experienced a disaster.



## SPECIAL PROJECTS

86 sets of kitchen cabinets built at the MDS Cabinet Shop in Goessel, KS were installed in new homes MDS volunteers built across the U.S. this fiscal year.

This volunteer labor is a value\* of  
**\$14.99 million USD/  
\$20.98 million CAD**

All statistics from 8/1/2024 through 7/31/2025.  
\*Labor value based on a volunteer rate of  
\$34.79 USD/hour. ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org))

## Working together

From new homes to new bridges, from house repairs to wall hangings, MDS never works alone. During 2025, MDS worked more than ever with its partners.

The "Bridging Together" partnership between MDS and Lutheran Disaster Response came to full fruition, with volunteers building bridges crossing small creeks between the state-maintained roads and people's homes in western North Carolina.

What's more, MDS is now training others to build sound, tested bridges so that access—and hope—is moving even faster for residents affected by Hurricane Helene.

As MDS bridge coordinator Phil Helmuth said, "A bridge stands not only as a path over the water but as a symbol of shared hope, compassion and a community coming together."

In many other locations, from Alaska to Hawaii, Florida to Washington state, MDS has walked and worked together with long-term recovery committees, local churches, and local communities, building homes, building trust, and building partnerships that will stand the test of time—and the test of the next disaster.

Ultimately, working together is what helped volunteers build a new home for Lynn Cooper and her family in Port Royal, Pennsylvania. "We were surrounded by a lot of really good people," she said as her new home was dedicated.



MDS U.S.  
583 Airport Road  
Lititz, PA 17543 USA  
tel: 717.735.3536  
[mdsus@mds.org](mailto:mdsus@mds.org)

**MDS.org**

## **Mennonite Aid Plan / Mennonite Insurance Services**

### **2026 Delegate Report**

Mennonite Aid Plan and Mennonite Insurance Services entered 2026 with strong momentum, continued growth, and a renewed commitment to serving our communities with integrity and purpose.

### **Growth and Impact**

Over the past year, we have experienced meaningful growth, allowing us to expand our reach and better serve churches, families, and businesses throughout our network.

As a faith-based organization, our success is not measured solely by growth, but by impact. Through our continued operations, we have supported and given back to organizations that are actively strengthening their local communities. We remain committed to supporting kingdom-building efforts and extending our mission beyond insurance.

### **Expanding Our Footprint**

We are currently building a new headquarters in Reedley, California, reinforcing our long-term commitment to the community we serve.

We are also in the process of opening an agency in Oregon to better serve churches and residents throughout the Pacific Northwest.

### **Strengthening Partnerships & Serving Communities**

In 2026, we expanded our market access through new partnerships with Progressive and InsuranceZone, providing greater access to carriers and solutions across California, Oregon, and Washington.

This expansion allows us to better serve churches and their congregations with a full range of insurance solutions, including homeowners, auto, church, and commercial coverage.

Our goal is to provide trusted guidance, competitive options, and service rooted in our shared values.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we move forward, our focus remains on thoughtful growth, strong partnerships, and meaningful community impact.

We invite you to experience the difference of working with a faith-based insurance organization that shares your values and supports your community.



Mennonite Aid Plan / Mennonite Insurance Services

P.O. Box 878

1110 J St., Reedley, CA 93654

Phone: (559) 638-2327

Email: [Mennonite@mennoniteinsurance.com](mailto:Mennonite@mennoniteinsurance.com)

# Be local. Be global. Be the Gospel.

*Note: Underlined words indicate active links.*

**When the people of God take Jesus' call to live lives of peace seriously, there is hope.**

In the midst of war and strife, God is still at work, and we are committed to joining in that work. Here are some ways in which you can join in, too:



**Partner** with workers across the street and around the world through financial support. Contact [KarenH@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:KarenH@MennoniteMission.net) to support workers financially.



**Support** Mission network ministries and workers by becoming a prayer partner. Visit our website to join in: [MennoniteMission.net/Prayer](https://MennoniteMission.net/Prayer).



**Explore** which service options might be the best fit for adults and youth in your congregation: [MennoniteMission.net/Serve](https://MennoniteMission.net/Serve).



**Learn** about social justice through a spiritual lens by participating in a Just Peace Pilgrimage: [MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace](https://MennoniteMission.net/JustPeace).

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds" (Psalm 9:1, NIV). We, at Mennonite Mission Network, are full of gratitude for the wonderful deeds of Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference. We have been blessed by our continued partnership and your active support through prayers, participation and financial gifts. We look forward to our



continued journey together, as we respond to the call to be part of God's reconciling movement in the world.

**Marisa Smucker**, Executive Director

## Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference partnership

### WORKER SUPPORT AROUND THE WORLD

#### Worker support

**Joseph and Rachel Givens**, serving in Calais, France

- Mountain View Mennonite Church

### SERVICE SITES

#### Service Adventure unit

- [Anchorage, Alaska](#)

#### SOOP

- [Drift Creek Camp](#)

### SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

#### SOOP

- Ken and Nancy Beachy, Phoenix, Arizona
- Gene and Judy Gascho, Phoenix, Arizona
- Kathy Howell and Barbara West, France
- Janice and Lynn Miller, Phoenix, Arizona

### PRAYER PARTNERS — 31

### CONGREGATIONAL GIVING AND MISSION SUPPORT

During Mission Network's past fiscal year, August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference congregations gave **\$40,129**. Thank you!

# 2026 report for Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

MCC U.S. and West Coast MCC  
Línea gratuita: (559) 628.6911 • westcoast@mcc.org • mcc.org



Rocio Valencia Islas and her husband Victor Lampón Leon are pastors at La Mano de Dios en Apoyo al Migrante (Hand of God in Support of Migrants), a church ministry and MCC partner providing care, relief and support to migrants moving through Ecatepec, Mexico. (MCC photo/ Meghan Mast)

### MCC's 2026 guiding scripture

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves...

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

### Upcoming Events

- 2026 Summer School Kit Challenge - Help us reach our goal of 30,000 kits!
- Mennonite Country Auction, Oct 3, 2026
- Oregon Mennonite Festival, Oct 10, 2026

### PNMC 2025 Partnership

- Idaho Mennonite Relief Sale - \$50,500
- Mennonite Country Auction - \$123,826.76
- Oregon Mennonite Festival - \$180,000
- Total: \$354,326.76
- Church contributions: \$57,235.49
- Et Cetera Thrift Shop: \$1,161.27

MCC Staff from PNMC & PSMC Churches: Art Montoya

PNMC & PSMC Board Members: Kiara Yoder, Nancy Chupp, Una Lee Jost, Twila Lehman, Nelly Ascencio

### Your support is reaching those who need it most!

- Ukraine continues to endure a devastating war, shattering lives, homes and livelihoods. In both Cherkasy and Kherson, families face relentless displacement, destroyed homes and deepening economic hardship.
- With local MCC partner Uman Help Center Charitable Foundation, 3,532 people received practical support to help them through the winter.
- 840 relief kits, 1,447 hygiene kits and 242 infant care kits and 2,323 warm comforters stitched by MCC volunteers from across Canada and the U.S.
- 31,686 school kits were assembled by churches, youth groups, families and Sunday Schools. This is way more than our goal of 25,000 School Kits — thank you!

“We appreciate your support and commitment to MCC. May we continue to demonstrate God's love and compassion for all.”

-Dina Gonzalez-Piña

Partners from the Brethren in Christ Church in Cuba churches and Christian Center for Reflection and Dialogue continued their regular work across Cuba. Two MCC containers filled with supplies were scheduled to arrive around the time Hurricane Melissa struck. Despite uncertain

road conditions and damaged infrastructure, the church did not halt the processing or distribution of these supplies. Travel continued and items were delivered to those in need.

Photo Caption: In July 2025, Yoel Barbusano Pérez and Deyli Milliam Pérez, co-pastors of Jesús Te Llama Hoy in Calbarián, Cuba, received MCC relief items that they took back to their church for distribution. MCC/Fairpicture/photo/Alfredo Sarabia)



# **REPORTS FROM MENNONITE COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES**

**Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**

**Bethel College**

**Bluffton University**

**Goshen College**

**Eastern Mennonite Seminary**

**Eastern Mennonite University**

**Hesston College**

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## Report to Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference

AMBS 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.

Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice. Join us — in person or at a distance, full time or part time — and deepen your understanding of Scripture, faith and Anabaptist theology!

### Degrees and programs (\* = distance-friendly program)

- Master of Divinity\*
- Master of Arts in Christian Formation\*
- Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism\*
- Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies
- Doctor of Ministry in Leadership\*
- Graduate Certificate in Ecotheology\*
- Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction\*
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies\* (choose your own courses)
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies (Spanish)\*
- Journey Missional Leadership Development Program\* (undergraduate-level certificate)

[ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs](https://ambs.edu/degrees-and-programs)

We offer generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and matching grants for both full- and part-time graduate students. You *can* afford seminary!

[ambs.edu/affordability](https://ambs.edu/affordability)

### Leadership and enrichment

Grow your ministry skills and gain Anabaptist approaches to today's leadership challenges through our nondegree offerings. (\* = distance-friendly program)

#### Short-term options

- Practical Leadership Training modules\*
- Online Short Courses\*: four to six weeks, discussion-based, noncredit (no grades, no papers!)
- Invite AMBS\*: request a speaker (in person or online)
- Pastors & Leaders conference\*: Feb. 22–25, 2027

#### Offerings of one to two years

- Transition to Leadership\*: program for new pastors
- Ministry Reflection Circles\*: reflect on current ministry challenges with the support of a group
- Spiritual Direction Seminars\*

[ambs.edu/leadership-and-enrichment](https://ambs.edu/leadership-and-enrichment)



(Above) In May 2025, 15 women and 18 men from eight countries — Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Thailand and the U.S. — graduated from AMBS.

### Conference connections

- **Master of Divinity student:** Dave Johnson (Portland)
- **Master of Arts student:** Mir Knego (Prince of Peace)
- **Graduate Certificate student:** Julie Allyn (Hyde Park)
- **Journey participant/mentor:** Jaqui Eicher/Linda Dibble (Albany)

### AMBS statistics

- In 2025–26, 162 graduate students are enrolled at AMBS: 86 from the U.S., seven from Canada and 69 international students. Fifteen are pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies (Spanish).
- The undergraduate-level Journey program has 38 participants in Canada, Nigeria, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Uganda and the U.S.

### Want to try out seminary?

- Sign up for an Online Short Course:
  - Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible
  - Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology
  - Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture
  - Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication
  - Challenging Christian Nationalism

[ambs.edu/online-short-courses](https://ambs.edu/online-short-courses)

- Take a graduate-level course — online or on campus. Nonadmitted students get 50% off tuition for their first two courses! [ambs.edu/upcoming-courses](https://ambs.edu/upcoming-courses)
- Schedule a virtual or in-person visit and learn about what AMBS has to offer! [ambs.edu/visit](https://ambs.edu/visit)
- Stay connected: [ambs.edu/subscribe](https://ambs.edu/subscribe) • Facebook: [followAMBS](https://www.facebook.com/followAMBS) • Instagram: [ambs\\_seminary](https://www.instagram.com/ambs_seminary) • YouTube: [ambsedu](https://www.youtube.com/ambsedu) • TikTok: [@anabaptistseminary](https://www.tiktok.com/@anabaptistseminary)

# 2026 Report from **BETHEL** COLLEGE



## Focusing on our Foundations

It would be misleading to say that Bethel has not had a bit of a tumultuous year. While our recent freshman classes have been large, we have struggled with retention of students. Campus-wide conversations and initiatives have centered around serving our students better, focused on our foundation of preparing students for meaningful lives of work and service.

2025 saw the end of our *Engage the Future* capital campaign, concluding with the opening and dedication of our brand new Wellness Center. Without missing a beat, we launched the *Foundations Strong and True* capital campaign in January of 2026. The cornerstone of this campaign will be renovations to Haury Hall, our oldest dormitory which currently serves as housing for our freshmen.



Wellness Center  
Completed in 2025



Haury Hall  
Completed in 1958

In addition, Jon Gering will end his time as our college president on June 30, 2026. We thank him for over 8 years of excellent leadership. Current Board Chair of Bethel College Wynn Goering will serve as interim president, ensuring a smooth transition as we begin the search for new leadership.

Thank you for your continued support!

Bethel College  
300 E. 27<sup>th</sup> St.  
North Newton, KS 67117  
bethelks.edu



## 2026 Report to Pacific Northwest Conference

### CAMPUS PASTOR ANNOUNCED

Bluffton University appointed **Eli Tracy '12** as campus pastor in November 2025. Tracy received his master's in theological studies from Conrad Grebel University College in 2016 and has been serving as an associate pastor at the Family Christian Center and as an on-call hospital chaplain at Mercy Hospital, both in Defiance. Tracy also served at Bluffton last year as an adjunct faculty member in religion.

### KEENEY PEACE LECTURE

Bluffton University welcomed alumni **Dr. Jonathan Moyer '02** back to campus as the featured speaker for the university's 48th annual Keeney Peace Lecture, an event that invites the campus community to reflect on faith, justice and peacemaking in today's world.

### SPIRITUAL LIFE WEEK

**Rev. Phil Yoder, Pastor**, First Mennonite Church, Bluffton, Ohio, was the Spiritual Life Week speaker for the spring semester. Yoder attended a student-led Bible study Sunday evening and spoke at Forum and Chapel on the subject "Abiding in Alienation," engaging with the 2026 Civic Engagement theme, "**Who is my neighbor?**" Yoder was also a guest in the course "Introduction to a Biblical Worldview."

### PRE-OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MAJOR ANNOUNCED

Bluffton University has announced the launch of a **Pre-Occupational Therapy (Pre-OT) major**, expanding its offerings in the health sciences to prepare students for careers dedicated to helping individuals live independently and meaningfully.

### BLUFFTON AFFORDABILITY EXPANDED

Bluffton University is strengthening its commitment to access and affordability by expanding key financial aid initiatives designed to make a high-quality Bluffton education attainable for more students and families. Bluffton's **Be a Beaver Program** guarantees full tuition coverage for qualifying students and Bluffton's **County Connect Grant** automatically awards \$1,000 to students who live in or attend high school in Allen, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam and now Auglaize or Van Wert counties in Ohio.

### YODER SCHOLAR APPOINTED

Bluffton University appointed **Dr. Gerald J. Mast** the Harry and Jean Yoder Scholar in Bible and Religion. The appointment provides Mast with annual funds to support scholarly research and writing in areas related to Anabaptist-Mennonite life and thought. As part of the role, he will also serve as editor of the C. Henry Smith Series in Anabaptist Culture and Thought, formerly the C. Henry Smith Series, and deliver one Yoder Scholar Lecture per year on a topic related to biblical, religious or Anabaptist studies.

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FORUM

In remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bluffton University hosted its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Forum presentation, featuring **Jonathon Blake Turner**, director of choral activities at Bluffton University, who offered a powerful combination of song, history and theological reflection. Turner, who started in Fall 2026, has begun work to re-establish the Bluffton University Choir.

### Dr. J. Alexander Sider appointed President

Bluffton University's Board of Trustees named the 11th president in Bluffton's 125-year history. **Dr. J. Alexander Sider** accepted the call to serve as Bluffton's next president effective Aug. 1, 2025. Dr. Sider stepped into the active role of Interim President in February 2025 during a transitioning time at Bluffton. Dr. Sider, a longtime member of the Bluffton faculty, has served the university in various roles since joining in 2006, including as Professor of Religion, The Harry and Jean Yoder Scholar in Bible and Theology, Director of Peace and Conflict Studies, Director of University Assessment Programs, ADA Coordinator, and most recently Vice President of Academic Affairs and Academic Dean.

### Save the date

**Bluffton University  
Homecoming**  
Oct. 3, 2026



Stay up to date with news and events at Bluffton University.

[www.bluffton.edu/news](http://www.bluffton.edu/news)  
[www.bluffton.edu/events](http://www.bluffton.edu/events)

For more information, contact  
**Gerald Mast**  
Church relations coordinator  
and professor of communication  
[mastg@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastg@bluffton.edu)

### EMS Launches Doctor of Ministry in Peacemaking and Social Change

The new Doctor of Ministry (DMin) at EMS, launching in August 2025, is distinctive in many ways. It is the only Anabaptist-focused DMin that is both regionally and nationally accredited. As a matter of justice and educational integrity, EMS's DMin invests in personnel and students as courses are taught exclusively by continuing-contract, full-time EMS faculty and admitted students can receive up to 50% tuition scholarships. The asynchronous online format is designed for engaged ministry leaders who wish to learn about the theology and praxis of peace in order to ignite change toward justice in congregational or non-profit settings. Doctoral students will gain tools for trauma-informed care, biblical interpretation, liberative theologies, and analysis of religions, persons and systems while pursuing a research and writing project that matters for their ministry context. Learn more about this innovative program or apply to join our next cohort at [emu.edu/seminary/degree-programs/dmin](https://emu.edu/seminary/degree-programs/dmin)



*EMS's small CPE cohorts, like this spring 2025 hybrid unit offered by Director Penny Driediger, receive personalized formation*

### CPE: EMS's Hidden Gem

EMS stands out among U.S. seminaries as one of only four theological schools with its own accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program. By partnering with clinical sites across the U.S., EMS's expert certified educators offer hybrid CPE units so students can hone their chaplaincy skills in their local contexts. CPE at EMS is open to current students for graduate credit and non-seminarians who wish to study chaplaincy. Learn more at [emu.edu/seminary/cpe](https://emu.edu/seminary/cpe)

### Graduates Value EMS's Warm Community, On Campus and Online

Rev. Graciella Odelia, a 2025 Master of Arts in Christian Leadership graduate and youth minister in Mosaic Mennonite Conference, says she appreciates the warm community at EMS. "I know everyone, the professors know my name, they know my story, they know where I come from, they know my intercultural context," Graciella reflects. "I feel seen and heard." At EMS, Graciella studied theology, gained tools for deeper Bible study and valued the opportunity to study online with students from around the world. She explored youth ministry practices supporting faith and well-being through her senior capstone project, "Home Away from Home: Embracing Young Asian Immigrants in Church." Graciella is one of five graduates who earned master's degrees in Christian leadership and divinity and general theological certificates on May 4. Apply now at [emu.edu/seminary/admissions](https://emu.edu/seminary/admissions)



*Rev. Graciella Odelia, MACL '25 at May 4 commencement*

Harrisonburg, Virginia and online [www.emu.edu/seminary](https://www.emu.edu/seminary) [churchrelations@emu.edu](mailto:churchrelations@emu.edu)

#### EMS Mission

*Eastern Mennonite Seminary nurtures agents of justice and peace by opening spaces for theological learning and practice rooted in Jesus' radical ministry of beloved community.*

- ▶ **Rev. Dr. Shannon W. Dycus**, *interim president*
- ▶ **Rev. Dr. Sarah Bixler**, *seminary dean*
- ▶ **Dr. David Evans**, *associate dean*
- ▶ **Adam King**, *graduate recruitment specialist*

**emu.edu/seminary**  
**540-432-4260**

#### Conflict Transformation and Trauma Resilience Workshops

Equipping pastors and lay leaders on campus, on location and online. Custom-designed trainings available!

[emu.edu/seminary/training](https://emu.edu/seminary/training)



*EMU prepares students to serve  
and lead in a global context*

SPRING 2026

PACIFIC NORTHWEST MENNONITE CONFERENCE

EMU ANNUAL REPORT

### **Greetings and blessings to our Mennonite congregations and churches!**

We have been working hard to position ourselves to better serve our students and fulfill our mission. Within our academic divisions, we are doing this by reconfiguring our academic structure from three schools to two divisions. The new leadership structure will help the university work more efficiently and encourage greater integration and collaboration across academic programs.

Two deans have been appointed to lead the academic divisions, with both officially beginning their roles on July 1, 2025. The **Rev. Dr. Sarah Ann Bixler**, serves as dean for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences division. **Dr. Michael Horst**, serves as dean for the Behavioral, Health and Natural Sciences division. The two divisional deans work closely with **Dr. Tara Kishbaugh**, inaugural dean of faculty and student success, and **Jonathan Swartz**, dean of students, while reporting to the provost.

In our reimagining this past year, another development to emerge is the new pathway curriculum projected to roll out during the Fall 2026 semester. This framework repackages EMU's general education/core curriculum into four focused pathways, each aligned with university values. The pathway curriculum will help students develop in-demand soft skills that enhance their career readiness in a competitive job market. Students will likely select a pathway in the second semester of their first year, with guidance provided to help them choose the option that best fits their goals.

#### A few celebrations:

- EMU has been recognized and included on the 'Best Colleges in America' list from Money.com. [EMU earned a 3.5-star rating \(out of five stars\) on the list](#), outperforming several of our neighboring schools. See the [full](#) news story here.
- Total giving for fiscal year 2025 was our second best in EMU's history - surpassing \$7 million. Financial aid is among our highest priority, and \$4.1 million has been raised this year towards new scholarships.

While we work toward these successes, the political landscape continues to be at the forefront of our attention. Reduction of Department of Education staff and potential impacts to student loans, Pell and other need-based grants are the primary areas where we are gathering information and data. For our current and incoming students, EMU has provided 100% of our students with financial aid and 1:1 financial counseling from our staff. We remain committed to supporting access for students and communication about how we continue to navigate these changes.

To begin my role as EMU's next leader is both daunting and sacred. EMU is boldly preparing to continue our rich commitments and shape leaders who carry hope into a changing landscape. Thank you for your partnership in prayer and support in our mission together.

In gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Shannon W. Dycus  
Interim President

### **How can EMU serve you?**

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president or a faculty guest speaker:  
540-432-4200 or  
[ChurchRelations@emu.edu](mailto:ChurchRelations@emu.edu)

### **Pacific Northwest Connections to EMU**

#### **Students**

Spring semester 2026 has three undergraduates enrolled from the Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference.

#### **Giving**

The Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference churches gave over \$12,000 in matching church grants to their students during the year ending June 2025.

- ▶ **Rev. Dr. Shannon Dycus**, interim president
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**, vice president for advancement
- ▶ **Troy Martin**, director of financial aid
- ▶ **Braydon Hoover**, vice president for enrollment and marketing
- ▶ **Luke Litwiller**, director of undergrad admissions

### **Our Vision**

*We will open new pathways of access and achievement for all students who aspire to grow as unifying leaders equipped with intercultural competence, oriented toward peace and justice, and rooted in an active faith modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus.*

Harrisonburg, Virginia

[www.emu.edu](http://www.emu.edu)

[churchrelations@emu.edu](mailto:churchrelations@emu.edu)

# 2025-26 Report to Pacific Northwest Conference

## MISSION

Goshen College transforms local and global communities through courageous, creative and compassionate leaders. Shaped by Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition, we integrate academic excellence and real-world experience with active love for God and neighbor.

## VISION

Goshen College will cultivate joy, growth and purpose, preparing students to thrive in life, leadership and service. Rooted in the way of Jesus, we will seek inclusive community and transformative justice in all that we do.



**Rebecca J. Stoltzfus '83**  
President  
president@goshen.edu

► Read the president's blog at:  
[goshen.edu/president-blog](https://goshen.edu/president-blog)



**Dan Koop Liechty '88**  
Director of alumni engagement  
& international student adviser  
alumni@goshen.edu



**Jen Shenk '94**  
Campus pastor  
jshenk@goshen.edu

► Watch past campus chapels and convocations:  
[goshen.edu/podcasts](https://goshen.edu/podcasts)

## CAMPUS NEWS

### Our Campus Ministries 2025-26 theme — Growing in Christ: Love in Action

A Goshen education is about freedom: the freedom to explore ideas, to discover hidden "rooms" within yourself, and to live with dignity in community. Each of us has more space within us than we imagine, and college is the place to make room for growth and creativity. This year, may we make room within ourselves for one another, for peace and for freedom.

### Honors program encourages camaraderie, conversations

Goshen College's Honors Program, launched in 2023 with 12 first-years, is now well into its second year with 15 new students, emphasizing interdisciplinary study and leadership. Suzanne Ehst, GC's associate academic dean, said, "What they're doing in that honors space emboldens them to be academic leaders in their major, in their other courses and in their extracurriculars." The program features seminars, capstone projects and leadership requirements.

### Goshen College launches new Center for Nursing and Public Health

Goshen College's nursing program marked its 75th anniversary this year with the opening of the new Center for Nursing and Public Health in the renovated Westlawn building. The 18,000-square-foot facility features state-of-the-art classrooms, labs and study spaces, providing students with hands-on, high-tech training while addressing regional nursing shortages.



## CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS

**\$18,000**

Amount Pacific Northwest Conference churches are giving five students for the 2025-26 school year.

**The Goshen College Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.**

## GLOBAL EDUCATION

Students from the conference are involved on- and off-campus in many edifying ways, but we specifically recognize students who have studied and served through GC's Global Education program.

**Marin Kauffman Smith** from Portland Mennonite Church (OR) is studying and serving in Ecuador this Spring.

## FEATURED LINKS

Campus News  
[goshen.edu/news](https://goshen.edu/news)

Campus Events  
[goshen.edu/calendar](https://goshen.edu/calendar)

Music Center Events  
[gcmusiccenter.org/events](https://gcmusiccenter.org/events)

Athletics Events  
[goleafs.net/calendar](https://goleafs.net/calendar)

Study-Service Term Blogs  
[goshen.edu/sst](https://goshen.edu/sst)



### First engineering graduates make history at Hesston College

Hesston College marked a major milestone at its 115th Commencement by celebrating the graduation of its first engineering students. As the inaugural class to earn a Bachelor of Science in engineering – mechatronics, these trailblazers represent the next generation of innovators. Their achievement is a testament to Hesston's hands-on, forward-thinking approach to engineering education – preparing students not just with technical knowledge, but with purpose and passion.

*Kirah Stepps of Wichita, Kan., is a member of the first class to receive Bachelor of Science degrees in engineering from Hesston College.*

### Why Hesston College

For Rylee Weishaupt, a Bible and ministry major from Goshen, Ind., Hesston College offered more than just a welcoming community – it gave her space to grow spiritually, explore her passions and step into her calling. From singing with Bel Canto Singers to serving as a ministry assistant and competing on the powerlifting team, Rylee has embraced opportunities to connect with others and deepen her faith. “I enjoy participating in a variety of activities that help me be involved in different cultures, meet new people and actively live out my calling as a follower of Christ.” Preaching her first sermon at a church in Wichita, she shared a message on Jesus’ radical love for both the oppressed and the oppressor – a moment she describes as Spirit-filled and life-giving. “My faith has become more real and prevalent here,” she says.



### Three new programs and big opportunities

Hesston College is expanding its academic offerings with three new bachelor’s degree programs in health science, health and human performance and sports management. We’re also teaming up with Kansas Health Science University to give future doctors a fast track to med school through an exciting new partnership.

## WELCOME MARK LANDES



our new president



### Delivering Preparedness: HC Nursing and Hesston EMS Team Up

Hesston College’s nursing department partnered with Hesston Fire/EMS for a hands-on training session focused on emergency and complicated childbirth scenarios. Led by Alisha Dorsing, a 2025 nursing graduate and Field Training Officer for Hesston Fire/EMS, the collaboration gave EMS personnel a chance to sharpen their delivery skills using the college’s advanced simulation lab.

The steadfast  
**love**  
of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning;  
**GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS.**  
- Lamentations 3:22-23 (NRSV)

### FROM THE NEST

#### News

[hesston.edu/news](https://hesston.edu/news)

#### Calendar of Events

[hesston.edu/calendar](https://hesston.edu/calendar)

#### Performing Arts

[hesston.edu/performing-arts-calendar](https://hesston.edu/performing-arts-calendar)

#### Athletics

[HCLarks.com](https://HCLarks.com)



## **Vision: Healing & Hope**

*God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.*

### **Pacific Northwest Mennonite Conference Mission Statement**

**P***romote personal spiritual development*

**N***urture healthy congregations*

**M***ake strong connections throughout the conference*

**C***all each other to fulfill God's purpose for the world.*



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