



PACIFIC NORTHWEST  
MENNONITE CONFERENCE

# ANNUAL MEETING

Albany Mennonite Church, June 25-28, 2026

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

## 2026 Opportunities:

Thursday Evening, June 25,

Registration opens at 6:30pm

All are welcome to gather at 7:30pm

for a Hymn Sing!

Join in song at Albany Mennonite Church (Sanctuary)

Phil Rempel with lead guests in song

as we gather to kick things off!

### Seminar/Activity Period 1\* (Friday, June 26, 1:30—2:45pm)

#### A. Healthy Congregations/Healthy Leaders, Rachel Ringenburg-Miller (Sanctuary)

What does it look like to cultivate a thriving, safe, and resilient church community in times of complexity? This seminar explores the intersection of leadership well-being and congregational health. We will consider how congregations function, recognizing that periods of organizational chaos and friction are natural to living systems. Together, we will discuss how the Anabaptist theology transforms accountability into a collective, mutual responsibility. We will explore how centering our shared mission and core values can serve as a touchstone that keeps a community whole, aligned, and healthy even during turbulent times.

—**Rachel Ringenburg Miller** serves as denominational minister for Ministerial Leadership for MC USA. She focuses on engaging conferences and congregations, providing resources and services to meet the diverse demands facing congregations today. Ringenburg Miller graduated from Goshen College and Eastern Mennonite Seminary with an MDiv. She served as associate pastor for Portland Mennonite Church, Portland, OR, and as pastor of Shalom Mennonite Church in Newton, KS. She is a member of Eighth Street Mennonite Church in Goshen, IN.

#### B. Becoming With: How Do We Become Communities That Can Credibly Be With Gen Z, Dwight Friesen, Rob Kirby (Fellowship)

Many congregations are asking how to connect with younger generations. Yet perhaps a more generative question is this: How do we become communities that can credibly be with Gen Z? Gen Z is coming of age amid a convergence of crises unlike anything previous generations have faced: ecological uncertainty, political polarization, economic precarity, digital saturation, the emergence of AI capitalism, and widespread distrust of institutions—including the church. Yet many young adults continue to hunger for meaning, belonging, justice, authenticity, and communities that embody the kind of life and love embodied in Jesus.

Before entering into conversation with Gen Z voices themselves, this workshop will briefly explore a framework for understanding the cultural moment we inhabit and the opportunities it presents for communities of faith. Together, we will consider what it might mean for our congregations to become more trustworthy, hospitable, and present within a rapidly changing world.

You will not leave with all the answers. But you will leave with a fresh frame for understanding this moment, meaningful conversation with fellow participants, and renewed hope that the Spirit of God is already at work bringing forth new life.

**Dwight J. Friesen** (he/they) is Professor of Practical Theology at The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology, where they teach at the Intersection of theology, leadership, community formation, and social transformation. A practical theologian, educator, pastor, spiritual director, and convener, Dwight has spent more than two decades helping leaders and communities cultivate faithful presence amid cultural change. [Read Dwight's full bio.](#)

### 3:00 - 5:00 PM, Service Project supporting Jackson Street Youth, Facilitated by Lisa Ebersole

### Seminar/Activity Period 2\* (Friday, June 26, 3:15—4:30pm)

#### A. Abuse Prevention & Accountability, Duncan Smith (Sanctuary)

Mennonite Church USA has actively sought to update their ministerial misconduct and abuse policy. "Prevention and Accountability" has two parts. The "Prevention" section first focuses on how to encourage healthy congregations. Rachel Ringenburg Miller will focus on the "Prevention" section. This seminar will focus on the second section "Accountability" and how the new process that addresses ministerial misconduct works and is different from the previous policy. Each area conference in MC USA has agreed to use this policy for all misconduct complaints. Join Duncan for this informative and interactive session.

#### B. Mennonite Action/Faithful Resistance, Julie Allyn (Fellowship Hall)

In this workshop we will discuss the rise of White Christian Nationalism, and why resistance to these harmful ideologies and policies calls for a Christian response. Pacifism doesn't mean passive. We'll call upon our Anabaptist tradition of nonviolent civil resistance to inform us in our faith-based public actions, demonstrations, advocacy and awareness. This workshop will offer practical strategies, examples, and action steps for coalition-building and community organizing.

—Julie Allyn of Boise, ID, graduated from AMBS, Elkhart, IN, with a Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies with a focus on Peace Studies. She recently began a position as Children and Youth Pastor at Boise First Congregational United Church of Christ, a congregation of Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. Allyn previously earned a B.A. in Special Ministries: Youth Emphasis from Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, ID. She and her partner, Jeffrey Hoskins II, are parents to two young adults and two teenagers.

### Evening Activity (Friday, June 26, 7:00 — 8:30pm)

#### Lament and Moral Injury (and Somehow Hope) - A Writing Retreat, Jaqui Eicher (Fellowship Hall) *Open to all*

We will briefly look at the history and definitions of lament and moral injury but for the bulk of this session will be moving between writing, reading poetry, processing and sharing our writing (though no one has to share if they don't want to). Together we can listen, write, and experience some shared grief for our world and practice the ancient ritual of lament.

—Jaqui Eicher has worked in the field of Public Education for most of her life (so far) as a middle school teacher of Humanities, Art and sometimes theater. These days, Jaqui works as a Chaplain at Mennonite Village and Youth Coordinator at Albany Mennonite Church. She is also a student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. In her spare time, she teaches art classes, paints murals (and soulful pet portraits) and writes poetry. Please bring your own personal journal to use during the Writing Retreat.

## Seminar/Activity Period 1\* (Saturday, June 27, 1:30—2:45pm)

### A. New Approaches to Baptism/Membership, Peter Epp, Sara Rempel (Sanctuary)

Ten years ago, for my thesis, I (Peter) interviewed Mennonite young adults to ask, "If you identify as a practicing Christian, why haven't you gotten baptized"? Four years later, those conversations became the basis for a baptism and membership discernment process that I believe can help all of us to clarify what baptism and membership are really about, why baptism and membership are still incredibly valuable, and how baptism and membership can be talked about in ways that are refreshing for everyone. Join me and Sara Rempel (Albany Mennonite Church's most recent baptized member) as we discuss our experience of going through that discernment process together!

### B. Worship with the Anabaptist Community Bible, Cathleen Hockman-Wert (Fellowship Hall)

Explore the new Anabaptist Community Bible, created in conjunction with the Anabaptism at 500 commemoration. What does this Bible contain? How can this resource – and its companion volume of artwork and poetry, *Drawing Near* – help us understand God, speak to God, listen to God, experience God, be guided by God? A panel will share experiences from the Corvallis, Albany and Seattle congregations; come and share experiences you have had in your congregation as well.

—*Cathleen Hockman-Wert is a writer/editor for the Oregon State University Foundation and a frequent worship leader at Corvallis Mennonite Church. Tyler Merrill is pastor of faith formation at Seattle Mennonite Church. Jaqui Eicher is youth coordinator at Albany Mennonite Church and a chaplain at Mennonite Village.*

## Seminar/Activity Period 1\* (Saturday, June 27, 3:15—4:30pm)

### A. The Enneagram and Spiritual Growth, Marlene Kropf & Cynthia Hockman-Chupp (Sanctuary)

Join us for an engaging panel discussion exploring the Enneagram as a practical tool for growth and transformation. Panelists will share insights into how they've used the Enneagram in church settings to deepen self-awareness, strengthen relationships, and support a more intentional faith journey. Whether you are new to the Enneagram or already familiar with it, this workshop offers thoughtful conversation, real-life application, and space for reflection in a welcoming and encouraging environment.

—*Marlene Kropf has returned home to Oregon after retiring from teaching worship and spirituality at AMBS and serving as Denominational Minister of Worship and Spiritual Formation with MC USA. She has been a student of the Enneagram for more than forty years and has taught courses and led retreats focusing on the Enneagram. She lives in Mennonite Village with her husband Stanley.*

—*Several years ago, at her daughter's suggestion, Cynthia Hockman-Chupp first took an Enneagram test and completely rejected the results. But after hearing it mentioned by some of her favorite spiritual teachers, she jumped in with both feet, taking classes, reading books, listening to podcasts, and sharing what she's learned with Adult Sunday School at Zion. She lives near Canby with her husband, Kevin, with whom she's raised five children...all with different Enneagram numbers!*

### B. What Every Church Needs, Steve Bustos, Everence (Fellowship Hall)

**Five core strategies to nurture a strong stewardship ministry**—This workshop provides stewardship leaders an introduction to a framework for designing and cultivating a healthy and vibrant stewardship ministry. The workshop will highlight five core strategies as well as the key role that leadership has in nurturing a generous congregation.

—*Steve Bustos is an Everence® Stewardship Consultant. In his work, Steve nurtures relationships with congregations, pastors, and church conference leadership, and walks alongside them as they navigate the relationship between faith and finances. Steve and his wife, Lori, have two grown children. He enjoys watching the Green Bay Packers and Indiana Fever, walking between 10,000 and 20,000 steps a day, and traveling to National Parks (with the goal of visiting them all).*

## Evening Activity (Saturday, June 27, 7:00 — 8:30pm)

### "A New World, A New Song", Michael Collier (Sanctuary) — OPEN TO ALL, registration not required.

Michael Collier, who has received an Honorary Doctorate in Sacred Music, will share some of his background and about how he became the first chairperson of The Tacoma Refugee Choir. He will reflect on some of the joys and challenges of growing the choir, as well as some of the opposition and pushback the choir received. Mike will also reflect on why music is so important in ministry. He will lead us in some congregational singing!

—*Michael Collier is a member of Mountain View Mennonite Church in Kalispell, Montana.*

## Morning Worship with Albany Mennonite Church (Sunday, June 28, 11:00am)

### Worship with Communion, Rachael Weasley preaching (Sanctuary) OPEN TO ALL,

Rev. Rachael Weasley (she/her) is the Pastor and Church Planter of Community of Hope. She studied music history and theory at Oberlin College, taught in a Montessori school, then did the Master of Divinity degree at Chicago Theological Seminary. Before planting Community of Hope, she did community organizing, music ministry, lived in a cooperative house, and wrote **two albums of contemplative songs**. She is the first out, queer, licensed minister in the Pacific Northwest Conference of Mennonite Church, USA. She lives with her partner **Davi** (they/them), their kiddo Zeke (he/him), and their cat Rutabaga (she/her), in Bellingham, WA.