



e-Bulletin

Providing bi-weekly communication for PNMC

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2026 Annual Meeting: Seeking Unity Through Nonconformity | Albany, OR | June 25-28

By Eric Massanari, PNMC Executive Conference Minister



Our PNMC community was warmly welcomed and hosted by Albany Mennonite Church and Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship for this year's PNMC Annual Meeting. Over the course of four days, more than 120 members of the wider PNMC community joined in a rich time of worship, fellowship, learning and community building.

We were especially excited to welcome special guests with us, including Shelby and Anne Boese (Shelby is Executive Minister for Mennonite Church British Columbia), and representatives from the Village Grace Church in Southwest Portland (a congregation who is exploring the possibility of membership in PNMC and MCUSA).

Our gathering began on Thursday, June 25, with a half-day retreat for ministers and a delicious Mediterranean cookout for those leaders and their guests at the Stutzman family farm. Our full gathering of all attendees began on Thursday evening with a hymn sing led by Phil Rempel and inspired by the question: **"What songs sustain you in difficult times?"** We sang songs of praise, gratitude, lament and prayerful petition.

Friday and Saturday brought full days of worship, plenary sessions, seminars and service opportunities. Our worship speakers, Dwight Friesen and Rachel Ringenberg-Miller, reflected on passages from the "Sermon on the Plain" from the gospel of Luke, and challenged us to consider how the nonconforming and prophetic message of Christ is also a call to join with others and expand the circle of beloved community. Our annual "roll call" of congregations brought inspiring stories from the vital communities who comprise PNMC, and our PNMC Moderator, Karla Morton, led the gathered community in reflections on the 2025 resolution, "A Call to Discipleship Amidst a Culture of Christian Nationalism." We reflected on how the resolution and companion worship resources shaped the life of our churches over the last twelve months, and then we moved into lively table conversations about where we want to go from here as a conference community.

The weekend concluded with a rich time of table fellowship, worship and communion on Sunday morning, with an inspiring message brought by Pastor Rachael Weasley (Community of Hope Church, Bellingham, WA). This day marked Pride Sunday in Albany, Oregon, and Pastor Rachael challenged us to reflect on the painful struggles faced by LGBTQIA+ Christians in the Body of Christ, the richness we are now experiencing in the church as we commit to a more open table, and the work that continues as we seek to fulfill the call of Christ in our lives.

We hope you can join us next year in for our 2027 PNMC Annual Meeting when we gather in Seattle, WA (June 25-27)!





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



Seeing old friends & making new ones at the PNMC Annual Meeting is always a joy for me! Following this year's gathering in Albany, we have a team gathered to work on resources for congregations to help us focus on what it means to Seek Unity Through Nonconformity. Watch for those materials to be emailed to congregations in the next few months. I look forward to seeing you in Seattle next summer! We hope more members of the conference will attend along with congregational delegates! See you next year!

-PNMC Moderator, Karla Morton

Thank you, Don Bacher, for capturing so many great images of our 2026 gathering!



The Quilt We Make Together

A poem written by Dwight J. Friesen following the 2026 Annual Meeting



No single square
ever calls itself *the quilt*.

It arrives offering what only it can
its own beautiful history—

a worn sleeve,
a child's Sunday dress,
a farmer's shirt softened
by seasons of weather and work.

On their own
they are glorious stories.

But place them beside another,
and another,

leave room
for unlikely colors to touch,

and something begins
that none of them could have imagined.

Even the thread,
almost invisible,
offers its life
holding strangers together.

My Anabaptist ancestors
seemed to know this.

Around long tables,
without hurry,
their hands stitched
their relational theology:

that no piece is expendable,
no pattern complete
without the one still waiting
to be sewn in.

The corner no one notices
keeps the whole quilt square.

The faded cloth
and the bright one dance.

Even the patch
covering an old tear
becomes part of the beauty.

Perhaps creation itself
is being quilted still—

G-d gathering
every overlooked fragment,
every joy,
every wound,
every people,

not into sameness,

but into a warmth
large enough
to shelter the world.

And perhaps
our small calling
is simply this:

to keep threading the needle,

to believe
that every life belongs,

that every stitch matters,

and that flourishing

has always been

something

we make

together.

PNMC CONGREGATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES



Portland Mennonite Church

On **Sunday, July 12**, Portland Mennonite Church (PMC) gathered to celebrate the installation of their new lead pastor, **Kevin Seidel**. Kevin joins **Kristen Swartley** and **Curt Weaver** on the PMC pastoral team. Kevin and his wife Jennifer moved to Portland from Harrisonburg, VA, where he had been serving on the faculty of Eastern Mennonite University. Welcome to the PNW Kevin and Jennifer!

Zion Mennonite Church

Zion VBS #KidsConnect! JULY 26-30 – 6:00-8:00 PM

This year's theme helps children use their brain power as they connect with Jesus, family and friends of all ages! As children learn and create together, they will find a place of belonging, relate to trusted adults, make new friends, and follow Jesus' example of making room for all and loving one another. Each day includes worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, brain-building challenges and active games. Welcome to all kiddos who have finished kindergarten thru grade 7. Eighth graders and high school-age students are welcome to attend as helpers! Call 503-651-2274 to sign up! Or register on the first night!



Drift Creek Camp

It has been a minute, but with the help of **Jory Umble** from Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship, the **DCC Disc Golf Tournament** is being revived! Join us for the day on **August 22** or escape the heat in the valley and head out on Friday night, **August 21** for additional activities. More details and online registration can be found [HERE](#).

Upcoming e-Bulletins

Aug 3 (submissions by 7/27)

Aug 17 (submissions by 8/10)

Sept 7 (submissions by 8/31)

Sept 21 (submissions by 9/14)

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

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