

## Conference Minister's Corner

### Assembly Myths . . . BUSTED!

By Myth Buster Rev. Amy Zimbelman



Since [registration is open](#) and things are falling into place for the event, I set out to debunk the most common myths about Mountain States Mennonite Conference's Annual Assembly, which will be held in Cañon City this year July 30-Aug 1.

**Myth: Assembly will be lame this year.**

Fact: Assembly will be fun this year. Come on, is it ever not fun?

**Myth: There's really no way of knowing the theme of Assembly.**

Fact: The theme this year is **Blessed Unproductivity: Resting, laughing, and playing our way towards heaven (on earth)**. And the scripture that's centering us is: "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." -Luke 12:27. And the centering poem is Wendell Berry's *The Peace of Wild Things*. Google it.

**Myth: Cañon City? That's super far away.**

Fact: You have been totally willing to travel long distances to watch your favorite sports team lose, visit your grandchildren, lounge at the beach, and/or attend Comic Con. How about a couple hours out of your usual commute to spend time with your buddies (or soon-to-be buddies) from Colorado and New Mexico attempting to follow Jesus just like you? I could be wrong, but I feel like that's not too much to ask.

**Myth: You can pretty much show up anytime in July or August and Assembly will be occurring.**

Fact: Assembly will be one weekend only this year (like every year). That weekend is July 30-August 1, 2021.

**Myth: I don't have to register until the last minute if I'm attending virtually.**

Fact: Registration closes Friday, July 23 at 5:00 pm for everyone. Attendance at the Sunday morning service does not require registration.

**Myth: No one has recorded anything about the Abbey event complex's history. It's an enigma.**

Fact: The Abbey was started by Benedictine monks who moved to the area from Pennsylvania in 1886 for missionary work. Learn more in this issue of Zing! or [here](#).

**Myth: Wait, are these real myths you're busting?**

Fact: Okay, so full disclosure: I may have created most of these myths to then debunk them, so technically the myths themselves are myths, but they're fun right? Just keep reading and don't worry too much about it.

**Myth: If you attend assembly, you have to leave your artistic expression at home.**

Fact: We have a professional artist and conference intern Sidney Nuñez who can lead you in a Bob Ross-style painting workshop. We'll also have a talent show on Saturday night where you can share all the flute, tambourine, acrobatic, and stand up comedy skills you've been withholding from us until now.

**Myth: But isn't Covid still a thing?**

Fact: Yes. Please do not attend if you are diagnosed with Covid or experiencing Covid symptoms—we will waive our refund policy and give you a full refund if you need to cancel for that reason.

Everyone in attendance is encouraged (but not required) to wear masks. We strongly encourage anyone unvaccinated and children over age 2 to wear masks. The majority of our children's activities are planned for the outdoors, and some adult activities will be outdoors as well. We'll also have hand sanitizing stations available, and folks will be able to socially distance as family units during mealtimes.

Also, after registration, be on the lookout for Covid updates so we can continue complying with state and federal regulations and adjust our level of caution accordingly.

For anyone who is uncomfortable with these restrictions, please join us virtually, as we are offering a hybrid option this year!

**Myth: Every second of my time will be scheduled for the whole weekend.**

Fact: There are many times you could steal away for downtime, PLUS two whole hours on Saturday morning are devoted to blessed unproductivity which includes socializing, board/card gaming, sports, hikes, or whatever else accomplishes very little while being very enjoyable. (Someone snuck in a service project during that time too...not sure how that got under the radar.)

**Myth: I heard the speakers will be lame.**

Fact: Ouch.

**Myth: The jovial spirit of this article makes a mockery of the serious tone that must be established for any serious Assembly.**

Fact: Lol. Did you hear the subtitle? Resting, *laughing*, and playing our way towards heaven (on earth). Sounds like you need lightening up the most. Maybe at Assembly this year?

So there you have it. Real and fake myths busted just in time to [register for Assembly](#). See you there!