



ZING!

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Mennonite Church USA is holding a special delegate assembly in Kansas City May 27-30, 2022. This is arguably the most important delegate session in over a decade. This is an in-person event, no Zoom option will be available. Logistical information on lodging, registration costs, childcare, etc. can be found in MC USA's FAQ [here](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DA22-FAQs-FINAL.pdf): www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DA22-FAQs-FINAL.pdf

Register Here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/dc7570e8-d578-451e-81d4-31055813f267/regProcessStep1> Deadline is May 16 for delegates and guests.
Registration fee is \$250/pp.

Check out "Why May's Delegate Assembly Matters," an article by Conference Minister Rev. Amy S. Zimbelman and Conference Moderator Ryan Koch: <https://mountainstatesmc.org/why-mays-delegate-assembly-matters/>

Visit the [Delegate Assembly Resource Hub](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/special-delegate-session-22/) for everything you need to know about the Special Session: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/special-delegate-session-22/>

A Tribute to MaryAnn Conrad



Pictured: MaryAnn tossing her children/youth minister hat to the wind.

MaryAnn Conrad is stepping down in April as the Children and Youth Ministry Associate at Albuquerque Mennonite. Even though she will no longer be in that role, she will continue to participate as a member of the congregation.

Here are some things AMC congregants are saying about her wonderful ministry:

“MaryAnn has a real heart for children and puppets. We appreciated how she kept track of each child and helped them to feel part of the congregation through art, crafts, puppetry, storytelling, and play. She will be missed.” --Andrew Clouse, Amanda Lind, Samuel Clouse (11 years old)

“MaryAnn joined us here at AMC a little while before her husband, Dan, as he was still working in Chile. She promptly set to work developing a children’s education program and displayed considerable enthusiasm, energy, and creativity! Then, Boom! COVID-19 hit and the church went virtual. But MaryAnn tackled this head on with Zoom storytelling, coloring pages to send in, and hand puppet skits featuring Earnest Sam and his menagerie of friends, delighting young and old alike. They (the puppets) conveyed the importance of God’s loving care as well as the values of charity and kindness, all with a dash of humor. MaryAnn’s efforts will be sorely missed but fortunately she and Dan will remain as treasured members

of our faith community.” —Linda Mawhorter

“I’m so grateful for the energy that MaryAnn kept exerting for the children in our community, especially during the difficult time of pandemic! Speaking for myself, I pretty much checked out during the pandemic and was constantly amazed at her commitment to stick with it, regardless of the number of kids involved. More recently, [my daughter] Lali has enjoyed working with her on puppet shows. Thank you so much, MaryAnn, for all the time and love!” —Steve Miller

“MaryAnn Conrad accepted the role of minister to children just before the COVID pandemic shut us down. That first spring, she did an amazing job of reaching out to parents and kids of all ages through engaging children’s stories and puppet shows on Zoom. Several of the children became primary characters like Skunk and Pig. In the summer we tried worship services in the park where we could be together safely. She always had activities for the children.

“When we were shut down again in the fall, she equipped children for celebrating Advent in their homes by providing Advent candles and readings, and she featured a different family each week lighting advent candles. Then she delivered costumes and scripts to the children so that they could do a Christmas pageant via Zoom.

“It has been an incredibly difficult time to be a children’s minister. MaryAnn found engaging storytellers within the congregation for children’s story time, and she had a puppet theatre built which has been a popular feature in Sunday morning services. Her creativity and dedication have been a real blessing to Albuquerque Mennonite Church.” —Katie Cunningham

“Thank you for all you have done for the families at AMC, MaryAnn! You had the very difficult task



of engaging kids during a pandemic and you met that challenge with so much creativity and dedication. We appreciate you!"

Laura Shank and Paul Swanson

In a note to AMC, MaryAnn said that she thanked God for the opportunity to serve the kids, and that "in truth, I'm not going anywhere. Neither are the children of our church. I remain committed to them, even as I step down from this official position. Our congregation's able storytellers are already signing up, and my name is on the list."

Thank you so much, MaryAnn, for your faithful and creative service to the next generation! Blessings in this transition time.

"With Care..."

By Alice M. Price, long-time member of the Conference Dialogue Resource Team and lay leader with the Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa



A new book recently caught my eye: *The Neutrality Trap: Disrupting and Connecting for Social Change*. (Wiley 2022). Questions about the role of neutrality often tug at my somewhat disparate practice areas of conflict mediation, dialogue facilitation, and social change advocacy. I was also drawn by some small world connections with the authors. Well-known in the field of conflict studies, Bernie Mayer helped found CDR, a pioneering mediation group in Colorado. They led my first in-depth mediation training in 1983, while based in their original quarters at First Mennonite in Denver. Jacqueline N. Font-Guzman's name was less familiar, until I saw she is the new director of DEI at Eastern Mennonite University.

So when do we call for dialogue in the face of conflict, division or harm? When is a more direct calling out of injustice or other needed change warranted instead – or at least first? Mayer and Font-Guzman explore this inherent tension in effective social change, which often requires a back- and-forth between communication across differences and disruption of existing systems and patterns. Faced with this dynamic, many of us instinctively or have been taught to favor connection over confrontation. This is true not only for professional peacebuilders, but many educators, social workers, pastors, therapists, journalists, scientists, healthcare providers, and so on.

While the authors uphold and practice the value of human connection across differences, they raise concerns that many well-meaning efforts at dialogue are premature or disconnected from a commitment to confront the systems and issues driving a conflict or division. The challenges they raise are not new ones, but important reminders. Among the questions they frame, I offer these three for our reflection as individuals, local communities, and in our broader church and civic contexts:

- When does our identification with neutrality stand in our way of being “transparent, authentic, and rounded participants” in the struggles of our time?
- How may the good work we do help maintain or reinforce systems that need to be changed?
- How can we use our capacities and intentions to nurture, rather than tamp down seeds of needed change we see around us?

Conference Minister's Corner

It's all one big gift: The varied and blessed life of Leadership Board Member Linda Mawhorter



This article is part of a series on new leaders in our conference. [Click here](#) to read about Ministerial Council Co-Chair Jenelle Roynon.

When I sat down with Linda Mawhorter (the W is silent) who is new to the Leadership Board of Mountain States Mennonite Conference to hear some of her life story, she said that one thing has brought it all together:



"The uniting thread throughout my life has been God's grace," Linda says. "I've always felt that whatever I was doing, wherever I was going, was because of the grace of God."

And Linda has done much, and gone many places in her life.

The Denver native has lived in 13 different locations since graduating medical school, now settling in Albuquerque. She has been a part of various Christian denominations through the years, including United Methodists, United Church of Christ, and a Community Bible Church before she became a member of Albuquerque Mennonite Church in 2017. Linda has also had two different but

related professional careers: for 20 years she practiced medicine as an internist and infectious disease doctor, and now she serves as a hospital chaplain.

"I went into medicine fairly blindly, in retrospect," she says. "Mainly it was because I like working with people and I like science. My father is a caregiving kind of person and inspired me—he became a Licensed Practical Nurse back when men 'couldn't be' nurses. I did very well in school, so I figured, what the heck, I'll just go for it."

Linda met her future husband Phil in Denver eight months before she finished her residency, and the two of them moved to Albuquerque for her to complete her fellowship in infectious diseases. They were married in 1990, and through the years, Phil has worked as a computer programmer, English professor, writer, and LPN. Linda practiced medicine in Albuquerque for 10 years and then moved to Alamosa, CO to practice there for 10 years.

But after two decades of a successful medical practice, Linda was increasingly frustrated by changes in medicine...and felt a nudge to go to seminary.

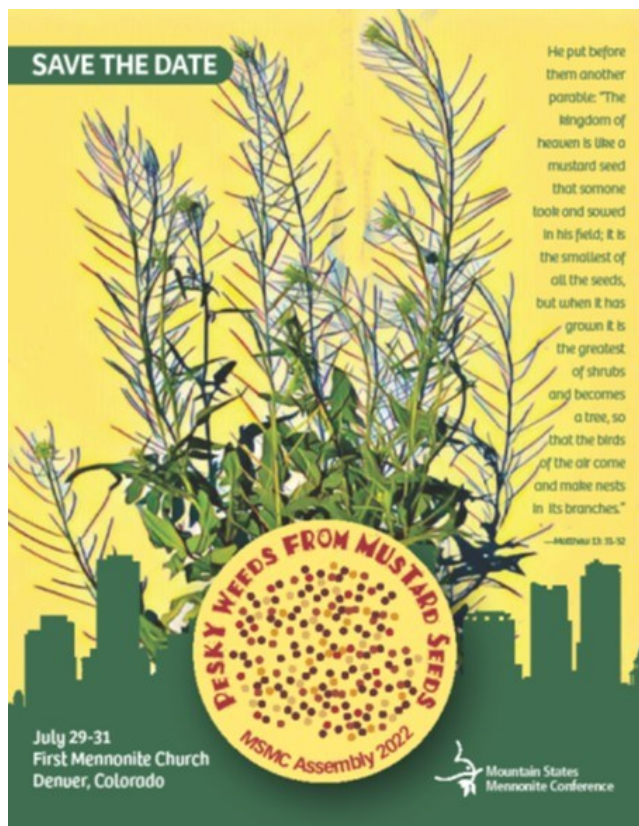
"The bad parts [of medicine]—the insurance and administrative hassles—were outweighing the good parts. I was tired. I started becoming more involved in church life; that gradually grew. I started feeling more like I had a faith family—it wasn't just a church, it was a spiritual family. I started studying the Bible more, became closer to my pastors and had more questions about my own spiritual faith. As that was growing, my enjoyment of medicine was sinking, so I decided that 20 years was long enough."

[Click here](#) to read full article online.



Pictured: Phil, Teddy (lop-eared) and Max (black-and-white)

MSMC 2022 Assembly



Who: Everyone in MSMC

When: July 29-31

Where: First Mennonite Church, Denver

Registration coming later this month.

Lodging - We will have options for home stays and a hotel with a discounted rate.

Check our [website](#) periodically as details continue to be added / updated.

Schedule - below is a *tentative* schedule for the weekend.

EVERYONE IS



WELCOME!



Friday

6:30 pm

[Chicano Music and Roots Festival](#) "Resistance Jam Session" * (food available on-site for purchase)

Saturday

8:00—9:30 am

Registration

8:00—9:00 am

Light Breakfast

9:30 am

Worship

11:00 am

Special Session

12:00 pm

Lunch (details TBD)

1:00 pm

Delegate Session

2:15—3pm

Breakout Session I

3:15—4pm

Breakout Session II

Dinner

On your own

6:10 pm

Rockies Game *

Sunday

9:00—9:30 am

Pre-worship Hymn Sing

9:30 am

Worship

* When submitting registration, you will be able to add tickets for the Chicano Music Festival and Rockies game if you are interested.

News from:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP



709 County Road 62
Divide, CO 80814

719-687-9506
info@rmmc.org
www.rmmc.org

MOOSE COW AND CALF VISIT RMMC



"Well ya don't see that every day!" was the saying that came to mind when camp welcomed two moose visitors the other week. They stopped long enough to enjoy some of the serenity here at RMMC along with the budding shrubbery between the pond and chapel. Unfortunately the calf broke through on the thinner outside edges of the ice and was able to safely swim to shore with mother's gentle urging. This is a rare moose sighting indeed and we were glad to notice that they were even here working in the office. Four or five years ago, family campers mentioned seeing two young moose pass by late in the evening and so we hope moose will like the forest "neighborhood" we all enjoy and stay awhile!

Pictured: Calf moose surveying the campground.

SPRING MENNONITE QUILTERS

It was fun to have a full house again for Spring Mennonite Quilters Retreat. Special thanks to Barb Swartzendruber for serving as the resident camp Quilting Program Director in facilitating sharing and the Sunday morning worship. Participants offered the following things they appreciated about the weekend:

- "Sharing our journeys."
- "Wonderful fellowship."
- "Uninterrupted time to sew!"
- "The food, view, air, peace."
- "Peacefulness of being away from hustle bustle of life."
- "Sharing our love for God and each other."
- "I love taking the break from day to day life and get together with such amazing people."



Pictured: Spring Mennonite quilters of 2022 joined together from as close as Woodland Park & Florissant to as far away as California & Georgia.

JOIN IN HELPING PREPARE FOR THE 2022 SUMMER CAMPING SEASON

Memorial Day Work and Play Retreat is a weekend for families and individuals to volunteer at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. The weekend focuses on getting ready for summer campers and guests with foodservice, cleaning and fixing things while also offering a free day on Sunday to enjoy the holiday weekend. The retreat is scheduled for May 27-30, 2022 beginning at 7:00pm on Friday and concluding after breakfast on Monday. Please let us know if you, your family or your friends can help for all or part of the weekend by going to "Register For Camp". ☐

Click [here](#) to read the full May 2022 Newsletter.

MSMC Communication Updates

Zing! 2022 deadlines and schedule	
• Jan —Release Date: Jan 10; <i>submission deadline: Dec 31</i>	• July/Assembly Edition – Release Date: July 10; <i>submission deadline: Jun 30</i>
• Feb —Release Date: Feb 10; <i>submission deadline: Jan 31</i>	• Aug/Sept – Release Date: Aug 31; <i>submission deadline: Aug 15</i>
• Mar —Release Date: Mar 10; <i>submission deadline: Feb 28</i>	• Oct – Release Date: Oct 10; <i>submission deadline: Sept 30</i>
• Apr – Release Date: Apr 10; <i>submission deadline: Mar 31</i>	• Nov – Release Date: Nov 10; <i>submission deadline: Oct 31</i>
• May - Release Date: May 10; <i>submission deadline: Apr 30</i>	• Dec – Release Date: Dec 10; <i>submission deadline: Nov 30</i>
• Jun – Release Date: Jun 10; <i>submission deadline: May 31</i>	

Bulletin Announcements – We email MSMC congregations every Wednesday with bulletin announcements. If you have something to share out to our community, please email Jen, [MSMC Administrator](#), by 9am Wednesday morning.

Conference Calendar

July 29-31,2022 Annual Assembly
Nov 11-13 Pastor Retreat

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is published for the congregations of Mountain States Mennonite Conference and can be [viewed on the website](#).

Conference Website: MountainStatesMC.org

Email contributions as Word files to Jen Dudenhefer at administrator@MountainStatesMC.org
Articles should be 300 words or less in length.

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