



ZING!

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Assembly

Who: Everyone in MSMC

When: July 29-31

Where: First Mennonite Church, Denver

Registration [Open Now!](#)

Lodging - We have home stay options and a discounted rate at [11th Avenue Hostel](#) in downtown Denver. If interested, [book directly with this link](#) right away, **discounted rate deadline: July 7**. This isn't what you'd expect travelling across Europe... the facilities are upgraded and offer great amenities. [Read more here](#)...

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

Questions? Email Jen at Jen@mountainstatesmc.org or our Assembly Planning Chair at Assembly@mountainstatesmc.org.



MSMC's Annual Assembly will have something for all ages again this year... the delegate session and several breakout session choices for adults on Saturday, plus worship both Saturday and Sunday morning.



Childcare—Hannah Martin, Associate Pastor of Children at Beth-El MC, will oversee our children's programming for the weekend. There will be childcare for both worship services, during the delegate session and breakout sessions.

Elementary—There will be Programming Saturday after worship and again during the afternoon delegate session and breakout sessions.

Youth—After worship there will be a special session with representatives from several Mennonite colleges and RMMC to chat about life after high school and beyond. During the afternoon youth will have access to FMC's MYF room to enjoy snacks, hangout, and play games.

Family Fun—We are offering Friday and Saturday evening fun for all ages. Both the Chicano Roots Resistance Jam Session and the Rockies game require an extra fee during registration. Limited Rockies tickets available, so reserve yours now!

Food and Fellowship—Start each day with a quick breakfast bite before worship. Rocky Mountain Hmong MC will provide a special lunch Saturday (donations appreciated) and RMMC will treat us to an afternoon snack.

Friday			
Time	Details	Who	Location
5:30 pm	Welcome Table and Food available (for purchase)	Family Friendly	Su Teatro
6:30 pm	Chicano Music and Roots Festival "Resistance Jam Session" \$	Family Friendly	Su Teatro
Saturday			
Time	Details	Who	Location
8:00—9:30 am	Registration	ALL	FMC Lobby
9:30 am	Worship ☺	ALL	FMC Sanctuary
11:00 am	Hope for New Growth Conversation ☺	Adults	FMC Sanctuary
	Youth Visioning (Hesston, Bethel, RMMC, AMBS)	Youth	B08 (MYF Room)
	Elementary Session I	5 year old—5th grade	FMC Basement Room
12:00 pm	Fundraising Lunch by Rocky Mountain Hmong MC (by donation)	ALL	FMC Community Center
1:00 pm	Delegate Session ☺	Pastors, Church Delegates, Anyone Interested	FMC Sanctuary
2:15—3pm	Breakout Session I ☺	Youth, Adults	FMC
3:15—4pm	Breakout Session II ☺	Youth, Adults	FMC
1pm—4pm	Elementary Session II	5 year old—5th grade	FMC Basement Room
4:15 pm	RMMC Build-Your-Own-Snack Bags		FMC Community Center
Dinner	On your own	ALL	
6:10 pm	CO Rockies vs. LA Dodgers baseball game \$	ALL	Coors Field
Sunday			
Time	Details	Who	Location
8:30 am	Coffee & Donuts	ALL	FMC Community Center
9:00—9:30 am	Hymn Sing	Anyone Interested	FMC Sanctuary
9:30 am	Worship ☺	ALL	FMC Sanctuary

* The schedule is tentative. Details are still being finalized, so there will be additions and updates.

\$ - These activities require additional cost, during registration
 ☺ - These activities have childcare available

Peace Bike Rack from Bryan Miller

By Bryan Miller of Beth-El Mennonite Church

The new PEACE bike rack that I created for the front of our church was an interesting project that took a lot longer to think about than to actually do. Over the last two years I have been collecting ideas and examples for converting our little single-post bike rack into something that has a lot more room. I wanted to make it welcoming for a whole herd of bikers, but also make an artistic statement that was relevant for our church. Our congregation deserves something a bit unique - beyond the ubiquitous grids of boring vertical bars.

Looking for inspiration can take time. When you percolate on something you want to create - doesn't it make for a pleasurable dynamic tension? You want to get it done, but you also want to put your own personal care and stamp on the result. This can be the case in creating an evening meal, a project report at work, or painting a bedroom wall. It wasn't until I went to Tucson this spring that I saw a bike rack that triggered my welding muse. There is a feeling you get when the loose pieces of a project stop acting like hyperactive squirrels in your brain, and finally coalesce. I hope that happens to you as well. Once inspiration is found the work flows like a serene river as opposed to a Sisyphean slog up a hill.



Which word to put on top of the rack didn't take long to figure out. What better fruit of the spirit to highlight for our unique presence on Union Blvd? Besides, five letters is the perfect size for what I wanted. I have an enormous pile of bicycle parts at home (sorry Jodi) from years of collecting and sculpture projects. Making letters from those parts denotes the utile purpose of the rack, and hopefully makes it fun to scrutinize as well. There is something about chains and sprockets that just makes me happy...

When I bike to a Sunday morning service it starts the spiritual process of preparing for worship at my front door. The slower, quieter, fresh air journey to church tends to get my head in a better space. I was so gratified to see a big pile of bikes out there on a Sunday morning soon after Seth and I installed the rack. I hope you enjoy the dual messages built into the structure. One is that we witness for peace in our world, in whatever way we can. The other is if you want to feel like a kid again then get on a bike and have fun!



Conference Minister's Corner

“That makes me feel alive”: Leadership Board member Wilmer Villacorta’s transformative love/love of transformation

By Rev. Amy S. Zimbelman

This article is part of a series on new leaders in our conference. Learn about Linda Mawhorter [here](#) and Jenelle Roynon [here](#).



Returning Leadership Board member Wilmer Villacorta has accomplished much in his life: he is a professor at Fuller Seminary, and author of two books, a pastor of various congregations for 15 years, and an elder at Mountain Community Mennonite. He is also a devoted husband to Jeannie, a father of four, grandfather of three, and an avid soccer player. Wilmer has won some awards in his day, including the Outstanding Civic Service Award by the City of Los Angeles.

Much of this impressive resume has been accomplished while on the move. Wilmer has been settled in Colorado for 15 years now but hasn't always been able to stay put. "Displacement has been a constant theme in my life," he says. Wilmer's life circumstances have asked him to be nimble and flexible, to be unafraid of change. This propensity for transformation seems to be one of his superpowers.

And he, in turn, asks for transformation from his seminary students.

"One of my classes is on the themes of leadership, women, and hyper-masculinity. Usually, about 80% of the students don't think women should be in leadership—even though Fuller endorses an egalitarian position. So, from the start, I tell the male students: 'If you think women are your helpers, you're going to be confronted.'"

"By the end of the class, I see major changes in students' perspectives," he says. "That makes me feel alive."

As he tells me about this work, I wonder what led Wilmer to this calling of loving church leaders enough to not let them stay put, to move hearts and minds towards justice?

Wilmer grew up in Peru in a family of five kids. When his father, part of the Peruvian Air Force, was stationed in France, the family moved and Wilmer became fluent in French. Wilmer started serving as an associate pastor there and then moved to California to continue working in church and nonprofit work in 1986. He met Jeannie through a mutual friend and a year later they were married.

Wilmer and Jeannie moved to Pasadena, CA, and the plan at the time was in line with the American Dream: Wilmer and Jeannie started their family with their first two children; Wilmer hoped to finish his Masters of Divinity from Fuller Seminary, get ordained, get a church, and get a nice house. But God had different plans.

Wilmer started feeling like he needed to go back to Peru.

"I prayed: God if you want me to go back to Peru, you must let Jeannie know and give us a clear sign. So, I asked Jeannie about it, and she started crying. She told me that she had prayed that if God wanted the two of them to go then Wilmer needed to bring it up and ask her about it."

They prayed about it more and received "sign after sign."

So, from 1997 to 2002 they lived in Peru for some wonderful years of ministry.

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

Hearing from each other at the Delegate Assembly

From the Editors

Over Memorial Day weekend, 506 delegates from across our conference and around the country met at the Special Delegate Session in Kansas City. Delegates passed all resolutions presented, including one that affirms making churches more accessible for those with disabilities, retiring the Membership Guidelines, and affirming the Resolution for Repentance and Transformation (regarding LGBTQIA inclusion).

Each resolution was processed in table groups that extensively discussed the issue before voting. Travis Clarke who attends Beth-El and served as a conference delegate said he appreciated this method of processing the resolutions: “I learned that we like to look at issues as binary, but being able to talk around the table with people with different views, it was clear to see it was a spectrum of thought rather than this side versus that side.”



Pictured: Conference delegate Travis Clarke reporting out from his table group.

Connie Shelley, representing Sojourn Mennonite in Greeley and Fort Collins, also appreciated hearing diverse perspectives: “I don’t always have the opportunity to hear from someone with an opinion that is completely opposite of mine and to find myself compassionate with them as they try to muddle through the issues.” She said she didn’t sleep well worrying about her friend who cried at the meeting. “I was sad for him because he was so unsettled.”

During the open mic time on the Resolution for Repentance and Transformation, Conference Minister Amy Zimbelman spoke publicly about the importance of hearing from each other and trying to stay together when we disagree.

“We in Mountain States are a small conference, and we have a handful of churches that do not consider themselves to be LGBTQIA affirming,” she shared with the delegate body. “We are also the first conference to ordain an openly gay pastor. It’s been beautiful to see what happens when pastors and congregations who profoundly disagree with one another stay in fellowship together.”

She also stressed extending the table: “When I study the Bible, I see a Jesus who hung out with all types of folks. It did not taint Jesus’ relationship with God’s Spirit to have a drink with diverse people—in fact, it was a sign of the coming Kingdom of Heaven that the marginalized are brought to the center . . . So let’s keep eating and drinking and learning together with our marginalized LGBTQIA siblings.”

The results of the votes were surprising to some, with the closest margin being on the Resolution for Repentance and Transformation—55.7% of the delegates affirmed it.



Pictured: Pastor Randy Spaulding (on the left), one of the drafters of the Resolution for Repentance and Transformation, conversing with his table group.

“Our table group members were surprised by the outcomes,” said Travis. “It gave us hope that there could be more positive surprises as to how this information is disseminated to and understood by the wider body.”

See coverage of the weekend from Anabaptist World here: <https://anabaptistworld.org/delegates-repeal-membership-guidelines-pass-lgbtq-affirming-resolution/>

And MC USA here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/delegate22/>

News from:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP



709 County Road 62
Divide, CO 80814

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

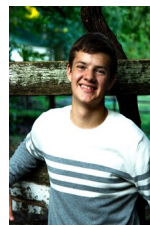


PREPARING FOR THE COMING SUMMER!

Camp was grateful for the work & play over Memorial Day weekend. Twenty-eight participants reflected the statement that many hands INDEED make light work. Groups prepared food for the weekend and prepared camp for the summer! Projects included deep cleaning, setting up the campground, and preparing the recreation spaces (volleyball court). If you missed this weekend, please join us for Labor Day Work & Play Retreat at the end of the summer.

SUMMER STAFF ANTICIPATE SUMMER CAMPING SEASON

We are excited for the coming resident, wilderness and family camp season. Camp continues to be blessed with 28 talented young adults who take time out of their busy lives to join together and serve all who will experience the Rocky Mountain ministry this summer. The summer is a bit unique with the additional blessing of 15 returning summer staff who are able to bring their previous years experience, wisdom and established relationships with campers. Meet 5 of the staff below:



Kennedy Kaufman – I'm so excited to be on staff at camp and be a part of the fun craziness this summer. A fun camp memory of mine is playing a massive game of spoons in the dining room one of my first times at RMMC. I would describe myself as outgoing, charismatic, and optimistic! I am so so so excited to go on hikes and be outdoors this summer and really take the time to appreciate being outside at one of my favorite places. (1st pictured, left to right)

Natalie Unruh – When I was an 8th or 9th grade camper I climbed Pikes Peak for the first time. We went sledding on trash bags and just had an awesome time on the way down. It is one of my favorite camp memories. My 3 words would be Caring, Adventurous, and Hard-working. I'm excited to meet new people and share new camp memories with all the campers! (2nd)

Hello! My name is **Eli Regier**. I am from Newton, Kansas and will be leading music again this summer! I can't wait to get back up into the mountain air to go climbing and rappelling, sing songs in the chapel, and meet new friends! (3rd)

Hannah Beck – one of my favorite memories was getting up early with a few campers, trekking down to the pond, and doing the Polar Plunge. I remember lots of chattering teeth and lots of laughter! (4th)

Nathan Oostland – At Camp Amigo in Michigan, we would play capture the flag campers versus counselors, specifically running around the woods in the dark, it was always kind of scary but very epic. This summer I'm looking forward to tons of good hikes and getting to know staff and campers! (5th)

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.

MSMC Staff and Leadership

Conference Minister
Amy Zimbelman
AmyZ@MountainStatesMC.org

Moderator
Ryan Koch
RyanK@MountainStatesMC.org

Editor/Conference Administrator
Jen Dudenhefer
Administrator@MountainStatesMC.org

Bookkeeper
Rita Balzer
Treasurer@MountainStatesMC.org