



# UPDATE

As Anabaptists in the Mountain States region, we are following Jesus and working for peace and justice in this broken and beautiful world. And there is no shortage of good work and good community happening in Mountain States Conference! Here are some highlights since last summer:



—**Erin Kauffman**, a farmer and rancher in Alamosa, led an 8-week book study on food and faith as part of her conference-funded **Future Anabaptist Leaders internship**. She says: “Through the Faith and Food Book Club, I learned about the ways that many people in Mountain States Mennonite Conference are living their faith through their choices around food, in growing, purchasing, cooking, teaching, and sharing. While we encountered increasing complexity around the questions of how to be faithful with our food, we were encouraged and inspired to find so many others in our faith community also on this journey!”

—**Conference leaders** provide re-sourcing and updates to churches through in-person and written communications including guest preaching, the **Zing!** newsletter, **social media**, **weekly emails**, and **many conversations** to share and learn from each other.

—**Ministerial Council** is working on the pastoral ethics covenant, healthy boundaries for pastors, and credentialing chaplains and pastors.

—The **pastors in our conference** have opportunities to gather regularly, including the **Southern pastors group** (SECOMP), **Northern pastors group** (DAAM), and the **All Pastors meeting**.

—**Coming up: Assembly is July 21-23, 2023** at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp on the theme *Spirit of Power* with guest speaker Isaac Villegas.



# UPDATE

## PASSION MINISTRIES

As far as our conference-supported Passion Ministries:

—**RAWtools turns 10 this year!** In 2022, The peace-building nonprofit facilitated 10 buybacks involving survivors and community members to help disable over 1,000 firearms in Colorado.



RAWTools at a Reclaiming Grief/Processing Circles/Guns to Garden Tools event in Colo. Springs.



TILT's first group after the fire—a cohort from Eastern Mennonite High School, in a residency called "How Then Shall We Live?" These open-hearted, open-minded students explored their inner worlds as they explored the wild and precious place that is Taos and its people.

—**The folks at TILT are rebuilding a** gorgeous new space after a fire destroyed their place of ministry in Taos. Check out their national press through this [MennoMedia podcast](#).



MDS volunteers receive a traditional Aztec blessing during a Prayerstream/MDS collaboration in Questa, N.M. last spring.

—In 2023, **Prayerstream is excited to collaborate** with and provide spiritual support for their many partners, including TILT and QuILT in New Mexico, the newly merged Rocky Mountain Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service, Boulder Mennonite Church, and Western Slope Mennonite Fellowship.

## BY THE NUMBERS:

Since Assembly in July of 2022...

■ **Conference leaders** have represented Mountain States at **8 national meetings** (both in-person and Zoom).

■ Our **Conference Moderator** has volunteered approximately 250 hours of his time and expertise to ensure the conference is running smoothly.

And our **Conference Minister:**

■ Met with conference pastors and leaders in 159 one-on-one meetings.

■ Is supporting **7 churches in major transitions** (pastoral, building, etc.), and has supported multiple other churches during conflicts or crises.

■ Is part of **2 teams working on nationwide projects:** a study of women in ministry and revamping MC USA's misconduct policy.

■ **Assembled two new task forces to dream about the future of Mountain States** and make things happen, including a social enterprise task force, and a new faith communities (a.k.a. church planting) task force.

Your support makes all this happen!

Thank you!



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