

July 2017



Mountain States
Mennonite Conference

*Pursuing God's dreams,
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
In the way of Jesus Christ.*

*Siguiendo el sueño de Dios,
Por el poder del Espíritu Santo,
A la manera de Jesu Cristo.*

ZING!

WINDS OF TRANSFORMATION



Romans 12:2

MSMC Annual Assembly • August 4-6, 2017

Mountain States Mennonite Conference's Annual Assembly is a yearly gathering for the churches and people of MSMC for renewal and reconnecting with God and each other. The 2017 Assembly will be held at Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center, Larkspur, CO. Bring your family! There will be activities for all ages. Enrich your souls through worshiping, camping, recreational activities, music, and soaking in God's creation. Renew old friendships, and make new connections. This event will be enhanced by your involvement, so please make plans to attend. Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center is a wonderful retreat center just east of I-25 between Denver and Colorado Springs. Lodging options include RV, tent camping, dormitory, cabin and private room. Pre-registration is necessary. Come if you can, pay what you can, pay more if you can. To learn more about the venue, go to <http://www.visitponderosa.com/>

Registration deadline is July 25, so please register as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you in August!

MSMC ANNUAL ASSEMBLY – WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRI	5:00 PM	Check in			
	6:30-9:00 PM	Concert Opening set by Fireweed at 6:30 John McCutcheon at 7:00 pm			
	9:00 PM	Snack Potluck: Bring a snack to share – No Nuts (Ponderosa is nut-free)	Fellowship and Games		
SAT	7:15 AM	Breakfast			
	8:45-9:45 AM	Worship	Child Care ages 1 -4		
	10:15 AM-12:15 PM	Delegate Session			
	12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch			
	1:30 -2:00 PM	Ministry Modules - Gathering	High Ropes Course and Zip Line (ages 14 and older)	Mini-Golf \$2/person Sand volleyball Basketball Indoor basketball Indoor volleyball Game room Horseshoe pits Gaga ball Tetherball Four square 9 square in the air 20 hole disc golf Hiking	
	2:00-3:00 PM				Ministry Module 1
	3:00-4:00 PM				Ministry Module 2
	4:00-5:15 PM	Time for rest and relaxation			
	5:15-6:15 PM	Dinner			
	7:30-8:30 PM	Taize			
	8:30 PM	Informal Music Jam	Refreshments as a thank you from Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp		
	SUN	6:45 AM	Prayer Walk		
		7:15 AM	Breakfast		
10:00 AM		Worship	Childcare ages 1-4 years		
Noon		Lunch and departure			

Worship	Recreation	Activities	Children	Food	MSMC Business	Spiritual Discipline
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WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTIONS

Concert with John McCutcheon and Fireweed

When: Friday, 6:30 PM

Come enjoy an evening with John McCutcheon, folk music’s renaissance man – master instrumentalist, powerful singer-songwriter, storyteller, activist, and author. McCutcheon brings a mix of ballads, folk hymns, social justice songs and numerous other genres that reflect the peoples’ music. Concert begins at 7:00 pm. Opening set by Fireweed at 6:30 pm. Registration required.

Morning Worship

When: Saturday, 8:45 -9:45 AM and Sunday, 10:00 AM

Saturday

Youth from Hmong Mennonite Church will offer the worship music. Come hear the personal stories of two of our newest pastors – Jordan Farrell, pastor, Beth-El Mennonite Church in Colorado Springs, and Amy Zimbelman, pastor, Mountain Community Mennonite Church.

Sunday

Come hear the personal stories of two more of our new pastors – Zachary Martinez, pastor, Sojourn Mennonite Church and Cole Chandler, pastor, Beloved Community Mennonite Church. Conference transitional will be noted during the service and communion will be observed. Brenda Bartel will be leading music.

Snack Potluck

When: Friday, 9:00 PM

Bring snacks to share following the McCutcheon concert on Friday evening. Ponderosa is nut-free so please no snacks with nuts.

Ministry Modules

When: Saturday, 1:30-4:00 PM

1:30 pm Gathering

2:00-3:00 Session I (choose 1)

3:00-4:00 Session II (choose 1)

Organized by the SEED Project (May be subject to change)

This year we are going to try to build connections between denominational resources and local initiatives instead of having separate presentations and workshops by both national and local groups. The question is how are we working together? How can we be mutually supportive of our calling to be a sign of God's Kingdom in the inter-mountain West?

After lunch on Saturday Aug, 5, you are invited gather in the Ponderosa Retreat Center chapel for a half hour as each ministry module (workshop) gives a short "pitch" for their group. We're anticipating five or six modules. We'll then offer two 45-50 minute slots for the modules. Participants can choose to attend two.

Modules:

The Defiance story: Revitalizing a "legacy" congregation

Matt Shedden, Defiance Church and Joe Sawatzky, Mennonite Mission Network.

Matt and Joe will take a look at the "renewal" of the Glenwood Springs congregation with the leadership of Matt and the ongoing support of Mennonite Mission Network. What can we learn from the Defiance Church (new name of Glenwood Mennonite) model? Matt presented his experiences at the in March at the annual MC USA/MMN church-planters' gathering. Mennonite Mission Network is developing a strategy for "legacy" congregations.

Tiny Houses: A small solution for the big problem of homelessness

Vern Rempel, Beloved Community Mennonite, Rhoda Blough, Everence, Paul Johnson, MDS and Matt Zimbelman, SEED.

How does a small new congregation take on a big vision for ministry with limited resources and numbers, but with unbridled creative thinking. Find out how Cole Chandler (who can't be in attendance), the rest of the Beloved Community congregation, Matt Zimbelman and MDS have found a way to take on the issue of homelessness in Denver. It's a great ministry story that involves the collaboration of many participants, including Everence and MDS and others—and it's just getting started.

Ways we are being shaped and formed (two parts)

Mary Etta King, Conference Minister and Spiritual Director, College and Seminary representatives, Todd Wynward, Director of TiLT; Corbin Graber, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp.

How do we experience formation in our lives? Is it just something just for school-age youth or are there ways we are being formed and shaped all through our lives. One of the initiatives within MSMC in the next year will be to create a formation council. It will pay attention to the ways we are being formed in both formal and experiential ways. In the first module we'll talk about hopes to offer formal connections through AMBS webinars, bring resources from the Hesston and Bethel College Bible departments to our region, etc. In the second module Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp and TiLT (Taos Initiative for Life Together) will explore formation in experiential—but very intentional ways of understanding how God is moving in the created world around us. Learn about TiLT's new Cadre program, a year-long internship that is just getting underway.

Future Church Summit: What will we look like in 5 or 10 years?

Nancy Kauffmann, MC USA Denominational Minister, Representatives of the credentialing review committee, Ken Gingerich, MSMC moderator and other Orlando 2017 delegates

How did MSMC delegates experience the Future Church Summit at Orlando? How do ongoing changes in our national organization affect MSMC's future and the way we organize ourselves? Area conferences seem to be increasingly issue focused and there are new alliances being created around similar theological values—sometimes at the expense of a common local mission. Even within MSMC we are working to clarify the ways congregations call leaders and the appropriate role of the conference in legitimizing local discernment. We'll have heard what MSMC pastors and leaders are thinking in a report from the credentialing review committee during the earlier delegate session. This module will also provide space for a continuation of that conversation.

Immigration and the Matthew 25 movement

Sara Fleming, Mennonite Central Committee Central States; Wilmer Villacorta, Iglesia El Centro; Sarah Jackson, Casa de Paz, and others

The current US government's push to deport undocumented people has put tremendous pressure on our immigrant communities. What is unlawful in the legal world sometimes stands in opposition to the words of the prophets and of Jesus himself. Too often, the push to deport undocumented people is thinly veiled racism and xenophobia. How do congregations work to stand with sisters and brothers who face the uncertainty of possible deportation without calling unwanted attention to their situation? Or when do we stand up and actively work at policy change and greater societal acceptance of the almost invisible among us? Find out what some MSMC congregations are doing—sometimes under the radar and sometimes in full view—to respond to this huge wound in our culture.

Taize Service

When: Saturday, 7:30 PM

An hour of quiet reflection with scripture, prayers, Taizé songs, candle lighting and anointing.

Prayer Walk

When: Sunday, 6:45 AM

High Ropes Course and Zip Line (14 years and older)

When: Saturday 1:30-3:30 PM (minimum of 10 participants needed) \$20/person

Parents must sign a release form for children under 18. Release forms will be available on site or at

<http://www.visitponderosa.com/sites/all/themes/ponderosa/docs/Ponderosa%20Recreational%20Release%20Form.pdf>.

Children without a parent attending Annual Assembly must bring the release with them.)

Childcare Available Ages 1-4 yrs

When: During worship services and delegate session

Child care providers will be available to care for children during worship services and delegate sessions.

Saturday Evening Refreshments – RMMC Thank You

When: Saturday, 8:30 PM

Games, Puzzles

When: Friday and Saturday evenings after other organized events

Feel free to bring some of your own favorites!

Informal Music Jam

When: Saturday evening, 8:30 PM

Bring your instrument and join in the fun.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES ON YOUR OWN

Mini-Golf \$2/person

Outdoor sand volleyball

Outdoor basketball court

Indoor gym for basketball/volleyball

Game room

Horseshoe pits

Gaga ball pit

Tetherball

Four square courts
9 square in the air court
20 hole disc golf course
Hiking

FAQ's AND OTHER INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATIONS

Housing assignments at Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center will be made by Mountain States Conference upon receipt of registration and based on availability. Please indicate your preferences on the registration form. Options are RV, tent camping, dormitory, cabin and private room. All private room lodging includes bathrooms in each bedroom, linens & towels. Rollaway beds are available upon request. All dorm lodging has bunk style bedrooms with community bathrooms. Linens and towels are not included.

ACTIVITIES

Ponderosa offers many recreational activities for your enjoyment throughout the weekend. Registration for the activities is available on the assembly registration.

CHECK-IN

Check in is on Friday, August 4 at 5 PM or after.

CHILDCARE

Childcare will be provided for ages 4 and under as shown on the schedule.

DELEGATES

The delegate session is on Saturday morning information about the content of the session will be emailed to delegates separately and posted on the website.

MEALS

Ponderosa Retreat and Conference Center is nut-free and offers gluten free options. If you desire a vegetarian option, please indicate on your registration.

REGISTRATION

Come if you can. Pay what you can. Pay more if you can. Registration is required for all activities. Registration may be done online through the Mountain States Conference website using a credit card. Or the registration form can be downloaded from the website, completed and mailed in with a check. Some cost guidelines are provided on the web site. Pay what you can or more, if you can. We need you to register for all parts of the weekend you will take part in, even if you are only coming for the McCutcheon concert Friday night or if you are only coming for Sunday morning. Thank you for accommodating the planners on this.

WHAT TO BRING

General Packing List:

Hiking shoes (if you plan on hiking)
Small pack and snacks for hiking
Comfortable shoes

Flip flops or shower shoes
 Lip balm
 Sunscreen
 Bug spray
 Rain coat or umbrella
 Sun hat
 Water bottle
 Travel coffee mug (your own mug will save resources)
 Sunglasses
 Flashlight or headlamp
 Nightlight
 Pillow (If you are picky about this sort of thing)
 Snacks for personal use and to share on Friday evening
 Binoculars
 Camera
 Toys for kids (especially outdoor toys like balls, bubbles, sand toys, etc...)
 Board Games and card games
 Personal toiletries
 Bedding and towels if you are staying in dormitory housing
 Musical Instruments

WORSHIP

We consider worship to be happening throughout the weekend as we are together. There are set times of coming together as a community for worship as outlined on the schedule. We envision our worship to be informal, fluid and full of life. In that way, we aim for the worship experience to be intergenerational and open to all ages.

Call for Submissions

Next Issue of ZING: Coverage of Orlando. Please send photos with captions and/or your reflections if you were there. Deadline: August 10, 2017.

The Mennonite, Inc. welcomes your original submissions and contributions for our October 2017 print magazine issue and corresponding online content focusing on Scripture: Texts that move and shape you. Submissions are due no later than August 1, 2017. We welcome written reflections—personal stories, biblical or theological reflections, poetry and more (800-1200 words), as well as original photography, multimedia products (including, but not limited to, original song or music recordings, music playlists, videos and vlogs) and artwork on the theme. <https://themennonite.org/october-call-submissions-scripture/>



ZING! is published monthly for the congregations of Mountain States Mennonite Conference.

Conference Website: MountainStatesMC.org
 ZING! can be viewed on the website.

Next Deadline: August 10, 2017
E-mail contributions to Karen Martin at administrator@MountainStatesMC.org
Articles should be 400-500 words in length.

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