

# WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

**July 26, 2011**

*A weekly communication for:  
WDC Churches and Pastors*

*WDC Executive Board, Commission, Committee and Task Force members*

*Any content may be used in bulletins and newsletters and forwarded to congregational leaders and members.*

*WDC E-Memo is also available at: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) (Conference Life / Publications)*

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### **WDC Financial Report**

We are now 5 months into the WDC fiscal year. Our contributions are down by 6% from last year however our spending is also down by 11% so that at the end of June the deficit is (\$67,219). This deficit is very similar to last year at this time. Although we are concerned with the decrease in giving we are hopeful that our member churches will continue to support Western District. The WDC 2012 budget will be presented for approval to the delegates at our annual assembly at the end of this week. This new budget will include an increased commitment to church planting as we strive to make church planting a priority in our conference.

*--Phyllis Regier, Conference Treasurer*

### **Vision 2012**

At the Western District annual assembly we will celebrate the conclusion of the Vision 2012 campaign. This has been a very successful campaign for Western District and will ensure that the three critical priorities of the conference -- camping ministry, ministerial and congregational leadership and congregational resourcing services -- will be funded. Although we are ending the campaign we will still be accepting contributions, including contributions for the Camp Mennoscah swimming pool project. We still need about \$70,000 to fully fund the camp pool. We also need 7 more \$2,000 donors to take advantage of the challenge grant which will add \$1,000 to every \$2,000 gift.

*--Phyllis Regier, Conference Treasurer*

### **WDC Announcements**

1. "Let's Talk About... the future of Adult Sunday School" – a conversation focused on Adult faith formation. Realities; Needs vs. Wants; Coffee & Community; Bible study; Topical study and more. WDC Minister of Christian Nurture Marlene Bogard will facilitate this conversation and will have dozens of resources available for your scrutiny. Tuesday night, August 23, 7-9 pm at WDC Office. Call [316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300) to reserve your place at the table. FREE!

2. Day on the Farm CANCELED: Due to the excessive heat and drought, the 2011 *Day on the Farm* event has been canceled. Agri-Urban hopes to be able to again sponsor this event in August of 2012.

3. Young Adult Retreat, August 6-7 at Camp Mennoscah! You may be too old for our summer youth camps, but it's not too late to register for the Whopping Good Time Young Adult Retreat! The Young Adult Retreat for those aged 18 to 35ish is a time to be at camp and enjoy a simple and laid-back schedule. Join us for some traditional "camp stuff"--like Borrow the Balls and swimming in our new pool! Send us an email at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) with your name and contact information. We'll get you signed right up (or answer your questions). We'll be expecting you and have meals ready, so let us know if your plans change.

4. Hymnals Needed - A new church plant in Big Sandy, Texas, is in need of hymnals. They would be happy to receive donations of 12+ copies of "The Mennonite Hymnal" and "Sing and Rejoice". Contact Steve or Karen Mascho at [903-985-5260](tel:903-985-5260) or Norman Berry [405-205-8736](tel:405-205-8736). If possible, hymnals could be brought to the WDC Annual Assembly this weekend, and given to the Maschos. Thank you!

5. First Mennonite Church, McPherson, KS, has begun a new ministry, the ReUse It Center: Second Life Building Materials. We will be a clearing house for new and used building and household products. Among the many things that have already been donated to ReUse It Center (which we hope will open in September) are a blond cross (approximately 15 ft. tall) appropriate for the front of a church, a blond lectern/pulpit, and 8 blond, red-padded pews. The cross and lectern can be seen by appointment. Call [620-241-4040](tel:620-241-4040). The pews have been given to a local consignment store to sell. Call the same number to inquire about them. We hope a church plant, or a congregation building a small chapel can make use of these lovely furniture pieces. --Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Pastor, First Mennonite Church, McPherson, KS

6. Continuing Ed opportunity: Formation in Christlikeness: the process of change at Friends University, Wichita, KS. on Sept. 23-24. Features Dallas Willard, James Bryan Smith, Mandy Caliguire, Scot McKnight and many others.  
<http://www.apprenticeofjesus.org/About/UpcomingEvents/2011NationalEvent/tabid/2786/Default.aspx>

### **MC USA Announcements**

1. Attached are the prayer requests from the member schools of Mennonite Schools Council, and the colleges, universities, seminaries and educational programs of Mennonite Church USA for August. MEA also posts these prayer requests on its website. The prayer request for the day is displayed on our home page and the document is available at [www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/PRAYERS). We encourage you to share *Prayers for Faith and Learning* with others. The document is set up so it can be a bulletin insert or distributed in church mail boxes. Some churches choose specific prayer requests to include in their weekly bulletins. Congregations or individuals who are interested in a free subscription to *Prayers for Faith and Learning* (or other MEA

publications) may subscribe online at [www.MennoniteEducation.org/Subscribe](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org/Subscribe). Thank you for the many ways you support Mennonite education!

2. Welcome to a new year of leadership workshops, online seminars and leadership development programming from the AMBS Church Leadership Center. See [www.ambs.edu/programs-institutes/clc](http://www.ambs.edu/programs-institutes/clc) for more information. Contact: 574-296-6269, [churchleadership@ambs.edu](mailto:churchleadership@ambs.edu). Selected events happening this fall are below.

Promise and Peril: Understanding and managing change and conflict in congregations  
Webinar

Presenter: David R. Brubaker

Wednesday, September 7, 2-3:30 p.m. EDT

Difficult Issues--Congregational Discernment--Faithful Living

One-day workshop

Presenter: Robert J. Suderman

Thursday, October 13

Values-Based Leadership Program

Two-session leadership development program

At Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

Tuesday-Thursday, September 20-22 and Tuesday-Thursday, February 21-23

Preaching Institute

Four-session leadership development program

Presenter: Allan Rudy Froese

Offered in Des Moines, Iowa

Monday, October 3; dates in December, February and April to be announced

Journey: A Conference-based Leadership Development Program

Three-year pastoral education program

Weekend Learning Event; Presenter: Dan Schrock

At Amigo Centre, Sturgis, Mich.

Friday-Sunday, September 16-18

Western District Conference

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