

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

August 9, 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 (Conference Life / Publications)

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* Announcements

WDC Announcements

1. **News from the Conference Resource Library:** Happy news! Our most excellent summer library assistant, Jennifer Warkentine is engaged to Peter Wintermote. They are both seniors at Bethel College and plan a June, 2012 wedding. Jennie continues to work 5 hours a week in the Resource Library this fall as part of Bethel's service / learning scholarship. Difficult news - our amazing library assistant, Bethel College student Seth Dunn died in a skateboarding accident on August 1 in California. We treasure our memories of Seth as a creative, adaptive, smart, funny and gifted 20-year-old. Pray for his parents and brothers as they adjust to life without Seth.

2. Let's talk about the future of Adult Sunday School! Join the conversation with other teachers and learners and get lots of ideas on Tuesday, Aug. 23, 7 pm. at the Western District Conference office (2517 N. Main, North Newton, KS). Please RSVP to [316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300) or crlib@mennowdc.org.

3. Need ideas for Adult Study? This month's issue of Check It Out from the Western District Conference Resource Library is designed with you in mind. Find it at: www.mennowdc.org (Resource Library / Resources / Check it Out). Discover 15 new print resources on topics from stewardship to justice, community and spirituality. Remember that we also have dozens of DVD-based studies we can point you to lots of great Mennonite - Anabaptist resources as well. Call or email us - we are here to serve you! [316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300) / crlib@mennowdc.org. Check out the on-line catalog at: www.mennowdc.org.

4. Diamond Celebration gem: Do you like to sing? Does your congregation have a junior choir? Are you a choir director? The Resource Library at Western District Conference (2517 North Main, North Newton, KS) has a Music Library with hundreds of anthems for your borrowing. Check out the website: www.mennowdc.org and borrow quality music at no cost.

5. What an amazing summer we had! We ended our summer with our Young Adult Retreat and now we're looking forward to an amazing fall at Camp Mennoscah. Everyone is invited to join us for our Work & Play Camp, September 18-22. Traditionally, this camp has been for

retired folks, but all ages are invited. If you've got a free day or two, come join us for a bit of this and that for work and some of this and that for play. Contact us at campmno@mennowdc.org or [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) for more information.

6. Camp Mennoscah Mental Health Spiritual Retreat--There are all sorts of miracles in the everyday and that's our theme for the retreat. Join us for a weekend of fellowship, fun, worship, and lots more. Contact us at campmno@mennowdc.org or [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) for more information. Partial scholarships are available.

7. Have you heard? Camp Mennoscah is working to become a non-profit organization. We will remain the Western District Conference camp (except for on those piddly legal papers) for as long as you guys want us--and we hope that's forever. Please keep Camp Mennoscah, the Retreat Commission, and the Western District Conference Executive Board in your prayers as we go through this process.

8. **200th ANNIVERSARY "HOME COMING" CELEBRATION:** Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS, will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of its beginning in Michalin, Ukraine in 1811 with a "Home Coming" celebration on September 3 and 4. Former members, relatives of the original immigrants, and guests are invited. For schedule of the celebrations activities and registration information go to www.gracehillmc.org or call Virgil Penner at [316-283-3948](tel:316-283-3948). Registrations for meals are to be mailed no later than Aug. 19.

9. Bethel College Women's Association has been blessed with amazing volunteers for the Swiss-German meal at Fall Festival! A big thanks goes to all who have served to make this a success! Many of our faithful volunteers would like to pass the baton to the next group of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to help supply bread, borscht, drinks, pickles, pie, sausage or table waiters for this meal or in helping with making New Year's Cookies, please contact Valerie Klaassen at jvklaassen@pixius.net or [316-799-2641](tel:316-799-2641). We're looking ahead to the 2012 Fall Festival. If you are interested in helping out this year, we'd love to hear from you! It's a great way to meet people and to help raise money for projects at Bethel College.

MC USA Announcements:

1. The summer issue of the Church Relations Update for Bethel College is now available on the Bethel web site: http://www.bethelks.edu/bc/news_publications/church_relations_update/. It features a guest column by President Perry White reflecting on attending his first baccalaureate service at Bethel College, news regarding an important staffing change in the student life department, a brief observation about attending conference gatherings by yours truly, and some news about a change in the way Bethel College will receipt congregational offerings to the college. The next issue of the Update should be available in September. I would greatly appreciate your printing off a copy of the Update and posting it on a bulletin board in your church. Thanks! Dale Schrag, Director of Church Relations and Campus Pastor, Bethel College, 300 East 27th, North Newton, KS 67117, 316-284-5356.

2. **Values-based Leadership Program Session I (September 20-22)**—Gain a fresh new perspective on leadership during this two-part, interactive workshop at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center (Session II is scheduled for February 21-23, 2012). It's an opportunity for you to join a community of leaders and explore your leadership style and gifts as you learn how to use

them more effectively in your vocational life. To register or to learn more, visit VBLP.org or call [800.839.1021](tel:800.839.1021).

3. Grief Retreat (October 14-16)—Come to Laurelville Mennonite Church Center to find healing, support and hope for your journey after losing a spouse. Led by pastor and writer Rachel Nafziger Hartzler, this intimate gathering for widowed individuals and those who walk alongside them will provide both space and resources for you to embrace the life to which God has called you. Pastoral care team members and counselors are also welcome. Learn more and register at Laurelville.org/grief or by calling [800.839.1021](tel:800.839.1021).

4. Aging with Spirit (October 7-9)—Enjoy a beautiful fall weekend at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center with other folks aged 55 and over. Formerly sponsored by MARP, this annual event carries a rich tradition of bringing people together to celebrate and worship together. This year, listen to the reflections of Marcus Smucker, professor at EMS-Lancaster, as he explores the theme of *Spirituality and Aging: God with us in the later years*. Register and learn more at Laurelville.org/agingwithspirit or by calling [800.839.1021](tel:800.839.1021).

5. From AMBS - Church Leadership Center - Please join us for these online and face-to-face events:

Advent Planning: Awesome deeds we do not expect

Webinar

Presenters: Marlene Kropf, Rosanna McFadden

Tuesday, October 18, 7:30-8:45 p.m. EDT

[Get details and register by October 14](#)

Advent Planner: Awesome deeds we do not expect

Face-to-face workshop

Presenters: Marlene Kropf, Rosanna McFadden, Allan Rudy-Froese

Friday, October 7, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. EDT

[Get details and register by September 23](#)

Hispanic Pastoral Continuing Education

Face-to-face, two-day leadership development program

Presenter: Daniel Schipani

Friday-Sunday, September 30-October 2

[For more information contact Rafael Barahona](#)

Business Leaders and Pastors: Partners in leadership and ministry?

Face-to-face workshop in Lancaster, Pa.

Presenter: David B. Miller

Thursday, November 3

Offered in conjunction with the annual convention of Mennonite Economic Development Associates

[Get details and register by October 1](#)

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

Webinar

Presenter: David R. Brubaker

Wednesday, September 7, 2:00-3:30 p.m. EDT

[Get details and register by September 3](#)

Coming in January: Pastors Week 2012: Understanding Revelation for Today

Presenter: Loren L. Johns, with a special session by J. Nelson Kraybill

Monday, January 23, 7 p.m.-Thursday, January 26, 3:30 p.m. EST

[Get details and register by January 5](#)

[See a full listing of Church Leadership Center events](#)

Contact Information: phone: [574-296-6269](tel:574-296-6269); churchleadership@ambs.edu

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