

# WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

**November 15, 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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### **Pastoral Openings**

*Congregational Information Forms can be viewed at: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) - Conference Life / Pastoral Openings*

Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS - Lead Pastor

First Mennonite Church, Clinton, OK - Pastor

First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS - Pastor

### **News and Transitions**

Congratulations to Jaime Cazares and wife Suhelen, on the birth of their second son, Josue on November 7. Jaime is the pastor at Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania in Newton, KS.

Alden Dick, Pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS, will retire on December 31 with a farewell on January 1, 2012.

Mike Hiebert, Pastor at Goessel (KS) Mennonite Church has resigned, effective early January 2012. He will become the pastor at the Buhler (KS) Mennonite Brethren Church.

Doug Krehbiel, Western District and South Central Conference Youth Minister, has announced his resignation as of January 31, 2012.

Leona Sawatzky, retired mission worker and pastor died on October 9 in North Newton, KS.

Weldon and Florence Schloneger will complete their Supply Pastor work with First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS, on December 31.

James Wenger will begin in January 2012 as Supply Pastor at Bethel Mennonite

Church, Inman, KS.

### **WDC Announcements**

1. WDC Reference Council - November 19, 8:30 - 12 (lunch included) at Tabor Mennonite Church, rural Newton, KS. Topic: Revitalizing our Churches, with Pastor Randy Smith and four testimonies from revitalizing congregations. Reference Council is a gathering of WDC commissions, committees, task forces and pastors. Lay leaders intrigued by the topic are welcome. **RSVP immediately** to [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org) or call [316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300).

2. **Help your youth get out of the pew!** Plan to bring them to the area conference youth event ***Out of the Pew*** on January 7, 2012 at *Journey at Yoder*. Your teens will do a bit of actual service with the Hutchinson MVS unit, connect with Mennonite service agencies, worship together with a Christian rock band and have great fellowship and fun. Only \$10, lunch included. *More information at:* <http://mennowdc.org/conference-life/youth/> **Registration deadline is December 12!**

3. Circle the date now! A Lent Planner will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 from 8:45-11:00 a.m. at First Mennonite Church, Newton. People from Kansas make up the Lent 2012 planning group, and they will be introducing and sharing resources on January 21. Pastors, worship planners and music leaders will be inspired and benefit. You will need to bring your own copy of Leader magazine with the Lent 2012 resources.

4. Articles & Bylaws--Camp Mennoscah is drafting what we hope will be a final version of the articles and bylaws for incorporation. While we are working hard to make Camp Mennoscah a separate non-profit organization by February 1, 2012, we know there are many things yet to do. These things we know: Our mission will stay the same. Our programming will keep the same goals and our staff will continue to strive to offer you the best Christian hospitality we can. Call us at [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) if you have questions or concerns. Tell a friend and help spread the word!

5. Shovels, Sheets, & a Steam Cleaner - Feeling thankful for the many things you have? We are, too! But we certainly wouldn't turn down a few snow shovels, double/full-sized sheets (fitted and flat), and a steam cleaner for those grimy carpets of ours. If you want to help make us feel even more grateful with a gift of any of the above, contact us at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290). thank you for being part of our camp family!

6. A Damascus Road Training event will be hosted at Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, KS February 16-18, 2012, with a registration deadline of January 23. Damascus Road Training is an initiative of Mennonite Central Committee U.S. It lays the groundwork for dismantling systemic racism in congregations, conferences, and communities. For the full registration brochure go to: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) - Upcoming Events.

7. Are you a Thoughtful Christian? Visit this on-line resource site at

[www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com) and choose any study you want for FREE until Dec. 22. After that, they will no longer be offering subscriptions. Find hundreds of studies to choose from for youth and adults based on current issues and topics as well as movies, holidays and biblical studies. Once you find some you like, email Marlene B at [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org) and make your request!

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