

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

December 13, 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)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Pastoral Openings
- *News and Transitions
- *Announcements

Pastoral Openings

Congregational Information Forms can be viewed at: www.mennowdc.org - Conference Life / Pastoral Openings

Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS - Lead Pastor

First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS - Pastor

News and Transitions

1. First Mennonite Church, Clinton, OK, has called Jack Norris of Yoder, KS as their next pastor. Jack is completing a Christian Ministry degree at Tabor College and is a member of Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS. He will begin his ministry at Clinton First Mennonite on June 1, 2012
2. Justin Osborn began as Youth Pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS on December 12. He was called from within the congregation.
3. Luann Yutzy began on December 1 as Interim Associate Pastor at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS.
4. Marv Zehr will begin as Interim Pastor at First Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS, on January 22, 2012.
5. These churches have appointed Pastor Search Committees for 2012: Goessel (KS) Mennonite Church; Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS; West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS; and Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, KS.

WDC Announcements

1. Note to all Pastors and all WDC Credentialed folk: Place on your schedule the Prevention of Clergy Misconduct Training, March 23, 2012 at Bethel College Mennonite Church. This full-day of training is mandatory for all credentialed ministers in the WDC. If you have not been to a training in 5 years, it is strongly suggested that you attend, in order to become refreshed and reminded of how important it is to create practices of self-care, boundary management, safe touch and healthy internet and media practices. Marlene Bogard, Minister of Christian Formation will provide the

training. Registration info will be available in January. P.S. Build this event into your 2012 Accountability Plan!

2. Worship Planners, make arrangements to attend the Lent Planner on Saturday, January 21 at First Mennonite Newton, 8:45 a.m. The creators of the MCUSA Lent Worship materials, Kansas folks from the WDC and SCC will present ideas to enrich the Lenten season.

3. Note to Church Offices - WDC is gathering information on membership and worship attendance trends. Would you please help us by answering this question: For the two years of 2000 and 2010 - what was your church membership number and your average church worship attendance number? Please email us: wdc@mennowdc.org or call [316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300) before December 31. (Thank you to the churches that have already responded! We hope that all WDC churches will respond to this request for information.)

Mennonite Church USA Announcements

1. Dear Pastor or Administrative Assistant: The fall 2011 issue of the Church Relations Update for Bethel College is now available on the Bethel web site at the following address: http://www.bethelks.edu/bc/news_publications/church_relations_update/?urlid=279. It features a fairly comprehensive review of spiritual life events of note during this past semester, and a profoundly thoughtful reflection by a student, John Miller. John's reflection is absolutely a "must read"! I would greatly appreciate your printing a copy of the Update and posting it on a bulletin board in your church. Thanks! --Dale Schrag, Director of Church Relations, Bethel College

2. BCWA SAYS GOOD-BYE TO LONG-STANDING EVENT - After careful review of participation at recent WEB Day events and our mission, the Bethel College Women's Association Council announces that WEB Day is being discontinued in its present format. Deep appreciation is extended to our past attendees and presenters for participating in these occasions that were educational, enriching, and entertaining. The Council is already making plans for a different type of event that will continue to bring people to campus to "develop, promote and intensify the interest in the wellbeing of the Bethel College community." Be watching for announcements this spring!

3. Offerings from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary:

Lent Planner: Where Do I Sign?

Presenters: Marlene Kropf and Rosanna McFadden
Saturday, January 14, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. EST
Get details and register by December 30
www.ams.edu/workshops

Leadership Clinics

Monday, January 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST

Get details and register by January 5

www.ambs.edu/leadershipclinics

- Immigration and the Congregation (Iris de Leon-Hartshorn, Saulo Padilla and Andre Gingerich Stoner)
- God's story, Worship and the Arts (Rebecca Slough)
- Gathering for New Pastors (Nancy Kauffmann and Karen Martens Zimmerly)
- Turning Disgust, Demoralization and Depression into Empowerment for Ministry (Gregory A. Hinkle)

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

www.ambs.edu/workshops

Healing the Spiritual Wounds of War

Presenter: Carolyn Holderread Heggen

Wednesday, February 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Get details and register by February 15

www.ambs.edu/workshops

Pastors and Business Leaders: Partners in Leadership and Ministry?

Presenter: David B. Miller

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Offered in Mt. Eaton, Ohio, by AMBS, MEDA and Mennonite Church USA.

Registration opens January 9

www.ambs.edu/workshops

See a complete listing of Church Leadership Center events

<http://ambs.edu/programs-institutes/clc/calendar>

UPCOMING WEBINARS - register at www.ambs.edu/webinarregistration at least four days in advance for an early rate of \$45. Register after early registration deadline is \$55.

Lent Planning: Where do I sign? Thursday, February 2, 2012, 7:30-8:45 p.m. EST. Presenter: Marlene Kropf. Participants are introduced to the Advent theme and scriptures, and they explore how to use and adapt worship resources published in Leader magazine, including suggestions for visuals, music, scripture presentations and children's worship. Signing on with God leads to a journey of liberation and healing that is worth living and encourages us to invite others to consider: "Where do I sign?"

What's Mennonite about the missional church? Thursday, March 8, 2012, 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST. Presenter: Lois Barrett. Compare missional theology with Anabaptist-Mennonite theology, and the sixteenth-century European context with twenty-first-century North American contexts. What in these contexts is drawing Christians from state-church traditions into a theology of the church as an alternative society? What is

drawing Mennonites and other Christians to see Western culture as a mission field? How can Mennonites and other Christians learn from each other about what it means to be missional?

A new frontier: Doing theology as thriving rural communities. Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST. Presenter: David Boshart. Congregations that thrive see the tasks of church development and mission as a matter of applied theology. This webinar will explore how rural communities can become thriving centers for mission by reflecting on six major opportunities for developing a relevant witness that can bridge earth and heaven.

Embodying the story. Thursday, April 19, 2012, 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST. Presenter: Allan Rudy-Froese. Telling a story well requires congruency of body and voice, sound and meaning. We will talk about embodiment but mostly we will try to discover it by playing with sounds and words. We will try some reading and performance techniques which will allow us to take the story into our bones - so that it can be expressed with our whole being.

4. Want to serve next year alongside a church and community to make a difference? Apply now to Mennonite Mission Network's year-long programs! Mennonite Voluntary Service, Radical Journey, Service Adventure and DOOR Dwell are all accepting applications for Fall 2012. Visit Service.MennoniteMission.net for applications and details.

Western District Conference
2517 North Main, PO Box 306
North Newton KS 67117
[316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300); FAX: [316-283-0620](tel:316-283-0620)
Email: wdc@mennowdc.org
Website: www.mennowdc.org