

# WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

**January 17, 2012**

*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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### **From Camp MennoScah**

*by Kara Klingenberg, WDC Retreat Commission member*

A group of dedicated Camp MennoScah supporters has been working to transition Camp MennoScah from a WDC-owned camp to its own non-profit organization. This process was endorsed by WDC delegates at the 2011 Annual Meeting in order to enable both the camp and the conference to focus more specifically on their respective missions. The transition team includes Allan Bartel, Olivia Bartel, Arlin Buller, Jay Goering, Valerie Klaassen, Diana Schunn and David Stucky. The Executive Committee and the Retreat Commission of the WDC have provided input and guidance in this process. The Camp MennoScah Board of Directors will be expanded to include 12-15 members at least two of whom will be representatives of South Central Conference churches. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are being filed with the appropriate government agencies. We encourage churches and individuals to consider how they will support the Camp MennoScah Association. Camp MennoScah will continue to serve the churches of WDC. Your prayers, participation, time, skills and financial contributions are necessary to maintain a viable, vibrant camping program. May God continue to lead us, speak to us and renew us along the Ninnescah River.

Our cool, new, pool was completed in time for the 2011 camping season. What a blessing it was in the record setting summer heat!!! We anticipate this addition to the Camp MennoScah grounds will cool many more hot summer campers in the years to come. Donations are still being accepted for the remaining \$50,000 needed to balance the books!

Set aside some of your summer to enjoy the prairie, the river, the fun and the fellowship waiting for you at Camp MennoScah! Now is the time to look at the catalog, register for a youth camp, reserve some time for your church or small group, or join the

fun at one of the special retreats! The catalog will soon be on the WDC website ([wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org)) under "Camp". Consider sponsoring a camper as well! Hope to see you along the banks of the Ninnescah River soon!

### **WDC Announcements**

1. THIS SATURDAY: Lent Planner on Saturday, January 21, 8:45—11 a.m., at First Mennonite Church, Newton, 429 E. First Street. The central Kansas group who prepared the Lent 2012 worship resources for MC USA will provide leadership. Please bring your own copies of Leader magazine; none will be provided. Register TODAY (January 17) by phone or email to the WDC office with the number of people from your congregation who plan to attend: [316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300) or [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org).
2. The WDC Annual Assembly will be July 6-8 at the Magnuson Hotel & Meridian Convention Center in Oklahoma City, OK. Churches may send one delegate for every 30 members or fraction thereof. Please put this date on your calendars!
3. Discover the Kingdom of God at Camp Mennoscah! We're happy to announce that our 2012 catalogs are in the mail to folks who attended camp in 2011. Churches will have extra copies available soon. We are getting ready for a fantastic summer youth camping season, as well as our faith-filled Family and Friend retreats such as the Scrapbooking Retreat in March and the Retirees' Retreat in April. If you do not receive a catalog by Feb. 15th, and would like one, contact CM at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or [\(620\) 297-3290](tel:620-297-3290). We can't wait to see you in 2012!
4. A missional church seminar - "Maintenance to Missional: Looking Back So We Can Move Forward" will be held Saturday, February 11 in Moundridge, KS. An informational flyer is attached (note that an error, in First Mennonite Church of Christian's address which was in the flyer sent with last week's E-Memo, has been corrected). The flyer is also available at: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) - Upcoming Events. Register by February 3.
5. "The Pastor's Role in Difficult Congregational Conversations" is the theme for the Pastor's Day Apart being planned for March 1. The purpose is to prepare pastors to provide proactive leadership in guiding the process of difficult conversations while also being available to the full spectrum of congregational members. Difficult conversations extend from remodeling the kitchen to homosexuality. Reserve the morning of March 1.
6. Tabor Mennonite Church leaders have found that older people and people (men) with large fingers are having trouble managing the standard little communion cups. We wonder if this is a common problem, and if others have found creative solutions to this problem, other than communion by intinction. Please send replies to [tabor@tabormennonite.org](mailto:tabor@tabormennonite.org). Thanks!

## **Kansas Announcements**

1. **Mark Your Calendars – January 30<sup>th</sup> is the Governor Call-In Day:** Join hundreds of Kansans on January 30<sup>th</sup> as they call in to urge Governor Brownback to take a stand against the death penalty. January 30<sup>th</sup> is Kansas Abolition Day, commemorating the first time a Kansas Governor signed a bill to repeal the death penalty, in 1907. The Governor's office number is [\(877\)-579-6757](tel:877-579-6757). Tell the governor exactly why you think the death penalty should be repealed in Kansas, or you can use this sample call script:

Hi, this is <your name> from <your town> and I am calling to urge Governor Brownback to make repealing the death penalty a priority for Kansas in 2012. The death penalty doesn't make Kansans any safer, doesn't deter violent crime and it diverts money from more effective law enforcement tools. Our criminal justice system sometime gets it wrong and it is unacceptable to risk executing an innocent person. Life without the possibility of parole keeps Kansans safe while saving funds and not risking innocent lives. I want thank Governor Brownback for his service and encourage him to do the right thing and speak up against the death penalty. For more information visit [www.ksabolition.org](http://www.ksabolition.org) or call (785) 235-0214. Sponsored by the Western District Conference End the Death Penalty Task Force.

2. Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, a certified legacy facilitator (LifeSAGEr) is leading the following workshops at the Magnificat Center in Wichita: Legacy Letters: The Voice of the Heart (Jan. 28), Life Reflections: Extraordinary Stories of Ordinary People (Feb. 11), and Making a Difference: Creating a Plan of Action (Feb. 25). To register: <http://www.themagnificatcenter.com>

## **Mennonite Church USA Announcements**

**Young adults ages 18-26: are you looking for a purposeful year-long service experience?** Check out *Radical Journey*. This Mennonite Mission Network program takes you to places like China, Paraguay, England or South Africa to join in God's work. Upon return, take a month to reflect on your experience and share it with your home community. For info or an application, visit [Service.MennoniteMission.net](http://Service.MennoniteMission.net).

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