

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

February 14, 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 (Conference Life / Publications)

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Pastoral Openings

Congregational Information Forms can be viewed at: www.mennowdc.org –

Congregations/Pastors - Pastoral Openings

Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS - Lead Pastor

Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, KS - Pastor

News and Transitions

James Branum, Minister of Peace & Justice at Joy Mennonite Church in Oklahoma City, was married to Rebecca Faulkner on December 31, 2011. His step-son is Ty Faulkner, age 5. Congratulations!

Laura Neufeld has been called as Pastor of First Mennonite Church of Christian in Moundridge, KS, as of May 1.

Our sympathy to Todd and Lynn Schlosser on the death of Todd's mother on January 24 in Regina, SK. Lynn pastors the Bergthal Mennonite Church, Pawnee Rock, KS.

Norma Wiens, former WDC building manager and treasurer, died on January 10, after suffering from Alzheimers for seven years.

WDC Announcements

1. Note this date for the WDC Annual Assembly - July 6-8 at the Magnuson Hotel and Meridian Convention Center in Oklahoma City, OK. (Pastors and Moderators: As we prepare for Annual Assembly, please suggest names of individuals in your congregations who have gifts for leadership and service who could serve WDC. There

is need for persons to serve in the following ways: Executive Board, Gift Discernment Committee, Leadership Commission, Resource Commission, Stewardship Commission, and Staff Relations Committee. Please submit names by February 15 - we'd like to hear from each congregation!)

2. Kitchen Staff and Counselors--Camp Mennoscah is seeking, searching, and surfing for counselors and kitchen staff for our summer youth camps. Kitchen volunteers can receive a parent discount for a camper and a free tee shirt. Counselors get a week-long adventure with fun- and faith-hungry youth, a free tee shirt, and pizza at the end of the week. We depend on you to make Camp Mennoscah a great experience for all involved. Contact us at campmno@mennowdc.org or [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) to join in our summer fun.

3. Almost there! Camp Mennoscah has almost finished the process of becoming a separate nonprofit organization. There's some paperwork to file and a few other things like that, then we're on to craziness of transitioning and discovering what we didn't think about. Keep Camp Mennoscah in your prayers and give us a call if you'd like to hear more. Great times are ahead!

4. Scrapbookers Unite! It's hours of uninterrupted cropping, fellowship, and creating memories to be shared. Join us at Camp Mennoscah on March 2-4 for our Spring Scrapbooking Retreat. The registration form and schedule can be found at www.mennowdc.org in the Coming Events section or call us at [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290). We've got nifty Make-n-Takes!

5. Pastors' Day Apart - March 1, 8:30 am - 1 pm, at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS. Theme: The Pastor's Role in Difficult Discussions in the Congregation. See information at: www.mennowdc.org - Upcoming Events. Register by February 27.

6. Pastors - If it has been five years or more since you've attended a preventing clergy misconduct workshop, this announcement is for you. On Friday, March 23, WDC will provide required "Prevention of Clergy Misconduct" training at the fellowship hall of the Bethel College Mennonite Church from 8:15 am - 5 pm. It is designed to help pastors become aware of the risks that need to be managed as they lead and minister from a position of power. Cost is \$50 for Western District Pastors and \$75 for South Central Conference Pastors. Registration Deadline is March 15. See full description of event at: www.mennowdc.org - Upcoming Events.

7. To new* pastors of WDC: You are invited to a New Pastor Orientation on Thursday, March 22, from 3:00-8:30 pm at the WDC office. Supper included. No cost! Register by email or phone: wdc@mennowdc.org or 316-283-6300. (*New = pastors who have begun ministry in WDC in the past three years.)

Kansas Announcements

1. Time is running short - pastors, make your reservations for the Church Vocations Banquet, February 26 at 6 pm at KIPCOR (2515 College Ave., North Newton, KS). This is an opportunity to encourage lay people interested in ministry to explore their discernment and call as well as learn about seminary study with Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary--Great Plains Extension in North Newton, KS. Reservation deadline: February 17. Email Elizabeth Raid: eraid@ambs.edu or call Nancy Funk at [316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300).
2. To Churches-The WDC Women's Retreat Committee would like you to put the attached "Save the Date" cards into the mailboxes of the women in your church. Feel free to pass them on to others as well. Posters and registration details will follow at a later notice.
3. **The Goshen College Men's Chorus, *Light in the Darkness***, will sing at Shalom Mennonite Church, 800 E. First St., Newton, **Sunday evening, February 26th at 7:30 pm**. Please come and hear this remarkable group of 45 students share a variety of music related to the theme "Light in the Darkness!" The choir is directed by Dr. Scott Hochstettler, see web address: www.goshen.edu/choirtour.

Mennonite Church USA Announcements

1. AMBS (Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary) Open House in Elkhart, Indiana: Saturday, March 10, for people interested in seminary study. [Get details and sign up by March 2](#)
2. **Thinking about service next year?** Mennonite Voluntary Service's early bird application deadline is March 16. Adults ages 20+ are invited by local congregations and communities around the country to spend a year engaging with them in service, reconciliation and sharing the love of Jesus. For more information on how you can apply, visit Service.MennoniteMission.net.

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