

# WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

**February 21, 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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### **Quilting Masterpieces**

*by Olivia Bartel, Director, Camp Mennoscah*

For the next two weekends, there will be riotous groups of quilters at Camp Mennoscah. They sew, they laugh, they talk, they eat tasty snacks. Projects that have gone undone for months or years are completed, and there are some women who will make 2-3 quilt tops over the span of 3 days. Others work on smaller projects like wall hangings or bags.

It's a hoot. The women start early and sew late. Some of them put on their pajamas soon after they get here and don't change out of them until they leave. The basement of the Retreat Center is jam-packed with a colorful volcano of fabrics. Sometimes there are so many quilts being worked on that they move upstairs for more space. On the day they arrive, many tables look chaotic and you'd never know what pattern of quilt was being created if the quilter didn't have a picture of the design next to them.

It's quilting time at Camp Mennoscah, too, and we're in that crazy, chaotic time. We're trying to piece together this summer that's just a few short months away. We're pulling together schedules and finding the right folks to create the brightest, most colorful camp experience for all of our youth and guests. We're hunting for those folks to cook for us and looking for nurses. We're gathering together counselors and waiting for folks to register. With each person who volunteers to work a week at camp and with each camp or retreat registration we receive, another block of our summer quilt is sewn together.

By the day they leave, these quilters have created fabric masterpieces and a tight community. Every time a quilt top or project is finished, it's held up to share and there are cheers and applause. And we're looking to do the same with Camp Mennoscah. We want to make a masterpiece showcasing God's creation, community, and never-ending fun. We want to hear campers and guests cheering for camp as they finish a week—and we want everyone to come back and visit us again.

So, consider this your invitation to come see us at Camp Mennoscah. Bring a friend, bring your family, and bring your favorite camp tee shirt. We're anxiously waiting to see what sort of masterpiece is created this summer.

### **WDC Announcements**

1. Pastors' Day Apart - The Pastor's Role in Difficult Discussions in the Congregation - March 1! Please register by February 27! See full information at: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) - Upcoming Events.
2. Like playing basketball? Gather some folks together from your congregation and form a team for the WDC Tournament to be held March 15-17 at Bethel College. Enjoy some friendly competition and fellowship with others from WDC churches! See: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) - Upcoming Events. Register by March 5.
3. It's not too late to scrapbook with us! Our Scrapbooking Retreat is March 2-4 and there are just a few openings left. We'll accept registrations until all spaces are filled. See the brochure at [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org) in the Coming Events section. Contact Camp Mennoscah at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) for more information.
4. Camp Mennoscah is looking for those great folks who can't wait to be kitchen staff this summer! We have 8 summer youth camps and we're needing someone to cut carrots, bake cookies, and have a blast with all the other fun folks at camp. No experience is needed, but being able to follow directions is a BIG plus. Contact us at [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org) or [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) to join in the fun times. We also need nurses and head cooks!
5. Not quite, but almost! Camp Mennoscah is moving closer to being its own nonprofit organization. This will give us a lot of freedom in our decisions and directions. But it also means that we will be looking to our churches and constituents for a lot of support, too. This support can be in prayers, volunteering, financial gifts, or even recommending Camp Mennoscah to friends and family. Give us a call if you want to know more about how to support Camp Mennoscah!

### **Kansas Announcements**

1. The Bethel College Choir under the direction of William Eash will be part of the 10:35 am worship service on February 26 at First Mennonite Church in Hillsboro, Kansas. Several students will share, and Dale Schrag will bring a brief message in this service which will mark the first Sunday of Lent. Dale Schrag will also share a presentation during the 9:30 am Sunday School hour, Open Palms or Closed Fists: How Should We Carry Our Convictions? All are welcome to attend.

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