

Moundridge Churches Lean into Missional Calling

“What is the mission God has for us in our community? Why are our churches diminishing when our community is stable and even growing? How do we connect with newer residents? What can we do together to maximize our kingdom impact in Moundridge?” These and other fruitful questions were addressed at monthly meetings of nine leaders from the three Moundridge churches. The impetus for initially meeting was to explore future possibilities in pastoral leadership as all three churches were experiencing pastoral transition.

The next step for the three churches – Eden Mennonite, First Mennonite of Christian, and West Zion Mennonite – is to host an all-day seminar, *“Maintenance to Missional: Looking Back So We Can Move Forward,”* on Saturday, February 11, and joint worship services on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, February 12. The churches are networking with Western District Conference to make this seminar available to all our churches. Go to www.mennowdc.org—Upcoming Events for more information and registration. Key presenters are Wilbert Shenk on connecting our mission with Jesus, the early church, and global Anabaptists, and Conrad Kanagy on helping us see who we are even as we imagine God’s call into a new future. Gilberto Flores, Associate Conference Minister, will spice up the gathering with his passion for extending the missional reach of the Mennonite church.

Don’t miss this unique opportunity. *Register NOW!*

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It Might Only Last a Year by Doug Krehbiel

Seven years ago I was asked if I'd be willing to take a risk on a job that was written on a grant--a *job that might only last a year*. This didn't sound like something to jump at, but I felt called--so I said yes. Now as I look back on the ministry that was done in these past seven years, I feel blessed to



Doug Krehbiel, kneeling

have taken the leap and been a part of it all. It was inspiring to be a part of the planning and presentation of events like ***Know Jesus, Stand in the Gap, Discipleship Now, Walk a Mile, the Upside Down King, Waxahachie, IGNITE!, and Youth Pastor Lunches.*** These events linked our Anabaptist heritage with our calling today; challenged youth and leaders to be peacemakers; gave youth connections to Mennonite brothers and sisters from diverse cultural backgrounds; told the amazing story of Jesus to thousands; trained, resourced, and networked leaders and youth while providing space for good Christian fellowship and fun.

I am truly grateful for the one year that stretched to seven. As I leave the conference youth minister position, I cherish the fact that I will still be able to connect with my youth ministry colleagues as I continue my work as youth pastor just down the road at Tabor Mennonite Church.

I also want to wish Western District Conference and South Central Conference every blessing as they carry on the work.

Doug Krehbiel concluded as Conference Youth Minister for Western District Conference and South Central Conference on January 31. The two conferences are developing a new Bi-Conference Youth Ministry Network.

Bethel Mennonite Calls Out Pastors

At his farewell service on January 1, Pastor Alden Dyck announced the launching of another pastor out of the Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS. Jack Norris has been called by First Mennonite Church, Clinton, OK, to serve as their pastor beginning June 1. Jack has been supported by the congregation in his studies at Tabor College towards a Christian Ministry degree and has had many opportunities to serve in the congregation.



Jack Norris Family
(Photo by Clarence Rempel)

Preaching the farewell sermon was Marshall Anderson, another member of the congregation that was supported by the congregation in completing a Pastoral Ministries degree at Hesston College while serving as Associate Pastor at Bethel. Marshall currently serves as pastor of the North Leo Mennonite Church, North Leo, Indiana. In addition, Bethel Mennonite has recently called Justin Osborn from within the congregation as their new Youth Pastor. Launching three new second-vocation pastors in a decade is an amazing achievement!

Youth Learn About Service

Out of the Pew, a youth event to promote *service-as-a-lifestyle*, was held on January 7 at the *Journey* campus near Yoder, Kansas. Three Mennonite service agencies--Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Central Committee, and Mennonite Disaster Service--sent representatives. Camp Mennoscah set up a display table. Shortly after arrival, youth started out by picking one of five different service options. Youth then went as groups to do service with members of the Hutchinson VS unit and other volunteers for several hours in the Hutchinson area.



Hallie Cable, Youth Ministry Committee member from Kingman, KS, did an incredible job as guest speaker and the Bethel College alumni worship band, *Raising Ebenezer*, led in powerful worship.

A modified *Dating Game* show presented the three agency representatives as potential "dates". A high school person asked Russ, Jill, and Melissa a variety of creative and informative questions to let youth get a glimpse of what service might be like with each of the agencies (written and co-hosted by Isaac Landis, Whitestone Mennonite Church and Jesse Blasdel, South Hutchinson Mennonite Church).

There was a fantastic turnout with around 70 participants. *Out Of the Pew* was planned and presented by the WDC/SCC Youth Ministry Committee.



(Photos this page by Jesse Blasdel)