

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

May 15, 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*

Goessel Mennonite Church, KS - Pastor

Kingman Mennonite Church, KS – Youth Pastor (1/2 time)

Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS - Lead Pastor

West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS - Pastor

Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, KS - Pastor

News and Transitions

Marlene Bogard, WDC Staff, became a mother-in-law on March 25 when her son, Ben, married Jennifer Sonntag in Portland, OR.

Rob Burdette concluded his time as Transitional Pastor at West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS, on April 8. Beginning May 1, he is serving at the First Mennonite Church in Richmond, VA.

Errol and Virginia Koehn are no longer serving as Pastor and Minister of Pastoral Care at Gospel Fellowship Church in Montezuma, KS.

Orlan Koehn will become the Transitional Pastor at Beatrice (NE) Mennonite Church, beginning on June 1.

Rachel Epp Miller, Pastor at San Antonio Mennonite Church, is on sabbatical from April 8 to mid-July. She is spending two months in Ethiopia and Kenya followed by an AMBS Celtic pilgrimage.

Ruth Harder, Associate Pastor at Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS, is on sabbatical from May 14 to August 13.

Manos de Cristo Iglesia Menonita, a church plant in Wichita, KS, now has a regular meeting place at 3330 W Douglas Street.

Jack Norris will be installed as the Lead Pastor at First Mennonite Church, Clinton, OK on June 3.

Alberto and Aurora Parchmont have resigned from their positions at Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Esperanza and Iglesia Menonita Nueva Jerusalem in Pasadena, TX to move to Davenport, IA.

A farewell service for **John Regier**, pastor at Beatrice (NE) Mennonite Church, will be on May 20.

Miles Reimer has resigned from his position as Associate Pastor at First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS, effective this summer.

Lee Suderman became the Interim Pastor at West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS on May 1.

Dennis Treat, Pastor at Grace Mennonite Church in Enid, OK, resigned on April 23. He is suffering from advanced cancer.

Bob Yates will become the Lead Pastor at Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS, beginning on July 1.

WDC Announcements

1. **A Premiere Resourcing Event.** Yup - this will happen at Western District Conference Annual Assembly this summer as we explore Becoming One to be Sent in Christ (John 17). Here are three of the 11 options that will be available: Where Have All the Young Adults Gone? How do we talk about Immigration? An Eightfold Path to Mennonite Spirituality. Remember - as you learn, you grow! Join us July 6-8 at the Magnuson Hotel & Meridian Convention Center in Oklahoma City to get your "resource on!" Visit www.mennowdc.org (Conference Life - Annual Assembly) for full info; the Annual Assembly Report Book (English and Spanish versions) is posted here as well. Check this site often for updates and helpful information.

2. Additional information and resources for the WDC Annual Assembly, including an outline of the delegate session process, will be emailed to congregations & pastors this week. All information will also be available on the WDC website: www.mennowdc.org (Conference Life - Annual Assembly).

Kansas Announcements

1. *Last week, this announcement had the wrong date listed - note the corrected date:* Bryan Moyer Suderman and Chuck Neufeld and will be performing an all-ages concert at New Creation Fellowship Church, 221 Muse St. Newton, Kansas, on Wednesday, May 30 at 7p.m. Suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per household. Bryan's "SmallTall Music" ministry (www.smalltallmusic.com) has been his "flexible full-time" vocation since 2003, and "Detectives of Divinity," his 5th studio album, is another collection of songs that are deeply scriptural, musically memorable, and readily singable. Canadian Mennonite magazine's review of Bryan's newest CD says "album by album and song by song, Bryan is creating a sound track for the church..." Bryan loves to sing and people of all ages love to sing along, whether in congregational settings, intimate house concerts, or large conferences. Christian Week magazine has described his music as "melodious, guitar-driven folk with simple lyrics that tell important biblical stories and theological truths." Audiences respond to the warmth of his voice, the contagious nature of his songs, and his signature interactive style of singing and song leading.

2. Living Together as the One Body of Christ: Bringing Hope and Healing to Kansas

6:00 PM, Friday August 10th to 4:00 PM on Saturday, August 11th.
West Heights United Methodist Church, 745 N Westlink, Wichita, Kansas
\$15 registration – three meals included.

You are invited to join Kansas Ecumenical Ministries in building a grassroots movement that seeks to empower Kansas Christians to stand in faith for what they believe, live with hope that God's kingdom of justice and peace will be realized on earth, and unite in love to make it happen. We've been listening to the voices of Christians across the state. At this critical time for the church and our state, we are ready to live into God's call to be one body, ready to bring hope to Kansas with a strong witness for justice. Join us to share your dreams for the church, for your community, and for Kansas. God is doing a new thing here in Kansas – come be a part of it. Our time will include conversation with Ammon S. Ripple, Liaison for Local and Regional Ecumenism with the National Council of Churches, on 'Something New' in Christian Ecumenism: How a Kansas Ecumenical Ministries Matters to all Kansans and to the Whole Christian Community" and Dr. Dale Jones, primary data collector for the 2010 U.S. Religion Census with the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, on Assessing the Landscape: Demographics and Trends in Kansas Christianity. See www.kansasecumenical.com for flyers, registration, and logistical information. Email: kem@kansasecumenical.com or call [\(785\) 274-9440](tel:785-274-9440) for more information.

Mennonite Church USA Announcements

1. Youth Venture is looking for a few more people to join the Ft. Myers and Los Angeles teams! For two weeks this summer, serve and learn in a group of people from all over the country and see where God is at work in these two cities. Check out the details online: Service.MennoniteMission.net. Applications are due June 1, so act now!

2. MHS Alliance (<http://www.mhsonline.org>) seeks a part-time (35% - 45% FTE) executive to serve as President of the Anabaptist Providers Group (APG; <http://anabaptistprovidersgroup.org>) and represent MHS Alliance in the region. APG is an 18 member alliance of Anabaptist (Brethren in Christ, Church of the Brethren, United Zion, Mennonite) senior service providers in Southeast and South Central Pennsylvania. Interested candidates should contact Kirk Stiffney with MHS Alliance at Kirk@StiffneyGroup.com or [574-537-8736](tel:574-537-8736).

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