

BECOMING ONE to be sent IN CHRIST (John 17)

Jesus, in his John 17 prayer, invites us to join and act on the unity we already have. Together let's express our unity through loving and careful conversation, worship, learning and fellowship. As we do so, we will fulfill our mission of representing Christ to the world.

SPEAKERS



Chuck Neufeld

Through his songs, stories, and talks, Chuck communicates a deep commitment to community, peace, justice, and service. He believes that a dedicated response to Christ's call requires compassionate action and redemptive living, and that this results in radically altered lives and communities. In addition to serving as Conference Minister of the Illinois Mennonite Conference, Chuck is Pastor Emeritus of Community Mennonite Church of Markham, Illinois. Music continues to play a very significant part in Chuck's life. His eleventh album will be debuted at a concert on Friday night!



Eugene Thieszen

Eugene grew up on a farm near Henderson, NE and has served in Botswana under MCC and COM/ AIMM. He is currently the pastor of the Herold Mennonite Church in Bessie, OK and the chairperson of the WDC Leadership Commission. Gene is an avid student of ancient church theology and in his spare time enjoys fishing and storm chasing.

LODGING - Make your own lodging arrangements **by June 6** at:

Magnuson Hotel & Meridian Convention Center, 737 South Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK

Call: 1-800-784-7830. To get the \$69/night rate, **reserve by June 6**, and identify yourself with code 13408 (for the "Western District Mennonite Convention"). Please do NOT make reservations online; as this will not allow meeting rooms at no cost.

MEALS - Complimentary breakfast is included with your room. All other meals are on your own. Two special meals: Friday Appreciation Dinner for Pastors & Spouses, Saturday luncheon for women (must register & pay).

CHILD CARE/CHILDREN'S PROGRAM - More info will be sent to parents who register their children.

0-2 years olds: Nursery provided.

3-5 year olds (pre-K): Childcare and playtime.

Elementary (completed K - 8th grade): Children's activities.

Western District Conference

PO Box 306, 2517 N Main

North Newton KS 67117

316-283-6300

Email: wdc@mennowdc.org

Website: www.mennowdc.org

This form available at www.mennowdc.org - Conference Life / Annual Assembly



*Becoming one
to be sent
in Christ*

-John 17

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

July 6-8, 2012

Magnuson Hotel & Meridian Convention Center, Oklahoma City

SCHEDULE

Friday, July 6

1:00-9:00 pm - Registration table open
 2:00-4:30 - Worshipful Work / God’s Dream - Our Dream / Kingdom Happenings / Dwelling in the Word
 5:15-6:45 - Appreciation Dinner for Pastors/Spouses (*children may attend with parent*)* OR Dinner on your own
 7:00 - Worship
 9:00 - Chuck Neufeld Concert

Saturday, July 7

Breakfast - complimentary at hotel / 7:30 am- AMBS Alumni and friends gathering
 8:30 - Good Morning Worship
 9:00 - 10:15 - Learning Community A
 10:30 - 11:45 - Learning Community B
 12:00 pm - Women in Mission Luncheon (Ruth Buller, speaker)* OR Lunch on your own
 1:30 - 4:30 - Delegate Session, including budget, elections, resolutions
 Dinner on your own
 7:00 - Worship
 9:00 - Bethel College Alumni and friends gathering
 9:00 - Sister Church gathering

Sunday, July 8

Breakfast - complimentary at hotel
 9:00-11:00 - Worship

*Please register and pay for these special meals on Registration Form

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Learning Community A - Saturday 9:00-10:15 am (Choose 1)

A-1 Where Have all the Young Adults Gone? A look at scripture, research, experience and possibilities for action. Kevin Wilder, Hesston College instructor in youth ministry and psychology. He is working on his doctorate in marriage and family counseling.

A-2 Create a Circle of Grace! Receive training in this safe environment program for preschool through high school. Children and youth are taught to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual and sexual boundaries; recognize when boundary violations are about to occur; and demonstrate how to take action when boundaries are threatened or violated. Curriculum will be provided. Marlene Bogard, trainer.

A-3 Healthy Sexuality and the Church. Are you interested in addressing the topic of sexuality in your church? Several congregations will share their experiences and information on resources will be provided. Facilitated by the Human Sexuality Discernment Task Force.

A-4 So We Want to Welcome the Stranger... Now what? Our allegiance to Christ calls us to welcome the strangers among us. What can we do that is helpful and meaningful? What if our actions are against the law? We’ll hear stories of practical, faith-based ways of welcoming immigrants and engage in dialogue to explore how we might be empowered for local action. Facilitated by Immigration Task Force.

A-5 Discovering the Next Chapter. The church of Acts 1, a faithful congregation of 120, was doing what Jesus told them to do and discovered that their present was not their future. The Spirit of God moved them into Acts 2, the next chapter God envisioned for them. What is the next chapter for your congregation? Randy Smith, a transition pastor currently at First Mennonite, Halstead, KS.

Learning Community B - Saturday 10:30-11:45 am (Choose 1)

B-1 An Eightfold Path to Mennonite Spirituality. We'll discuss spiritual practices that help us experience more fully God's presence with us in each moment. Gordon Houser is associate editor of The Mennonite and author of *Present Tense: a Mennonite Spirituality*.

B-2 Managing Difficult Discussions. A brief summary of the past and present perceptions of, and attitudes toward, same gender/sex relationships followed by an interactive conversation using “dialogue circles” and other techniques to enhance meaningful and trusting communication. All viewpoints and perspectives are welcome. Facilitated by the Human Sexuality Discernment Task Force.

B-3 Re-imagining the Church: Looking Towards the Future. We will name the reality of decline in traditional churches and reasons for this trend, work with hope towards the future, embrace emerging understandings of church, and explore the unique gifts of Anabaptism within a Postmodern context. With Caleb Lazaro (scholar in residence, Bethel College), Steve Kaufman (Eden, Moundridge, KS), Lynn Schlosser (Bergthal, Pawnee Rock, KS).

B-4 The 12 Scriptures Project: What Scriptures Does Your Congregation Hold as Formative? Terry Shue, director of Leadership Development for Mennonite Church USA will lead us in an exploration of this process that every congregation can do to engage in Christian Formation.

B-5 YES YOU CAN...Afford a Private Mennonite College and Achieve Your Dream of a Professional Career. Information on scholarships, grants, work and loans, some of which may be forgiven! Rosa M. Barrera, Assistant to the President, Bethel College. **For Spanish Speakers only.**

B-6 How Do We Talk About Immigration? With all the heated rhetoric about immigration, how can we have an honest dialogue and better understand the core issues? Learn more about and discuss the following: economics, rule of law, root causes, changing migration patterns, relevant biblical teachings. Tammy Alexander, MCC Washington Office; Jacob Castro, MCC Central States.



REGISTRATION FORM (For lowest cost, please register by June 22*)

Adult

Registrant #1 _____

Circle: Delegate / Non-delegate Circle your A & B Learning Community choices: A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5 / B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6

Registrant #2 _____

Circle: Delegate / Non-delegate Circle your A & B Learning Community choices: A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5 / B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Congregation _____

Children (age 0 through 8th grade)

Name/Age _____ Name/Age _____

Name/Age _____ Name/Age _____

Registration Fee

Adult _____ x \$60/\$75* = \$ _____

Children (age 0 through 8th grade) _____ x \$20/\$35 = \$ _____

Special Meals (must pre-register - NO WALK-INS!)

Pastor & Spouse/children Appreciation Meal _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

Women in Mission/children Luncheon _____ x \$14 = \$ _____

Contribution to help others attend = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (non-refundable after June 21): = \$ _____

Report Book: Help us reduce paper usage!

Read it online at: www.mennowdc.org (Conference Life—Annual Assembly)

If desired, a paper copy can be requested below (1 per family, please)

_____ I will pick up a Report Book at Annual Assembly. Circle: ENGLISH / SPANISH

*For lowest cost, send registration form and payment **postmarked by June 22.**
If mailing after June 22, the higher amount is required.

Send to:
 WDC, PO Box 306, North Newton KS 67117 (Checks to “WDC Annual Assembly”)