

VISION 2012

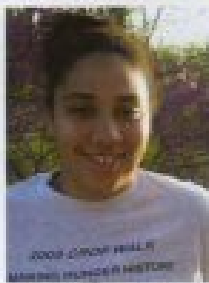
• CONNECTING TO GOD'S MISSION • CONNECTING TO GOD'S MISSION • CONNECTING TO GOD'S MISSION • CONNECTING TO GOD'S MISSION •



Western District Conference (WDC) invites you to join Vision 2012, a three-year support campaign to fund three critical priorities:

- Build a stronger camping ministry,
- Strengthen ministerial and congregational leadership, and
- Increase congregational resourcing through the expansion of WDC's Resource Library services.

Please partner with us in this special opportunity, beyond your annual fund support, to connect to God's mission. We invite your prayers and financial contributions to Vision 2012.



Western District Conference/Camping Ministry



Western District Conference



Western District Conference/Resource Library Service

Dear Western District Conference Friend:

Vision 2012 is a way of dreaming! Think about the future and imagine some years into the future. In the year 2012, Western District Conference will be 120 years old. It seems good to dream about God's future and how we are called to be witnesses of our faith. What will WDC look like in 2012?

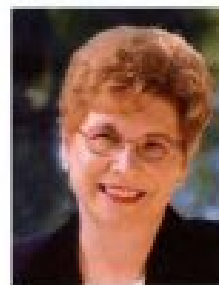
Vision 2012 will be a tool to help us connect to each other, to our communities and to God's mission in the world. Together with a new and simpler structure, this funding initiative will form a foundation for our present ministries and our future dreaming. After careful and prayerful strategic planning during the past three years, WDC is ready to move ahead with your support to

Witness and invite others to faith in Jesus Christ
Dwell in just and loving relationships
Connect to God's mission in the world

Vision 2012 invites your participation—dreaming, praying and giving. You will hear more about "the new thing" (Isaiah 43:19) that we are claiming as God's call to WDC. Join together with sisters and brothers in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas for this vision. Thank you for your ongoing support and your new commitments as well.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Nickel Friesen
 Conference Minister



CAMPING MINISTRY

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Camp Mennoscah, owned by Western District Conference since 1948, urgently needs physical improvements in order to continue successfully God's mission.



Western District Conference/Camp Mennoscah



Endowment \$120,000
Endowment earnings will fund ongoing up-keep and maintenance on buildings and grounds.

House \$160,000
Housing for staff is an urgent need. The house will serve multiple purposes, requiring a minimum of 1,600 square feet. The full basement will serve as a storm shelter and will include a meeting place for summer staff. The house will be handicap accessible.

Office Technology \$10,000
Up-to-date computers, printers and camping software will expedite camper enrollment and registration and shorten the time needed to maintain records and produce reports. The office equipment will enhance the opportunity to serve campers, congregations and friends of Camp Mennoscah in scheduling, planning and directing the camping ministry.

Tractor with Loader \$20,000
This is a must-have item, needed to maintain the camp grounds, provide hay rides, move supplies and equipment, help prevent erosion and preserve the natural habitat.

Handicap Accessibility for Retreat Center \$125,000
The retreat center must be handicap accessible to serve all God's people. Renovations will provide an entrance that is accessible and an elevator to make the upstairs and basement accessible to people with all types of assistance equipment.

Kitchen Remodeling \$110,000
This project can no longer be delayed. As a Christian institution that cares for the safety of all people, the kitchen must be remodeled and brought up to code. This includes changes in the food handling, clean-up and dishwashing areas, as well as new windows, air conditioning/exhaust system, counter tops and waste disposal system.

Septic System Repair \$30,000
The septic tank capacity must be increased to meet current and future needs. This fund includes the cost to evaluate long-range sewage treatment options.

Bathhouse (boys' side) \$50,000
Now it's the boys' turn. Remodeling and up-grading the boys' bathhouse will match improvements on the girls' side.

Generator for Retreat Center \$10,000
Camp Mennoscah has a tremendous responsibility for its campers. In case of electric failure, a generator will provide reserve power for the storm shelter and for food preservation.

Swimming Pool \$100,000
Swimming is a camp highlight, especially for youth. The current pool has massive cracks and



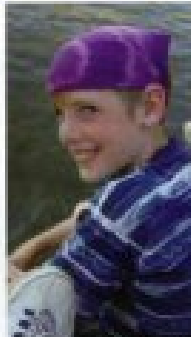
Western District Conference/Camp Mennoscah

limited life expectancy and must be replaced as soon as possible.

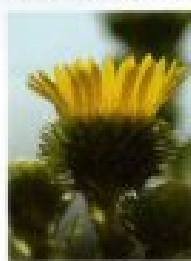
Landscaping for Retreat Center \$20,000
Landscaping, to be finished after the new road access and handicap accessibility are completed, will enhance the natural habitat and help prevent erosion.

Land Acquisition and Staffing \$45,000
This fund will provide legal and real estate counsel as Camp Mennoscah continues to monitor adjacent property. It will provide seed money for expansion of wilderness camping opportunities and increased staffing to match year-round programming now in place.

Scholarships and Participation in Mennonite Camping Association \$10,000
Scholarships make it possible for those with lower incomes to participate in camping activities and retreats in all parts of Western District Conference. This special fund will also enable staff to attend national Mennonite camping meetings.



Western District Conference/Camp Mennoscah



Western District Conference/Camp Mennoscah

Total Camping Ministry \$810,000

MINISTERIAL AND CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

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Scholarships for Seminary and Pastoral Study \$50,000
 This fund will help provide seminary training and full-time pastoral study at Mermonite Church USA related colleges and seminaries. Grants are available for distance education, specialized online training and Western District Conference continuing education seminars and workshops.



Revolving Loan Fund to Purchase or Remodel Church Buildings \$100,000
 A new congregation needs a place to worship, learn and fellowship. An existing congregation wants to enhance its ministry by upgrading its facilities. A revolving loan fund will make low-interest loans available to both new and existing congregations upon the basis of qualifying applications.



Sabbatical Fund \$ 50,000
 A sabbatical provides the pastor with a time for renewal and rejuvenation of body, mind and spirit. This fund will provide financial assistance to pastors while they study, serve or travel, and it will help their congregations secure interim pastoral leadership. Pastors must submit qualifying sabbatical proposals to their congregations and then to the Western District Conference Minister.



New Church Plants \$100,000
 An important mission of Western District Conference congregations is to plant 10 new churches in the next 10 years. This fund will make grants available to support pastoral leadership (usually on a decreasing subsidy plan), translation materials and resources, training for congregational leadership and assistance to attend annual WDC sessions and events.

Vision Grants \$50,000
 Vision 2012 will offer vision grants (up to \$5,000) to current Western District Conference congregations for strategic planning, visioning and redevelopment planning. Area conference staff and others will provide consultation, resources and training.

Total Ministerial and Congregational Leadership \$350,000



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



It is an honor to be part of a denomination with solid Christian practice and faith as is Mennonite Church USA. As a pastor belonging to an organization that is well

organized and reliable like Western District Conference, I sense that I am not by myself doing the ministry God entrusted me to do. Western District is the organization where I am accountable of my ministry and also the organization that confirms and supports my ministry.

Antonio Caceres
Iglesia Mennonita Monte Homb
Dallas, Texas



I value Western District Conference. It is so important to be a part of something bigger than the local congregation, to remain connected with the

broader church. Being a pastor in Texas, I feel rather distant geographically, so I appreciate the regular e-mails and memos. The Resource Center has been an important connecting point for worship and ministry.

Rachel Epp Miller, pastor
San Antonio Mennonite Church
San Antonio, Texas



As a new pastor with Mennonite Church USA, I have greatly appreciated the wealth of written materials available from Western District Conference to

orient me and enrich my understanding of relationships that exist denominationally.

The mutual accountability of WDC and its member churches has been helpful to me in setting boundaries, both personally and corporately.

Alden G. Dick, pastor
Bethel Mennonite Church
Inman, Kansas



Western District Conference holds me accountable to using the pastoral office in a way that is responsible and life giving. The Pastors' Days Apart provide

regular opportunities for helpful workshops on topics relevant to ministry. The Resource Library is used frequently by our church, and we consult the research librarian often. Camp Mennoscah is important to our congregation, as are conference youth activities.

Phil White, pastor
First Mennonite Church of Christian
Moundridge, Kansas



I've spent a week at Camp Mennoscah for 10 consecutive summers — both as a camper and as a counselor. Camp is a great experience in many ways, but what has kept

me coming back for so many years is the unique way I've experienced God through the nature, music, and people at camp. The time I spend there is something I'll always value.

Allison Boehm
Rainbow Mennonite Church
Kansas City, Kansas



I said "yes" to be a part of Vision 2012 because I sensed it was an important and timely effort for the long-term health of Western District Conference. I want to do what

I can to make it a successful venture.

Vern Preheim
Bethel College Mennonite Church
North Newton, Kansas



Vision 2012 first captured my interest because of its prayerful foundation; then I felt compelled to answer God's call to join the excitement generated by

Western District Conference's many challenging initiatives.

Rosella Wiens Regier
Faith Mennonite Church
Newton, Kansas



Vision 2012 is our vision to bring our dreams to reality. God has been gracious to us. Now I invite you to participate in the growing of Vision 2012 into reality—to

make financial and prayer commitments so that Western District Conference can expand our ministry and outreach.

Harold D. Thieszen
Bethel College Mennonite Church
North Newton, Kansas



CATCH THE VISION BECOME A PARTNER IN PRAYER AND GIVING

Please consider supporting Vision 2012 with your financial and prayer commitments over a three-year period. This giving is over and above your regular support to Western District Conference's annual fund.

Giving options include cash, real estate, securities, annuities, estate gifts, in-kind contributions or other gifts. You may choose to give annually, quarterly, monthly or through one-time donations. We are thankful for your partnership that will help connect our congregations and communities to God's mission in the world.

For more information on any of the Vision 2012 funding priorities or to discuss how you can best support this initiative, please contact:

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Western District Conference Minister

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Photo: Bethel College Mennonite Church



Photo: Bethel College Mennonite Church



Vision 2012 Steering Committee

Back row: Harold Thieszen, Cindy Snider, Vern Preheim, Rosella Wiens Regier, Joyce Parkrats. Front row: Marvin Penne, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Phyllis Regier