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# WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES

Of the One Hundred and Twenty First  
Annual Session of the  
Western District Conference  
of  
Mennonite Church USA

July 6-8, 2012  
Oklahoma City, OK

**121<sup>st</sup> Western District Conference Annual Assembly**  
**Theme: BECOMING ONE IN CHRIST TO BE SENT**  
**Meridian Convention Center, Oklahoma City, OK**  
**Saturday, July 7, 2012**

Delegate Session

- I. Worshipful Work Team:
  - A. Esther Vasquez opened the meeting with a personal story and invited folks to name their emotions. The worship team led the body in singing.
  - B. Lou Gomez invited the group to think of someone who has been influential in our lives and shared a personal story.
  - C. Miles Reimer read from Philippians 2 as preparation for silent prayer.
  - D. The worship team the body in "Let me be your servant."
- II. Doug Penner, moderator, called the meeting to order. He outlined the meeting.
- III. Credentials Committee Report: Charlotte Warkentine presented the report. There are 63 churches and 5 church plants in WDC with 358 eligible votes. Number of church or church plants represented is 54 (55). Number of delegates represented at the assembly are 217 (219). Number of votes represented are 337 (339). Number of churches/church plants not represented 14 (13). Number of votes not represented 21 (19). *(Note corrected numbers in parenthesis.—Nancy Funk, WDC Administrative Assistant, 7/26/12)*
- IV. Resolutions Committee introduction: Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, Jay Goering, Steve Schmidt.
- V. Accept minutes of Annual Assembly 2011: Berni Kaufman  
**MOTION: To accept Bob Poulseen/ Guy Smoker)**
- VI. Budget: Phyllis Regier
  - A. The audit was completed on June 29. It is available upon request.
  - B. Income exceeded expenses by \$2,320.
  - C. Phyllis explained Camp Mennoscah's budget. Income over expenses was \$29,990.
  - D. 2013 Budget was presented and explained.

**MOTION: To accept the 2013 budget. Approved.**
- VII. Election: Al Penner, Gifts Discernment Committee, introduced other members from the committee.
  - A. The slate was presented.
  - B. Nominations from the floor were called forth. None.

**MOTION: To accept the slate of officers. Ballot vote. Motion passed. Subsequent tally of ballot votes indicated that all nominees were elected by strong majorities.**
- VIII. Acceptance of Iglesia Menonita Casa de Dios into membership: Gilberto Flores
  - A. Gilberto introduced members of the congregation present who came to the stage.
  - B. Gilberto asked questions of Pastor J. Natividad Hernandez regarding the churches beginning and vision.

**MOTION: To accept Casa de Dios into membership of WDC. The acceptance of membership was approved by standing and applause of the body.**

- C. Clarence Rempel presented the pastor a certificate of membership and copies of the booklet, “Que es un cristiano anabautista?” or “What is an Anabaptist Christian?” by Palmer Becker.
- IX. Resolutions: Doug Penner
- A. Doug outlined the procedure for bringing resolutions to Assembly. He reviewed the amendments and voting procedure.
    - 1. Presentation of resolution: Max Fuqua, Inman Mennonite
      - a. Max gave a brief history from which the resolution was made.
      - b. The resolution was discussed within the congregation and the congregation agreed to bring the following resolution.
    - 2. Questions of clarification
      - a. In the review, Max used the phrase same sex marriage. This is not legalized in Kansas. What was meant? Same sex covenant.
      - b. Is there a copy of the membership guidelines? There is a copy on one of the front tables.
      - c. Which Leadership Commission would follow through? The current Leadership Commission would convene.
      - d. Length of suspension? Two-year suspension.
      - e. Suspension means that the pastor should no longer serve in his/her congregational capacities. How does this relate to membership in the Corinthian Plan? Not able to answer that question.
      - f. What is the expectation of the remedial steps? Bethel Mennonite has no expectations. That is in the hands of the Leadership Commission.
      - g. If the Leadership Commission were to meet and decide the same thing that Joanna’s credentials are in order, will that satisfy the resolution? No, the only conclusion would be to find her credentials not in order.
    - 3. Presentation of resolution: Oklahoma congregations, David Wiens
      - a. David expressed concern that it seems The Confession of Faith (COF) is not followed.
      - b. David explained the conviction of the three Oklahoma churches. The COF should be used as a standard to bring us to unity.
    - 4. Questions of clarification
      - a. If the resolution is adopted, how will it be enforced? Begin with the Scripture. If the COF is already spoken, there is no need to speak again.
      - b. How does this differ from Article II in our current bylaws? It is a refocusing.
      - c. How will resigning be enforced? If we have a major conflict with the COF, we should leave the conference. We need to act out of conscience.
      - d. Is the intent that if a pastor doesn’t believe in pacifism, that pastor should resign? The appeal is to make a decision based on conscience.
      - e. Who determines what is classified as a major issue or minor issue of disagreement with The Confession of Faith?
      - f. In the future, when a new COF is drawn up and 20% disagree, are they expected to leave the conference? If there are persons who, out of conscience, can’t agree, they would leave. The resolution is dealing with leadership.
      - g. How did you come to the conclusion that this is a major conflict with the COF? What about a pastor who supports war? The Leadership Commission makes that decision.

- h. The original resolution to accept the COF was as a teaching document. Would you accept this as a teaching document? Yes. If we don't use this as our standard, what do we use? If not, what do we use?
- B. Worshipful Work Team led the group in prayer.

Table discussion: Doug Penner

- C. Action on resolutions: Doug Penner

**Resolution 1: Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, Kansas moves that the Leadership Commission reverse their decision in which they stated "We find Joanna Harader's credentials to be in order" and instead suspend the credentials of Joanna Harader.**

**MOTION: To accept the resolution (Max Fuqua/Jerry Pankratz)**

1. Open mike comments
  - a. If the new LC were to find Joanna's credentials in order, the delegate body would be substituting for the LC action.
  - b. The COF is a teaching document and move to table the motion. A motion to table would require a two-thirds majority – later corrected to simple majority. Is there a second? (Dave Habegger/David Orr) This relates to resolution 2 and is out of order.
  - c. Let's love all our neighbors with love and compassion.
  - d. Not all at Lawrence agreed with Joanna's decision but did affirm her process of coming to the decision. A member of the congregation shared the breadth of Joanna's ministry.
  - e. The COF was agreed upon. Gay marriage is deemed a sin. We should abide by the COF. Let's stop smoothing things over and do what Jesus would do.
  - f. Joanna is an outstanding pastor who takes her charge very seriously. Before she decided to go ahead with the ceremony, she did a lot of study, prayer and talked with people. She informed the church, the conference minister and performed the ceremony and said she would do it again based on her scripture study.
  - g. Sin is turning away from God. We sin by separating ourselves and others from God. Joanna did not do this.
  - h. A person from her congregation said that he would be sickened to lose Joanna.
  - i. Just being good doesn't get us into heaven.
  - j. Concern that some have said that this is an issue between biblical people and unbiblical people. The Bible says to love one another as you love yourself. We can't lump Joanna and those in sympathy
  - k. The Spirit was present when the LC made their decision. The Spirit was present when Lawrence Mennonite made their decision. My fear is that this resolution would damage action made by a committee or commission.
  - l. What would actually implication of putting this resolution in practice? The LC went on record last year that they would not reverse their decision. If Inman were to rewrite the motion, they would say that the delegate body would reverse the LC decision.
  - m. No one left Peace Mennonite Church even though they didn't agree with Joanna's decision. Allow congregations to discern,
  - n. Lorraine Mennonite has a welcoming statement stating they will welcome gay and lesbians. What does the passage of this resolution mean for this church in the future?



Amendment 1: We, from Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, move that the LC revise the statement regarding Joanna Harader's credentials as follows: "We find Joann Harader's credentials to be in order. However, it will be noted on her Ministerial Leadership Information form that her action in performing a same-sex union is at variance with the Mennonite Church USA's Membership Guidelines." (second: Janet Kaufman)

Questions of clarification:

- Bethel Mennonite discussed the amendment and are not in favor. This states that the delegate body states that they find Joanna Harader's credentials to be in order.
- Joanna has made it clear that she will do it again. Would the amendment allow for the number of times she would perform a union? Yes.

**MOTION: To accept the amendment. Ballot vote. Yes- 184, No- 154. Amendment passed.**

We, from Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, move that the LC revise the statement regarding Joanna Harader's credentials as follows: "We find Joann Harader's credentials to be in order." However, it will be noted on her Ministerial Leadership Information form that her action in performing a same-sex union is at variance with the Mennonite Church USA's Membership Guidelines." (second: Janet Kaufman)

**AMENDED MOTION 1 Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, Kansas: We move that the Leadership Commission revise the statement regarding Joanna Harader's credentials as follows: "We find Joann Harader's credentials to be in order." However, it will be noted on her Ministerial Leadership Information form that her action in performing a same-sex union is at variance with the Mennonite Church USA's Membership Guidelines." (Mike Feters/Janet Kaufman)**

Discussion

Amendment: insert the word "not" to read We move that the LC revise the statement regarding Joanna Harader's credentials as follows: "We find Joann Harader's credentials to **not** be in order." However, it will be noted on her Ministerial Leadership Information form that her action in performing a same-sex union is at variance with the Mennonite Church USA's Membership Guidelines." (Gary Regehr/Bill Froese)

Motion to table the amended motion. (Dave Habegger/Bill Klassen).

A point of order was made that Roberts Rules of Order state that to insert the word "not" after the word "to" cannot be inserted which would negate a motion. The moderator declares the amended motion to Amended Motion 1 is out of order.

**Vote on the amended resolution 1. Ballot vote. Yes- 203, No- 136. Amended Resolution 1 is adopted.**

Action on resolution 2

**RESOLVED:** That the leadership of Western District Conference, including the Executive Board, the Commissions, Committees and District Ministers, acknowledge as official position the current **Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective**

That those in the above leadership positions, pastors, and or congregations conduct their functions and business in accordance with that Confession of Faith and that those who cannot do so according to their conscience resign their positions of leadership and influence in the Western District Conference.

**MOTION: To accept the resolution. (Dave Wiens/Bob Sprunger)**

1. Open mike comments

**MOTION: To table the resolution. (David Habegger/Guy Smoker) Ballot vote. Yes – 170, No- 167 . Motion is adopted .**

- X. Resolution from Resolution Committee moves that “We, the delegates of Western District Conference, express our hearty thanks to the following:
- The staff of the Magnuson Hotel & Meridian Convention Center for their attentive service and excellent facilities.
  - The staff of Western District Conference and volunteers who have prepared so diligently for our conference gathering and for their faithful and creative leadership.
- XI. Meeting adjourned
- XII. Prayer: Lou Gomez

Western District Conference  
2013 Budget

	<b>Budget 2013</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
1 Contributions	400,000
2 Church Plant contributions	72,000
3 Personnel Rebates	16,500
4 Rent Income	2,000
5 Refunds	10,000
6 Fundraisers	
7 Restricted Funds-Interest	2,000
8 Agri-Urban contribution	5,000
9 Income From Bequest Fund	40,000
10 Vision 2012 Funds	20,000
11 Interest/Market Adjustment	2,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>569,500</b>

**Expenses**

	<b>Budget 2013</b>		<b>Budget 2013</b>
<b><u>Executive Board</u></b>		<b><u>Resource Commission</u></b>	
1 Executive - Staffing	52,000	1 Resource - Staff	94,700
2 Executive - Staff Travel	3,000	2 Resource - Staff Travel	2,500
3 Executive - Office Exp	3,500	3 Resource - Office Exp	8,000
4 Executive - Board Exp	4,000	4 Resource - Commission Exp	1,000
5 Executive - MCUSA Delegates	3,000	5 Resource - Historical Co	0
6 Executive - Reference Council	550	6 Resource - Mennonite Archives	2,500
7 Executive - Camp Subsidy	9,000	7 Resource - Library resources	7,700
<b>Executive Total</b>	<b>75,050</b>	8 Resource - Music & Worship	350
		9 Resource - Yth Texas	1,500
		10 Resource - Yth Misc	1,500
		<b>Resource Total</b>	<b>119,750</b>
<b><u>Leadership Commission</u></b>		<b><u>Stewardship Commission</u></b>	
1 Leader - Staffing	186,000	1 Steward - Staff	42,000
2 Leader - Ministerial Travel	12,000	2 Steward - Travel	1,000
3 Leader - Office Expense	15,000	3 Steward - Office Exp	7,000
4 Leader - Commission Exp	3,000	4 Steward - Commission	500
5 Leader - Ministerial Credential	1,500	5 Steward - Communications	11,000
6 Leader - Seminary Scholarships	3,000	6 Steward - Insurance	7,500
7 Leader - AMBS-Great Plains	3,000	7 Steward - Audit	7,200
8 Leader - Meetings & workshops	1,000	<b>Stewardship Total</b>	<b>76,200</b>
9 Leader - Church Plant support	72,000		
10 Leader - Planting Retreats	2,000		
<b>Leadership Total</b>	<b>298,500</b>		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>569,500</b>		

## 2013 ELECTION RESULTS

**Moderator Elect:** Richard Gehring

**Secretary:** Wendy Funk Schrag

**Executive Board:** Lois Miller, Karl Kroeker

**Gifts Discernment Committee:** Eric Buller, Jane McNair

**Leadership Commission:** Lee Lever, Renee Kanagy

**Resource Commission:** Katherine Goerzen, Ryan Koehn

**Stewardship Commission:** Stephen Hochstetler, Greg Pankratz

### CERTIFIED DELEGATES AT 2012 CONFERENCE

#### KANSAS

1. **Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel:** Linda Ewert, Steve Schmidt, Brian Stucky (507 members, 17 votes)
2. **Bergthal Mennonite Church, Pawnee Rock:** Lynn Schlosser, Todd Schlosser (67 members, 3 votes)
3. **Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton:** Helen Bertrand, Mary Ann Boschmann, Hugo Boschmann, David Habegger, Heidi Regier Kreider, Sheri Lepard, Elizabeth Raid, Dale Schrag, Margo Schrag, Lee Wheeler (591 members, 20 votes)
4. **Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman:** Virgil Clark, Max Fuqua, Sandra Fuqua, Donna Kroeker, John Kroeker, Justin Osborn, Jerry Pankratz, Gary Regehr, Sharon Regehr, Troy Wedel, Bob Yates, Laurie Yates (377 members, 13 votes)
5. **Buhler Mennonite Church, Buhler:** Bob Dalke, Flauretta Dalke, Bonnie Danner, Ralph Janzen, Sara Janzen, Sharon Stucky (331 members, 12 votes)
6. **Burrton Mennonite Church, Burrton:** Jim Dunn, Jim Gundy, Marj Gundy (89 members, 3 votes)
7. **Calvary Mennonite Church, Liberal:** Lou Gomez (26 members, 1 vote)
8. **Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge:** Eugene Goering, Jay Goering, Kylie Goering, Linda Goering, Ryan Goering, Waneta Goering, Gail Graber, Bonita Howard, Don Kaufman, Becky Koller, Jeff Koller, Marlene Krehbiel, Jenny Schrag, Dave Stevens, Barbara Stucky, Carol Stucky, Duane Stucky, Ken Stucky (711 members, 24 votes)
9. **Faith Mennonite Church, Newton:** Ray Brandt, Rosie Goering Brandt, Verda Deckert, Joyce Gaeddert, Mark Jantzen, Darlene Powers, Harold Regier, Sara Regier, Allison Schrag, Arlys Schwabauer, Jim Stucky (351 members, 12 votes)
10. **First Mennonite Church, Halstead:** Marilyn Balzer, Richard Balzer, Dorothy Dick, Kent Dick, Lois Loflin, Chuck Mueller, Ruth Mueller, Debbie Nightingale, Randy Smith (255 members, 9 votes)
11. **First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro:** Doug Bartel, Asia Frye, Keith Harder, Susan Jantzen (297 members, 10 votes)
12. **First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson:** Star Gipson, Bill Klassen, Thea Klassen, Judy Langley, Carolee Neufeld, Kenneth Neufeld, LaVerle Schrag, Jonathan Wenger, Tonya Ramer Wenger (250 members, 9 votes)
13. **First Mennonite Church, McPherson:** Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Bill Toews, Dayle Toews (110 members, 4 votes)
14. **First Mennonite Church, Newton:** Anita Kehr, Don Schmidt, Wendy Funk Schrag, Linda Shelly, Ib Thomsen, June Thomsen, (535 members, 18 votes)
15. **First Mennonite Church, Ransom:** Eldon Epp (30 members, 1 vote)
16. **First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge:** Cheri Kaufman, Steve Kaufman, Laura Neufeld, Randy Stucky, Rita Stucky (176 members, 6 votes)
17. **Goessel Mennonite Church, Goessel:** Robert Yutzy (170 members, 6 votes)
18. **Gospel Fellowship, Montezuma:** No delegates present. (14 members, 1 vote)
19. **Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater:** Olin Claassen, Katherine Goerzen, Peter Goerzen, Brett Harms, Steven Harms, Valerie Klaassen, Rita Patterson, Diana Schunn (227 members, 8 votes)
20. **Hanston Mennonite Church, Hanston:** No delegates present. (50 members, 2 votes)



21. **Hoffnungsaue Mennonite Church, Inman:** Bill Ediger, Jerilyn Ediger, Cleo Koop, Bob Poulseen, (231 members, 8 votes)
22. **Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, Cynthia Loganbill, Karen Zehr, Jim Zielke (214 members, 8 votes)
23. **Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania, Newton:** Jaime Cazares, Suhelen Cazares (45 members, 2 votes)
24. **Inman Mennonite Church, Inman:** Ruth Buller, Leon Heidebrecht (129 members, 5 votes)
25. **Kingman Mennonite Church, Kingman:** Lori Flickner, Connie Roth, David Roth (162 members, 6 votes)
26. **Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Kristina Everingham, Mike Fetters, Janet Kaufman, Grayce Kaufmann, Reid Kaufmann, Nadine Reimer Penner, (391 members, 14 votes)
27. **Manhattan Mennonite Church, Manhattan:** Caprice Becker, Cathy Bitikofer, Richard Gehring, Richard Harris (95 members, 4 votes)
28. (Church Plant) **Manos de Cristo, Wichita:** Jerry Acosta (0 members, 1 vote)
29. **Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita:** Lois Barrett (24 members, 1 vote)
30. **New Creation Fellowship, Newton:** Rebecca Barrett-Fox, Kristin Neufeld Epp, Libby Schrag (80 members, 3 votes)
31. **Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence:** John Johnson, Roger Martin, Andrea Zuercher (72 members, 3 votes)
32. **Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City:** Krista Kaufman, Robert Kaufman, Kent Moore, Mary Redmon, Debra Sapp-Yarwood (261 members, 9 votes)
33. **Salina Mennonite Church, Salina:** Elizabeth Bryan, Pete Emery, Christina Litwiller (66 members, 3 votes)
34. **Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton:** Chris Dick, Sara Dick, Laurie Hesed, Eric Massanari, Debbie Schmidt, Joe Smucker, Melanie Zuercher (197 members, 7 votes)
35. **Southern Hills Mennonite Church, Topeka:** Janet Dixon, Larry Dixon, Elvera Johnson, Guy Smoker (113 members, 4 votes)
36. **Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton:** Dale Alderfer, Karen Andres, Barb Banman, Carol Duerksen, Bill Froese, Gayle Funk, James Goerzen, Denise Nickel, Jerry Toews, Leanna Toews, Monica Voth (323 members, 11 votes)
37. **Trinity Mennonite Church, Hillsboro:** Jeff Wintermote, Tammy Wintermote (202 members, 7 votes)
38. **West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge:** Karen Loganbill, Luke Loganbill, Lee Suderman (206 members, 7 votes)
39. **Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing:** Edna Andres, Elena Nussbaum, Raymond Reimer, Jill Schmidt, Lisa Scott, Michael Scott (155 members, 6 votes)

## MISSOURI

1. (Church Plant) **Peace Mennonite Church of Columbia:** No delegates present. (12 members, 1 vote)

## NEBRASKA

1. **Beatrice Mennonite Church, Beatrice:** No delegates present. (98 members, 4 votes)
2. **First Mennonite Church, Beatrice:** Merlin Friesen (224 members, 8 votes)

## OKLAHOMA

1. **Bethel Mennonite Church, Hammon:** No delegates present. (25 members, 1 vote)
2. **Bethel Mennonite Church, Hydro:** Karen Krehbiel, Bob Sprunger, Linda Sprunger (104 members, 4 votes)
3. **Eden Mennonite Church, Inola:** Karl Kroeker, Greg Pankratz, David Wiens (220 members, 8 votes)
4. **First Mennonite Church, Clinton:** Jack Norris, Irvin Schmidt (61 member, 3 votes)
5. **Grace Mennonite Church, Enid:** Verlin Koehn, Verna Koehn (85 members, 3 votes)
6. **Greenfield Mennonite Church, Carnegie:** No delegates present. (12 members, 1 vote)

7. **Herold Mennonite Church, Cordell:** Toby Anders, Fern Harms, Marilyn Harms, Denver Horn (99 members, 4 votes)
8. **Joy Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City:** Zachary Gleason (25 members, 1 vote)
9. **Koinonia Mennonite Church, Clinton:** No delegates present (23 members, 1 vote)
10. **Mennonite Indian Church, Seiling:** No delegates present. (12 members, 1 vote)
11. (Church Plant) **Metro Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City:** Terry Hostetler (11 members, 1 vote)
12. **Turpin Mennonite Church, Turpin:** Brandi Parker, Chad Parker, Terry Rediger (102 members, 4 votes)

#### **TEXAS**

1. **Austin Mennonite Church, Austin:** Ruth Anne Abraham, Lee Lever (50 members, 2 votes)
2. **Hope Fellowship, Waco:** No delegates present. (18 members, 1 vote)
3. **House of Healing, Dallas:** Paty Delgado, Raymond Delgado (36 members, 2 votes)
4. **Houston Mennonite Church, Houston:** No delegates present. (50 members, 2 votes)
5. **Iglesia Cristiana Menonita Monte Horeb, Dallas:** Susana Caceros (20 members, 1 vote)
6. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Menonita Casa de Dios, Garland:** Natividad Hernandez (15 membership, 1 vote)
7. **Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena:** No delegates present. (55 members, 2 votes)
8. **Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Esperanza, Dallas:** No delegates present. (28 members, 1 vote)
9. **Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Vida, San Antonio:** Blanca Vargas (12 members, 1 vote)
10. **Iglesia Menonita Luz del Evangelio, Dallas:** Juan Limones, Gary Roberts (150 members, 5 votes)
11. **Iglesia Menonita Mi Redentor, Ferris:** Jorge Quintanilla (20 members, 1 vote)
12. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Menonita Nueva Jerusalem, Houston:** No delegates present. (15 members, 1 vote)
13. **Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas:** Wayne Albrecht (84 members, 3 votes)
14. **San Antonio Mennonite Church, San Antonio:** Jenny Castro, Mitzi Moore (55 members, 2 votes)