



**Western
District
Conference**

*An area conference of
Mennonite Church USA*

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WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES

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

August 2-3, 2013
Bethel College, North Newton, KS

122nd Western District Conference Annual Assembly
Theme: Shaped by God's Story
Bethel College, North Newton KS
Saturday, August 3, 2013

Morning Session:

1. Worshipful work: Col. 3:12-18 was used as the text to gather the delegate body.
2. Diana Schunn, moderator, expressed thanks for the prayers many have made for the work of WDC. She shared Zeph 3:17 as one of her favorite verses, with the theme of obedience and God exalting over us.
3. Introductions: Resolutions committee: Richard Gehring, Doug Penner, and Brenda Glanzer-Lillisten. Bill Zuercher is serving as parliamentarian. Daagya Dyck and Linda Shelly are serving as translators. Diana introduced Executive Board members and asked Committee members to stand.
4. Diana called the meeting to order.
5. Credentials Committee Report: Jeannie Zehr – As of 9:00 am this morning: 57 churches, 6 church plants in WDC, 315 eligible votes. Represented here: 45 (47) churches, 161 (163) delegates, 287 (289) votes represented. 18 (16) churches not represented. *(Final delegate and church numbers are in parenthesis. —Nancy Funk, WDC Administrative Assistant, 8/7/13)*
6. **Approval of Annual Assembly 2013 minutes: Motions: Larry Dixon, Marlene Faul. The minutes were adopted.**
7. Terry Shue provided a presentation on Church Polity.
 - a. Addressing polity strengthens how we work together.
 - b. What is Mennonite polity?
 - i. Mutually agreed and understood, formally and informally, written and unwritten, how we do business together. Always in flux, moving.
 - c. Forms of polity: Top down, consultation, or congregational model – decisions made by whole community or as many as choose to be involved. Pros and cons of each were presented.
 - d. Attributes of Mennonite polity:
 - i. Plural and diverse
 - ii. Conventional and informal
 - iii. Flexible and adaptable
 - iv. Clarity of theology has to be at the center due to the flexible nature of polity
 - e. Why talk about polity now?
 - i. Increased diversity and societal complexity
 - ii. Polity clarification can foster unity
 - iii. Polity will not fix a low trust environment
 - f. Examples of Mennonite polity
 - i. Polity Handbook: a Guide, decisions are congregational as long as the decisions don't harm the larger church
 - ii. Confession of Faith: our best understanding at a given time, guidelines for scriptural interpretation, unity, not a rule book or a test of who is in or out – re-written every 30 or so years to update for current context
 - iii. Membership Guidelines (2001) – basis, policy and practice for membership.
 - iv. Purposeful Plan: full of polity

- g. Table discussions around questions:
 - i. How do we stay in relationship when understanding of authority of polity is different?
 - ii. How can we stay focused on the common vision rather than divisive issues of the day?
 - iii. Table reports (microphone):
 - 1. Roberts' rules of order: add to our list of polity tools
 - 2. Approaches are what becomes divisive, not issues
 - 3. It's all about relationships, trust. Can we use social media, resources, throughout the year to build relationships?
 - 4. Importance of conversations taking place in prayer, mutual respect. Need some concrete conflict management tools to use in congregations.
 - 5. MCC, MDS – use some unifying, common good things to bring us together. Issues at all levels (congregations, families, etc) – how do we translate relationship building from one area to other areas?
 - 6. Who is in charge? God. We are in the world, not of the world.
 - 7. Unwritten cultural assumptions about decision-making: look at other cultures' decision-making and embrace other things. Acknowledge we don't have to be the same to get along.
8. Diana reviewed the WDC resolutions policy which mirrors the MC USA resolutions policy. She explained the background of the resolution that was tabled last year, the information that went out to the delegates ahead of time with the process for taking the motion off the table. No one responded wishing the motion to come off the table, so it is now considered a dead motion.
9. Rosie Jantz and Terry Rediger concluded the first session with worshipful work.

Afternoon Session:

- 1. Brad Roth and Blanca Vargas opened the session with worshipful work centering on Psalm 19.
- 2. Diana opened the second session of the delegate body and explained the afternoon's agenda items and voting procedures.
- 3. Phyllis Regier reported on the 2012 year budget and presented the next year's budget.
 - a. 2012 year report:
 - Total income \$556,625
 - Total expenses \$530,138. Extra income went to church planting, replacing conference vehicle and replacing office equipment.
 - b. 2014 budget:
 - \$553,600 budgeted income, a 3% decrease from current budget.
 - \$553,600 anticipated expenses. Phyllis described the various department budgets.

Motion from Stewardship Commission: To approve the 2014 budget. Budget was approved as presented.

- 4. Brian Stucky presented the process for the Gifts Discernment Committee to obtain nominees for WDC positions and presented the slate of nominees.

Motion from the Gifts Discernment Committee: To accept the nominees as presented by the Gifts Discernment Committee. Nomination slate was accepted.

- 5. Acceptance of Chin Emmanuel Church into membership of WDC: Wendy Funk Schrag presented the following motion: **The Executive Board of Western District Conference recommends the Chin Emmanuel congregation**

for membership in Western District Conference. Motion approved. English and Spanish prayers of thanks were provided. Clarence gifted a selection of books to the church on Mennonite teachings. Pastor Simon provided a response. Clarence explained a paradigm shift in new churches from Believing, Behaving, Belonging to a new order of Belonging, Believing and Behaving.

6. Mennonite Church USA report: Terry Shue

Terry and representatives from MC USA departments gave greetings. He emphasized that MC USA exists to serve the local conferences and churches. Terry and MC USA staff representatives highlighted various works of MC USA that fulfill that purpose.

7. Camp Mennoscah report: Olivia Bartel. Diana explained that while Camp Mennoscah is now independent of WDC, we desire to maintain close ties and relationships with Camp. Olivia reports a total of 575 campers and 200 volunteers attended camps this summer. She presented highlights of their budget and requested financial gifts toward the expenses and special projects of camp. She encouraged people to learn more about camp activities from their website and facebook. There will also be a DVD available soon about camp that can be used in churches to help advertise camp. The 2013 Camp Mennoscah Annual Meeting will be held on Sept. 22 at 3 p.m.

8. Diana reported highlights from the 10 delegates who attended Mennonite Church USA's convention in Phoenix earlier this summer.

9. Marlene Bogard reported Annual Assembly 2014 will be held in Dallas, Texas.

10. Richard Gehring presented a resolution from the Resolutions Committee: **We, the delegates of WDC, express our hearty thanks to the following: the staff of Bethel College for their attentive service and excellent facilities. A special thanks is extended to Ben Jones and Shirley Dietzel for their work with facilities, and to Joe Fenton for his audiovisual support. The staff of WDC and volunteers who have prepared so diligently for our conference assembly and for their faithful and creative leadership. Motion: Doug Penner, Sheri Lepard. Motion approved.**

11. Eric Buller, Rosie Epp seconded. **Meeting adjourned.**

12. Brad and Blanca provided a closing for the sessions.

Delegate session adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Wendy Funk Schrag, WDC secretary

Western District Conference
2014 Budget

	Budget 2014	Budget 2013
Income		
1 Contributions	382,000	400,000
2 Church Plant contributions	72,000	72,000
3 Personnel Rebates	20,600	16,500
4 Rent Income	2,000	2,000
5 Refunds	10,000	10,000
6 Restricted Funds-Interest	2,000	2,000
7 Agri-Urban contribution	5,000	5,000
8 Income From Bequest Fund	38,000	40,000
9 Vision 2012 Funds	20,000	20,000
10 Interest/Market Adjustment	2,000	2,000
Total Income	553,600	569,500

Expenses

	Budget 2014	Budget 2013
Executive Board		
1 Executive - Staffing	53,000	52,000
2 Executive - Staff Travel	3,000	3,000
3 Executive - Office Exp	3,500	3,500
4 Executive - Board Exp	4,000	4,000
5 Executive - MCUSA Delegates	3,000	3,000
6 Executive - Reference Council	500	550
7 Executive - Camp Subsidy	6,000	9,000
Executive Total	73,000	75,050

Leadership Commission

1 Leader - Staffing	176,350	186,000
2 Leader - Ministerial Travel	12,000	12,000
3 Leader - Office Expense	15,000	15,000
4 Leader - Commission Exp	3,000	3,000
5 Leader - Ministerial Credential	1,500	1,500
6 Leader - Seminary Scholarships	5,000	3,000
7 Leader - AMBS-Great Plains	3,000	3,000
8 Leader - Meetings & workshops	1,000	1,000
9 Leader - Church Plant support	72,000	74,000
Leadership Total	288,850	298,500

Resource Commission

	Budget 2014	Budget 2013
1 Resource - Staff	93,100	94,700
2 Resource - Staff Travel	2,000	2,500
3 Resource - Office Exp	8,000	8,000
4 Resource - Commission Exp	1,000	1,000
5 Resource - Mennonite Archives	2,500	2,500
6 Resource - Library	7,700	7,700
7 Resource - Music & Worship	350	350
8 Resource - Youth	3,000	3,000
Resource Total	117,650	119,750

Stewardship Commission

1 Steward - Staff	43,100	42,000
2 Steward - Travel	1,000	1,000
3 Steward - Office Exp	7,000	7,000
4 Steward - Commission	500	500
5 Steward - Communications	8,000	11,000
6 Steward - Insurance	7,000	7,500
7 Steward - Audit	7,500	7,200
Stewardship Total	74,100	76,200

Total Expenses	553,600	569,500
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2014 ELECTION RESULTS

Executive Board: Cynthia Loganbill, Jerry Reimer

Gifts Discernment Committee: Roberta Harms, Susan Jantzen

Leadership Commission: Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Weldon Schloneger

Resource Commission: Vicki Hinz Ensz, Gordon Houser

Stewardship Commission: Stan Voth, Jim Yoder

CERTIFIED DELEGATES AT 2013 CONFERENCE

KANSAS

1. **Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel:** Delbert Peters, Brian Stucky (483 members, 17 votes)
2. **Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton:** Marlene Faul, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Mary Ann Gertsen, Lou Gomez, Ruth Harder, Joe Kondziola, Sheri Lepard, Elizabeth Raid, Dale Schrag, Patty Shelly, Alice Suderman, Lee Wheeler, Susan Wheeler (557 members, 19 votes)
3. **Buhler Mennonite Church, Buhler:** Sharon Stucky (329 members, 11 votes)
4. **Burrton Mennonite Church, Burrton:** Ann Dunn, Jim Gundy (41 members, 2 votes)
5. **Calvary Mennonite Church, Liberal:** No delegates present. (26 members, 1 vote)
6. **Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge:** Jay Goering, Linda Goering, Gail Graber, Jeff Koller, Marlene Krehbiel, Ken Preheim, Marilyn Preheim, Berni Kaufman, Wanda Knight, Jenny Schrag, Laurie Schrag, Pam Schrag, Dave Stevens, (688 members, 23 votes)
7. **Faith Mennonite Church, Newton:** LaDeen Frey, Rodney Frey, Darlene Powers, Loren Reusser, Jim Stucky (178 members, 6 votes)
8. **First Mennonite Church, Halstead:** Dorothy Dick, Kent Dick, Brian Harmon, Dan Schroeder, Peter Wintermote (240 members, 8 votes)
9. **First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro:** Deryll Amstutz, Pat Bartel, Asia Frye, Tim Frye, Susan Jantzen (287 members, 10 votes)
10. **First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson:** Pauline Buller, Star Gipson, Delon Martens, Joretta Martens, Kenneth Neufeld, LaVerle Schrag, Bonnie Swenson (253 members, 9 votes)
11. **First Mennonite Church, McPherson:** Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Dayle Toews (186 members, 7 votes)
12. **First Mennonite Church, Newton:** Janice Good, John Good, Anita Kehr, Ryan Koehn, Jim Schrag, Linda Shelly, June Thomsen, (535 members, 18 votes)
13. **First Mennonite Church, Ransom:** Eldon Epp (30 members, 1 vote)
14. **First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge:** Steve Kaufman, Laura Neufeld, Randy Stucky (168 members, 6 votes)
15. **Goessel Mennonite Church, Goessel:** Courtney Becker, Brad Penner (167 members, 6 votes)
16. **Gospel Fellowship, Montezuma:** No delegates present. (14 members, 1 vote)
17. **Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater:** Olin Claassen, Katherine Goerzen, Peter Goerzen, Roberta Harms, Steven Harms, Valerie Klaassen, Rita Patterson (233 members, 8 votes)
18. **Hanston Mennonite Church, Hanston:** No delegates present. (50 members, 2 votes)
19. **Hoffnungsaus Mennonite Church, Inman:** Cleo Koop (250 members, 9 votes)
20. **Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Brad Anderson, Brenda Glanzer Lilliston, Cynthia Loganbill, Karen Zehr (225 members, 8 votes)
21. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Camino de Santidad, Liberal:** Moises Romero (? members, 1 vote)
22. **Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania, Newton:** Jaime Cazares (45 members, 2 votes)
23. **Inman Mennonite Church, Inman:** Eric Buller, Leon Heidebrecht, Dave Moore, Kevin Reimer, Jane Toews (122 members, 5 votes)
24. **Kingman Mennonite Church, Kingman:** Harold Forcum, Paulette Forcum, David Roth (167 members, 6 votes)
25. **Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Beverly Baumgartner, Ellsworth Kauffman, Judy Loganbill, Nadine Reimer Penner, (397 members, 14 votes)
26. **Manhattan Mennonite Church, Manhattan:** Melissa Atchison, Cathy Bitikofer, Barbara Krehbiel Gehring, Janet McGillivary (97 members, 4 votes)
27. (Church Plant) **Manos de Cristo, Wichita:** No delegates present. (0 members, 1 vote)
28. **Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita:** Doreene Esau-Rutherford (24 members, 1 vote)

29. **New Creation Fellowship, Newton:** Gordon Houser, Renee Kanagy (110 members, 4 votes)
30. **Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence:** Joanna Harader, Andrea Zuercher (45 members, 2 votes)
31. **Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City:** Bob Carlson, Phyllis Carlson, George Melby, Mary Redmon (262 members, 9 votes)
32. **Salina Mennonite Church, Salina:** Tom Claassen, Carolyn Funk, Christina Litwiller (65 members, 3 votes)
33. **Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton:** Ron Flaming, Marlene Smucker, Stan Smucker, Jeannie Zehr, Marv Zehr (198 members, 7 votes)
34. **Southern Hills Mennonite Church, Topeka:** Janet Dixon, Larry Dixon, Cynthia Neufeld Smith, Guy Smoker (118 members, 4 votes)
35. **Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton:** Gayle Funk, Phyllis Goertzen, James Goerzen, Rosie Jantz, Philip Schmidt, Carrie Unruh, Lewis Unruh, Myron Voth (319 members, 11 votes)
36. **Trinity Mennonite Church, Hillsboro:** Lloyd Funk, Sue Funk, Arlene Hett, Galen Penner, Jeff Wintermote, Tammy Wintermote (198 members, 7 votes)
37. **West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge:** Alicia Roth Sertzen, Geneva Wedel (202 members, 7 votes)
38. **Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing:** Doug Brewer, Margaret Brewer, Rosella Epp, Joe Friesen, Lois Friesen, Raymond Reimer (154 members, 6 votes)

MISSOURI

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

NEBRASKA

1. **Beatrice Mennonite Church, Beatrice:** Bob Beecher, Cindy Beecher, Debbie Thimm, Joe Thimm (100 members, 4 votes)
2. **First Mennonite Church, Beatrice:** Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Jerry Reimer (234 members, 8 votes)

OKLAHOMA

1. **Bethel Mennonite Church, Hammon:** No delegates present. (25 members, 1 vote)
2. **First Mennonite Church, Clinton:** Jack Norris, Mary Norris (67 member, 3 votes)
3. **Greenfield Mennonite Church, Carnegie:** No delegates present. (12 members, 1 vote)
4. **Joy Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City:** James Branum (16 members, 1 vote)
5. **Koinonia Mennonite Church, Clinton:** No delegates present (23 members, 1 vote)
6. **Mennonite Indian Church, Seiling:** No delegates present. (12 members, 1 vote)
7. **Turpin Mennonite Church, Turpin:** Terry Rediger (78 members, 3 votes)

TEXAS

1. **Austin Mennonite Church, Austin:** Marilyn Lehman, Lee Lever (50 members, 2 votes)
2. (Church Plant) **Chin Emmanuel Church, Houston, TX:** Thang Lian (210 members, 1 vote)
3. (Church Plant) **Grace Mennonite Fellowship, Gladewater, TX:** Karen Mascho (? members, 1 vote)
4. **Hope Fellowship, Waco:** No delegates present. (18 members, 1 vote)
5. **Houston Mennonite Church, Houston:** Marty Troyer (50 members, 2 votes)
6. **Iglesia Cristiana Menonita Monte Horeb, Dallas:** No delegates present. (20 members, 1 vote)
7. **Iglesia Menonita Casa de Dios, Garland:** No delegates present. (15 membership, 1 vote)
8. **Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena:** No delegates present. (55 members, 2 votes)
9. **Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Esperanza, Dallas:** Randy Rodriguez (28 members, 1 vote)
10. **Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Vida, San Antonio:** Dulce Romero-Urbina (7 members, 1 vote)
11. **Iglesia Menonita Luz del Evangelio, Dallas:** No delegates present. (150 members, 5 votes)
12. **Iglesia Menonita Mi Redentor, Ferris:** No delegates present. (20 members, 1 vote)
13. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Menonita Nueva Jerusalem, Houston:** No delegates present. (15 members, 1 vote)
14. **Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas:** Ryan Koch, Sam Nance, Sharon Nance (84 members, 3 votes)
15. **San Antonio Mennonite Church, San Antonio:** Rachel Epp Miller, Mitzi Moore (31 members, 2 votes)