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WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE REPORTS

To the One Hundred and Twenty Seventh
Annual Session of the
Western District Conference
of
Mennonite Church USA

July 27-28, 2018

July 27: Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton KS

July 28: Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge KS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Staff</u>	
Conference Minister	1
Associate Conference Minister – Texas Based	3
Associate Conference Minister – Kansas Based	5
Director of Conference Resource Library	6
Conference Treasurer (This report will be made available after the annual audit is complete.)	6
<i>(7/19/18 – Report now available - see pages 6a-6f)</i>	
Youth Ministry Network Team Leader	6
<u>Executive Board, Commissions, Committees, and Task Forces</u>	
Executive Board	7
Gifts Discernment Committee	8
Church Planting Commission.....	9
Ministerial Leadership Commission	10
Resource Commission	11
Israel-Palestine Relations Task Force	12
Low German Task Force	12
Youth Ministry Committee	13
Stewardship Commission	13
Staff Relations Committee	14
Trustee Task Force	14
<u>Institutions/Organizations with relationships/partnerships to WDC</u>	
Camp Mennoscah	15
Mennonite Men	16
Prairie View	17
Western District Women in Mission	19
<u>Mennonite agency reports:</u>	
Everence	20
MennoMedia	22
Mennonite Church USA.....	23
Mennonite Education Agency	24
Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS)	26
Bethel College	27
Bluffton University	28
Eastern Mennonite Seminary	29
Eastern Mennonite University.....	30
Goshen College	31
Hesston College	32
Mennonite Health Services Alliance.....	33
Mennonite Mission Network.....	34

Conference Minister
Heidi Regier Kreider

As I approach the end of my third year as conference minister I give thanks for God's guidance, the opportunity to work with wonderful staff, and the gift of interacting with congregations and leaders in the wider church. My report lists activities from this past year according to priorities in my job description:

Develop, build and articulate vision for the WDC:

I worked with Executive Board to process feedback from WDC's 2017 annual assembly, and responses from delegate table conversations regarding WDC's history and hopes for the future. Themes from these responses were highlighted at Oct 28 Reference Council, where the Executive Board and commissions explored adaptive leadership principles (distinguishing between adaptive and technical challenges, and working across factions) as a framework for WDC's leadership groups to discuss how their work relates to the mission and priorities of WDC. I attended Year of Evangelism events including the kick-off on Jan 19-20 at Alexanderwohl, and a study series presented Mar 18-19 by Brad Roth on *Faith, Hope and the Mission of Rural and Small Town Churches*, sponsored by Beatrice Mennonite and First Mennonite (Beatrice, NE). In *Garden* and *Sprouts* articles through the year I reflected on a variety of topics including reflections on Annual Assembly and Fall Reference Council, Year of Evangelism, and other current issues and activities in WDC. Everence offered conferences a grant for a conference minister and pastor to attend training by Lake Institute to pursue an Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising. I have invited Sandra Montes Martinez, pastor at Iglesia Menonita Monte Horeb, to join me for this training in May 2018, as an opportunity to consider creative ways to approach development and fundraising in WDC in the future.

With Associate Conference Ministers, share the responsibility for relating to WDC pastors and congregational lay leaders, consult with congregational search committees about pastoral placement; and be an advocate for pastors and congregations to elected or appointed conference leadership.

This past year I related to several congregations in pastoral transition: At Hanston, Eugene Thieszen resigned as pastor in October 2017; First-McPherson has called Rose Marie Zook Barber to begin as pastor in June 2018, and Randy Smith will conclude as transitional pastor there; and Roger and Cynthia Neufeld Smith will conclude as co-pastors at Southern Hills Mennonite Church in summer 2018. I appreciated opportunities to visit Shalom, Rainbow, Faith, Casa Betania, Chin Emmanuel, Casa del Alfarero, First-Newton, Manhattan, Turpin, Calvary, Camino de Santidad, Beatrice Mennonite, First-Beatrice, Hanston, First-McPherson, Southern Hills, Bethel College Mennonite, a joint service of Casa Betania, Aposento Alto and Church of the Servant, and fund-raising events at Tabor and First-Halstead. In November 2017 I joined Byron Pellecer to visit pastors in the Houston area and attend the Texas MCC Relief Sale in Houston. Approximately \$20,000 was received by WDC and distributed to our four congregations in the Houston area for hurricane relief assistance. Meetings with the pastor peer groups and visits with individual pastors and other leaders were occasions for conversation about vocational discernment, pastor reviews, congregational issues, and the joys and challenges of ministry. We lamented the deaths this past year of close family members of several credentialed persons in WDC. I sent condolences on behalf of WDC, and WDC representatives attended funeral services.

Serve as person responsible for overall organization and operation of WDC; regularly meet with and report to Executive Committee and Executive Board.

I continued work with Executive Committee and Executive Board to help plan agenda and special events such as Reference Council and annual delegate assembly, and also assist the Gifts Discernment Committee appointed by Executive Board in their work to select nominees for leadership roles in WDC. I met with WDC's representatives to MC USA Constituency Leaders Council, and WDC's delegates who attended the MC USA delegate assembly in 2017, to discuss perspectives on the Future Church Summit, and summarize feedback for the Executive Board.

Maintain overall administrative oversight of conference functions and activities, delegating appropriate tasks to other staff

I continued to facilitate monthly staff meetings, and weekly meetings with each Associate Conference Minister. WDC staff had a half-day staff retreat on January 19. Staff hosted a volunteer-appreciation reception in the Newton office in December, and we enjoyed a staff/spouse Christmas dinner at Phyllis Regier and Myron Voth's home. Business Manager Phyllis Regier retired on March 31. At a recognition event we gave thanks for her 22 years of faithful service at WDC! We welcome Beth Yoder as the new Business Manager at WDC.

Be familiar with all district committees and serve as the staff liaison as designated; coordinate the allocation of staff time and program budget to these committees; assist committee leadership in seeing their function in relation to a unified conference mission.

As staff liaison for the Ministerial Leadership Commission I worked with the chair to prepare agenda and facilitate credential interviews. I also worked with Staff Relations Committee to review staff reviews and memos of understanding, and with Stewardship Commission on budget preparation and the business manager transition.

Be responsible to see that WDC is adequately represented in relation to a variety of external and internal groups, including inter-Mennonite relationships.

This past year I have been invited to participate in a variety of MC-USA related activities:

- As a WDC delegate to MC USA assembly and Future Church Summit in Orlando in July 2017.
- Serving on a task group advising Everence regarding pastors' financial wellbeing initiatives, on the Reference Council to provide feedback to the writing team in the MC USA Journey Forward process, and on a worship planning team for MC USA 2019 convention.
- Attending Constituency Leaders Council meetings in October and March, the annual conference ministers' meeting in December, and a special conference ministers meeting in April regarding variations in credentialing practices related to same-sex relationships.
- Participating in a Faith leader delegation sponsored by MCC and MC USA to Washington, DC, in February to advocate to legislators for just and humane immigration policies.
- Participating in a panel presentation at SENT, a peace-church planting conference sponsored by Mennonite Mission Network in May.

Other involvements included:

- Serving on the Bethel College presidential search committee
- Quarterly meetings with Menno Leaders, a gathering of executive leaders/representatives from Mennonite-related institutions in central Kansas.
- Attending a symposium on *Muted Voices: Conscience, Dissent, Resistance and Civil Liberties in World War I Through Today* at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City; *Worship and the Arts* symposium at Bethel College; *Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series* at Hesston College; and *Mennonites and the Holocaust* conference at Bethel College.

Kansas Leadership Center: After receiving joint grants from KLC for three previous years, WDC and South Central Conference did not receive a grant for 2018. But after sending over 60 persons to KLC training in the last 3 years, WDC has a strong foundation of KLC leadership skills on which to build. A Leadership Lunch meeting takes place monthly at the Newton office (with video-conference option) for discussion of leadership competencies; Ministerial Leadership Commission has affirmed a proposal from two pastors in WDC and SCC (Phil Schmidt and Clayton Gladdish) to lead an "Anabaptist and Adaptive Leadership Workshop" for congregations and groups seeking to make progress on adaptive challenges; and KLC continues to offer resources and counsel as we consider other ways to implement adaptive leadership principles in WDC and our congregations.

Associate Conference Minister (Texas-Based)

Byron Pellecer

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20 NRSV).

Attaching the word "mission" to any church activity might not get us be missional. Perhaps the true challenge lays in challenging comprehension and mind set about God's redemptive work (mission) in our own backyards (and abroad) and then, we should continue wrestling with how we are to participate in it. Furthermore, we are to wrestle with the fact that church is a missionary and sent body.

This report reflects commitments based on my responsibilities as Associate Conference Minister in Texas. I work closely with the Church Planting Commission to nurture emerging congregations and sister church partnerships. I advocate for intercultural transformation, undoing racism, and Hispanic ministries across WDC. Furthermore, I seek opportunities to connect and maintain a relationship with other agencies and institutions within MC USA.

Despite the current anti-immigrant sentiment, our congregations whether established or emerging, are benefited from the immigration influx, especially the spiritual and cultural gifts that they bring alone. It is also true that this reality presents a challenge to the gathered body in finding new ways of church life.

Implement the WDC core task of "Networking Anabaptist Church Planting Partnerships": There have been a few leads either for church planting initiatives or for church affiliation into Western District Conference.

We have two new emerging groups, Iglesia Menonita Palabra Viva in Liberal, KS and Iglesia Menonita Fuente de Restauración in Houston, TX. In addition, we have two certified church plants that are vibrant and growing. Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto in Wichita, KS and Iglesia Menonita Camino Nuevo in Dallas, TX.

Church Planting Trainings. I attended SENT 2017, a Mennonite Missions Network church planting summit and I have plans to attend their 2018 summit in Chicago, IL. Furthermore, I have plans to attend Exponential Regional, an interdenominational church planting and discipleship training event to be held in Houston, TX.

The intended goals are: 1) To learn and implement best church planting practices from both inside and outside MC USA. 2) To develop a core of church planting mentors and coaches.

Supervise and nurture church planting pastors and their families. I continue to meet with church planters on regular basis. Meetings are either in presence, through phone calls or periodically zoom meetings. The intended goals are: 1) To provide moral and spiritual support, pastoral care, training, and resources at personal, family, and ministerial levels. 2) To address missional growing strategies.

Furthermore, I am attending two different support groups for planning and implementation of church growth, communal outreach, financial sustainability, and visioning. In addition, to provide support and resources for both the church plant and their pastors.

As we continue to experience more church planting growth through new initiatives, new structural ways and supervision will need to be developed.

Texas Staff Meeting. I thank God for the gifts that Sandra Montes-Martinez brings to Conference, especially to the ministry and operation in Texas. We meet on weekly basis for planning, evaluation, and implementation.

We assist and provide administrative support to congregations, pastors, Hispanic Ministries, and church planters. Our support ranges from church documents, files, meetings, trainings, events coordination to Annual Assembly planning, especially in Texas.

Furthermore, we have assisted to launch and operate a WDC Mobile Library branch in Texas, especial attention to Spanish resources.

Kansas Staff Meeting. I meet with Heidi Regier-Kreider, Conference Minister, on weekly basis for reporting, planning, and strategizing. We communicate via zoom, emails and over the phone and whenever possible at WDC conference room.

Join Staff Meeting. Once a month both Newton and Dallas offices get together to plan, report, and conduct administrative and ministerial business.

Support the WDC core task of “Sustaining Transformational Pastors.” Equip and support WDC pastors and congregations in Texas. As I continue to visit, worship, and share biblical reflections in Texas congregations and occasionally in Kansas, I am deeply touched and fascinated by their deep convictions, hospitality, generosity, and sincere hearts as they worship as the gathered body.

I have attended pastor peer groups for Anglos and Hispanic pastors. Likewise, I had and continue serving in other capacities like congregation and pastor review as consultant, assisted with local congregation projects and promoted inter-congregational gatherings. Planning, implementation and follow up with WDC Year of Evangelism has been a spirit uplifting experience.

Intercultural transformation and undoing racism in WDC; connect pastors and congregations to WDC and Mennonite Church USA resources and mission. Assisting congregations, pastors and MC USA agencies has been also part of my ministerial duties. I have attended the bi-national MC Canada and MC USA Conference Ministers gathering, zoom meetings and maintain other ways of communications.

We have connected and built a relationship with MDS, MCC, Iglesia Menonita Hispana (IMH), Everence, MEA / Hispanic Ministries (IBA – Anabaptist Biblical Institute, SeBAH / Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary), MMN, AMBS, Menno Media and the Hymnal Book project with Texas congregations, WDC Hispanic Ministries and pastors.

We held a Hispanic Pastors retreat in Waxahachie, a Bridge Builders gathering in Houston and a WDC Hispanic Women Conference in Dallas. Currently, I am assisting individual youth initiatives to explore local social impacts. They are also envisioning to connect and build relationships among youth in the Dallas area and through WDC.

Coordinate WDC Annual Assembly planning when it takes place in Texas. WDC 2017 Assembly was held in Arlington, TX. The planning and coordination was possible as result of a team effort. Still today, I am grateful to this wonderful and tireless team for their gifts, advice, and wisdom.

Serve as WDC liaison to Iglesia Menonita Hispana (IMH), Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA). There are several Anabaptist Biblical Centers providing theological training and leadership development from an Anabaptist/Mennonite perspective.

We have 7 volunteer tutors and approximately 33 registered (we have experienced a numerical growth from 20 students in 2017) students. We have 5 study centers throughout WDC. (Pasadena, Dallas, and Newton). We hope and pray for more congregations to reach out to this training.

Likewise, we have implemented the Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary (Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano – SeBAH) for theological training. Currently, we have three students (two in Kansas and one in Dallas).

For both programs, Spanish is the language preferred. I have served in both program as tutor for IBA and professor for SeBAH. In addition, I served in the Academic Advisory Committee of IBA.

I have served in the church planting advisory committee for Iglesia Menonita Hispana (Hispanic Mennonite Church). Furthermore, there are three IMH's Executive Board members, Sandra Montes-Martínez (Moderator), Hildalejandra Pellecer (Secretary) and Suhelen Cazares (Treasurer) that are members of WDC congregations.

Associate Conference Minister (Kansas-based)

Kathy Neufeld Dunn

This has been a significant year of resourcing and encouraging the pastors and congregations of Western District Conference under my care and counsel. I am the Associate Conference Minister and liaison for 17 congregations and their credentialed ministers in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska. Below is a summary of my joyous and challenging ministry emphases of 2017-18. It is a privilege for me to serve Western District Conference churches and their leaders in this way.

1. Resourcing Healthy, Missional Churches

- Congregational Visits – It is a goal and expectation to visit each of the 17 congregations I serve at least once per year. I strive to do this as I am welcomed. It brings me joy to connect with people on behalf of WDC.
- Ordinations - I had the honor of officiating at 2 ordinations this year for Tim Amor and John Tyson.
- I offered Safe Sanctuaries (child and youth protection) trainings and introductions to the use of Circle of Grace at several congregations.
- Year of Evangelism continues to be an exciting initiative that has raised good questions and inspired renewed commitment to sharing the good news of Jesus. Thank you to the Resource Commission, as well as Peter Goerzen, Byron Pellecer, and Brad Roth, for investing time and energy in this project that continues.
- Immigration Task Force formed this year. This small group has committed itself to “coordinate a network of WDC congregations involved or interested in ministries related to immigrants and refugees” (Immigration Task Force Application). Please see more about the work of this task force on the WDC website.
- Israel-Palestine Task Force offered resources to our MC USA delegates as they discerned their response to the Israel-Palestine resolution in summer of 2017. After Kansas City 2017, the group continues to resource and educate WDC congregations on justice and hope for the people of Israel and Palestine as the approved MC USA resolution encourages.

2. Sustaining Transformational Pastors

- Healthy Boundaries (formerly Prevention of Clergy Misconduct) training – I have co-trained twice with Byron Pellecer leading Healthy Boundaries 101. All credentialed WDC ministers are now required to take this training once every three years.
- Leadership Competencies Lunches – Clergy and other interested people who want to discuss leadership issues through the lens of Kansas Leadership Center competencies get together once-a-month to discuss leadership themes.
- Chaplaincy Support – Twice-a-year I invite our credentialed chaplains to a meal, supportive conversation, and prayer. They have been well-received.
- Pastoral Care of Pastors – When pastors face ministerial challenges or more personal sorrows, I offer compassionate listening, counsel, and prayer.

3. Connect pastors and congregations with WDC and MC USA resources and mission

- Representatives from 16 congregations attended the WDC seminar, “Congregational Ministry in the Face of Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence” on April 29, 2017. Kathy Goering Reid led us to address how to respond to allegations of abuse by non-credentialed people in our congregations.

- Search Committee Orientation and Support – This year’s new task to learn was how to best serve, orient, and support Search Committees and their congregations in transition, not to mention the departing pastors. I also help link both pastors and Search Committees with denominational, transitional resources.
 - I help link congregations with MC USA and Dove’s Nest protection and inclusion policies and related resources.
4. **Coordinate Assembly Planning** – This is my year to coordinate Annual Assembly. I have gathered a gifted group of people to help with this task. May this be a blessing to many as we meet, offer counsel to one another, and interpret scripture together.

Western District Conference Resource Library
Jennie Wintermote, Library Director

A huge thank you to Jeanette Roberts for serving as Library Director for April and May 2017 while I was out on maternity leave.

Resource Library highlights

- **12,254 total resources**
- **577 new resources** added this year
- We **mail** resources to any individual or congregation in the conference!
- Access the **library catalog** from your **smartphone!** Smartphone apps for both Apple and android phones. See the library website for more info: www.mennowdc.org/library
 - Search for materials
 - Reserve and renew items
- Churches can borrow a **Box of Books** (25 items) for **two months**--extend a sermon series or focus on a topic as an entire congregation (peace, mental health, sharing the Good News, prayer, etc.)
- We continue to expand and update the Anabaptist resources we offer for **children’s time; Sunday school; sermon prep; small group, youth group, and individual study** as well as our growing **bilingual/Spanish** collection.
- Music lending library with multiple copies of **anthems for church choirs** or small musical groups

In 2017:

- **6,319** items checked out/renewed
- **5,678** searches done on our online card catalog (<http://mennowdc.org/library/>)
 - Top 10 terms searches: DVD, Peace, Prayer, Hope, Wonder, Immigration, Mental Illness, Cats, Christmas, and Love.

Remember, you or any attendee of your congregation can visit our library at **2517 N. Main Street, North Newton, KS**. You can also contact me via email or phone to request materials be sent to you! **(316) 283-6300** or crlib@mennowdc.org.

Conference Treasurer
Beth Yoder

This report will be made available after the annual audit is completed.
(7/19/18 – Report now available - see pages 6a-6f)

Youth Ministry Network
Dwight Regier, Network Team Leader, WDC/SCC Youth Ministry

Conference youth ministry in the Western District and South Central Conferences has two main components:

1. Network Team Leader
 - a. Meet individually with youth pastors for consultation, resourcing, pastoral care, and prayer
 - b. Lead monthly lunches for youth pastors for sharing, input, and discussion
 - c. Seek vision and coordinate with the WDC/SCC Youth Ministry Committee
2. WDC/SCC Youth Ministry Committee

Conference Treasurer

Beth Yoder

Knudsen Monroe & Company, LLC Certified Public Accountants have completed an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and produced a series of financial statements that in all material respects represent fairly the financial position of the Western District Conference as of January 31, 2018. Western District Conference (WDC) will make this report available to members upon request.

The Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA recorded its financial activity with the use of four separate funds:

General Fund. This fund records the transactions of the principal ministries of the Conference. It is into this fund that individual, organizational and congregational contributions go to pay for conference's expenses. Members contributed \$366,254 to the General Fund in 2017/18. At the end of the year 10% or \$59,824 of the Bequest Fund was added to the general fund.

Revolving Loan Fund. This fund operates separately, is governed by the Trustees Task Force and is used primarily to finance church buildings for member congregations and for capital improvements on Conference property.

2500 Place Fund. This fund also operates separately from the General Fund and records transactions related to the office and retail building owned by the conference. Rental income from tenants enables the conference to occupy its offices with no charge to the General Fund.

General Plant Fund. This fund records all physical assets such as buildings, equipment and land. In 2017/18 the General Plant Fund was decreased \$10,442 in depreciation and disposed assets. This brings the net assets of the General Plant Fund at the end of the year 2017/18 to \$116,058.

General Fund Restricted Accounts

Bequest Fund receives undesignated estate gifts of \$500 or more. In 2017, 10% or \$59,824 was transferred to the annual budget. \$22,387 was earned in interest and market adjustments on the Bequest Fund account.

Koontz Memorial Fund for the continuing education needs of WDC pastors earned \$383 in interest and market adjustments. The fund made 14 grants totaling \$2,725.

Doris Goertz Scholarship Fund for individuals with particular needs who are preparing for or serving in a Christian vocation earned \$238 in interest. Two grants were awarded.

Congregational Development Fund defrays the cost of employing consultants in congregations. This fund earned \$3,192 in interest and market adjustments. The fund also received \$2,147 in repayments. The fund made 4 grants to congregations totaling \$3,648.

The Annuity Gift Program began and ended the year with two participants.

Western District Women in Mission Scholarship Fund provides seminary scholarships for women from the Western District. In 2017/18 this fund earned \$179 in interest which partially funded scholarships for WDC women attending seminary.

Other restricted accounts result from retreats, workshops, scholarship funds and grants.

Commissions that govern the various accounts detail the activities of these accounts in reports.

General Fund Balance Sheet

as of January 31, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets

Midland National Bank Checking	\$	15,644	
Mennonite Foundation--General		469,040	
Mennonite Foundation--Resource Commission		92,837	
Citizens-Cetra		345,113	
Midland Money Market		106,629	
Citizens- CD's		101,358	
1st Bank CD's		25,404	
Midland CD's		117,981	
Receivables		3,557	
Prepaid Expenses		4,090	
Total Current Assets			1,281,653
Total Assets			\$ 1,281,653

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Payables	\$	(741)	
Building Relationship Event		2,000	
Translation (Interpretation) Ministry Grant		7,000	
Total Total Current Liabilities			8,259

RESTRICTED ACCOUNTS - the accounts are listed under the Board or Commission that has jurisdiction over the account.

Executive Board

Bequest Fund	538,413	
MCUSA Bi-Annual Mttg travel	-	
Annuities Payable	3,921	
Annuities Fund	2,872	
Annual Conference	2,485	
Total Executive Board Restricted Accounts		547,691

Ministerial Leadership Commission

Sabbatical Fund (Vision 2012)	9,411	
WDWM Scholarship (Permanent)	34,733	
Koontz Fund-Pastor Continuing Education	70,505	
KS Leadership Center Fund	2,657	
Pastor Assistance Fund (L<D)	1,104	
Lilly Endowment Matching Fund	4,650	
Conflict Consultant Grant	1,228	
Seminary Scholarships	6,152	
KIPCOR Consultation Fund	1,263	
CFD: Congregational Dev.	63,835	
Goertz Scholarship (Permanent)	6,517	
Goertz Fund Earned	1,184	
Pastor's Day Apart	1,358	
Total Leadership Commission Restricted Accounts		204,597

Church Planting Commission

Pauls' Bequest (Permanent)	96,042
Restricted Fund - Church Planting	25,872
Church Contributions for Sudsidies	350
Church Plant Development Grant	2,584
Texas Convention	1,792

Total Leadership Commission Restricted Accounts **126,640**

Resource Commission

Resource Commission Endowment Fund	79,929
Library Endowment (Permanent)	10,000
Library Endowment Earned	2,042
Year of Evangelism	1,928
Year of Evangelism Seed Grants	530
Vision 2012 Library Fund	61,439
Detectives of Divinity	900
Springs!	4,741
Library Loaves & Fishes Grant	50
Resource Commission Workshops	2,344
Historical Committee Fund	552
Youth Camping/Service Grant	1,029
Youth - Leadership Training	2,250
Youth - Jr/Sr High Youth Events	3,427
Youth Scholarships	844
TX Urban Youth Grant	2,611
Low German Health Fund	102,723

Total Resource Commission Restricted Accounts **277,339**

Stewardship Commission

Staff Study Leave	3,575
Oklahoma Oil Lease	3,869
Restricted Fund - Benefits	38,489
Equipment Fund	5,501
Translation Grant	2,902

Total Stewardship Commission Restricted Accounts **54,336**

Total Restricted Accounts	1,210,603
Total Current Liabilities	8,259
Total Liabilities	1,218,862

Capital

Operating Fund Begin Year	62,791
Net Income	-

Total Capital	62,791
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$ 1,281,653

General Fund Income Statement

February 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018

Income

Undesignated Contributions	\$ 340,645
Church Plant Contributions	6,403
Other Designated Contributions	1,500
Agri-Urban contribution	17,706
Resource Library Refunds	2,322
Office and Travel Refunds	7,298
Rent Income	225
Seminary Scholarships	679
Income From Bequest Fund	59,824
Income from Restricted Funds	25,467
Personnel Rebates	19,118
Interest/Market Adjustment	12,002
Total Income	493,189

Expenses

Executive Board

Executive - Staffing	44,626
Executive - Staff Travel	1,416
Executive - Office Exp	3,440
Executive - Board Exp	639
Executive - MCUSA Delegates	3,000
Executive - Reference Council	349
Executive - Camp Subsidy	-
Executive Board Expenses	53,470

Ministerial Leadership Commission

Leader - Staffing	146,682
Leader - Staff Travel	9,593
Leader - Office Expense	14,372
Leader - Commission Exp	1,413
Leader - Ministerial Credential	705
Leader - Seminary Scholarships	4,818
Leader - Meetings & workshops	272
Ministerial Leadership Commission Expenses	177,855

Church Planting Commission

Church Planting - Staff	66,798
Church Planting - Travel	5,839
Church Planting - Office	3,008
Church Planting - Plant Support	10,167
Church Planting Commission Expenses	85,812

Resource Commission

Resource - Staff	82,321
Resource - Staff Travel	2,050
Resource - Office Exp	7,172
Resource - Commission Exp	130
Resource - Mennonite Library & Archives	3,000
Resource - Library resources & expenses	6,216
Resource - Music & Worship	-
Resource - Youth Misc	42
Resource Commission Expenses	100,931

Stewardship Commission

Steward - Staff	48,983
Steward - Staff Travel	370
Steward - Office Exp	7,155
Steward - Commission	178
Steward - Communications	3,895
Steward - Insurance	7,990
Steward - Audit	6,550
Stewardship Commission Expenses	75,121

Total Expenses	493,189
Net Income (Deficit)	\$ -

2500 Place Balance Sheet

as of January 31, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets

Midland Checking	\$ 1,649
Praxis Mutual Fund	7,984

Total Assets		<u>\$ 9,633</u>
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LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 3,557
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Total Liabilities		3,557
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Capital

Operating Fund Balance	3,141
Net Income	2,935

Total Capital		<u>6,076</u>
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Total Liabilities & Capital		<u>\$ 9,633</u>
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2500 Place Income Statement

February 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018

Income

Utility Refunds	\$ 7,511
Rental Income	34,221
Market Adjustment/Interest	944

Total Revenues		42,676
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Expenses

Insurance	5,090
Salary Expense	4,200
Payroll Tax Expense	321
Property Tax	12,958
Repairs & Maintenance	1,705
Services	2,102
Utilities	11,264
Miscellaneous Operating	997
Supplies	1,102

Total Expenses		<u>39,739</u>
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Net Income (Deficit)		<u>\$ 2,937</u>
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Revolving Fund Balance Sheet

as of January 31, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets

Midland Money Market	\$	34,333	
Midland CD		224,333	
1st Newton CD		72,811	
Centra Investment		150,375	
Praxis		7,925	
1ST Newton Money Market		5,642	
Total Current Assets			495,419

Other Assets - LOANS

Mennonite Church of the Servant		9,763	
Total Other Assets			9,763

Total Assets	\$	505,182
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CAPITAL

Retained Earnings	\$	499,863	
Net Income		5,319	
Total Capital			505,182

Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	505,182
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- a. Lead the planning of high school and junior high conference-wide events
- b. Support smaller events envisioned and planned by youth pastors within the conferences

As Network Team Leader, I have the privilege of hearing where God is at work in the ministry of our youth pastors. I get to be in on conversations about discerning God's vision for their youth and youth groups. I am continually challenged and encouraged by the commitment and dedication of these leaders: their love of God; their commitment to Jesus Christ and his church; their compassion for youth and their desire to see these youth become dedicated followers of Jesus. I am also privileged to meet with the youth pastors as a group for lunch on a monthly basis. I love the way that the ideas and energy grow and grow when you get that many youth pastors together.

The WDC/SCC Youth Ministry Committee is made up of youth pastors and others who volunteer to help conference-wide events happen (currently Isaac Landis (Whitestone), chair; and Clayton Gladdish (Hesston Mennonite), and new members Derek King (Eden) and Marshall Anderson (Faith, Newton)). This past year the committee has coordinated with Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp for Snow Camps for junior high and senior high youth, helped create a sponsor resourcing and appreciation event in October 2017, and began planning for Know Jesus 2019.

Please keep our conference youth in your prayers as they seek to understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. And pray too for the folks who are walking with these youth and helping them see the signs of God's Kingdom along the way.

WDC Executive Board

Allen Jantz, Secretary

The WDC Executive Board meets at least six times a year. At each meeting, the WDC Executive Board reviews financial reports, reports from WDC Commissions and Committees, staff and conference minister reports. The Executive Board also makes recommendations to the Gifts Discernment Committee for nominations and appointments to the Board, Commissions and Committees. The WDC Executive Committee meets prior to each Executive Board meeting. Board members as of April 4, 2018 are: Wayne Albrecht, Norma Duerksen, Allen Jantz (Executive Secretary), Lesther Caceros, Cynthia Loganbill, Vicki Penner, Ray Reimer (Moderator), Jim Stucky, Kristen Swartley, Conference Ministers are: Heidi Regier Kreider, Byron Pellecer, Kathy Neufeld Dunn.

Highlights of six board meetings held since the 2017 report are as follows:

May 2017:

- Received reports on ongoing transition of Kingman Mennonite Church from WDC to South Central Conference
- Approved a motion to recommend a proposed amendment to Bylaw 3, Section A, Point 1, sub-point d, which stated, "Support a code of ministerial ethics in keeping with Mennonite Church USA documents."
- Received a report on the approval of the Schowalter Foundation grant for translation/interpretation services
- Received a recommendation from the Stewardship Commission on the disbursement of surplus funds from 2016 and affirmed the proposed budget for 2018 as presented by the Stewardship Commission
- Finalized plans for 2017 Annual Assembly; affirmed assembly offerings to be given to church planting endeavors; expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Spanish-speaking churches of the Dallas area for the Saturday evening meal
- Received a report on updates for 125th Anniversary events
- Discussed WDC representation to MC USA Convention
- Continued discussions on conversations with Iglesia Luz del Evangelio regarding a retreat center on their campus

July 2017:

- Approved a motion to set dates for 2018 Annual Assembly; affirmed the selection of Bryan Moyer Suderman as speaker
- Heard update on plans for Year of Evangelism
- Received financial reports; approved 2016 surplus to be used for equipment fund as recommended by the Stewardship Commission
- Approved a statement regarding Texas Law SB4
- Heard plans for WDC Celebration of 125 Years
- Discussed MC USA Convention participants reflections on their experiences at convention

September 2017 (Special Session and Regular Session):

- Approved appointment of Lester Caceros to the WDC Executive Board
- Oriented new board members to the task of serving on WDC Executive Board
- Discussed what members learned from WDC Annual Assembly 2017 and MC USA Future Church Summit
- Approved the application for the establishment of an Immigration Task Force
- Approved a search committee to find a person to fill the position of business manager
- Received audit report from Knudson Monroe Accounting, LLC

November 2017:

- Approved Memo of Understanding with Camp Mennoscah
- Received an update from the Business Manager Search Committee
- Approved a motion affirming the work and ministry of Iglesia Menonita Luz del Evangelio; affirming the church's desire to create a retreat center ministry on their campus; and affirming their spiritual care and nurture of its church members and neighbors and its good stewardship of its physical plant
- Discussed member reflections on Reference Council

January 2018:

- Heard an update from the Business Manager Search Committee
- Approved a statement regarding demeaning language and attitudes towards immigrants
- Received Camp Mennoscah report
- Began conversations about institutional relationships and reporting

March 2018:

- Accepted Anita Kehr's resignation as Moderator of WDC, with appreciation for Anita's service
- Noted the WDC bylaws indicate the moderator elect (Ray Reimer) thus becomes moderator
- Discussed leadership transition of the Executive Board of WDC and discussed the priorities of guiding the work of the Executive Board of WDC
- Approved the hiring of Beth Yoder to fill the position of WDC Business Manager
- Approved the use of the 2017 Surplus Funds to be used for translation services
- Discussed the MC USA Journey Forward process
- Continued discussion on Institutional Relationships
- Began discussions on Delegate Sessions at Annual Assembly

Gifts Discernment Committee

Ryan Koch, Chair

Beginning in January, the Gifts Discernment Committee began preparing for the 2018 Annual Assembly. The Committee once again requested that Western District Conference pastors and congregational leaders provide names of individuals from their congregation who they feel are gifted for and would enjoy serving on a board or commission of the conference. This year we also crafted an announcement for churches to include in their bulletin. We would like to thank everyone who submitted names for the committee to consider. This input very much facilitated our work.

The Gifts Discernment Committee, on behalf of the conference, wishes to thank those who have agreed to serve a second term, if approved by the delegates. We are also very thankful to those who have agreed to have their name placed on the ballot for an initial first term. The Committee works diligently to prepare the ballot so that the board and commissions will have diversity in gender, age, ethnicity, as well as representation from a cross section of congregations and the conference's geographical area. It is such a joy to witness the deep passion, the vast giftedness, and the faithful service of so many individuals who support Western District Conference. And we hope that our work is one way that helps bring our churches together so that we can support one another in love and also be challenged by each other.

The Gifts Discernment Committee would like to thank Conference Minister Heidi Regier Kreider for her guidance, wisdom and support in all our work this past year. Committee members: Ryan Koch, chair, Roberta Harms, secretary, Jane McNair, Susan Jantzen, Stan Bartel and Ardie Goering.

Church Planting Commission **Marvin Zehr, Chair**

Current Church Plants

Aposento Alto, Wichita, KS is under the leadership of Jaime Cazares who continues to serve as pastor of Casa Betania in Newton, each on a ½ time basis. Casa Betania has become a sister supporting congregation for Aposento Alto.

Camino Nuevo, Dallas, TX under the leadership of Antonio Caceros. Unfortunately Antonio has experienced health problems in recent months but seems to be making good recovery.

Palabra Viva, Liberal, KS is an outgrowth of Camino de Santidad, also in Liberal and meets on Friday evening and Sundays.

Iglesia Menonita Fuente de Restauracion, Houston, TX is in the process of formation as a church plant and is meeting for worship on Sundays.

Partnership Relationships: The commission has formulated Guiding Principles for sister church and partnership relationships between established congregations and new church plants. The sister church relationship focuses primarily on covenant relationships of prayer and spiritual support. The partnership relationship focuses more on emotional, spiritual and financial support between established congregations and new church plants. Doug and Raylene Penner from the Southern Hills congregation in Topeka, KS have volunteered to coordinate the formation and support for these covenant relationships.

Guidelines for New Church Plants: As we explore the possibility of starting new church plants from developing fellowship groups we have increasingly felt the need to have guidelines for the establishment of new church plants, especially those that are in need of financial subsidies. These guidelines will include such items as: defining areas for the church plant to focus on for the best possibility for growth; determining the approach to be used to contact potential persons and families; the role of the church planting commission; leadership selection for the church plant; funding arrangements; and plans for regular reviews for the church plant. It is anticipated that a minimum of \$30,000 will be needed over a three year period for each church plant that is funded. The commission will seek to invite established congregations to provide sister and partnership covenants to assist in the development of each new church plant. It would be our desire to have every congregation in Western District Conference to become either a sister or partnership congregation.

Byron Pellecer, Associate Conference Minister, serves as the staff person for our commission. Through his leadership he seeks to create a culture among our churches for church planting. This includes the finding of new possibilities for potential church plants. He also serves as a mentor for those who provide leadership for new church plants. We are grateful for the creative leadership he continues to bring to the work of our commission.

Since we have members in the Newton area as well as Oklahoma and Texas, we find it necessary to hold our meetings via internet technology. While this is less desirable than face to face meetings, we find it to

be a more feasible alternative. During the past year Veronica Robles resigned from our commission due to family and other responsibilities. This position will be filled at the annual conference.

We are planning for members of the commission to make a trip to Texas over the weekend of July 13-15 to meet with our Texas churches and all of our church planters. We see this as being an important way for members of the commission to experience the environment of our Texas congregations and provide important support for our church planters throughout our conference.

We continue to ask for the prayers and financial support of churches in WDC as we seek to extend the kingdom of God among us through church planting.

Commission Members: Marvin Zehr, chair; Violeta Ajquejay Suastegui; Lee Suderman; Karen Mascho; Tonya Ramer Wenger; and Byron Pellecer, Associate Conference Minister.

Ministerial Leadership Commission (June 2017 - March 2018)

Brad Roth

Members: Peter Goerzen (chair), Gail Graber, Terry Rediger, Brad Roth, Dave Stevens and Rachel Epp Miller

The Ministerial Leadership Commission has fulfilled its constitutional duties in the past year in the following ways:

Credentialing candidates for ministry:

Credential transfers or reactivation:

In: Charles Neufeld, Bonnie Neufeld, Marshall Anderson, Samuel Voth Schrag, Lynn Schlosser
Out: Christine Juhnke Duvall, Beverly Baumgartner

Licensed for Specific Ministry: none

Licensing toward ordination: Debra Sapp Yarwood, Benjamin Woodward Breckbill and Rosi Penner Kaufman, Stephen Wilcox

MLC also assigned mentors to individuals licensed toward ordination.

Ordination: Tim Amor, John Tyson

Supporting personal and spiritual growth for pastoral leadership through counsel, personal evaluation, continuing education, and professional assistance.

- MLC approved 31 education grants for credentialed ministers
- Approved congregational grant requests toward visioning and conflict resolution.
- Blessed an initiative brought by Phil Schmidt and Clayton Gladdish called “Journeying toward God” that is intended to make Kansas Leadership Center competencies available to WDC congregations and assist with working through challenges and conflicts.
- Interviewed multiple pastors who performed same sex marriages. Though some members of MLC expressed profound theological and ethical misgivings about the performance of same sex marriages based on the constant teaching of the church, the word of Scripture, and the witness of Jesus and the apostles, under the terms of the Rainbow Resolution, the credentials of these pastors were determined to be “in order” and a note was placed in their MLI file held at the denominational office indicating that they had performed a same sex marriage.

Supporting a code of ministerial ethics in keeping with Mennonite Church USA documents.

- Collaborated with Conference Ministers and WDC staff to encourage compliance with Healthy Boundaries Training requirements: October 10, 2017 in Newton, KS and April 28, 2018 in Dallas, TX

Resourcing ministry teams that include pastors and deacons through workshops, retreats, and other appropriate events.

- Healthy Boundaries Training
- Leadership Lunches

Undertaking policy work:

- Revised and Implemented Education Expectations
- Reviewed and conducted a drill in “MC USA Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure”

**Resource Commission
Katherine Goerzen, Chair**

The Resource Commissions seeks to prayerfully follow the direction given in our mission statement, which charges us to “Empower WDC congregations as they witness to Jesus Christ in the Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition, connect with God’s mission in the world, and provide faith formation resources for all ages.”

We have been blessed to work with such gifted and knowledgeable conference staff, working most closely with Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Associate Conference Minister, and Jennie Wintermote, Resource Librarian. We are grateful for the tremendous work that they do on behalf of resourcing WDC!

In addition to our regular duties, here are some of the highlights from this past year:

- Kicked off 2018 as WDC’s Year of Evangelism with a “Year of Evangelism Launch.” This was held at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church in January 2018. Keynote speakers were Heidi Rolland Unruh and Marvin Lorenzana. Other resourcing opportunities that have been a part of our Year of Evangelism include:
 - A Workshop on Rural Missional Congregations, led by Brad Roth, held in Beatrice, NE in March 2018
 - A Book Discussion on *Comeback Churches* (given to each WDC congregation who attended the Year of Evangelism Launch), led by Kathy Neufeld Dunn in April 2018
 - A Church Planter’s Retreat held in June 2018
 - Brian Moyer Suderman leading us in Bible Study for the 2018 WDC Annual Assembly
 - A “Mustard Seed Grant” has been made available to congregations to help fund projects connected to evangelism and outreach
- Funded a new children’s curriculum resource entitled “Detectives of Divinity,” created by 3 people from within WDC congregations.
- Co-sponsored Ted & Co.’s “Doctrine of Discovery” to be performed in the Newton area
- Helped sponsor Hesston College’s AVDS series, “Before the Unthinkable Happens” (held February 2018). Dr. Drew G.I. Hart and Adrion Roberson from the Kansas Leadership Center were keynote speakers for this event.

We prayerfully continue to discern ways to use our funds that will nurture faith formation within WDC for the sake of the world.

Resource Commission members are: Ann Hiebert (Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS); Vicki Hinz Ensz (First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, NE); Gordon Houser (New Creation Fellowship Church, Newton, KS); Suhelen Cazares (Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania, Newton, KS); Christina Litwiller (Salina Mennonite Church, Salina, KS); and Katherine Goerzen (Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS).

Israel/Palestine Relations Task Force

Jakob Whitson, Chair

For over 65 years Mennonites have participated in peacemaking activities in Palestine and Israel. Today, the struggle for peace is a continuous effort, and large violent events unfortunately continue to plague occupied Palestine. This task was created to educate congregants and delegates about the occupation, along with providing materials about the Mennonite Church's possible complacency to violence against Palestinians. The task force was successful in priming the delegates in WDC by sending a letter with resources for the eventual successful passage of 'Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine' resolution. The resolution passed on July 7, 2017 at the 2017 conference in Orlando.

Along with the letter sent to all WDC delegates, the task force helped to organize a learning tour with Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP) that included talks with Palestinian lawyer Jonathan Kuttub and JVP activist Laura Tillem. The tour featured three stops: April 17 at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church in Wichita, KS; April 18 in Newton, KS; and April 19 in Manhattan, KS. The stop in Manhattan, KS helped lead Manhattan Mennonite Church to becoming an HP free church, in accordance with recommendations presented by Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA). The task force followed this move by writing a short article in the WDC Sprouts publication about becoming an HP free church.

After the Trump administration announced moving the US embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, breaking with decades of US foreign policy, the task force decided to inform WDC churches and pastors about this destructive decision. The task force wrote a short letter describing the history and significance of this unfortunate decision.

The recent passing of Anti-Boycott/Divestment/Sanctions legislation in several states, including Kansas, lead to a lawsuit that included Ester Koontz. Ester Koontz is a member of a Newton Mennonite Church. The task force provided support and guidance in accordance with Esther's wishes. The federal court in Topeka, KS issued a preliminary injunction, temporarily ruling the Anti-BDS legislation invalid until the court can hear further arguments. The task force will continue to support Esther throughout future court proceedings.

The current members of the task force: Jakob Whitson, Chair, Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church; Tom Harder, Co-pastor, Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church; Bob Atchison, Manhattan Mennonite Church; Katie Mitchell-Koch, Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church; Elizabeth Raid, Bethel College Mennonite Church; Kathy Neufeld Dunn; Western District Conference. We would also like to give a special thanks to Jonathan Brenneman for his support of the task force through **MennoPIN** (Mennonite Palestine-Israel Network); his perspective greatly enhanced our work on this important matter.

Low German Mennonites from Mexico Support Task Force (LGMFMSTF)

Margaret R Goering

When and why did this task force begin?

* Officially in January, 2004.

* WDC member Tina Block Ediger (and others) conducted a survey of Low German farmworkers in Kansas. That survey document reported high occurrences of medical needs.

* It is a partnership between WDC via LGMFMSTF, represented by the task force to monitor and advocate for Low German healthy living, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), who supplies vouchers for bi-lingual health promoters to enable and include the service to Low German and Hispanic farmworkers across the state of Kansas.

The task force meets three times a year with the KDHE director of the Farm Worker Program. The task force is accountable to the WDC Resource Commission. The guiding statement from the Mennonite Central Committee Canada program based in Steinbach, Manitoba is: "MCC seeks to share God's love with LGM people by working in a mutually beneficial relationship with local leaders, communities and

organizations to enhance their capacity to address such issues as poverty, conflict, literacy, health and natural disasters." The WDC task force added a fourth goal: "to share our common spiritual background and faith."

The Farmworker Health promoters identify Farmworker families in need of medical, dental or mental health needs. Through translation services, vouchers for medical assistance, and educational opportunities, the KDHE funds are awarded to needy families. The salaries of the Farmworker promoters are administered and paid by WDC through grants from KDHE. The WDC task force representatives on the KDHE Advisory Council are Lotti Boschmann and Harold D. Thieszen.

The LGMFMSTF members are: Margaret Goering, chair; Harold D. Thieszen, vice-chair; Milton Claassen, secretary; Lotti Boschmann, Carola Ratzlaff, Lici Roth, representing Health Promoters, and Cynthia Synder representing KDHE.

Youth Ministry Committee **Isaac Landis**

The Youth Ministry Committee has not been active this past year. Youth Ministry Committee members: Isaac Landis, Clayton Gladdish.

Stewardship Commission **Dwight M. Flaming, Chairperson**

A big thank you to the following Stewardship Commission members for their dedicated service to the Western District Conference: Dwight M. Flaming (chairperson), Matt Lehman Wiens (secretary), Emily Voran (Staff Relations Committee liaison), Leanna Ediger, Darlene Powers (Trustee Liaison), and Stephen Hochstetler. Phyllis Regier, Business Manager, and Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister provide invaluable staff representation and support to the commission.

We conducted meetings August 22, 2017; October 30, 2017; March 8, 2018; and May 15, 2018. Our focus through the year has been to give oversight and accounting for the WDC finances and property.

Since personnel costs are the biggest component of our budget, we recognize the importance of securing adequate funding through individual donations, grants, and other sources so that all ministries receive the necessary funding required. We continue to look for opportunities to strengthen our work in fund development. We recognize that financial support must increase to support our current level of staffing.

We will continue to seek ways to encourage donations from all demographics throughout the conference. It is vital that support comes from many different groups of people. We will encourage WDC staff to help generate enthusiasm and support for WDC programs which we hope will translate into increased giving.

We are blessed with a committed WDC staff which strives to operate programs and manage facilities and property in a responsible manner. We celebrated Phyllis Regier's long tenure as business manager and we wish her well in her retirement. We were asked to provide a representative to participate on the search committee for her replacement. Beth Yoder, the new business manager, has joined the WDC office team in N. Newton.

We are thankful for the many financial gifts received throughout the year and in response to our annual fund drive request letters.

Next year's budget and Stewardship Commission business will include some of the following considerations:

- 1) Supporting and building upon a very loyal, faithful, and generous foundation of WDC member congregations,
- 2) Continue to seek opportunities to strengthen our fund development initiatives,
- 3) Ongoing emphasis on church plants,

- 4) Planning and adapting to changes in the WDC community membership,
- 5) Generosity initiatives in light of changing social and generational dynamics relating to conference financial support and participation,
- 6) Ownership, management, and maintenance of 2500 Place, N. Newton.

The commission is very grateful for the financial and spiritual support from our constituents. We look forward to meeting the challenges, and providing the Western District Conference with resources to help spread the good news of God working among us.

Staff Relations Committee
Sondra Bandy Koontz, Chair

The Staff Relations Committee meets three to four times yearly with the Conference Minister to discuss policy issues that affect conference staff. Committee members also provide support for the Conference Minister, offering a place for open discussion of joys, concerns, and issues facing the conference.

The Committee evaluates current personnel policy and recommends new personnel policies when needed to the Executive Board. We seek to do this work in a spirit of fairness and equality which we believe is a value of Western District. Committee work during the past program year included the following:

- Received annual staff reviews.
- Revised wording of staff memos of understanding.
- Revised wording of employment application forms.
- Sent credentialed staff housing allowance requests to Executive Committee.
- Offered suggestions on the business manager job description.
- Offered suggestions on the business manager salary range.
- Appointed Sondra Bandy Koontz to represent the Staff Relations Committee on the Business Manager Search Committee.

Committee Members: Sondra Bandy Koontz, chair, Delon Martens, recorder, Jill Schlabach, Emily Voran

Trustee Task Force
Beth Yoder, Staff

The Trustees Task Force was formed to review loan applications for the Revolving Loan Fund, make recommendations as to the acceptance of property or disposal of property, evaluate and enter into legal contracts (real property) and to supervise and manage Conference property.

Revolving Fund

As of January 31, 2018, the Revolving Loan Fund had one loan receivable totaling \$9,763.

2500 Place Building

During 2017 the 2500 Place Building in North Newton had 4 tenants, all spaces were occupied. In 2017 there were no major renovations or repairs needed in the 2500 Place Building. Renting out the portion of the building not needed for Western District covers the cost of maintenance and other building expenses which allows Western District to use the building for their staff offices at no cost to the WDC budget.

Gary Rediger (Chairperson), Eric Bruce, Rick Krehbiel, Darlene Powers, (Stewardship Commission liaison) and Beth Yoder (ex officio)

Camp Mennoscah

Greetings from Camp Mennoscah! 2017 was another very busy year for camp, and by the time the WDC Annual Assembly is here, we will have gone through the 2018 summer youth camping season.

Financial: Over the past two years, Camp Mennoscah has fallen short of meeting its budget. We are continuing to seek financial support to sustain Camp Mennoscah's ministry. In 2017 Camp saw a 22% increase in contributions over 2016, but declines in group rentals and camp fees. **Operating Revenues in 2017 were \$318,215.** Nearly 60% of our 2017 operating expenses supported our 4 year-around staff and 10 summer staff. Having three full-time employees and one 3/4 time employee have raised this percentage but have also helped spread out the necessary work to keep Camp Mennoscah running. Other expenses include facilities upkeep, programming, utilities, and groceries for camps and retreats. **Operating Expenses in 2016 were \$381,903.** With deficits in 2016 and 2017, Camp Mennoscah is working to limit expenses and grow its constituent base. Camp also raised nearly **\$236,000 toward the main camp kitchen and dining hall renovations**, and construction resumed from December 2017 – April 2018. This has been an exciting project for camp staff, board, and supporters which will increase camp's ability to provide hospitality to its guests.

Youth Camps: After a 30-camper jump in 2016, our number of summer youth campers decreased in 2017 (541) to closely match 2014 and 2015 campers. Campers from Western District Conference churches comprise the largest group of campers over the last four years, and South Central Conference has a steady presence. We are continuing to see children and youth who are from non-Mennonite congregations or with no home church designation. Camp Mennoscah is a place where children and youth of Mennonite and non-Mennonite background can come and experience God together in Christian community!

Volunteers: Including the many counselors, cooks, nurses, and program staff who serve our summer youth camps, we had 406 volunteers come and spend time at camp in 2017! Whenever camp has taken on a project that requires more help than just camp staff, volunteers show up! This is such a blessing and allows us to extend our ministry more broadly.

Projects: Camp has continued working on renovating the kitchen and dining hall facility at main camp, and the new kitchen was dedicated in April 2018. Here are some other areas of attention for the year to come!

- Complete dining hall renovations by Summer 2019.
- Build a new playground to replace "The Whale," by Summer 2018.

We continue to be blessed by our relationship with Western District Conference and the congregations and organizations that are a part of it. **We thrive on your continued prayers, encouragement, volunteer efforts, and financial support.** Thank you for joining with us in this important faith formation ministry.



Camp Mennoscah Staff

Michael Unruh – executive director
Olivia Bartel – camp director
Gardell Stucky – facilities director
Deborah Dimmick – office assistant

Board of Directors

Jon Miller – chair
Kevin Wilder – vice chair
Willmar Harder – secretary
Renetta Gooden – treasurer
Mike Doerksen
Isaac Entz
Kenzie Intemann
Miriam Krehbiel
George Leary
Jill Litwiller
Jim Yoder



Mennonite Men

Engaging men to grow, give and serve.

Annual Report to Conference

Mennonite Men is the men's organization of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. Our mission is *Engaging men to grow, give and serve as followers of Jesus*. Our two programs, *JoinHands* and *JoinMen*, served this mission in several ways in 2017.

JoinHands: Raising Funds for New Churches

Through our JoinHands Mennonite Church Building Program, we have granted nearly 2 million dollars to help new congregations acquire their first church building.



In December, Mara Christian Church received a \$40,000 grant. The Mara Church is a member of Virginia Mennonite Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. This church is largely made up of Myanmar religious refugees, many of whom have fled their homeland to escape violent persecution under the past military dictatorship of Burma. We are grateful for the opportunity to assist this congregation in purchasing a meeting place. We invite individuals and congregations to give to JoinHands so more grants like these can be made to congregations in need.

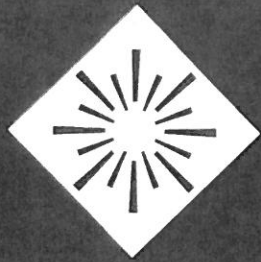
JoinMen: Providing Retreats and Resources for Men

JoinMen promotes the growth of men in community. In partnership with Mennonite camps and retreat centers, we offer retreats on various themes and provide resources for men on our website.



Retreats last year in Ontario, Oregon, Michigan and New York focused on our spiritual journey, making peace with conflict and healthy masculinity. Men of various ages and ethnicity gathered for these events. Plans for 2018 include retreats to engage men and publishing *Peaceful at Heart: Embracing Healthy Masculinity*, an in-depth exploration of masculinity from an Anabaptist perspective.

To learn more, support our work, download resources, or schedule a retreat, visit MennoniteMen.org.



Prairie View

At-A-Glance 2017

Thanks to donors and friends of the organization, including support from private foundations, Prairie View, Inc. completed its 63rd year of service. Our mission of fostering healing and growth in individuals and communities by providing behavioral and mental health services with compassion, competence and stewardship in the spirit of Christ is advanced by our connection to Mennonite, Mennonite Brethren and Church of the Brethren congregations. Allow us to share some of our highlights with you.



10,665
clients served in 2017:
27% Youth, 60% Adults,
13% Older Adults



5,321

uninsured and underinsured
clients who received mental
health services



\$1.3 million
charitable care provided



470
outpatient encounters
each day



\$643,727
in grants and donations to fund:
care for the uninsured and
underinsured; facility accessibility;
staff and community training
and education; early childhood
screening and services; chaplaincy;
and technology



95
Kansas counties served +
a few surrounding states



6,269
calls received by Prairie
View's crisis line



\$20,108,853
total operating budget

TRANSFORMING LIVES

At Prairie View, we welcome people of all ages who are struggling with mental illness and addictions. They are individuals, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, couples and families. They come searching for answers, for help, for a caring and compassionate person to hear their story, for transformation.

Outpatient Therapy

Prairie View offers services for depression, anxiety, grief, behavior issues, early childhood development, relationships, psychological assessments, neuropsychological testing, learning disorders, academic assessments, trauma, eating disorders, anger, severe and persistent mental illness, and more.

Our specialties include:

- Outpatient Addiction Treatment
- NeuroStar TMS Therapy, an FDA-cleared, non-invasive, non-drug outpatient treatment option for adults with major depressive disorder
- The Comprehensive Diagnostic & Treatment Center for Older Adults helps older adults and their families navigate complicated symptoms related to aging
- Sexual Health Services
- Caregiver Support Groups and Caregiver Counseling at no charge to those who qualify
- Medication Management

Inpatient Therapy

Because everyone's experiences are unique, we offer multiple levels of care.

Our specialties include:

- Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital for those needing to focus on healing
- Partial Hospital, for when one needs more than outpatient therapy but inpatient services are not necessary
- The Addictions Treatment Center offers support, hope and recovery for adults with substance use and co-occurring disorders (anxiety, depression or other mood disorders)
- Turning Point is a psychiatric residential treatment facility for adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 years old with behavioral and/or emotional treatment needs

Other Services

To help you reach your potential, we offer many specialized services.

Our specialties include:

- Adventure and Recreation, including the Prairie View Adventure Course
- Art Therapy to express yourself artistically when words just aren't enough (and you don't have to be an artist!)
- Drum Therapy, an ancient form of therapy that allows for healing and self-expression
- EMDR Therapy (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) for resolving emotional difficulties
- DBT Therapy (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) to help you develop more adaptive ways of solving problems and managing behaviors

How Can You Help?

Apply. Prairie View is always on the lookout for qualified, professional staff. Apply to join our family - and encourage your contacts to apply as well!

Volunteer. Individuals and groups, including congregations, small groups and Sunday school classes, are encouraged to volunteer.

Donate. Monetary donations are always accepted to help provide services to clients and perform campus improvements. Donate online (www.prairieview.org/donate) or mail a check to Prairie View, Attn: Advancement Office, PO Box 467, Newton, KS 67114.

Invite a Speaker. We are pleased to offer speakers for worship services, Sunday school classes, and community gatherings. Call 316-284-6381 to schedule!

Western District Women in Mission Report
Jennie Wintermote, WDWM President

Are you a woman and do you attend a Western District Conference congregation or church plant? If your answer is “yes” then you’re a member of Western District Women in Mission (WDWM)!

The mission of the Western District Women in Mission (WDWM) is to resource women’s groups and individual women as we nurture our life in Christ, study the Bible, use our gifts, hear each other, and engage in mission and service.

In the past year, we’ve

- heard each other through events like last year’s Women’s Lunch at Annual Assembly in Arlington, TX August 5, 2017 with one woman’s powerful testimony of God’s love looking behind her mask and seeing her heart, and the challenge to allow God to do the same in our own lives
- studied the Bible, heard each other, and nurtured our lives in Christ at the annual Women & Girls Retreat at Camp Mennoscah, September 8-10, 2017 with the theme of “Together: Rooted & Reaching” featuring retreat speaker Barb Krehbiel Gehring
- engaged in mission and service through the annual MCC comforter blitz, March 5-7, 2018 in Kansas
- nurtured our lives in Christ, heard each other, and engaged in service by raising \$2,045 for women’s literacy in the Congo at the annual SCC/WDWM Spring Supper, March 15, 2018 at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston, KS. Our speaker was Joanna Gerber Pinkerton with the theme of “Faith in Everyday Life.” We also supported the Whitestone youth group with the price of the meal.
- engaged in mission through the various projects supported financially by WDWM this year including, seminary scholarships for both English and Spanish-speaking women both here and abroad, ongoing support of Mennonite Women USA, Sister Care, Camp Mennoscah, Western District Conference, the Bethel College Women’s Association, and other special projects.

Join us for the 2018 Women and Girls Retreat September 7-9 at Camp Mennoscah.

We invite you to share your dreams and ideas for how we can work together to fulfill WDWM’s mission. Contact WDWM’s Executive Committee at westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com

2018-19 WDWM Executive Committee: President: Jennie Wintermote; Vice President: Sharon Stucky; Secretary: Marlene V. Faul; Treasurer: Darlene Powers.

Neighbor to neighbor

Everence 2018 report

Western District Conference
Annual Assembly
July 27-28, 2018

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Everence values our strong congregational partnerships

For nearly 75 years, Everence® has worked with congregations and their members to help people of faith “build up the common life” through their financial decisions.

These connections are vital to us, and we look forward to many more years of focusing on the best interests of your members – helping them create and implement plans tailored for their needs and aspirations to share with others.

As we have since 1945, we will continue to serve the faith community as partners in stewardship throughout 2018 and beyond.

MyNeighbor users generating charitable contributions

The MyNeighbor credit card generated more than \$180,000 in donations for charitable organizations from the start of a concerted marketing/awareness campaign in spring 2017 through the end of January 2018.

The MyNeighbor card from Everence is available for business or personal use. Everence donates 1.5 percent of each transaction total to the charity the

cardholder chooses from a list of thousands of possibilities, including churches.

The MyNeighbor card gives people a chance to name the nonprofit (the Neighbor) where they want contributions to go.

Cardholders can even use MyNeighbor to donate to a charity, then designate the same charity as the recipient of the 1.5 percent contribution.

Complete information is available at everence.com/myneighbor.

Subsidies available for comprehensive financial planning

From debt reduction to retirement readiness, pastors face some unique financial issues and situations.

Through a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., credentialed and active Mennonite Church USA and Conservative Mennonite Conference pastors may receive a \$1,000 subsidy toward the cost of a first-year Everence comprehensive financial plan. Pastors are asked to contribute a \$200 co-pay, which congregations and conferences may help to pay.

And credentialed and active pastors from any of our affiliated churches may receive a Pastoral Financial Plan Grant of \$400 toward the cost of a first-year Everence comprehensive financial plan. Pastors are



responsible for \$400, and the pastors' congregation is responsible for \$800 – half of which will be reimbursed through the Pastoral Financial Plan Grant.

By working with a knowledgeable Everence financial advisor, you can develop a financial plan to find relief from financial burdens and a path to meet your short- and long-term financial goals – all while integrating your money decisions with your faith and values.

Sharing Fund helps churches provide financial relief

Thousands of people every year get financial help through the Everence Sharing Fund, which supplements congregational outreach efforts.

Sharing Fund grants help our partner churches assist more people with basic, everyday needs such as medical care, rent, food, clothing and utilities.

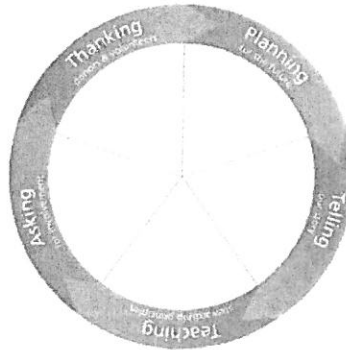
Here's an example: The fund recently reimbursed a church that helped a woman who needed surgery to get back on her feet. She wasn't able to work during her recovery – she's her family's financial provider – and fell behind on her mortgage payments.

Her bank threatened to foreclose on the family home, but a bank employee told the woman she'd be in compliance if she made a payment by the end of that month. Her congregation made the payment and received a matching Sharing Fund grant.

Gain a deeper understanding with the Stewardship Ministry Wheel

Everence stewardship consultants are helping our congregational advocates, pastors and other church leaders strengthen their stewardship efforts

through the Everence Stewardship Ministry Wheel.



The wheel was created to help people gain a deeper understanding of what stewardship is all about.

The wheel features five areas of stewardship – planning for the future, telling our story, teaching stewardship principles, asking for involvement, and thanking givers and volunteers.

The tool can help congregational leaders assess which activities may need more attention and which are already working well.

Talk to an Everence advocate or stewardship consultant to find out more.

Everence Charitable Services is ready to help you maximize your generosity

Generosity's outlook is bright. Americans broke all records for charitable giving in 2016, according to a Giving USA 2017 report.

Everence Charitable Services is prepared to help you and other members of your congregation realize your vision for generosity.

You often can be more generous than you imagined and realize tax benefits as well. Our financial

advisors can help you map out a plan for your giving.

You'll find a variety of individualized options, including a donor advised fund that offers simplicity and flexibility. You can donate cash or other assets, such as stocks, land and farm commodities. The assets are sold and the money is available for distribution to charities you recommend, whenever you wish.

Contact your Everence office, visit everence.com/charitable-giving or call (800) 348-7468.

Confidential counseling can help with debt, overall money management issues

Everence has partnered with Lutheran Social Service Financial Counseling since 2008 so our members and others we serve can access free, trustworthy, expert help with credit card and student loan debt, foreclosure prevention, and overall money management.

To date, more than 1,100 people have sought this help, and as of Jan. 1, 2017, LSS helped them pay off \$1,832,429 in debts.

Every person is eligible for up to six sessions per year of financial counseling through LSS. The service is confidential; LSS only reports total utilization numbers to Everence – never any names or personal details.

The counseling is designed to help people assess their situation, create a spending plan and do a better job of budgeting to help them pay off debts and plan ahead with more confidence.

Call (877) 809-0039 to set up a telephone appointment with a certified LSS financial counselor.

REPORT TO WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

At MennoMedia and Herald Press we publish highly readable, thoughtful curriculum and books on Christian faith, discipleship, spirituality, reconciliation, and theology from an Anabaptist perspective. Our product lines reach a broad spectrum of readers—from evangelical, mainline, and Anabaptist backgrounds—and offer a “third way” approach between the sometimes contentious camps of the culture wars. Our Herald Press books target readers and thinkers who seek to live by Jesus-centered principles and values such as community, simple living, peacemaking, and social justice, as well as people who are curious about Amish and Mennonite communities. Our MennoMedia curricula and periodicals reach congregations that share these same affinities, and cultivate passion for faith formation and an active life of faith rooted in trusting God and following Jesus.

NEW RESOURCES FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH, FROM HERALD PRESS



As a young Christian, Sarah Quezada had a heart for social justice. She was also blissfully unaware of the real situations facing today's immigrants. Until she met someone new . . . who happened to be undocumented.

In *Love Undocumented*, Quezada takes readers on a journey deep into the world of the U.S. immigration system. Follow her as she walks alongside her new friend, meets with lawyers, stands at the U.S.-Mexico border, and visits immigrants in detention centers. With wisdom from Scripture, research, and these experiences, Quezada explores God's call to welcome the stranger.

Available January 2018. \$15.99 USD

fledge



Brenda L. Yoder

Your kids are spreading their wings. Are you ready? In *Fledge*, counselor, educator, and mother Brenda L. Yoder helps Christian parents navigate the many transitions of the launching years. How do you parent tweens at home and young adults away from home at the same time? What's a good balance between boundaries and freedom? How can you pray for your fledgling youth? And what do you do with all that mom grief? Your job as a parent isn't over; it's just changing. Equip yourself with biblical wisdom for this season of transition in your family life.

Available March 2018. \$15.99 USD



The message of Jesus changed the world . . . until the world changed the message. Is a truncated and fragmented version of the good news masquerading as the full, forceful gospel of Jesus? A growing

movement of truth-seekers and Jesus-lovers believe so, and they are calling for a return to the first and foundational message of Jesus. Dig into Scripture with Bruxy Cavey as he unfolds God's message for the world. Learn why you shouldn't follow the Bible—but why you will want to read it to learn how to follow Jesus.

Available in paperback May 8, 2018. \$16.99 USD.
Available now in hardback. \$21.99 USD.

A NEW WORSHIP AND SONG COLLECTION FOR OUR CHURCH

A worship and song collection marks a particular threshold between where the church has been and where the Spirit of God may be leading. It earnestly and prayerfully looks forward. It preserves some of what is familiar while leaning into challenge and prophetic action, to continue

to welcome and inspire worshipers new to the church and those who have been present for many years. As patterns of church life and identity shift from generation to generation, worship rhythms respond to this Spirit-led movement.

Resonate
JOIN THE EVERLASTING SONG

HOW MUCH IS IT COSTING TO DEVELOP?

It will cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000 to develop this collection before any sales are made. That includes expenses for a project director, editorial assistant, music editor, text editor, worship editor, and the 14-member volunteer committee working over three years to learn new songs, explore available resources, and consult on the best ones to keep or add to our worship lexicon. Consider a financial gift to come alongside the committee's substantial volunteer effort to bring this project to completion. Learn more, or make a gift via credit card, at MennoMedia.org/Resonate.

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Report to Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." —Hebrews 10:24-25
Through its ministries, Mennonite Church USA seeks to show the love of God to one another and the world. Here are some ways we have worked together as the church in 2017.



The MC USA biennial convention was held July 4-8 in Orlando, Florida with the theme "Love is a Verb." Over 3,200 people attended.

The MC USA Delegate Assembly in Orlando passed a resolution on "**Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine.**" The resolution encourages

support for Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers. It also laments Mennonite historical complicity with anti-Semitism and calls for further learning.



A significant part of last year's convention was the **Future Church Summit**, the first step in a churchwide discernment process inviting delegates and key stakeholders to envision an Anabaptist future for MC USA. Delegates voted to affirm the outcomes of the summit as "a guide for living into God's calling for our church."



Growing out of the priorities from the Future Church Summit, MC USA continues discernment through **Journey Forward**, a churchwide process to develop an identity document centered around MC USA's shared beliefs and goals. The initial draft emphasizes three pillars of MC USA faith as being "Grounded in the whole story of Jesus";

"Transformed by the Holy Spirit in community"; and "Empowered to join in God's reconciling work." In December 2017, a writing group began creating a study guide that seeks to engage congregations and gather feedback for updating the document in 2018.

The **MC USA Archives** moved from Goshen College to MC USA's Elkhart (Ind.) offices. Researchers can now access those materials in a more accessible and better preserved space. Bethel College continues to house the General Conference archives collection.

MC USA began offering **Healthy Boundary Trainings** and held a "Train the Trainer" event in March 2017 as a commitment to addressing sexual abuse in the church. It is the intent that every new MC USA pastor will receive this training and that all current pastors receive it in the next three years. The Leadership Development staff also updated "**Ministerial Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures,**" MC USA's procedure for addressing ministerial sexual misconduct.



In December 2017, the **Panel on Sexual Abuse Prevention** completed its term, submitting a proposed policy outlining appropriate response when non-credentialed leaders are accused of sexual abuse.

Ervin Stutzman announced his plans to retire from executive director of MC USA in spring 2018. The search committee for his replacement gathered denomination-wide priorities for the position and revised the job description to emphasize goals of the Future Church Summit and Executive Board.

The final payment was made on the **Elkhart offices** that house MC USA and Mennonite agencies. The Constituency Leaders Council met to ceremonially burn the mortgage and celebrate in the space. Generous donors made it possible to pay off the mortgage years ahead of schedule.



In January 2018, the **Women in Leadership Project** released a second collection of essays based on presentations at the 2016 Women Doing Theology (WDT) conference, I've got the power! Naming and reclaiming power as a force for good. The next WDT conference is scheduled for Nov. 8-10, 2018.



www.MennoniteUSA.org
www.facebook.com/MennoniteChurchUSA
Toll-free: 866-866-2872



MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY REPORT TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT | MAY 2018

Greetings from MEA! In this report, you can get a glimpse of some of the work we do in cooperation with six colleges/universities/seminaries, two Ministerios Hispanos programs, more than two dozen primary and secondary schools in the Mennonite Schools Council (MSC), Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN), and others. Some of the particular activities and initiatives of the past year include the following:

• **The Higher Education Future Church/School Relations Committee** presented its final proposal to the colleges, universities, seminaries, MEA and MC USA last January. At the writing of this report, the overall proposal, including the creation of a Mennonite Higher Education Association (MHEA) has been affirmed by all, but still has a few questions that need clarification. The MHEA had its first meeting at the end of April. The primary purpose of the proposed structure is to ensure the ongoing Anabaptist/Mennonite identity and mission of the schools of Mennonite Church USA, so that church and schools can continue together in higher education, despite the rapid changes that each are experiencing.

The demographic, economic and cultural changes that are taking place, both in society and in our church, call us to reexamine our relationship with the schools, while at the same time providing the flexibility to respond to the changing landscape of higher education. We are working at the creation of something new that will require all the parts to be willing to change. The underlying foundation is still the same: the church and the schools want to maintain strong ties.

The next part of the implementation process will include working with individual boards for the signing of a new SOA (Statement of Arrangements) and working out details like MEA presence at board meetings.

Presidential Transitions: We are in the midst of significant transitions in both MCUSA and Mennonite Higher Education. On the 23rd of February, Bluffton University announced the appointment of Dr. Jane Wood as its tenth president. This coming fall, five out of the six Mennonite Higher Education presidents will be new to their position. In this new academic year we will celebrate the installation of Dr.

Jonathan C. Gering at Bethel College and Dr. Jane Wood at Bluffton University.

Investment Committee Report - Follow up to Denominational Israel-Palestine Resolution concerning Investment: After several years of processing and discernment, Mennonite Church USA delegates, meeting in Orlando last July, adopted a resolution entitled Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine. One of the commitments in the first section is "Avoiding Economic Support for Occupation while Investing in Peace and Justice." The resolution further urges "all Mennonite Church USA agencies, related organizations, and members to similarly review their investments."

The MEA Investment Committee (IC) supports the Resolution passed by the Delegate Assembly. The topic has been on the IC agenda dating back to discussions with students at EMU in 2009. At the March 2, 2018, IC meeting, the committee reviewed and reaffirmed its current practices and documented guidelines as a framework for addressing Resolution.

Current practices: The Investment Committee adheres to Everence screens for the domestic equity investments in the portfolio. While Everence has not adopted a specific Israel/Palestine screen, its existing human rights and military screens have evolved over the past decade to address concerns related to occupation and regions of conflict globally. Today many companies of concern related to the Israel/Palestine conflict are restricted by Everence' stewardship investing screens. As of December 31, 2017, approximately 40% or \$64 million of the \$163 million total investment is in domestic equities and bonds and have been screened.

Another 28% of the portfolio is invested in international equities and is not screened. In the case of international and emerging market equities, the Investment Committee is unable to directly remove a specific stock from the investment portfolio because

the holdings are part of larger commingled funds managed by four different investment managers. In each case, the IC has chosen managers who have strong social considerations (environmental, social and governance) as part of their investment philosophy and approach to management. In a review, the positions held by these managers' companies on the AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) restricted list represent a *de minimis* investment. None of the international managers have a specific consideration for Israel/Palestine.

The remainder of the portfolio (about 32%) is invested in a mix of high yield and emerging market bonds, global asset allocation, commodities and alternative investments (such as real estate, private equity, etc.) for which the screens do not apply.

Hope for the Future: The annual Hope for the Future (HFF) gathering took place Feb. 8-11 in San Antonio, Texas, with the theme "The people are marching! Where are the saints?" The conference, co-sponsored by MEA and other Mennonite Church USA agencies, brings together people of color who are leaders in Mennonite churches and institutions for networking and generating change. The gathering brought together nearly 70 pastors, leaders, directors, coordinators, educators, change-makers, and others with connections to Mennonite Church USA (MC USA).

The gathering was framed by the words of Dr. Vincent Harding in an address to Mennonite World Conference in 1967. Harding, a former Mennonite, said, *"Rise your saints. Get out of your homes, out of your groups out of your churches ... Get out of conformity to the world and out of the fearful, noisy night. You have nothing to lose but your life to win the world. Rise you saints, spring forth and start marching. The Master is already on his way saying, 'I am the way, follow me.'"*

Journey Forward: MC USA is inviting congregations, conferences, and institutions to engage in the *Journey Forward* process. The MEA Board had been focusing on the Church Summit that took place last summer at the Mennonite Churchwide Convention and its implication for education; including looking at ways in which Mennonite education could be involved and interact with the process. The MEA Board and Mennonite Educational leaders recently engaged with Executive Board representatives on the propose statement and how it connects with education.

The **Panel on Sexual Abuse Prevention**, a jointly appointed panel by MC USA Executive Board and MEA, officially completed its term in December 2017. Since the summer of 2016, its primary priority became outlining a process for responding when a complaint arises against a non-credentialed leader. *Prevention and Response: Sexual Abuse and Non-Credentialed Individuals* contains general recommendations regarding this process, as well as specifics for congregational, conference and denominational/institutional settings. The document is useful in the context of church affiliated organizations and educational institutions, conferences and congregations. Non-credentialed leaders often hold leadership positions in these settings. Non-credentialed leaders are those who do not hold a credential within an MC USA conference both paid staff and unpaid volunteers. This document also applies to anyone who participates and attends congregational or organizational activities.

Thank you to Western District congregations who support Mennonite education with total giving of \$77,376.85 from Feb. 1 to Jan 31, 2018.*

**Giving includes gifts for higher education, MEA, Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education and Ministerios Hispanos.*

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary: Sara Wenger Shenk, president

Area conference connections

AMBS board members:

Sara Dick (Bethel College), Byron Pellecer (WDC)

AMBS students:

- **MDiv Connect:** Melissa Atchison (Manhattan), Renee Reimer (Rainbow), Dianne Schmidt (Eden), Angie Smith (Lorraine Ave), Henry Unruh (First – Hillsboro), Michael Unruh (Tabor)
- **MA in Christian Formation:** Kay Schroeder (First – Newton)
- **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies:** Jennie Wintermote (First – Newton)

Resources for faith formation and leadership development

Academic programs

AMBS serves the church as a learning community with an Anabaptist vision, educating followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission in the world.

- **Are you feeling drawn to deepen your understanding of Scripture, Anabaptist theology and faith?** Our programs integrate academics, spiritual formation and practice, equipping students to read the Bible with an Anabaptist lens, apply critical thinking skills, lead compassionately and live faithfully — wherever God may call them to serve.
 - **Master of Divinity** (80 hrs)
 - **Master of Arts in Christian Formation** (60 hrs)
 - **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies** (60 hrs)
 - **Graduate Certificate** (27 hrs)ambs.edu/academics
- **Distance education options** include the **MDiv Connect** program — which includes online and hybrid courses — and the fully online **Graduate Certificate** program. ambs.edu/mdivconnect
ambs.edu/academics/certificates
- **Financial aid.** AMBS offers generous need-based financial aid, grants and scholarships to help make your education affordable. For example, MDiv Connect students taking at least 12 credit hours per academic year are eligible to receive the full amount of need-based tuition aid from AMBS. ambs.edu/financialaid
- **Want to explore seminary study before applying?** Take an on-campus or online class, even if you're not admitted to a degree or certificate program, and your first class is 50 percent off! Check out next semester's offerings: ambs.edu/onecourse

Lifelong learning

AMBS's Church Leadership Center offers various nondegree options for you to continue your education and strengthen your leadership skills:

- Short courses: *Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology* (online); *Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture* (online)
 - Seminars and workshops (online and on-campus)
 - Pastors and Leaders (Feb. 25–28, 2019)
 - Leadership Clinics (Feb. 25, 2019)
- Become a member of the Church Leadership Center! Members can receive additional benefits, including substantial discounts on events. ambs.edu/lifelong-learning

- **Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program** is a 2-1/2-year nondegree leadership development program for people exploring a call to ministry. The distance-friendly program features a five-unit online curriculum, biweekly mentor-mentee meetings and one visit to the AMBS region per year. ambs.edu/journey
- **Host a "Reading the Bible with Jesus" workshop** with itinerant Bible teacher **Bryan Moyer Suderman** for 1–2 days of digging deep into one of the Gospels to gain tools for reading and interpreting Scripture like Jesus did, in light of today's world. (Available in English and Spanish.) ambs.edu/workshops
- **!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Students (grades 10–12) can explore ministry, develop their leadership gifts and listen for God's call through a 100-hour Congregational Experience and a 16-day Group Experience. Encourage someone you know to apply for 2019! ambs.edu/explore
- **Experience AMBS:** Visit our campus to learn more about all that AMBS has to offer. ambs.edu/visit

We thank God for your support and ask for your prayers as we prepare leaders for the church through programs that are biblically, spiritually, ethically and theologically grounded.

AMBS: Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ

3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517
574.295.3726 • ambs.edu • July 2018

The 2017-2018 academic year at Bethel College is nearly over, and we have much for which to be grateful. We thank God for the following (and much more):

- ◆ New presidential leadership in Dr. Jon Gering, providing strength and vision for the Bethel community to live out our faith through educational experiences.
- ◆ Campus ministries opportunities for students, including:
 - ◆ Centering prayer
 - ◆ Tough Talks and Tasty Treats (discussing faith questions)
 - ◆ Navigator Bible Study
 - ◆ Weekly Chapel Services
 - ◆ Fellowship of Christian Athletes
 - ◆ Special events, like 24-hour prayer and Service Day, which was carried out with record student participation.
- ◆ Nine wonderful student chaplains who help monitor and lead spiritual life activities on campus.
- ◆ A beautiful campus with well-maintained facilities.
- ◆ The women and men of our excellent faculty and staff, who give of themselves tirelessly, who teach and instruct carefully, who model Christian character daily.
- ◆ Continuation of the recently created Anti-Oppression Task Force, which seeks to address issues of oppression and intercultural competence on our campus.
- ◆ New Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) director Cheryl Wilson, who brings expertise and passion for restorative justice.
- ◆ A concert choir tour, which traveled throughout Europe during interterm.
- ◆ Hosting Mennonites and the Holocaust conference, focusing on Mennonite attitudes and interactions with Nazi ideologies and the Holocaust.
- ◆ Hosting Worship in the Arts Symposium, featuring theologian and author Ted Swartz highlighting Christian “life as a comedy.”
- ◆ Hosting Dr. Timothy J. Wengert, emeritus professor of church history at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, who presented on “remembering 500 years of reformation together” as part of the Menno Simons Lecture Series.
- ◆ Hosting Malinda Elizabeth Berry who presented on “When Lives Don’t Seem to Matter: The Logic of Nonviolence in the Face of all the –isms” as part of the Staley Lecture Series.
- ◆ Hosting of KIPCOR’s Restorative Kansas Conference.
- ◆ Hosting Dr. David Karp and Jasmyrn Story who presented on “How Restorative Justice is Shaping the #metoo and #timesup Movements on College and University Campuses.”
- ◆ Hosting Dr. Jalane Schmidt, professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia and one of the founding members of the Black Lives Matter movement in Charlottesville, VA, who presented on confronting and dismantling racial oppression.
- ◆ Lifetime Enrichment gatherings, bringing lifelong learning opportunities, and intergenerational connectedness, to all members of our community.
- ◆ Sharing in worship and fellowship beyond our campus by providing speakers and musicians for church congregations over two-thirds of Sundays while classes are in session.

In gratitude for the prayers and good wishes from the Western District Conference, we humbly ask for your continued support, as we seek to build, for generations to come, upon the foundation that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.



2018 Report to Western District Conference

Dr. Jane Wood Named President

For just the tenth time in its 119-year history, Bluffton University's Board of Trustees has named a new president. **Dr. Jane Wood** took office July 1, 2018.

"Dr. Wood has demonstrated success in achieving enrollment growth at several institutions by leading academic program innovation, strategic planning, alignment and visioning processes that moved those institutions forward, along with proven success in building relationships for public and private partnerships to broaden the school's reach," said **Kent Yoder**, chairperson of the Bluffton University Board of Trustees.

"She is a committed Christian with leadership experience at both Catholic and Protestant institutions and a passion for social justice. We are excited that she was drawn to Bluffton for its mission, history and faith tradition."

"Mirror of the Martyrs"

The "Mirror of the Martyrs" brought a wide range of people to campus during the month of October. The university also hosted more than 10 exhibit-related events to offer deeper insight into Anabaptist faith and heritage during the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Book Collaboration

A book release celebration for "Education with the Grain of the Universe: A Peaceable Vision for the Future of Mennonite Schools, Colleges, and Universities" took place in Musselman Library. Edited by **Dr. J. Denny Weaver**, professor emeritus of religion at Bluffton, the book features how 18 contributors, including several Bluffton faculty members, shape philosophies of Mennonite higher education as they explore intersections of educational theories and practices with Anabaptism, Mennonite thought and peacemaking. Twenty Bluffton faculty and staff members studied chapters of the book during a spring 2018 weekly discussion group.

SIMPLY INNOVATE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY

A five-year campaign is underway to move Bluffton into the future. Simply Innovate, the Campaign for Bluffton University, includes a \$26 million comprehensive goal. Construction is underway on the Moyer Nature Center, an early manifestation of the campaign, located in the Bluffton University Nature Preserve. The building's environmental science focus will complement the campaign's signature project, the Austin E. Knowlton Science Center, which is scheduled to open on the main campus in the 2020-21 academic year. www.bluffton.edu/giving

Thank you!

Bluffton University currently enrolls one student from Western District Conference churches: **Aubrey Bartel**, Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, Kan.

Church Matching Scholarship support is \$1200 for 2017-18.

#BeaversAll

Emily Short, a Bible and Theology senior from Archbold, created an innovative summer camp curriculum for Camp Amigo in Sturgis, Mich. Camp staff introduced the theme verses Micah 6:8 and Jeremiah 29:11 into dramas, children's books, activities and skits to engage the young campers.

Read more about Emily and other Bluffton students, faculty and staff at www.bluffton.edu/beaversall

Find us on the web
and social media!
www.bluffton.edu

For more information, contact
Robin Bowlus
Senior director of advancement
operations and public relations
bowlusr@bluffton.edu

New degree offered: Master of Arts in Christian Leadership

The Master of Arts in Christian Leadership is a remake of the Master of Arts in Church Leadership degree. In the remake, the credit requirement went from 60 to 49, and greater flexibility was added for a required “ministry specialization project.” Students can incorporate other electives and disciplines — such as the graduate certificate in restorative justice offered by the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding — into their own individualized curriculum. This new degree reflects a growing trend of individuals seeking theological training toward ends beyond traditional church/religious structures. The new MACL is also tailored specifically to meet the educational requirements for United Methodist students who are seeking ordination as deacons.

2018 School for Leadership Training: January 15-17

EMS welcomed over 150 alumni, pastors and other ministry leaders to a challenging time of pondering what it means to be “*Broken Vessels, Thriving Pastors*.” Input was provided by leadership of MC-USA (Iris de Leon-Hartshorn) as well the United Methodist VA Conference (Meredith McNabb). A panel of alumni shared openly about finding their way through brokenness (in self, church, community) to thriving.

A diverse lineup of workshops by faculty and other experts across the church provided participants with practical tools, skills, and information for navigating their own way through brokenness and thriving.

As always, the worship times surrounded all the input with times for reflection on God’s work through, and among, us in our various ministry settings.

Visit <http://emu.edu/seminary/slt/archive/> for access to worship resources and podcasts from this event.

EMS alumna in the news!

Brittany Caine-Conley (MDiv, 2014) was named to Sojourners “2018 10 Christian Women to Watch.” This list is compiled each year on International Women’s Day to honor “...Christian women who are making and shaping history right now.” Brittany, who is a UCC ordained minister, was honored for her work in organizing a non-violent counter protest of clergy during a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville on August 12, 2017. Brittany noted that “At many points throughout our Christian history, we’ve dangled well behind the arc of morality and justice. We must awake from our slumber and do the work of justice before it’s too little, too late.” Congratulations, Brittany, on this honor.

Statement of Purpose

Eastern Mennonite Seminary prepares men and women to serve and lead in a global context. In response to God’s saving grace, we educate students to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of God’s Spirit as wise interpreters, mature practitioners, discerning communicators, and transformational leaders.

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**, *president*
- ▶ **Fred Kniss**, *interim seminary dean*
- ▶ **Nancy Heisey**, *associate dean*
- ▶ **Les Horning**, *director of seminary admissions*

For the most up-to-date information on EMS, give us a call, visit us on the web, “Like” us on Facebook!

**emu.edu/seminary
540-432-4260**

Five new majors, five new minors and Lancaster aviation program now offered

Beginning this fall, EMU offers new majors in global development, marketing, musical theater, organizational leadership and peacebuilding. A new degree program is also offered at EMU Lancaster – the leadership and organizational management degree with an aviation concentration. Graduates will have a bachelor's degree and several flight certifications. New minors include interfaith studies, leadership, marketing, nonprofit management, and philosophy and theology.

"As the professional marketplace evolves, so do educational priorities," said Deirdre L. Smeltzer, vice president and academic dean at EMU. "As a small university, we are uniquely positioned and strive to be nimble in how we equip students to pursue their career interests and passions."

Summer Peacebuilding Institute adds new courses for May and June sessions

This year, SPI will offer seven new courses: topics include the prison-industrial complex, changing the narrative of sexual harms, human-centered design, visual communication and nonviolence, and more. A fifth session of three-day workshops is being offered to give those unable to spend an entire week or more an opportunity to gain skills and knowledge. "We live in an era fraught with injustice and conflict," said SPI director Bill Goldberg. "Knowing how to proactively respond can open avenues of transformation."

For more information, visit www.emu.edu/spi

LovEMU Day breaks records

April 10 was an historic day that marked an outpouring of love for EMU from across the country and around the world. The second annual one-day fundraising campaign resulted in record gifts of \$119,232 from 655 donors. Both tallies exceeded 2017 numbers of \$106,500 and 692 gifts. More than 220 alumni gathered in locations around the country to celebrate and network. The donations help support student scholarships.

How can EMU be of service to your congregation and conference?

Contact the church relations office to schedule the president, dean or a faculty guest speaker at 540-432-4597 or ChurchRelations@emu.edu.

**Western District
Mennonite Conference
Connections to EMU**

- ▶ **Susan Schultz Huxman**,
president
- ▶ **Kirk Shisler**,
*vice president for
advancement*
- ▶ **Les Horning**, *director of
seminary admissions*
- ▶ **Matt Ruth**, *director of
admissions*

Our Mission

***EMU prepares students
to serve and lead in a
global context.***

*Our community of
learning integrates
Christian faith,
academic rigor, artistic
creation and reflective
practice informed by the
liberal arts,
interdisciplinary
engagement, and
cross-cultural
encounter.*

**President opens year with message on
Compassionate Peacemaking**

The 2017-18 school year at Goshen College opened with much joy and excitement during a welcome convocation led by Interim President Dr. Kenneth Newbold. Newbold spoke about this year's theme and core value, "compassionate Peacemaking," where he assured students and employees that they have come to the right place to learn about making peace. "Not because we are perfect at it here or don't have our conflicts, but Goshen College is a place where compassionate peacemaking is deeply embedded — in our motto, core values, in our academic programs, in clubs, in our study abroad program, in how we understand our identity and our calling," he said. The convocation concluded with powerful singing from the Parables Worship Team, followed by the annual applause tunnel, a 16-year tradition with a cheering tunnel formed by faculty and staff, then seniors, juniors, sophomores and finally the first-year students. The procession led out to Schrock Plaza, where, in the good-natured tradition of new Goshen College presidents, Newbold was dunked in the Schrock Plaza fountain by students.

Conference connections

This academic year we have 9 students enrolled from 5 Western District Conference congregations. Those churches generously pledged \$17,000 in congregational student aid for the academic year. The Goshen College Church Aid Matching Grant program provides a dollar-for-dollar match of the first \$1,000 per student and a 1:4 match after that, up to full tuition.

Students from the conference are involved on- and off-campus in many edifying ways but we specifically recognize students who studied and served abroad for a semester through GC's Study Service Term (SST) program. Roxanne Gehring from Manhattan Mennonite Church spent a semester studying and serving in Peru.

2017-18 Campus ministries theme

The Campus Ministries theme this year is "Blessed are the Peacemakers." Eleven Ministry Leaders, five Worship Assistants, and countless other Goshen College students provide leadership as we explore what it means to be peacemakers. In the first chapel of the year, Campus Pastor Bob Yoder shared that the Hebrew word for peace is "shalom," which refers to wholeness, completeness and right relationships with God, others, and creation. Bob shared several personal stories when he was not "whole" or "complete," but had several people reach out to him as shalom-makers. In the same vein, Bob encouraged the students to be shalom-makers on campus, in their home communities and around the world. Students and employees were also invited to engage the theme through the GC Prayer Book, which includes twelve devotions written by students as well as over a dozen different ways to pray. This material is available to people in both print and electronic formats. Visit www.goshen.edu/faith/campus-ministries to learn more about GC Campus Ministries.



For more information, contact Dan Koop Liechty, Director of Alumni and Career Networks. Call (574) 535-7002 or e-mail churchrelations@goshen.edu.

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE CHURCH USA REPORT

April 2018

Spring '18 enrollment - Total student enrollment for the spring 2018 semester is at 427, which is the highest for the spring term since 2013. U.S. students represent 29 states while 55 international students represent 18 countries and 13 percent of the student population. International student enrollment is at a 20-year high for a spring semester. Retention of students overall has been strong at Hesston for several years, and moving from the fall semester to the spring semester this year, students retained at a 94 percent rate, the highest retention rate since 2004.

Homecoming and Presidential Inauguration - Hesston College celebrated homecoming and the inauguration of its ninth president, Dr. Joseph A. Manickam, Sept. 22 to 24 with the theme "Grounded in community, globally engaged." The weekend featured events reflecting and celebrating the college's values, experiences and global connections. Weekend highlights included a Global Voices music showcase that featured Hesston College ensembles performing works from international students' home countries. During that program, Dave Osborne was honored for directing the international students program since 1986. Alumni, students and guests made up an Interfaith Relationships panel to share reflections on how interfaith relationships on-campus and off-campus have challenged and enriched their lives. The event brought the college's five living presidents together to interact with the campus community and alumni.

Community Read - For the sixth year, the community of Hesston, led by Hesston College and Hesston Public Library, invited individuals and groups to take part in a community read during the fall semester. This year's book selection was *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis* by Cynthia Barnett. The book examines a variety of perspectives and makes an argument for a "water ethic" with a call to action that reconnects individuals to their water. Barnett presented at Hesston College on Nov. 2 about her work.

AVDS conference "Before the Unthinkable Happens" - Hesston College's 2018 Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series (AVDS) conference offered a hands-on process where issues of oppression that can lead to trauma-related incidents were addressed and dismantled. With the theme "Before the Unthinkable Happens: Confronting our role in injustice," the conference took place on the Hesston College campus Feb. 23 to 25. More than 450 persons engaged with different parts of the weekend, including the Ted & Co. TheaterWorks show *Discovery: A Comic Lament*. The weekend was also resourced by the Kansas Leadership Center to help develop skills to clarify purpose, begin outcome plans and impact the future. KLC faculty member and pastor of Berea Community Church in Kansas City, Kan., Adrien Roberson served as one of two keynote speakers. Dr. Drew G.I. Hart from Messiah College helped to strengthen the biblical theology of justice to work at being faithful

disciples and ethical believers. For more post-event conference content, go to hesston.edu/avds.

Honoring Dr. King's Legacy - The Hesston College community participated in a Martin Luther King, Jr., Day "Tools for the Journey" workshop on Jan. 15, led by President Joe Manickam and John Murray, director of International Admissions. The workshop addressed injustices that are pervasive in society today and what individuals can do to recognize injustices and their own reactions to them. No classes were held on MLK Day in order to give the entire campus community – students, faculty and staff – a chance to participate in the activities. A chapel was also held in the afternoon and featured a student, faculty and staff gospel choir and speakers Ben Woodward-Breckbill, associate pastor of Shalom Mennonite Church (Newton, Kan.), and Jessica Klanderud, history professor at Tabor College (Hillsboro, Kan.).

Congregational student aid – Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by student churches. During the 2016-17 year, 65 churches contributed \$176,880 in student scholarships to 108 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of \$112,885. The average church aid per student was \$1,637 while the average church-and-college aid per student was \$2,683. **If your congregation is interested in providing a scholarship program to support Mennonite higher education, contact the Church Relations Office at 866-437-7866.**

Read these full stories and more at www.hesston.edu. For questions or more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations toll free at 866-437-7866.

2017-18 campus theme verse - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV)

Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA Statistics and Connections

2017-18 Academic Year Students – 10

Congregational Student Aid – 6 congregations provided \$10,005 in tuition assistance for 10 students as of April 1, 2018.

Unified and Designated Giving – We are grateful for the financial support of conference churches to Mennonite colleges and Mennonite Education Agency through Unified and Designated Giving and for personal contributions given from individuals.

Hesston College Board of Directors –

Annette Brown, Preston Trail Community Church, Frisco, TX

Anna Gomez, Iglesia Menonita Buenas Nuevas, San Juan, TX

Barth Hague, Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton, KS

Dr. Joseph A. Manickam, President

Dallas Stutzman, Director of Alumni and Church Relations

Phyllis Weaver and Mark Diller, Development Officers

Mary Bender and Omar Reyes, Admissions Representatives

2018 REPORT TO WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The mission of MHS is to strengthen and extend Anabaptist-affiliated health and human service organizations. The following members have ties to Western District Conference congregations:

- Bethesda Home, Goessel, Kansas
- Mennonite Friendship Communities, South Hutchinson, Kansas
- Prairie View, Newton, Kansas
- Bluestem Communities* - Kidron Bethel Village, N. Newton and Schowalter Villa, Hesston, Kansas

*sponsored by MHS

Activities

- The Values-based Leadership Program had 28 leaders in the 2017-2018 class. Participants gain self-awareness and an Anabaptist perspective on leadership. Registration for the 2018-2019 class is open at www.vblp.org.
- The annual Mennonite Health Assembly met March 8 - 10 in Pittsburgh, Pa. Through storytelling, music, comedy and visual arts, attendees celebrated resilience and gained practical governance and leadership skills.
- We partner with China Christian Council for an Executive Residency Exchange program to support developing senior care services. MHS members in Pennsylvania hosted a group of Chinese leaders in October 2017 and more learning exchanges are planned for 2018.
- We are supporting mental health trauma training in Puerto Rico, with contributions from generous donors.
- Karen Lehman will begin as President and CEO on May 1, 2018.

For Thanksgiving and Prayer

- We pray for the leaders of Sistema de Salud Menonita in Puerto Rico as they provide medical care in communities devastated by hurricanes.
- Low unemployment in many communities means that finding and keeping qualified and compassionate employees is a significant concern for MHS members across the country.
- We give thanks for the wise counsel of our national board, including Maribel Ramirez Hinojosa from Iglesia Menonita Buenas Nuevas and Houston Mennonite Church, and Lowell Peachey, President/CEO of Mennonite Friendship Communities.

Submitted by Rick Stiffney, President/CEO

www.mhsonline.org

Be local. Be global. Be the Gospel.



Sharing the good news of Jesus is the essence of the church's calling and the primary reason for its existence.

It is, indeed, a great privilege to be directly engaged in the task of building our capacity for the church's mission in the world. It's been a great honor to do so alongside

you, and with your support. Your investment in the task of sharing the good news of Jesus around the world is an inspiration and a source of deep gratitude. Thank you for

your partnership in God's mission this past year!

Stanley W. Green
Stanley W. Green
Executive Director

Western District Conference + Mennonite Mission Network

Worker support around the world



Gamaliel and Amanda Falla—

Served as coordinators of pastoral accompaniment with the Colombia Mennonite Church (IMCOL).

» Houston Mennonite Church

Couple working in a sensitive location—

Work with the local church, teaching in a local university, and mentoring pastors and young people.

» Eden Mennonite Church

Dan and Kathryn Smith Derksen—

Provide logistical support, develop peacebuilding programs, and engage partners in program development.

» First Mennonite Church, Halstead

» Grace Hill Mennonite Church

» Shalom Mennonite Church

» Tabor Mennonite Church

Mark and Mary Hurst—

Build Anabaptist Networks, lead conflict transformation trainings, and pastor a congregation.

» Eden Mennonite Church

Margrit Kipfer Barron—

Coordinates Christian education ministries of the Bolivia Mennonite Church, and prepares leaders and supports church plants.

» First Mennonite Church, Beatrice

Francisco and Juanita Machado—

Anabaptist church planters in Spain.

» First Mennonite Church, Halstead

» Manhattan Mennonite Church

» Turpin Mennonite Church

Mary Raber—

Teaches at theological schools in Ukraine.

» Faith Mennonite Church

» Hope Mennonite Church

David and Rebekka Stutzman—

Serve as church planters in Mannheim, Germany.

» First Mennonite Church, Beatrice

Worker in a sensitive location—

Administers long-term development projects in the growing church.

» San Antonio Mennonite Church

Missional Discipleship Initiative—

Relational disciple-making for mission-minded leaders.

» First Mennonite Church, Beatrice

» West Zion Mennonite Church

Prayer partners



44 people have committed to pray daily for Mission Network ministries.

Mission banks



The children from First Mennonite Church Newton, Koinonia Mennonite Church, Faith Mennonite Church, Mennonite Church of the Servant, and Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church gave a total of **\$753.85** to missions.

Service participants



Christian Service sites

MVS unit in Kansas City

MVS unit in San Antonio

SOOP site in Austin

SOOP site in San Antonio

SOOP site with World Hunger Relief in Elm Mott, Texas

Service Adventure

Kristin Jantzen, serving in Albuquerque.

Robert and Sondra Tolle, serving in Albuquerque.

Jonathan Voth, serving in Albuquerque.

SOOP

George and Edna Dyck, Tucson

Dwight Mueller, Busby, Montana

lb and June Thomsen, Tucson

Nicklaus Uhrlich, Busby, Montana

Congregational giving to Mission Network



During Mission Network's last fiscal year, Aug. 1, 2016, through July 31, 2017, 35 of 55 Western District congregations (64 percent) gave **\$234,360**, or an average of **\$6,696**. **Thank you!**



In the past year, I've seen the passion and creativity within WDC in support of mission at the local, national, and international levels. Thanks for the privilege of walking with you in the good news of Jesus Christ.

Joseph Sawatzky
Joseph Sawatzky
Church Relations Representative

Thank you for your continued partnership in God's mission!

www.MennoniteMission.net Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872