



2517 N. Main • PO Box 306
North Newton, Kansas 67117
Tel: 316-283-6300 • Fax: 316-283-0620
E-mail: wdc@mennowdc.org • web: www.mennowdc.org

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES

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

August 1-2, 2020
Online/Virtual due to COVID-19 pandemic

MINUTES
Western District Conference Annual Assembly
Zoom Delegate Session
Aug. 1, 2020, 9–11 a.m.

Moderator Ray Reimer (Zion/Elbing, Kan.) called the delegate session to order and welcomed delegates on Zoom and guests on Facebook Live. He gave lengthy instructions for the virtual meeting — a first time for WDC delegates to meet this way. One special instruction, a decision made by Executive Board, was that each delegate would hold only one vote because of the voting mechanism on Zoom.

Minutes. Secretary June Krehbiel (Eden/Moundridge, Kan.) highlighted the minutes from the 2019 delegate sessions and moved to accept the minutes as written. James Griffin (Rainbow/Kansas City) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Conference Minister Report. Heidi Regier Kreider reflected on the present state of WDC. She offered ways to follow our mission and do the work of the church through a time impacted by COVID-19. The WDC Hope Fund has brought in more than \$38,000 in donations, and seven grants have been sent to churches.

Quorum. Ray Reimer presented the following information and declared a quorum of delegates represented. Of the 52 churches and 2 active church plants in WDC and a total membership of 7,183, based on registered delegates:

- 40 churches/church plants were represented at the 2020 Assembly, and
- 114 votes were represented (out of 264 eligible votes).

Reports.

Because reports and videos had been posted online, a representative from each commission responded to questions offered in the Chat feature of Zoom. Representing the commissions were:

Ministerial Leadership: Rachel Epp Miller, chair,
Stewardship: Dwight Flaming, chair,
Church Planting: Tonya Ramer Wenger, chair,
Resource: Christina Litwiller, chair.

Delegates affirmed Camp Mennoscah's ministry as Olivia Bartel, director, shared its specific challenges during this time of COVID-19 — the camp was closed for the first time, and no summer camps were held. It is open to small groups and families only.

Ballot: Ardie Goering, chair of the Gifts Discernment Committee, presented the ballot (See below.). The ballot had one open position on the Stewardship Commission, which the committee is working to fill. Ray Reimer asked for names to be presented on Chat for the open position. Ray moved to accept the ballot as presented. Willmar Harder (Buhler/Buhler, Kan.) seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ray offered a prayer of praise for God's call to these individuals for service within WDC.

Lois Barrett (Church of the Servant/Wichita, Kan.) reported on and thanked those leaving leadership appointments.

Financial Report. WDC business manager Beth Yoder reviewed income and expenses from fiscal year 2019 and reported that Knudson and Monroe had audited and affirmed the financial records. Expenses were \$493,609. Total income in 2019 was \$493,609 with 72% from contributions.

2021 Budget. Beth Yoder presented the 2021 proposed budget of \$547,986, which the Executive Board had approved and presented in a motion to accept. Michelle Armster (Lorraine Avenue/Wichita, Kan.) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PPP Discussion. During discussion time Tim Amor (Beatrice/Beatrice, Neb.) questioned why WDC had applied for and received a loan from the government's CARES Act Payroll Protection Program (PPP). He believes this to be inconsistent with our theology. Delegates offered their comments on Chat, which Moderator Ray Reimer read orally. Instead of voting in this meeting and with no resolution offered, delegates responded to a straw poll (on a scale of 1 to 5) on Chat to the question: Is it appropriate for WDC to accept government loans? Of the 120 delegates on Zoom at the time:

- 64 responded to approve WDC accepting government funds (4 and 5),
- 13 were neutral (3),
- 21 responded in disagreement (1 and 2).

The moderator suggested that discussion of this topic continue at a later time.

Associate Conference Minister (Texas). During open mic time, a question arose about the search for the Associate Conference Minister (Texas). Heidi Regier Kreider responded that the search is in process. The job description was adjusted, and the open position was announced in April.

Announcements. Ray ended the meeting with announcements about the afternoon webinars and Sunday worship on Facebook Live.

Next year's Assembly will meet in the northern part of the conference in late July or early August 2021.

Reference Council is scheduled for Sept. 26, 2020, with all Executive Board, Commission members, and Gifts Discernment members encouraged to attend.

Resolutions of Thanks. Lois Barrett presented a resolution of thanks:

We, the delegates to the 2020 session of Western District Conference, give thanks to all those who have made this out-of-the-ordinary meeting possible:

- *To Daniel Carroll, our keynote speaker, for his insights on the Bible and immigration, and to webinar leaders, worship leaders, and interpreters.*
- *To the Assembly Planning Committee: Kathy Neufeld Dunn, coordinator; Sandra Montes-Martinez, Asia Frye, Samuel Voth Schrag, Tim Amor, Kathryn Bauchelle, and Bill Zuercher.*
- *To Ryan Goertzen-Regier, the technology manager for this event,*
- *To all delegates and participants, who learned to navigate the technology,*
- *To all WDC board, commission, committee, task force members, and volunteers, whose work throughout the year has contributed to this assembly,*
- *And especially to all WDC staff, for their hard work in making this assembly possible.*

Ray Reimer moved that we accept this resolution. Dave Stevens* (Hope/Wichita/Kan.) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lois Barrett and Heidi Regier Kreider thanked Ray for his leadership as moderator.

New WDC Moderator Lois Barrett accepted a motion to adjourn. Michelle Armster (Lorraine Avenue/Wichita/Kan.) moved to adjourn. Weldon Martens (Grace Hill/Whitewater, Kan.) seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
June Krehbiel, secretary

BALLOT

Moderator-elect
Delon Martens

Secretary
June Krehbiel

Executive Board
Vicki Penner
Kent Moore

Gifts Discernment Committee
Eldon Epp
Ardie Goering

Church Planting Commission
Karen Mascho
Tonya Ramer Wenger

Ministerial Leadership Commission
Todd Schlosser
Rachel Epp Miller

Resource Commission
Graciela Tijerina
Christina Litwiller

Stewardship
Matt Lehman Wiens
(Open position)

*Corrected: Dave Stevens seconded the motion, not Cynthia Loganbill as previously written.

END

Western District Conference

2021 Budget

Income

	Budget 2021	Budget 2020		Budget 2021	Budget 2020
1 Contributions	\$ 396,886	\$409,227	7 Restricted Funds - Staff Benefits	11,000	11,000
2 Church Plant contributions	24,000	72,000	8 Restricted Funds - Resource	4,000	4,000
3 Personnel Rebates	20,000	20,000	9 Seminary Scholarships	3,000	3,000
4 Rent income	2,100	2,100	10 Restricted Funds - Interest	1,000	1,000
5 Refunds	10,000	10,000	11 Income From Bequest Fund	51,000	51,000
6 Restricted Funds - Church Plants	20,000	20,000	12 Interest/Market Adjustment	5,000	5,000
Total Income				\$ 547,986	\$608,327

Expenses

Executive Board			Resource Commission		
	2021	2020		2021	2020
1 Executive - Staff	\$ 45,500	\$ 46,600	1 Resource - Staff	\$ 84,550	\$ 85,640
2 Executive - Staff Travel	1,500	1,500	2 Resource - Staff Travel	1,500	1,500
3 Executive - Office Expense	3,500	3,500	3 Resource - Office Expense	7,000	7,000
4 Executive - Board Exp	1,000	1,500	4 Resource - Commission Exp	200	400
5 Executive - Sabbatical Fund	1,125	1,704	5 Resource - Sabbatical Fund	1,750	2,650
6 Executive - Building repair loan	604	604	6 Resource - Building repair loan	1,207	1,207
7 Executive - CLC Exp	1,000	1,000	7 Resource - Mennonite Archives	3,000	3,000
8 Executive - MC USA Delegates	2,500	2,500	8 Resource - Library	7,000	7,000
9 Executive - Reference Council	500	500	9 Resource - Music & Worship	250	250
Executive Total	\$ 57,229	\$ 59,408	10 Resource - Youth North	1,000	1,000
			11 Resource - Youth South	1,000	1,000
			Resource Total	\$ 108,457	\$110,647

Ministerial Leadership Commission

1 Leader - Staff	\$ 160,900	\$160,050
2 Leader - Staff Travel	10,000	10,000
3 Leader - Office Expense	14,000	14,000
4 Leader - Commission Exp	750	1,000
5 Leader - Sabbatical Fund	4,600	6,934
6 Leader - Building repair loan	2,414	2,414
7 Leader - Ministerial Credential	800	800
8 Leader - Seminary Scholarships	4,000	5,000
9 Leader - Meetings & workshops	1,200	1,200
Leadership Total	\$ 198,664	\$201,398

Stewardship Commission

1 Steward - Staff	\$ 36,250	\$ 43,840
2 Steward - Staff Travel	500	500
3 Steward - Office Expense	7,000	7,000
4 Steward - Commission Exp	400	400
5 Steward - Sabbatical Fund	375	568
6 Steward - Building repair loan	1,207	1,207
7 Steward - Communications	5,000	5,000
8 Steward - Insurance	13,000	10,000
9 Steward - Audit	7,500	7,500
Stewardship Total	\$ 71,232	\$ 76,015

Church Planting Commission

1 Church Planting - Staff	\$ 74,200	\$ 73,605
2 Church Planting - Staff Travel	5,000	5,000
3 Church Planting - Office Expense	3,500	3,500
4 Church Planting - Commission Exp	500	500
5 Church Planting - Sabbatical Fund	2,100	3,150
6 Church Planting - Building repair loan	604	604
7 Church Planting - Planters' retreat	2,500	2,500
8 Church Planting - Plant Support	24,000	72,000
Church Planting Total	\$ 112,404	\$160,859

Total Expenses **\$ 547,986** **\$608,327**

2021 Budget Notes

As a delegate from your congregation to the Western District Conference Assembly you will be asked to vote on the approval of the 2021 Western District Budget. The following is further explanation of the WDC budget accounts.

INCOME

#1 Contributions from congregations and individuals.

#2 Contributions from congregations and individuals designated for Church Planting. This amount was lowered this year to match the change in the *Plant Support* expense (see The Church Planting Commission explanation under “Other expense categories” below).

#3 Personnel Rebates – honorariums for our staff and payments from other organizations for work done by our staff.

#4 Rent – We are currently renting out two of our office spaces.

#5 Refunds – travel and insurance refunds and office equipment use by other organizations.

#6 to #11 Restricted funds income – this income is from restricted accounts that have received contributions for a designated purpose that were not needed/used in the years that they were received. They are pulled into 2021 budget to cover expenses for their specific designation.

#12 Income from the Bequest Fund – all bequests over \$500 are deposited into the WDC Bequest Fund. 10% is transferred annually to the WDC income budget. Up to 20% can be transferred to cover expenses by approval of Executive Board.

#13 Interest earned and market adjustments made on WDC invested funds during the year.

EXPENSES

The WDC Budget is divided into the Executive Board and 4 Commissions. The Board and each Commission share the cost of employing staff, staff travel and office supplies that provide essential services to carry out WDC’s mission. These three areas make up the first three accounts in each section of the expenses. The next expense account in each section is *Board/Commission expenses* which are used for travel and food for meetings. Following the *Board/Commission expenses* are the *Sabbatical Fund* and then repayment of a *Building repair loan*. The *Sabbatical Fund* will be used for expenses incurred for coverage when one of the conference ministers goes on Sabbatical. The *Building repair loan* represents repayment of the loan from the Revolving Fund in 2019 for roof replacement as well as additional larger maintenance and repair costs for 2500 Place.

The staff salaries and benefits, staff travel and office expenses are divided among the Board/Commissions as follows:

Executive Board

30% Conference Minister	30% Staff Travel
20% Administrative Assistant in Kansas	10% Office Expenses
10% Business Manager	

Ministerial Leadership Commission

40% Conference Minister	40% Staff Travel
50% Associate Conference Minister in Texas	40% Office Expenses
50% Associate Conference Minister in Kansas	
50% Administrative Assistant in Texas	
30% Administrative Assistant in Kansas	
10% Business Manager	
100% Youth Network Team Leader	

Church Plant Commission

10% Conference Minister	10% Other Staff Travel
50% Associate Conference Minister in Texas	10% Office Expenses
50% Administrative Assistant in Texas	
10% Administrative Assistant in Kansas	
5% Business Manager	

Resource Commission

10% Conference Minister	10% Staff Travel
50% Associate Conference Minister in Kansas	20% Office Expenses
100% Resource Library Director	
30% Administrative Assistant in Kansas	
15% Business Manager	

Stewardship Commission

10% Conference Minister	10% Staff Travel
10% Administrative Assistant in Kansas	20% Office Expenses
60% Business Manager	

Other Expense categories

Executive Board budget has funds to assist WDC delegates attend the MC USA biennial sessions, for Reference Council expenses, and for WDC representatives to attend MC USA Constituency Leaders Council.

Ministerial Leadership Commission budget includes funds for ministerial credentialing, meetings and workshops such as healthy boundaries training and other minister's resourcing events, and seminary scholarships to encourage MC USA seminary attendance.

The Church Planting Commission budget contains funds used to support new church plants. To give a more realistic projection of what could happen in 2021, the Commission made the decision to significantly lower the *Plant Support* expense to \$24,000. This amount will allow a subsidy for two church plants at \$1,000/month each.

Resource Commission budget includes a subsidy for the Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College which houses WDC archives, funds for resources and maintenance of the Conference Resource Library, and funds for the youth ministry program.

Stewardship Commission budget contains funds for communications as well as for the annual audit and insurance premiums.

2020 ELECTION RESULTS

Moderator Elect: Delon Martens

Secretary: June Krehbiel

Executive Board: Vicki Penner, Kent Moore

Church Planting Commission: Karen Mascho, Tonya Ramer Wenger

Gifts Discernment Committee: Eldon Epp, Ardie Goering

Ministerial Leadership Commission: Rachel Epp Miller, Todd Schlosser

Resource Commission: Graciela Tijerina, Christina Litwiller

Stewardship Commission: Matt Lehman Wiens

CERTIFIED DELEGATES AT 2020 CONFERENCE & CHURCH ELIGIBLE VOTES (Due to technology of online gathering, each delegate carried one vote.)

KANSAS

1. **Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel:** Arlin Buller, Dwight M. Flaming, Kris Schmucker, Karen Unruh, ElRoy Wiens, Caleb Yoder (509 members, 17 votes)
2. **Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton:** Rosalind Andreas, Dianne Epp, Marlene Faul, Norma Johnson, Dick Koontz, Nathan Koontz, Jeanette Leary, Vern Preheim, Renee Reimer, Jim Robb, Dale Schrag, Patricia Shelly, Frank Stucky, John Waltner (599 members, 20 votes)
3. **Buhler Mennonite Church, Buhler:** Willmar Harder (335 members, 12 votes)
4. **Calvary Mennonite Church, Liberal:** No delegates present. (8 members, 1 vote)
5. **Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge:** Jay Goering, Berni Kaufman, Derek King, June Krehbiel, Dianne Schmidt (310 members, 10 votes)
6. **Faith Mennonite Church, Newton:** Marshall Anderson, Darlene Powers (332 members, 12 votes)
7. **First Mennonite Church, Halstead:** Kent Dick, Dan Schroeder, Lynda Schroeder, Stephen Wilcox (237 members, 8 votes)
8. **First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro:** No delegates present. (253 members, 9 votes)
9. **First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson:** Pauline Buller, Trae Gehring, Delon Martens, Tonya Ramer Wenger (120 members, 4 votes)
10. **First Mennonite Church, McPherson:** Dayle Toews, Rose Marie Zook Barber (133 members, 5 votes)
11. **First Mennonite Church, Newton:** Susan Jantzen, Donald L. Schmidt, Wendy Schrag, June Thomsen, Peter Wintermote (272 members, 10 votes)
12. **First Mennonite Church, Ransom:** Eldon Epp (25 members, 1 vote)
13. **First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge:** Caleb Allen, Laura Goerzen, Randy Stucky (120 members, 4 votes)
14. **Goessel Mennonite Church, Goessel:** No delegates present. (143 members, 5 votes)
15. **Gospel Fellowship, Montezuma:** No delegates present. (25 members, 1 vote)
16. **Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater:** Weldon Martens (222 members, 8 votes)
17. **Hanston Mennonite Church, Hanston:** No delegates present. (16 members, 1 vote)
18. **Hoffnungssau Mennonite Church, Inman:** Orlin Martens, Lynn Schlosser, Todd Schlosser (189 members, 7 votes)
19. **Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Michelle Jantz, Dave Stevens (245 members, 9 votes)
20. **Iglesia Camino de Santidad, Liberal:** Moises Romero (45 members, 1 vote)
21. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto, Wichita:** Jaime Cazares (17 members, 1 vote)
22. **Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania, Newton:** Edith Beltran (15 members, 1 vote)
23. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Palabra Viva, Liberal:** No delegates present. (42 members, 1 vote)
24. **Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Michelle Armster, Madeline Crawford, Dan Eigsti, Danny Ibarra, Jim Juhnke, Joe Kondziola, Scott Litwiller, Christina Manero, Miriam Nofsinger, Cindy Thompson, Miles Thompson (375 members, 13 votes)
25. **Manhattan Mennonite Church, Manhattan:** Cathy Bitikofer (105 members, 4 votes)

26. **Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita:** Asia Frye (25 members, 1 vote)
27. **New Creation Fellowship, Newton:** Derrick Ramer (56 members, 2 votes)
28. **Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence:** Joanna Harader, Katie Hobson (60 members, 2 votes)
29. **Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City:** Jimmy Griffin, Abigail Grittmann, Ruth Harder, Eric Jantzen, Rosi Penner Kaufman, Kent Moore, Sarah Neher, Laura Schmidt, Natasha VanDyke (260 members, 9 votes)
30. **Salina Mennonite Church, Salina:** Christina Litwiller, Lori Schmidt, Ted Zerger (64 members, 3 votes)
31. **Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton:** Evelyn Mierau, Rachel Ringenberg Miller, Phil Sawatzky, Debbie Schmidt, Ben Woodward-Breckbill, Jeannie Zehr, Marvin Zehr (214 members, 8 votes)
32. **Southern Hills Mennonite Church, Topeka:** Larry Dixon, Elvera Johnson, Guy Smoker (80 members, 3 votes)
33. **Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton:** Carol Duerksen, Duane Duerksen, Katherine Goerzen, Rosie Jantz, Emil Schmidt, Philip Schmidt, Erica Stoltzfus, (307 members, 11 votes)
34. **Trinity Mennonite Church, Hillsboro:** Norma Duerksen, Lloyd Funk (36 members, 2 votes)
35. **West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge:** No delegates present. (175 members, 6 votes)
36. **Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing:** Raymond Reimer (142 members, 5 votes)

NEBRASKA

1. **Beatrice Mennonite Church, Beatrice:** Tim Amor (135 members, 5 votes)
2. **First Mennonite Church, Beatrice:** Dorothy Zimmerman (220 members, 8 votes)

OKLAHOMA

1. **Greenfield Mennonite Church, Carnegie:** No delegates present. (6 members, 1 vote)
2. **Joy Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City:** Karen Mascho (15 members, 1 vote)
3. **Koinonia Mennonite Church, Clinton:** No delegates present. (15 members, 1 vote)
4. **Turpin Mennonite Church, Turpin:** Kayla James, Tony James, Dennis Loepp (76 members, 3 votes)

TEXAS

1. **Austin Mennonite Church, Austin:** Janice Friesen (50 members, 2 votes)
2. **Chin Emmanuel Church, Houston:** No delegates present. (100 members, 4 votes)
3. **Hope Fellowship, Waco:** No delegates present. (50 members, 2 vote)
4. **Houston Mennonite Church, Houston:** No delegates present. (58 members, 2 votes)
5. **Iglesia Cristiana Menonita Monte Horeb, Dallas:** Sandra Montes-Martinez (42 members, 2 votes)
6. **Iglesia Menonita Casa de Dios, Garland:** Sarahi Hernandez (16 members, 1 vote)
7. **Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena:** Aurora Parchmont (40 members, 2 votes)
8. **Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Esperanza, Dallas:** Lilly Garcia (38 members, 2 votes)
9. **Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Vida, San Antonio:** Blanca Vargas (12 members, 1 vote)
10. **Iglesia Menonita Luz del Evangelio, Dallas:** No delegates present. (140 members, 5 votes)
11. **Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas:** Samuel Voth Schrag (35 members, 2 votes)
12. **San Antonio Mennonite Church, San Antonio:** Mitzi Moore (34 members, 2 votes)