

WDC Stewardship Commission
Matt Lehman Wiens

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), Pauline Buller (Staff Relations Committee liaison), Darlene Powers (Trustee Liaison) Dick Koontz and Marlan Ratzlaff. Beth Yoder, Business Manager, and Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister, provide invaluable staff representation and support to the commission. We are grateful for all the skills, time, and energy each of these people bring to our work.

Although the last year was a challenging one, we were still able to continue our work. We met remotely on August 25, 2020, October 20, 2020, December 15, 2020, March 2, 2021, and May 18, 2021. Although a typical year would see us focusing on the expenses and income of Western District Conference, much of our work focused on how we might operate fundraising and other tasks in a pandemic.

To that end, we authorized the creation of the Hope Fund, meant to assist churches affected by the pandemic with grants of up to \$2500. Over \$45,000 has been received so far, and \$31,000 was distributed to congregations in need. As the pandemic begins to wane, the Hope Fund has been shifted to a more general purpose fund, intended to support any congregation that encounters a similar disaster or hardship in the future.

Western District was also the recipient of a PPP loan from the government, enabling WDC to keep operating at a level closer to normal. At this point, all indications are that the loan will be forgiven.

In work unrelated to COVID, the commission worked closely with Beth to select a new accounting software for the Conference. Software support for our old software ended in 2020, making this an unavoidable purchase. The new software has been installed, and has been meeting our needs well.

Additionally, thanks to hard work from WDC staff, the Conference will now receive a tax exemption for the portion of 2500 Place used for church offices. This will provide significant savings for the Conference.

Finally, the Commission wishes to share its thanks to the supporters and donors of WDC that came through in difficult times. As we look to the future, we are so grateful for the certainty of your support.