

Western District Conference Ballot, July 2021
 (* = 1st term; ** = 2nd term; +=filling an unexpired term)

I affirm the whole ballot. _____
 YES NO

Executive Board (3 year term)

- | | | | |
|------------|--|-------|-------|
| (1) (2024) | **Willmar Harder (Buhler, KS) | _____ | _____ |
| (2) (2024) | *Ben Woodward-Breckbill (Shalom, Newton, KS) | _____ | _____ |
| (3) (2023) | +Dave Wiebe (First, Newton, KS) | _____ | _____ |

Other members: Lois Barrett (Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita, KS); Lesther Caceros (Dallas, TX); June Krehbiel (Eden, Moundridge, KS); Lee Lever (Austin, TX); Delon Martens (First, Hutchinson, KS); Vicki Penner (Southern Hills, Topeka, KS); Jim Stucky (Faith, Newton, KS)

Gifts Discernment Committee (3 year term)

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|------------|---|-------|-------|
| (1) (2024) | **Alberto Parchmont (Igl. Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena, TX) | _____ | _____ |
| (2) (2024) | *Rachel Voth Schrag (Peace, Dallas, TX) | _____ | _____ |

Other members: Eldon Epp (First, Ransom, KS); Ardie Goering (Goessel, KS); Eric Jantzen (Rainbow, Kansas City, KS); Dwight Mueller (First, Halstead, KS);

Church Planting Commission (3 year term)

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|------------|--|-------|-------|
| (1) (2024) | **Caleb Yoder (Alexanderwohl, Goessel, KS) | _____ | _____ |
| (2) (2024) | *Simon Tlumang (Chin Emmanuel Baptist, Houston TX) | _____ | _____ |

Other members: Tim Amor (Beatrice, NE); Karen Mascho (Joy, Oklahoma City, OK); Alberto Parchmont (Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena, TX); Tonya Ramer Wenger (First, Hutchinson, KS)

Ministerial Leadership Commission (3 year term)

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|------------|--|-------|-------|
| (1) (2024) | *Cynthia Neufeld Smith (Southern Hills, Topeka KS) | _____ | _____ |
| (2) (2024) | *Elizabeth Melendez (Houston, TX) | _____ | _____ |

Other members: Rachel Epp Miller (San Antonio, TX); Rachel Ringenberg Miller (Shalom, Newton, KS); Todd Schlosser (Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita, KS); Dave Stevens (Hope, Wichita, KS);

Resource Commission (3 year term)

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|------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| (1) (2024) | **Melissa Atchison (Manhattan, KS) | _____ | _____ |
| (2) (2024) | **Derek King (Eden, Moundridge, KS) | _____ | _____ |

Other members: Valerie Klaassen (Grace Hill, Whitewater KS); Christina Litwiller (Salina, KS); Graciela Tijerina (Igl. Menonita Casa Betania); Steve Wilcox (First, Halstead)

Stewardship Commission (3 year term)

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|------------|---|-------|-------|
| (1) (2024) | **Pauline Buller (First, Hutchison, KS) | _____ | _____ |
| (2) (2024) | *Cleo Koop (Tabor, Newton, KS) | _____ | _____ |
| (3) (2023) | +Don Schmidt (First, Newton, KS) | _____ | _____ |

Other members: Darlene Powers (Faith, Newton, KS); Dick Koontz (Bethel College, North Newton, KS); Matt Lehman Wiens (Lorraine Ave, Wichita, KS)

NOMINEE'S INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Willmar Harder, Pastor. *I have served as a pastor within the Western District Conference for at least 20 years. During those years I have served on several WDC committees and commissions. If elected to this position, this will be my second term serving on the Executive Board.*

Ben Woodward-Breckbill, Pastor. *I represent a new generation of pastors in WDC, and I bring commitments that seek to honor and further the Anabaptist tradition of costly peacemaking. One commitment is a response to sexual abuse in the church that both takes seriously power dynamics, and also requires a re-examination of our understanding of sex and gender. Another commitment is to undo the damage racism has done to our church, by seeking justice and intercultural adaptation. I still imagine a place for the church in this world -always invited back to following Jesus, and to his prayer: "God's will be done."*

Dave Wiebe, High School math teacher. *I've served on various committees and on the church board at First Mennonite many times over the years, but I've also attended many WDC assemblies and GC/MCUSA conventions as a delegate. I have appreciated the opportunity to connect with the broader Mennonite church body. I have also been a part of several international church communities while serving overseas both in India and Africa.*

GIFTS DISCERNMENT

Alberto Parchmont, Pastor. *My contribution consists in discovering people with gifts and talents, for the various committees in the WDC, inviting them to participate in order that they serve in the position that they can exercise.*

Rachel Voth Schrag, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Arlington. *I am a social worker, researcher, and educator, with particular experience and expertise in community-based services supporting survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence. I am a graduate of Bethel College (BSW) and Washington University in St. Louis (MSW, PhD), and have been a member or participant in several WDC congregations at various points in my life. I am also a parent to two young children, Jonah and Hannah, and married to Samuel, who serves as pastor in our congregation.*

CHURCH PLANTING COMMISSION

Caleb Yoder, Pastor. *I have previously lived in Honduras and Ecuador and have a large place in my heart for the cultural diversity of the church, and an interest in new emerging ministries in our conference.*

Simon Tlumang, Pastor. *No information available.*

MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

Elizabeth Melendez, Retired ESL teacher. *I've been a Mennonite since I was 17 years old, and have attended Houston Menn Church (HMC) for over 17 years. I lived in Puerto Rico before moving to the United States. I've traveled around the world mostly through Mennonite World Conference. I support congregational care for the pastor/family and church members. I love to learn about the Scriptures for through it we learn about God and his will for humankind. I have taught children at HMC. I love worship, prayer and communion meals. I believe in church training that prepares us for peace and justice.*

Cynthia Neufeld Smith, First Presbyterian Church organist. *I served as co-pastor for 30 years at Southern Hills Mennonite Church. The Ministerial Committee and my mentor, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, helped me identify and affirm my gifts when I began. Our I-70 pastor peer group was formative as we shared joys and wrestled with challenges. My participation on the Voices Together hymnal team provided new experiences in group processing, as well as in dealing with some of the same hard issues that we face in congregations. I am now observing different*

models of leadership and practice in the Presbyterian Church. I look forward to supporting and nurturing healthy pastors and congregations.

RESOURCE COMMISSION

Melissa Atchison, Homemaker, and exploring ministry possibilities. *I have been involved in faith formation for over twenty years, including several wonderful weeks at Camp Mennoscah and all ages of Sunday School classes. I'm an avid patron of our WDC Resource Library. I graduated from AMBS with an MDiv in 2020.*

Derek King, Pastor. *I have been in lots of situations looking for resources for a sermon, Bible study, or youth group event and have been grateful for support from the Conference. So, I love being able to work with this Commission to discern how to support congregations as they live and share God's kingdom in their contexts.*

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Pauline Buller, Retired. *Experience in fund development. Strong connection to the mission of WDC and to the churches of WDC through previously held positions with the conference.*

Cleo Koop, Semi-retired. *I keep busy managing house rental properties I own and doing small construction work. The past 6 years I have been the Disaster Management Program Director at Hesston College. Prior to this I was a Pastor for 24 years in the WDC, serving Hoffnungsau Mennonite (Inman), First Mennonite (Halstead), First Mennonite (Newton). Prior to these experiences I farmed and had a construction business for 12 years.*

Don Schmidt, Retired. *I view the work of WDC as an extension of our congregation's ministries. Their support, in planting churches, pastoral searches and evaluations, providing educational resources, processing issues our churches experience and much more is important for our congregations. With God's help, I look forward to working with others in finding ways to support this work. This involves encouraging individuals to use their gifts of time, talent and treasure for doing Christian service.*