

Annual Report for Western District Conference Annual Assembly 2022
Kansas Mennonite Disaster Service Unit 2021/2022
Submitted by Cleo Koop WDC representative to Kansas MDS Unit

During 2021 we had a quiet year regarding any natural disasters in our state. During this time the Kansas MDS Unit Board did a revision of our ByLaws. One of the significant changes is having one Board representative from each of the six Anabaptist Constituency groups in the state. The six Anabaptist groups are: Beachy Amish Mennonite Churches, Conservative Mennonite Conference, Mennonite Brethren Southern District, Midwest Regional Brethren in Christ, South Central Mennonite Conference and Western District Mennonite Conference. In addition to these 6 representatives there can be up to 6 at large members, with a focus on geographical diversity and various gifts. Another change is having the Kansas MDS Board be able to make changes to the Bylaws without bringing the issues to the entire constituency.

In September 2021 the Kansas MDS Board began exploring the purchase of a cabinet shop with the purpose of energizing the local base and producing cabinets for Binational MDS projects. Binational MDS builds approximately 75 new homes each year. In February of 2022 the Kansas MDS Unit purchased a cabinet shop in Goessel Kansas from Rod Abrahams owner of Creative Woods. The Cabinet Shop is a Kansas MDS project. In June of 2022 we began producing kitchen cabinets for Binational MDS projects. The Unit leadership invites volunteers who want to help MDS in this way. If interested contact Cleo Koop at 316-282-0797,

In February of 2022 the Kansas MDS Unit sponsored an MDS Learning and Service trip to McAllen Texas. There were 15 participants. The group stopped in San Antonio Texas and visited San Antonio Mennonite church and heard about their work with asylum seeking immigrants. The group worked in the McAllen area responding to flooding from 2018. On Wednesday afternoon the group participated in a learning experience about border land issues.

On March 5 2022 The Cottonwood Complex Fire burned approximately 12,000 acres in Reno and Harvey counties in Kansas. The cause of the fire was an unattended brush fire. Wind speeds of 40-50 mph with 3 wind directional changes made the fire very volatile. There were 35 homes, 92 out buildings and 110 vehicles destroyed. The Kansas MDS Unit responded by completing cleanup of 19 homes and numerous car removals. There were 49 volunteers with 732 person hours. The Kansas MDS Unit expenses were \$5251 for this project.

On April 29, 2022, an EF-3 tornado struck Andover Kansas, staying on the ground for 21 minutes, carving a path of destruction 12.75 miles long. The tornado had a maximum width of 440 yards and generated estimated wind speed up to 165 mph. There were approximately 1,074 building damaged with at least 300-400 destroyed. The Kansas MDS Unit responded by cleaning up trees, limbs, debris and fencing from May 2-13. We completed 9 jobs, there were a total of 20 volunteers with 280 person hours. Our total expenditures were \$5611.51. After a two week break to evaluate the storm damage Kansas MDS Unit will be going back to Andover on June 7 to work on approximately 6-7 additional tree removal jobs.