

**WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE Ballot, July 2022**

**NUMBER OF VOTES \_\_\_\_\_**

(\* = 1<sup>st</sup> term; \*\*= 2<sup>nd</sup> term; +=filling an unexpired term)

**I affirm the whole ballot. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Moderator-Elect** (2 year term)

(2024) \_\_\_\_\_

**YES    NO**

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**Secretary** (2 year term)

(2024) \* Wendy Funk Schrag (First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS)\_

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**Executive Board** (3 year term)

(2025) \*Aurora Parchmont (Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena, TX)

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(2025) \*\*Lee Lever (Austin Mennonite Church, Austin, TX)

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Continuing members: Delon Martens, Moderator (First, Hutchinson, KS); Dave Wiebe (First, Newton, KS); Lesther Caceros (Iglesia Menonita Monte Horeb, Dallas, TX); Willmar Harder (Buhler MC, Buhler, KS); Vicki Penner (Southern Hills, Topeka, KS); Ben Woodward-Breckbill (Shalom, Newton, KS)

**Gifts Discernment Committee** (3 year term)

(2025) \*\* Eric Jantzen, (Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, KS)\_

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(2025) \*\* Dwight Mueller (First Mennonite Church, Halstead, KS)

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Continuing members: Eldon Epp (Lorraine Ave, Wichita, KS); Ardie Goering (Bethel College Mennonite, North Newton, KS); Alberto Parchmont, (Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena, TX), Rachel Voth Schrag, (Peace, Dallas, TX)

**Church Planting Commission** (3 year term)

(2025) \*\* Tim Amor (Summit Street Church, Beatrice, NE)

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(2025) \*\* Alberto Parchmont (Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena, TX)

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(2024) + Adela Gutiérrez (Iglesia Luz del Evangelio, Dallas, TX)

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(2023) +Kathryn Bauchelle (Houston Mennonite Church, Houston, TX)

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Continuing members: Caleb Yoder (Alexanderwohl, Goessel, KS) ; Karen Mascho (Joy, Oklahoma City, OK)

**Ministerial Leadership Commission** (3 year term)

(2025) \*Samuel Voth Schrag (Peace Mennonite, Dallas TX)

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(2025) \*Micah Hurst (New Creation Fellowship Church, Newton , KS)

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Continuing members: Rachel Epp Miller (Austin Mennonite, Austin, TX); Todd Schlosser (Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita, KS); Cynthia Neufeld Smith (Southern Hills, Topeka, KS); Elizabeth Melendez (Houston Mennonite, Houston, TX)

**Resource Commission** (3 year term)

(2025) \*Debbie Goossen (First Mennonite Church, Beatrice, NE)

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(2025) \*\*Stephen Wilcox (First Mennonite Church, Halstead, KS)

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Continuing members: Derek King (Eden, Moundridge, KS); Christina Litwiller (Salina, KS); Graciela Tijerina (Casa Betania); Melissa Atchison (Manhattan Mennonite, Manhattan, KS)

**Stewardship Commission** (3 year term)

(2025) \*Sarah Balzer (Buhler Mennonite Church, Buhler,KS)

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(2025) \*\*Dick Koontz (Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS)

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(2023) +Jeanette Stucky (Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita, KS)

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Other members: Cleo Koop (Tabor, Newton, KS); Matt Lehman Wiens (Lorraine Ave, Wichita, KS); Pauline Buller (First, Hutchinson, KS)

## **DESCRIPTION OF NOMINEES**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Lee Lever**, Transitional Pastor at Houston Mennonite Church. *I have served four WDC congregations located in Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas and have served as a WDC associate conference minister. I have a good knowledge of the character and makeup of WDC. I appreciate the diversity of WDC and am able to relate to the variety of WDC constituents. Western District Conference has excellent, gifted staff members and I am grateful for their gifts and service to WDC churches.*

**Aurora Parchmont**, Co-pastor of Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero and church planter for Casa de Restauración, Houston, TX. *I am wanting to learn more about the work of Western District Conference and be of help to the needs of the conference.*

**Wendy Funk Schrag**, Vice President State Government Affairs for Fresenius Medical Care. *Some years ago I served as secretary of WDC and I enjoyed being part of the wider conference of churches. I'm looking forward to seeing where the broader church is going in our hopefully soon to be post-COVID times.*

### **GIFTS DISCERNMENT**

**Eric Jantzen**, Kitchen Manager. *I have served in many roles in my congregation. This experience should help in identifying and aligning the talents of WDC members with the needs of the conference.*

**Dwight Mueller**, Donor Relations with Mennonite Mission Network. *I have had the privilege of connecting with many people through my current job at Mission Network and through the many service opportunities available in the Mennonite world. This has been helpful for me as we discern good fits for volunteer positions within WDC.*

### **CHURCH PLANTING COMMISSION**

**Adela Gutiérrez**, Deaconess of the Church and House Cleaner. *In the little experience that I have in walking with God, the great need that I see is that there really be men and women who really want to work in God's work, and who really feel the love and need of the lost. There are many ways to be lost at this time. Buildings are not needed, men and women are needed who really want to do the work of God, free the captives, fix what Christ did here on earth and that is really what the church is.*

**Tim Amor**, Pastor at Summit Street Church, Beatrice, NE. *I have served 7 years at Summit Street Church as a pastor.*

**Kathryn Bauchelle**, Consultant. *Kathryn has a passion for clear communication and for vibrant and healthy community. She believes that it's more important than ever that Christians live out their values and stand vocally in opposition to injustice, racism, anti-science, and misrepresentation of the radical love of Jesus for the world and every person in it. Her volunteerism at Houston Mennonite Church over the last decade has included creating a new website, coordinating the church Facebook page, running a congregational Fair Trade store, and helping with the annual Peace Sale (a Relief Sale reimaged for our specific Houston environment).*

**Alberto Parchmont**, Pastor at Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Houston, TX. *I have experience in service to others; it is wonderful to be of help to others. My perspectives go beyond being a blessing to others and inviting others to faith in Jesus Christ.*

### **MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP COMMISSION**

**Samuel Voth Schrag**, Pastor at Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas, TX. *I've served as a pastor for 15 years, and previously on the Ministerial Leadership Team for Illinois Mennonite Conference, experience which I think will serve the conference well. I look forward to caring for the pastors and congregations of WDC.*

**Micah Hurst**, Campus Pastor at Hesston College. *I in my fourth year as Campus Pastor at Hesston College and have been in youth and young adult ministry since 2002, working as the youth pastor at Trissel Mennonite Church (VA), Shalom (VA), and Weavers Mennonite Church (VA), as well as a number of Christian camps and youth ministry organizations both in the USA and Australia. My focus has been on developing young people for ministry and helping the church make room for young people I am passionate about having young people as the church of now and not just the church of tomorrow and improving child protection policies.*

### **RESOURCE COMMISSION**

**Debbie Goossen**, School Librarian. *I have a strong passion for the Resource Commission of the WDC and have enjoyed many years of teaching VBS and Sunday School and leading our Wednesday evening Peace Club. I have also served as chairman of our Education Council and been a member of our Library Committee. For the past 25 years, I have been a pre-k through 12th grade school librarian and understand the importance of the WDC Resource Library.*

**Stephen K. Wilcox**, Pastor at First Mennonite Church, Halstead, KS. *I have 5 years of pastoral experience. I enjoy looking for and finding a wide variety of resources for different needs that arise for myself or others.*

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION**

**Dick Koontz**, Retired. *I worked as the Financial Aid Director at Bethel College, college customer service and marketing for Chase Bank and Sallie Mae, realtor in Newton, Kansas.*

**Jeanette R Stucky**, CPA. *I have previously served on the Stewardship Commission and have a background in accounting.*

**Sarah Balzer**, Associate Community Organizer, Justice Matters. *Through my work, I organize people of faith to make an impact on the Lawrence-Douglas County community. Justice Matters has successfully petitioned local decision-makers to allocate \$10 million towards affordable housing, blocked an unnecessary \$30 million expansion of our county jail, and has recently received commitments to using a proven model called Built for Zero to reach functional zero homelessness in Lawrence. In this way, I get to see people of faith sharing God's love & abundance in a very tangible way. I've felt re-energized in my faith, and feel a lot of hope at a time when so many of my peers struggle to connect to the church and are feeling a lot of despair. I am excited to deepen my involvement with the Mennonite church and with WDC, and look forward to bringing my perspective as a young Mennonite in a quickly-changing world. Attends Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence, KS.*