



TO: WDC Assembly 2023 Registrants

The Assembly weekend will soon be here, just a few more days until we gather together at Tabor Mennonite Church or virtually! The Assembly theme, "Holy / Wholly Listening" will focus around Isaiah 51: 1-8 & Numbers 27: 1-11.

[Tabor Mennonite Church](#): 891 Chisholm Trail Rd, Newton, KS 67114

Link to WDC Assembly website: <https://mennowdc.org/2023-wdc-annual-assembly/>

Delegate Session Materials: <https://mennowdc.org/2023-assembly-delegate-information/>

Please take note, that when you enter Western District Conference (Mennonite Church USA) Annual Assembly at Tabor Mennonite Church, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur. Link to full notice:

<https://mennowdc.org/notice-regarding-audio-video-recording-and-or-photography-of-worship-events-2/>

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

If you don't feel well, consider staying home or wear a facemask. No medical professionals on site. In case of emergency, call 911. The nearest urgent care & hospital is located at 600 Medical Center Dr, Newton, KS 67114



WDC Assembly Webpage

SCHEDULE

Friday, August 11 **Prayer Room** - Available throughout Assembly, *Location: Library*

Registration, Lobby:

3:30-5:30pm For ministers & exhibitors only

5:30-7 pm For everyone

5:30 pm Pastor Appreciation Dinner for Ministers' Families only**
(*WDC staff, keynotes, & exhibitors also invited) -Hospitality Hall

7:00 pm Worship, Sanctuary
Nathan Koontz, preaching & communion

Saturday, August 12

Prayer Room - Available throughout Assembly, *Location: Library*

7:30 am Continental Breakfast with Ministry Partners, Hospitality Hall

8:00 am Registration for those arriving Saturday

8:30 am Worship & Morning Prayer, Hospitality Hall

9:00 am Break, Hospitality Hall

9:30 am Delegate Track, Hospitality Hall

9:30 am Intergenerational Track, Downstairs Fellowship Hall

11:30 am Lunch, Hospitality Hall

1:00 pm Delegate Track, Hospitality Hall

1:00 pm Intergenerational Track, Downstairs Fellowship Hall

2:30 pm Break, Hospitality Hall

3:15 pm Workshops (*See list of locations*)

4:15-5:30 pm Fellowship Time, Hospitality Hall

Make a new friend through service and fun (Suggested activities – tie MCC comforters, watch ministry partner videos in sanctuary, put together MCC Returning Citizens Kits, coloring pages, puzzles)

5:30 pm Supper BBQ, Tabor Park (*across the road*)

MennoGrass Concert, Tabor Park (*across the road*)

6:00 pm Michelle & Friends

6:30 pm Hopeful Blues

7:30 pm Flannelbacks

Sunday, August 13

9:30 am Worship, Sanctuary
Jes Stoltzfus Buller, preaching

10:45 am Workshops (*See list of locations*)

* **Connecting Virtually**: **Links for workshops are below.** (Delegates will receive the Zoom link for the delegate session in a separate email.)

Worship is available to all on YouTube Live at the times listed below. To connect, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/@westerndistrictconference4279/streams>

- Friday, Aug 11 at 7pm
- Saturday, Aug 12 at 8:30am
- Sunday, Aug 13 at 9:30am

WORKSHOPS -

Virtual -Saturday, Aug 12 - 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

1) AMBS Practical Leadership Training: An Intro to Practices and Principles for Effective Boards – Luis Tapia Rubio and Michael Danner
Hybrid - Spanish interpretation provided

Boards are unique and continually adjust to changes — including their members. The organizations they support are also unique, so there is not one model or set of rules for all boards to follow. Instead, following guiding principles is what brings the best outcomes. Boards that create a context for the healthy functioning of their organizations are essential as we face the challenges of leadership today.

Location: Sanctuary

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81189183908?pwd=SW9XQW9tb1NOWm5xS3p3dTdqREo5dz09>

Meeting ID: 811 8918 3908 Passcode: 387283

Virtual - Sunday, Aug 13 - 10:45 - 11:45 am

1) Camp Mennoscah: Where Need Meets Vision -
Host: Camp Mennoscah Staff - In English only

Come see what's happening at camp and share what's happened!

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86920891765?pwd=RGlzVEhOeUY3TkJORzJFdVFJNWVEZz09>

ID 869 2089 1765 Passcode: Mennoscah

2) Healthy Conflict Transformation Amid Polarization

- Jes Stoltzfus Buller - **Hybrid**, Spanish Interpretation Provided

The world around us models extremely unhealthy ways of talking to (or yelling at) one another when it comes to conflictive issues. We say we are peacemakers, but when it comes to extended family gatherings and conversations on social media, it doesn't always look that way. We need to practice. There is a holy energy that comes when we work at conflict in constructive ways. Engaging conflict rather than running from it represents a reimagining of ministry — a completely different way to do church. Healthy practices for engaging with people with whom we disagree are fundamental skills that pastors and leaders need today.

In this workshop you will...

- Gain tools for understanding and approaching interpersonal and congregational conflict in the current context of polarization and division
- Study biblical texts for insights into tools for dialogue and conflict management
- Grow skills while learning principles and best practices for moving towards conflict and addressing divisive issues through healthy dialogue
- Imagine possibilities for congregations and communities to learn and practice healthy dialogue for conflict management

Location: Sanctuary

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89630908781?pwd=WXJKdEt6SXBIZ05SY1IHcHVkcEY1UT09>

Meeting ID: 896 3090 8781 Passcode: 834696

In-Person - Saturday, Aug 12 - 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

1) Active-Assertive Listening – Fernando Pérez & Rebeca González
English Interpretation provided

The need to assume a positive attitude in the encounter with the other despite the differences that are a challenge today, considering the social polarization that exists in our families and in faith communities. With the help of one of the psychotherapeutic trends such as Logotherapy we will present, from our point of view, some proposals of active-assertive listening, including the Socratic method.

Location: Classroom 13/14

2) AMBS Practical Leadership Training: An Intro to Practices and Principles for Effective Boards – Luis Tapia Rubio and Michael Danner –
Spanish Interpretation provided - Hybrid

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Location: Sanctuary

3) The Color of Our Conference – WDC Anti-Racism Audit Team
-No Interpretation Available

Engage in conversation about the work of the Western District Conference Anti-Racism Audit Team. See the current face of WDC, hear the voices of BIPOC leaders in the conference, and reflect on how you can respond in the Conference and in your community.

Location: Classroom 16

4) Give Thanks and Encourage One Another: A Conversation about WDC's Listening Process - Wendy Funk Schrag, Doug Penner and Heidi Regier Kreider
– No Interpretation Available

The WDC Listening Process invites each congregation to host an in-person visit from a WDC listening team during the coming year. Listening visits will be an opportunity for your congregation to have conversation about what is lifegiving for your church community, hopes for the future of your congregation, and what connections and resources from WDC would be helpful to empower your congregation's ministry. In this seminar, members of the listening process planning team will share about the purpose and plans for the process, why it is happening now, and how you can participate!

Location: Conference Room

5) Being Church: Thriving and Planting ... – Sandra Montes-Martinez
-Bilingual Workshop

An interactive conversation to encourage church leaders to make intentional and meaningful connections that impact their communities and fulfill their mission with renewed energy and vision. Participants will engage in group discussions exchanging ideas and fostering collaborations. We will talk about strategic planning, leadership development, community outreach, effective communication, and best practices in missional ministry.

Location: Classroom 17

6) Wilmer to Wilmer: Generational Faith Formation – Mitch Stutzman and Carol Duerksen - No Interpretation Available

We have more generations participating in church life than ever before. How do we nurture the faith walk of great grandpa Wilmer and preschool Wilmer in meaningful ways in our communities? Join us as we use the story of Zacchaeus to practice both multi-generational and inter-generational faith formation.

Location: Classroom 15

7) Women in Church Leadership - Lois Barrett & Dorothy Nickel Friesen

No interpretation available

Lois Barrett and Dorothy Nickel Friesen will tell highlights from their new book, *Proclaiming the Good News: Mennonite Women's Voices 1972-2006*, just published by the Institute of Mennonite Studies. Hear women's stories from the past decades, including the parts played by those in Western District Conference. Strategize ways the church can encourage women's leadership today.

Location: Hospitality Hall

8) Creating Relationships and Understanding in Gaza - Bob Atchison and Tareq Abuhailima - No interpretation available

MennoPIN's Gaza Twinning Initiative encourages congregations to engage in relationships with groups in Gaza which include prayer, listening, support and advocacy to address poverty, violence and human rights abuses. Manhattan Mennonite Church and Youth Vision Society (YVS) was the first twinning partnership. Relationships and projects with Tareq Abuhailima of YVS developed into a graduate assistantship at Bluffton University where he co-directs *Lion and the Lamb*. The seminar offers experiences growing up in Gaza under the Israeli blockade, wars and the Twinning relationship with Manhattan Mennonite Church.

Location: Classroom 11

In-Person: Sunday, August 13 - 10:45 am - 11:45 am

1) Camp Mennoscah: Where Need Meets Vision - Tammy Duvanel Unruh

No Interpretation provided

Come see what's happening at camp and share what's happened!

Location: Conference Room

2) Healthy Conflict Transformation Amid Polarization - Jes Stoltzfus Buller
Spanish interpretation provided - Hybrid

The world around us models extremely unhealthy ways of talking to (or yelling at) one another when it comes to conflictive issues. We say we are peacemakers, but when it comes to extended family gatherings and conversations on social media, it doesn't always look that way. We need to practice. There is a holy energy that comes when we work at conflict in constructive ways. Engaging conflict rather than running from it represents a reimagining of ministry — a completely different way to do church. Healthy practices for engaging with people with whom we disagree are fundamental skills that pastors and leaders need today.

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Location: Sanctuary

~~**CANCELLED 3) Healthy Congregational Leadership in Times of Transition**~~

~~————— - Michael Danner - No interpretation provided~~

~~————— What are the skills that church board members and other congregational leaders need during times of pastoral transition?~~

~~————— **Location: Hospitality Hall**~~

4) Creating Relationships and Understanding in Gaza

- Bob Atchison and Tareq Abuhailima - No Interpretation provided

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Location: Classroom 13/14

Assembly Hotel for those with Reservations:

Comfort Inn & Suites
1205 E 1st St, Newton, KS 67114

Home stay Hosts & Guests:

Please meet in the Conference Room right after worship

MINI SERVICE PROJECTS:Tying Comforters for MCC

- No experience necessary
- You're welcome to bring your favorite thimble & needles
- Thread, comforters, frames & training provided

MCC Returning Citizen Care Kits

3 pairs of underwear (boxer briefs preferred)*
1 bottle of lotion (minimum 12 oz.)
1 bottle of shampoo (minimum 12 oz.)
1 large bar of soap (minimum 4 oz.)
1 tube of toothpaste (minimum 6 oz.)
1 toothbrush in package
1 deodorant (minimum 2.25 oz.)
3 pairs of crew socks*
3 crewneck t-shirts (any color)*
1 disposable razor
1 adult-sized new backpack

*Note: Clothing items are accepted in the following men's sizes: L, XL, 2XL and 3XL.
Please choose one of these sizes and purchase underwear, socks and t-shirts in the same size.

We welcome all items for this kit. MCC is most in need of underwear and t shirts. Consider bringing these clothing items to Assembly. Thanks!

-To save on plastic waste and to keep you hydrated, please bring a water bottle or mug along with you. Water will be provided.

-Parents bringing youth or kids, be sure to bring along your signed parental consent form to Assembly check-in for each child or youth if you haven't turned one in already.