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WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES

Of the One Hundred and Seventeenth
Annual Session of the
Western District Conference
of
Mennonite Church USA

August 8-9, 2025
Hybrid (Onsite & Virtual Options)

2025 WDC Delegate Assembly Minutes (DRAFT)

Saturday, August 9, 2025 (8:00-10:00 a.m. and 1:00-2:00 p.m.)

Hesston Mennonite Church - Hesston, KS

* = Related materials posted at <https://mennowdc.org/2025-assembly-delegate-information/>

Session 1 (8:00-10:00 am): Call to order

Eric Buller, moderator, called the delegate session to order at 8:05 a.m., provided some instructions for the sessions and opened in prayer.

Introductions at tables – delegates introduced themselves at their tables.

Credentials Committee report – Violeta Ajquejay Suastegui presented the credentials committee report. WDC has 52 member congregations, 4 certified church plants. Representation by a majority of the congregations belonging to the conference constitutes a quorum, and 44 churches and church plants are represented today in person or by zoom. In 2025, WDC churches and church plants reported a total membership of 6,347 members with 232 eligible votes. There are 113 delegates present today in person or by zoom representing 213 votes.

Approve agenda – Eric asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda by Delon Martens, second by Dale Schrag. Motion approved.

Roll call of WDC congregations - Heidi Regier Kreider and Eric read the names of each WDC congregation and church plant with a photo of the church and location on a map on the visual screen.

Introduction of new church plant: Iglesia Cristo La Roca, Lamesa, TX* - Church planters Maria De La Luz Mendoza and Juan Antonio Mendoza were introduced, and Sandra Montes Martinez welcomed the church to WDC as a new church plant.

Welcome to ministry partners and guests – Eric welcomed WDC institutional partner organizations and other individual guests.

Approval of Minutes of 2024 WDC Delegate Assembly* - Wendy Funk Schrag, secretary, provided a summary of the minutes. A name spelling was pointed out that needs to be corrected.

Motion by Larry Dixon, Shalom Mennonite and second by Em Kerb, Shalom Mennonite to accept the minutes with the name spelling correction. Motion approved.

State of the Conference report - Heidi discussed ways churches in WDC are seeking to be faithful. She started with the challenges occurring now for just responses to immigration/ICE issues. WDC has responded by providing resources and trainings. She acknowledged LGBTQ people are also feeling unsafe. She reminded us of the MC USA repentance and transformation resolution to provide support and inclusion to LGBTQ persons. She described the service with John Linscheid to express apology for WDC's past removal of his credential. Heidi noted that pastoral transitions are now occurring in about a dozen of WDC congregations and expressed thanks for interim and transitional pastors and those responding to callings to pastor. She described ways WDC resources pastors. The WDC listening process has concluded its first phase with 33 congregational visits across the conference. A Lilly Endowment Inc.

grant has allowed WDC to start a 5 year Kids Meet Christ (KMC) program. WDC utilized the Lead for Change program at the Kansas Leadership Center with a team that focused on youth ministry across WDC. Regional north and south youth gatherings are planned as one of the recommendations from the team sent to the KLC training.

Staff updates and transitions – Heidi reported the following staff updates and transitions. Grace Parker Sutter has joined WDC as the KMC Program Director. Jennie Wintermote, Resource Library Director, is serving as KMC Administrative Assistant in addition to her current role as the resource librarian. Absalon Calix has joined WDC to serve as KMC Event & Social Media coordinator based in Texas. Rebeca González and Fernando Pérez are the new Hispanic Transitional Ministry Resource Co-Facilitators based in Dallas. Mike Lamb, Fund Development Coordinator, will conclude his work after this assembly. Heidi thanked him for the planned giving, grant writing, and assistance with Stewardship Commission he has provided. Cleo Koop, Shari Scheffler, Heidi and Eric thanked him for his work with WDC and provided a parting gift.

Listening Process report* and celebration – Heidi and Wendy provided a brief review of the listening process, recognized the planning team and listening visit volunteers, and Eric provided a prayer of thanks.

Reports from Resource, Ministerial Leadership, and Church Planting Commission (also see printed reports*)

Resource Commission: Debbie Goossen, chair, provided an update of the Commission's activities which have been many and fun due to the launch of the KMC program. She expressed thanks for the new availability of audio books in the WDC resource library. She reminded delegates that there are Mustard Seed grants available for up to \$500 per congregation, and she provided some suggestions for how they have been used. The Commission is working on the north and south regional youth gatherings. Norma Duerksen is compiling YouTube videos of sermons for WDC churches to use. The commission will be offering a webinar on September 30 on worship resources from the Voices Together hymnal. Debbie introduced members of the commission.

Ministerial Leadership Commission: Cynthia Neufeld Smith, chair, shared a scripture of hope from Romans. She introduced the members of the commission. The commission focuses on supporting the WDC pastors and ministers. She described the various ways the commission provides support, including ministerial credentialing and financial support. This year, \$6,600 was provided to pastors for seminary studies, sabbatical expenses, and counseling. The commission offers pastoral retreats and support for pastors with their personal health and healthy boundaries. Cynthia described the collaboration service in May with the executive board and Peace Mennonite Church in Lawrence to offer apology and healing to John Linscheid whose ministry was terminated when he came out as gay in 1984.

Church Planting Commission: Sandra Montes-Martinez, Associate Conference Minister, introduced the members of the commission. She described the past year as spirit-led growth. The focus is to encourage and provide companionship to new congregations. Most of them are Hispanic including many immigrants. Many are undocumented, and she asked for continued prayers for our new church plant congregations. A cross-cultural learning tour to Guatemala and Houston was held with the goal of learning from them and building relationships. She described the strengths of the Guatemala and Houston congregations. She listed the current church plant congregations. She invited everyone to pray for the

church plant congregations. She thanked Larry Dixon as he concludes his term as chair of the church plant commission.

Eric provided a word of thanks to the Commissions and acknowledged all the ministries occurring through them.

Financial Reports: Fiscal year Feb 1, 2024 - Jan 31, 2025* Fiscal year starting Feb 1, 2025 to date* - Shari Scheffler, Business Manager, challenged the delegates to think about the ministry behind the numbers and how the numbers can contribute to the WDC story. She provided some history of how she and Cleo Koop, Stewardship Commission chair, worked to understand the budget complexity and improve management. Changes have been made gradually over the past two years. She described the four funds that fund the budget (1) General fund/general operating budget, (2) revolving fund, (3) restricted fund, and (4) general plant fund.

Shari stated the audit was conducted last fall and found WDC to be in line with generally accepted accounting principles and a copy of the report is available to WDC members upon request.

Shari reviewed the balance sheet for 2025. Net worth is \$3,348,001.19 which is an increase from last year of over \$830,000. The Lilly Endowment Inc. grant was a large part of the net worth increase. She provided highlights of the general fund income statement, reviewing where our income comes from and the expenses.

Shari provided highlights of the 2025 Q1 and Q2 income statements. We are ahead almost \$20,000 on giving, and she thanked the delegates for the increase in giving.

Stewardship Commission report, presentation of budget recommendation* for new fiscal year (October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026) and vision for fundraising initiative

Cleo Koop, Stewardship Commission Chair, thanked Shari for all her work on the budget. He encouraged delegates to read Shari's report which is mostly a narrative and provides a lot of good information. Cleo stated the commission is building on the listening process and conducted a day long retreat to look at a balcony view vision. He asked the delegates to ponder this question: Has the WDC vision set out by the various Commissions outpaced our capacity to fund this vision? Cleo described a one-page visual that showed trends of WDC contributions vs expenses from 2009 – 2024. The gap between contributions and expenses has increased over the years since 2015. Cleo anticipates a budget deficit of \$390,000 from contributions to expenses for this year's budget that has to be taken from other sources. Cleo advised this is not a sustainable trend. A possible way to help lessen the gap is to challenge per member giving as illustrated below.

2024 per member giving – With 6,278 members, contributions of \$336,791 represented an average of \$54 per member (\$4.50 per month)

2026 per member giving – With 6,347 members we would need an average of \$60/member (\$5 per month) to cover budgeted contributions of \$382,947

If the entire 2026 budget of \$733,979 was met with member contributions that would average \$116/member (\$9.64/month)

Sarah Balzer shared the vision of the Stewardship Commission. Approximately every 15 years in WDC's history there has been a large fundraising campaign which helped make up gaps between income and expenses. That is not an easy way to do things. The Commission's vision is a shift of philosophy from fundraising to a member ownership model. WDC is a support for and an extension of our congregations. She highlighted a strengthening of relationships between congregations with WDC and each other during the listening process. The vision has the following components:

Together We Tend: WDC congregational advocates who can communicate to each congregation the efforts of WDC

Rooted in Giving: Everyone investing in WDC vs large fundraisers, giving what they each are able

Seeds of Sustenance: invitation for a commitment to regular giving (monthly, quarterly, other)

Sarah emphasized that with this model, our conference ministers and staff are freed up to do the work of the ministry and spend less time focused on grant writing and fundraising.

Shari presented the budget for 2026 reviewing projected income, transfers and expenses. The 2026 budget is \$733,979. Shana Chivon Green, New Creation Fellowship Church, asked if there was public information about the budget of the grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. Shari responded she is currently working on something that will be publicly available soon. Shari expressed gratitude for an anonymous gift of a stock donation worth \$100,000 that will be designated for a permanent endowment for seminary scholarships.

Session 2 (1:00-2:00 pm):

Heidi shared that we had received a prayer request for Iglesia Luz del Evangelio following the tragic death of a young adult member in a car accident. Eric led in prayer for the family and the congregation.

Discussion and action on budget recommendation –

Shari responded to several questions about the budget she received between the two delegate sessions:

1. Is it not our tradition to use restricted funds to supplement the budget? – Shari emphasized it's not necessarily a bad practice as the funds help to support WDC ministries. We automatically use 10% of the bequest fund each year to help with expenses.
2. What is the relationship between congregational giving and individual giving to WDC? Shari emphasized that the monthly/regular giving model is not to be viewed as a competition but as a way to support WDC on a regular basis. Home congregation giving should come first. Congregation and individual giving to WDC is next.

Cleo gave some examples for why we are running a deficit: hiring the development position, transitioning into paying rent for the building, providing salary increases, increased insurance costs, and audit costs.

Heidi provided more background about the Hispanic transitional ministry resourcing position. The Hispanic congregations have pledged additional financial assistance for this.

Valerie Klaassen, Grace Hill Mennonite Church, asked how the vision outlined by the Stewardship Commission will be communicated to the churches. Shari replied the Stewardship Commission will be in charge of that. More work needs to be done on the vision before it's launched.

Norma Duerksen, First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro asked about the \$100,000 seminary scholarship endowment, and how the distribution of designated scholarship funds works. Shari explained how various funds come in, some designated for specific purposes and some not, and how funds are used to meet various program needs. Restricted funds designated for seminary scholarships are processed through the budget to reimburse seminary scholarship expenses paid out of the budget.

Linda Ewert, First Mennonite Church, expressed concern about the budget and the future of WDC based on what she's hearing about using so many restricted funds. She suggested the executive board and commissions should talk about this together and not operate so much in "silos" (as separate entities).

Em Kerbs, Shalom Mennonite Newton, encouraged us to think about how to get younger people involved in WDC, possibly something on social media like a YouTube series. Shari highlighted the value of the Kids Meet Christ program as a way to connect with churches on focusing on youth ministry and worship with adults.

Orlin Martens, Hoffnungsau Mennonite Church, wondered whether it would be more helpful to think about actual giving units instead of number of members. Shari stated WDC has membership numbers as provided by congregations, but could ask the congregations about giving units.

Motion by Galen Fast, Hope Mennonite Church, to approve the 2026 budget of \$733,979 currently before the delegates. Second by Em Kerbs, Shalom Mennonite. Motion passed.

Greetings from Mennonite Church USA – Michael Danner, Associate Executive Director for Church Vitality, provided greetings on behalf of Mennonite Church USA. He stated the work and ministries of WDC churches go beyond the boundaries, and he complimented the WDC staff. Follow Jesus '25 (Mennonite Church USA convention) just completed, and he thanked those from WDC who attended. He shared the four resolutions that were passed at the convention. We live in a time where robust Anabaptism witness is needed, and it may be difficult to find hope. Therefore, the theme of Mennonite Church USA for the next several years and the next convention is "Rising in Hope."

Information on process to implement MC USA Abuse Prevention & Accountability resource -

Heidi provided more information on the MC USA resource and how this resource will be used by WDC. Conferences are required to pay MC USA a safe church fee per active and retired minister, which has been included in our budget. Each conference is also required to appoint a Conference Safety Liaison (CSL). She outlined the duties and said this position will be recommended by the Ministerial Leadership Commission and appointed by the Executive Board. Information to congregations will be rolled out for congregations to use, as well as updated healthy boundaries training for ministers.

Report from Camp Mennoscah – Kenzie Intemann, board member, provided greetings from Camp Mennoscah. He shared a letter written by Olivia Bartel, executive director. A total of 350 campers and 180 volunteers participated in camp this summer. Six summer-long staffers provided leadership. Camp provides an out of the ordinary place for new ideas and relationships to sneak in. Olivia calls it a privilege to work at camp. Financially, Camp Mennoscah has operated in the red for the past several years due to

maintenance required at the Retreat Center. Still, there is great faith in the camp's mission, and prayers, volunteers and financial support are needed.

Thanksgiving for elected leaders completing service – Eric acknowledged those completing service on various commissions, committees and executive board for WDC. An applause of thanks was provided.

Gifts Discernment Committee report – Eric Jantzen, chair, provided the ballot for this year for open positions. He reminded the delegates there is a place on the website to nominate ourselves or others for open positions. He presented one additional name of Tim Hodge, Bethel College Mennonite Church, to the ballot as a nominee for Stewardship Commission. Eric stated there are openings on the Gifts Discernment Committee, and he asked for ideas for names.

Election of new leaders (see ballot)* - Eric reminded the delegates our bylaws allow for nominations from the floor. None were provided.

Motion by Valerie Klaassen, Grace Hill Mennonite Church and second by Gabriel Pennington, Southern Hills, to accept the ballot as presented. Motion carried.

Eric prayed for those appointed to serve WDC.

Open mic time –

Shari Scheffler acknowledged Linda Ewert's and others concerns about the budget and the courage it takes to express our concerns.

Rose Marie Zook Barber, Faith Mennonite in Newton, remarked about supporting our immigrant, BIPOC, and LGBTQ community. She asked what the status of the anti-discrimination racism task force is at this point.

Lyle Miller from Everence provided greetings and encouraged delegates to attend the ice cream break sponsored by Everence today. Everence provides grants to conferences, and he also announced they have a new staff member, Damaris López, who is relating to Hispanic people. He also introduced Hayden Goerzen. September 11 from 4 – 7 p.m. is a client appreciation event in North Newton. Everence also has a grant specifically for abuse prevention.

Linda Shelly, First Mennonite Church Newton, highlighted several publications from Mennonite Mission Network and an upcoming Anabaptist churches tour in Guatemala.

Michele Armster, executive director for Mennonite Central Committee Central States region and member of Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church publicized an upcoming webinar on "Know your rights." Details are on the MCC website. Watch for upcoming in person meetings as well.

Sandra Montes-Martinez responded to a question she has received several times today on why the church plants are all Hispanic churches. She said decisions are made on whether the churches are a good fit for WDC and whether WDC is a good fit for the church. She stated there are a number of factors involved in choosing church plants.

Announcement of 2026 WDC Annual Assembly Report from Resolutions Committee – Eric announced Iglesia Menonita Luz del Evangelio in Dallas, TX will host the Annual Assembly August 7-9, 2026.

Resolution of Thanks - Katherine Goerzen provided a resolution of thanks from the resolutions committee of herself, Berni Kaufman, and Gabriel Pennington for the many ways Hesston Mennonite Church and others have hosted and worked to provide all the needs of this year's annual assembly.

Motion by Sarah McKinnon, Buhler Mennonite Church and second by Rose Marie Zook Barber from Faith Mennonite Church to approve the resolution of thanks as presented. Motion approved.

Adjournment – Eric adjourned the delegate sessions at 2:08 p.m.

Motion by Caprice Becker, Manhattan and second by Lois Harder, Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church to adjourn. Motion carried.

-Wendy Funk Schrag, secretary

BALLOT

Executive Board

Bethany Padgett (Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas, TX)

Brandon Letona (Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena, TX)

Gifts Discernment Committee

To be determined...

Church Planting Commission

Andrew Dungan (Summit Street Church, Beatrice, NE)

Mario Rocha (Iglesia Cristiana Anabautista Casa de Paz, Guatemala)

Timothy Schrag (Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS)

Ministerial Leadership Commission

Elizabeth Melendez (Houston Mennonite, Houston, TX)

Samuel Voth Schrag (Peace Mennonite, Dallas, TX)

Resource Commission

Debbie Goossen (First Mennonite, Beatrice, NE)

Sara Mwagura (Rainbow Mennonite, Kansas City, KS)

Stewardship Commission

Sarah Balzer (Southern Hills, Topeka, KS)

Renetta Gooden (Hope Mennonite, Wichita, KS)

Tim Hodge (Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS)

END

2026 Budget

INCOME

	Budget 2026	Actual FYE 1/31/2025		Budget 2026	Actual FYE 1/31/2025
1 Contributions	\$ 377,447	\$ 331,916	9 Administrative fees from Funds 3 & 4	\$ 110,000	\$ 101,863
2 Honorariums/Reimbursements	9,500	9,348	10 Fund 4 - Bequest Fund	112,000	63,834
3 Interest/Market Adjustment	730	730	11 UNDESIGNATED money from Funds 3 & 4	\$ 222,000	\$ 165,697
4 UNDESIGNATED INCOME	\$ 387,677	\$ 341,994	12 Restricted - Other		\$ 21,891
5 Resource Library Contributions (RC 1-7)	500	525	13 Restricted - Transitional Min. Hispanic (EB 1)	25,000	-
6 Church Plant Contributions (CP 1-6)	5,000	4,350	14 Restricted - Subsidy for FDC staff (EB 1)	24,029	16,861
7 DESIGNATED INCOME	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,875	15 Restricted - Subsidy for rent (SC 2)	37,000	22,920
			16 Restricted - Translation & Interpretation (SC 3)	1,500	834
			17 Restricted - Resource Commission (RC 2)	4,000	4,000
			18 Restricted - Pauls' Bequest (CP 1-6)	9,773	1,000
			19 Restricted - Church Planting Fund (CP 1)	12,000	1,368
			20 Restricted - CPC Strategic Plan Fund (CP 2,3,4)	-	500
			21 Restricted - Seminary Scholarships (ML 2)	3,000	1,622
			22 Restricted - Dismantling Racism Grant (EB 6)	2,500	-
			23 DESIGNATED money from Fund 4	\$ 118,802	\$ 70,995
8 Total Income (new money)	\$ 393,177	\$ 346,869	24 Total Transfers (from Funds 3 & 4)	\$ 340,802	\$ 236,693
	53.6%	59.4%		46.4%	40.6%
			25 Grand Total Income + Transfers	\$ 733,979	\$ 583,562
				100.0%	100.0%

EXPENSES

	Budget 2026	Actual FYE 1/31/2025		Budget 2026	Actual FYE 1/31/2025
Executive Board (EB)			Stewardship Commission (SC)		
1 EB - Staff Salaries & Benefits*,** (I 13,14)	\$ 547,129	\$ 425,434	1 SC - Office Expenses	\$ 30,000	\$ 27,162
2 EB - Staff Travel, Food, Gas	18,000	9,538	2 SC - Office Rent* (I 15)	37,000	35,955.86
3 EB - Conf. Minister Sabbatical Fund***	100	1,000	3 SC - Translation/Interpretation*,** (I 16)	1,500	834
4 EB - CLC Expenses	1,250	790	4 SC - Conf. Car Expenses (ins, regis, maint)	6,700	6,430
5 EB - MC USA Delegates***	2,500	2,500	5 SC - Insurance (liability, property, etc)	11,000	10,560
6 EB - Dismantling Racism ** (I 22)	2,500	-	6 SC - Financial Audit	13,000	15,000
7 EB - Reference Council	1,000	-	7 SC - Commission Expenses	200	-
8 EB - Board Expenses	1,500	1,055	8 Stewardship Total	\$ 99,400	\$ 95,941
9 Executive Total	\$ 573,979	\$ 440,316			
Resource Commission (RC)			Church Planting Commission (CP)		
1 RC - Mennonite Archives	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	1 CP - Church Plant Support** (I 18,19)	\$ 36,000	\$ 25,000
2 RC - Library*,** (I 17)	6,000	6,989	2 CP - Auxiliary support person** (I 18,20)	-	500
3 RC - Music & Worship	100	-	3 CP - Retreat & Special events** (I 18,20)	2,500	6,500
4 RC - Youth North	500	705	4 CP - Resource Development** (I 18,20)	5,000	1,256
5 RC - Youth South	500	-	5 CP - Special Projects** (I 18)		
6 RC - Israel Palestine, Mennonite Action	200	-	6 CP - Commission Expenses** (I 18)	500	499
7 RC - Commission Expenses	100	-	7 Church Planting Total	\$ 44,000	\$ 33,756
8 Resource Total	\$ 10,400	\$ 10,694			
Ministerial Leadership Commission (ML)			Notations		
1 ML - Ministerial Credential	\$ 1,400	\$ 665	* WDC-designated funds help with this expense		
2 ML - Seminary Scholarships*,** (I 21)	3,000	1,991	** Donor-designated funds exist for helping with this expense		
3 ML - Meetings & workshops	1,500	127	*** Goes to building up restricted funds		
4 ML - Commission Expenses	300	71	FYE = Fiscal Year End		
5 Ministerial Leadership Total	\$ 6,200	\$ 2,855		Budget 2026	Actual 1/31/2025
			Grand Total Expenses	\$ 733,979	\$ 583,562

FYE 2026 Budget Notes

INCOME:

The income section of the budget is divided into two columns, with income to WDC Fund 1 listed on the left, and money transferred into Fund 1 from WDC Funds 3 & 4 on the right. The money in each column is further divided into undesignated and designated, because some money may only be used for a designated purpose.

Undesignated income.

I 1. General contributions from congregations and individuals. This reflects an increase of \$45,447 (13.7%) from the \$332,000 that was actually received in fiscal year ending 1/31/25.

I 2. Honorariums/Reimbursements. All money collected by WDC for sales, services or fees, and that have not already been designated to use for a specific purpose. Examples include staff honorariums, library income from book sales, and payments from other organizations for work done by WDC staff.

I 3. Interest/Market Adjustment. Income earned on the checking account balance each month.

Designated income. Occasional designated contributions received during the year from congregations and individuals specific for the library or church planting.

I 5. Contributions which must be used to offset library expenses.

I 6. Contributions which must be used to offset expenses related to church planting.

Undesignated money transferred into the General Fund from other WDC Funds.

I 9. Administrative fees. Undesignated money transferred into our operating fund (General Fund 1) from our Revolving Fund 3 and Restricted Fund 4 as an administrative charge for managing the funds. Beginning last fiscal year, the General Fund collects an annual administrative fee of 5% (paid on a quarterly basis) on the balances of the Revolving Fund and all accounts in the Restricted Fund except where prohibited by the foundational documents of donor-designated money.

I 10. Fund 4 – Bequest Fund. All undesignated estate gifts over \$500 are deposited into the WDC Bequest Fund account. Policy is that at the end of each fiscal year, 10% of the Bequest Fund balance is transferred into the WDC General Fund. If needed, up to 20% can be transferred to cover expenses with the approval of the Executive Board. This budget reflects an estimated 20% being used.

Designated money transferred into the General Fund from WDC Fund 4. This is from accounts in the Restricted Fund that have received contributions or grants for a designated purpose. These funds are moved into the budget to cover expenses for their specific designation.

I 12. Restricted – Other. This reflects designated money moved into the budget in FYE 1/31/2025 from accounts in Fund 4 that are not included in this budget recommendation.

I 13. Restricted – Transitional Min. Hispanic. Designated money from a Schowalter Grant and special fundraising that is transferred into the budget to help pay for salary and expenses to employ Hispanic Transitional Ministry Resource Co-Facilitators in a 2-year project to equip Hispanic congregations for congregational and pastoral transitions. These salary expenses are included in line EB 1.

- I 14.** Restricted – Subsidy for FDC staff. Money transferred in from the restricted account, Proceeds from Sale of 2500 Place, to cover the salary of a Fund Development Coordinator for three years beginning Sept. 2023. These salary expenses are included in line EB 1.
- I 15.** Restricted – Subsidy for rent. Money transferred in from the restricted account, Proceeds from Sale of 2500 Place, to fully subsidize the cost of office rent (including utilities). Rent expenses are included in line SC 2.
- I 16.** Restricted – Translation & Interpretation. Grant money and WDC-designated funds transferred in from accounts of the restricted fund to help with translation & interpretation costs shown in line SC 3.
- I 17.** Restricted – Resource Commission. Money transferred in from the Fund 4 account called Resource Commission Investment Fund. These funds help cover expenses related to the Conference Library (line RC 2).
- I 18.** Restricted – Pauls' Bequest. Money transferred in from the restricted Pauls' Bequest fund created with gifts from the three Pauls sisters' estate trusts in 2000 to help cover expenses related to church planting and outreach of churches within the Western District Conference (lines CP 1-6).
- I 19.** Restricted – Church Planting Fund. A WDC-designated account created from surplus funds and special offerings. Money from this fund may be used for church plant support expenses in line CP 1.
- I 20.** Restricted – CPC Strategic Plan Fund. Money from a Schowalter Grant which may be transferred into the budget to cover expenses related to church planting events, church plant support and resource development included in lines CP 2-4.
- I 21.** Restricted – Seminary Scholarships. The WDC Ministerial Leadership Commission has some accounts in Fund 4 designated for assisting with tuition of eligible seminary students.
- I 22.** Restricted – Dismantling Racism Grant. WDC plans to apply for a Schowalter Grant to support expenses in line EB 6.

EXPENSES:

All budgeted expenses benefit the entirety of WDC and assist in carrying out the mission and ministry of the conference. The expenses are divided between the Executive Board and four Commissions based upon which group is primarily responsible for managing the expense category.

Executive Board (EB)

- EB 1.** Staff Salaries & Benefits provides for 6.35 FTE staff to carry out the ministries of WDC and necessary administrative support. WDC follows MC USA salary guidelines and has a Staff Relations Committee for advising on staff-related policies and budgeting. (Part-time staff for the Kids Meet Christ program is supported separately through a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.)
- EB 2.** Staff Travel, Food, Gas. Includes staff expenses for attending work-related meetings, congregational visits, and other tasks which take place outside of the office.
- EB 3.** Conference Minister Sabbatical Funds. This line item is used to set aside funds (transferred to and held in the Restricted Fund) for paying expenses related to providing coverage when the Conference Minister or an Associate Conference Minister takes a sabbatical.

EB 4. CLC expenses. Assists WDC representatives to attend the MC USA Constituency Leaders Council.

EB 5. MC USA Delegates. This line item is used to set aside funds (transferred to and held in the Restricted Fund) to assist WDC delegates to attend the MC USA biennial sessions (MennoCon).

EB 6. Dismantling Racism. Used to support the work of the Dismantling Racism Action Team to follow up on the recommendations of the anti-racism audit.

EB 7. Reference Council. Pays for any WDC Reference Council expenses.

EB 8. Board Expenses. This is used to pay meeting expenses and other discretionary expenses.

Stewardship Commission (SC)

Includes office expenses, rent, translation and interpretation costs, conference car insurance and maintenance, and the annual financial audit.

Resource Commission (RC)

RC 1. Mennonite Archives. Subsidy payments to the Mennonite Library and Archives at Bethel College which houses WDC archives.

RC 2. Library. Used for resources and upkeep of the conference library services.

RC 3. Music & Worship. Used for music and worship resources.

RC 4 & 5. Youth North & Youth South. Expenses for conference youth ministry activities.

RC 6. Israel Palestine, Mennonite Action. The WDC Israel Palestine Task Force priorities include support for Mennonite Action in their coordination and gathering of people for local and national justice responses.

Church Planting Commission (CP)

The CP budget supports church plants and church planting resources. In 2023, the Commission added line items to implement their new strategic plan which has five focus areas: (1) Plant churches, (2) Empower Anabaptist church planters, (3) Strengthen communication and partnerships with WDC congregations around the CPC mission/vision, (4) Encourage all WDC congregations to be alert to opportunities and assets supporting potential church planting projects in their own church or community, and (5) Make connections with communities and individuals who would feel at home in Anabaptism.

CP 1. Church Plant Support expense line is for supporting three church plants with \$1000/month.

Ministerial Leadership Commission (ML)

The ML budget pays for maintaining ministerial and credential records in the MC USA database, utilizing the MC USA abuse prevention and accountability structure, providing ministers' resourcing events, and scholarships for WDC members attending MC USA-related seminaries.

2025 ELECTION RESULTS (+ Filling Unexpired Term)

Executive Board: Bethany Padgett, Brandon Letona

Church Planting Commission: Andrew Dungan, Mario Rocha, +Timothy Schrag

Gifts Discernment Committee: To be determined...

Ministerial Leadership Commission: Elizabeth Melendez, Samuel Voth Schrag

Resource Commission: Debbie Goossen, Sara Mwagura

Stewardship Commission: Sarah Balzer, Renetta Gooden, +Tim Hodge

CERTIFIED DELEGATES AT 2025 CONFERENCE & CHURCH ELIGIBLE VOTES (Both in-person and virtual delegates could carry more than one vote)

KANSAS

1. **Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel:** Lois Harder, Timothy Schrag, Erica Stoltzfus (472 members, 16 votes)
2. **Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton:** Jeanette Stucky, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Keith Harder, Dale Schrag (440 members, 15 votes)
3. **Buhler Mennonite Church, Buhler:** Steve Becker, Sarah McKinnon, Bob Friesen (343 members, 12 votes)
4. **Calvary Mennonite Church, Liberal:** No delegates present. (6 members, 1 vote)
5. **Crystal Springs Mennonite Church, Harper:** Martha Ediger (20 members, 1 vote)
6. **Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge:** Gail Graber, Berni Kaufman, Kenzi Intemann (246 members, 9 votes)
7. **Faith Mennonite Church, Newton:** Nathan Garber, Rose Marie Zook Barber, Marlene Habegger (119 members, 4 votes)
8. **First Mennonite Church, Halstead:** Kent Dick (217 members, 8 votes)
9. **First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro:** Mike Brandt, Norma Duerksen, Philip Duerksen (76 members, 3 votes)
10. **First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson:** Adrienne Derstine, Julie Goering, Deon Martens, Joy Miller, Ken Neufeld (140 members, 5 votes)
11. **First Mennonite Church, McPherson:** Lynn Schlosser (112 members, 4 votes)
12. **First Mennonite Church, Newton:** Luke Unruh, Linda Shelly, Wendy Funk Schrag, Morris Ewert, Linda Ewert (155 members, 6 votes)
13. **First Mennonite Church, Ransom:** No delegates present. (38 members, 2 vote)
14. **First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge:** Peter Emery (117 members, 4 votes)
15. **Gospel Fellowship, Montezuma:** No delegates present. (25 members, 1 vote)
16. **Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater:** Valerie Klaassen, Henry Unruh (201 members, 7 votes)
17. **Hesston Mennonite Church, Hesston:** LaMar Bender, Jason Byler, Jess Engle, Kendra Engle, Mike Lamb, Todd Lehman, Vicki Hoffman, Cindy Penner, Linda Schmidt, Kay Schroeder, Brent Yoder (322 members, 11 votes)
18. **Hoffnungsaue Mennonite Church, Inman:** Eric Buller, Sonja Good, Orlin Martens (166 members, 6 votes)
19. **Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Ruth Harder, Marvin Schmucker, Lee Schmucker, Ryan Henneberg, Margaret Wiebe, Delaine Stolzle, Galen Fast (249 members, 9 votes)
20. **Iglesia Camino de Santidad, Liberal:** Josue Romero, Moises Romero (62 members, 3 vote)
21. **Iglesia Menonita Aposento Alto, Wichita:** Spencer Garrison (30 members, 1 vote)
22. **Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania, Newton:** Yazmin Gonzalez Ibarra (15 members, 1 vote)
23. **(Church Plant) Iglesia Palabra Viva, Liberal:** No delegates present. (42 members, 1 vote)

24. **Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Kristine Regehr (350 members, 12 votes)
25. **Manhattan Mennonite Church, Manhattan:** Caprice Becker, Sara Dick (57 members, 2 votes)
26. **Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita:** Pat Cameron (19 members, 1 vote)
27. **New Creation Fellowship, Newton:** Shana Chivon Green, Ruth Meyer (43 members, 2 votes)
28. **Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence:** No delegates present. (62 members, 3 votes)
29. **Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City:** Eric Jantzen, Brenda Foster, Laura Schmidt, Nanette Roberts (287 members, 10 votes)
30. **Salina Mennonite Church, Salina:** Pete Smucker, Lori Schmidt (42 members, 2 votes)
31. **Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton:** Larry Dixon, Janet Dixon, Jerrell Williams, Jeannie Zehr, Marv Zehr, Marlene Smucker, Stan Smucker, Em Kerbs (238 members, 8 votes)
32. **Southern Hills Mennonite Church, Topeka:** Gabriel Pennington, Cynthia Neufeld Smith (65 members, 3 votes)
33. **Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton:** Katherine Goerzen, Peter Goerzen, Cleo Koop, Todd Schlosser, Denise Nickel, Tammy Wintermote (270 members, 9 votes)
34. **Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing:** Bruce Janzen, Jeannine Janzen, Karen Andres, Jana Wedel (132 members, 5 votes)

NEBRASKA

1. **First Mennonite Church, Beatrice:** Debbie Goossen, Dan Kunzman, Vern Jantzen (198 members, 7 votes)
2. **Summit Street Church, Beatrice:** Andrew Dungan (72 members, 3 votes)

OKLAHOMA

1. **Greenfield Mennonite Church, Carnegie:** No delegates present. (6 members, 1 vote)
2. **Joy Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City:** No delegates present. (25 members, 1 vote)
3. **Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church, Clinton:** No delegates present. (25 members, 1 vote)

TEXAS

1. **Austin Mennonite Church, Austin:** Kim Becker, Crys Knobloch (60 members, 2 vote)
2. **Chin Emmanuel Church, Houston:** No delegates present. (100 members, 4 votes)
3. **Hope Fellowship, Waco:** No delegates present. (34 members, 2 vote)
4. **Houston Mennonite Church, Houston:** Chris Becker, Absalón Calix (45 members, 2 vote)
5. **Iglesia Cristiana Menonita Monte Horeb, Dallas:** Antonio Caceros (30 members, 1 vote)
6. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Cristo La Roca, Lamesa:** Maria Mendoza (23 members, 1 vote)
7. **Iglesia Menonita Casa de Dios, Garland:** Isabel Oviedo (12 members, 1 vote)
8. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Menonita Casa de Restauración, Houston:** Aurora Parchmont (16 members, 1 vote)
9. **Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena:** Alberto Parchmont (40 members, 2 vote)
10. **Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Esperanza, Dallas:** No delegates present. (17 members, 1 vote)
11. **Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Vida, San Antonio:** No delegates present. (5 members, 1 vote)
12. **Iglesia Menonita Luz del Evangelio, Dallas:** Juan Limones, Veronica Robles (175 members, 6 votes)
13. **New Life Christian Center, San Benito:** Graciela Tijerina (40 members, 2 votes)
14. **Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas:** Samuel Voth Schrag (37 members, 2 votes)
15. **San Antonio Mennonite Church, San Antonio:** Terry Burton, Ramona Garcia (34 members, 2 votes)

GUATEMALA

1. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Arca de Salvacion Uspantan, Guatemala:** Juan Toj (150 members, 1 vote)
2. **Iglesia Cristiana Anabautista Casa de Paz, Guatemala City, Guatemala:** Mario Rocha Iglesias (25 members, 1 vote)