

Associate Conference Minister (KS-based)
Annual Report 2026
Kathy Neufeld Dunn

This year I had the joy of supporting the Kids Meet Christ (KMC) worship initiative, both as a staff person and as the staff liaison with Resource Commission. KMC staff hosted two introductory meetings, one each in Kansas and Texas, then fall/winter gatherings for northern and southern parts of our conference. It is amazing what kind of creative experiments making space for children, and ultimately for all ages, is possible when so many resources are Lilly Endowment funded.

WDC staff and commissions are committed to responding to needs of our congregations that we heard about during the recent Listening Process. Resource Commission has sponsored three Leader Forums so far, one on worship and music last fall, and two others recently—one I hosted entitled “Exploring Alternative Pastoral Models,” and another on internal and external congregational communication. More Leader Forums yet to come.

I continue to support congregational chairpersons, search committees, and pastors—whether they are pastors in long-term ministry or interim and transitional ministers. I had the privilege of installing two called pastors, ordaining one pastor, and working with as many as six search committees this past year. The ministry of supporting ministry transitions continues.

With the delegate approval of the *Prevention and Accountability Resource* last summer, I have become the WDC Conference Safety Liaison (CSL), a new role mandated by this document. My work has not changed a lot. I still focus on assisting congregations with updating their safety policies, offer Safe Church trainings, and hosting twice a year Healthy Boundaries trainings for ministers. Because of the new denominational policy, I led more Safe Church trainings than in the recent past. I updated the Healthy Boundaries training, and have received positive response to the updated training. The one significant change for me as your CSL is that, when there is a complaint filed against a credentialed (or even non-credentialed) minister anywhere in MC USA, I can be called to be part of that Response Team. This denomination-wide Response Team was developed to create fewer conflicts of interest in MC USA.

Thank you for all the support and encouragement of my fellow staff, Resource Commission members, and Heidi Regier Kreider, Conference Minister. May God bless Western District Conference in the coming year.