

Western District Conference Executive Board Report

May 31, 2025 – June 30, 2026

The Executive Board met on the following dates via Zoom:

June 19, 2025; September 27, 2025; October 22, 2025; November 24, 2025; February 16, 2026; April 20, 2026, June 15, 2026.

Current Executive Board members: Eric Buller (Moderator), Katherine Goerzen (Moderator Elect), Dave Wiebe, Caleb Gingerich, Chris Becker, Dan Kunzman, Gabriel Pennington, Bethany Padgett, Brandon Letona, Wendy Funk Schrag (Secretary)

Highlights of these meetings and the 2025 Annual Assembly include:

1. Annual Assembly delegates approved Iglesia Cristo La Roca, Lamesa, TX as a new church plant at the Annual Assembly on August 9, 2025. Church planters are Maria De La Luz Mendoza and Juan Antonio Mendoza.
2. Staff transitions: Grace Parker Sutter joined WDC as the Kids Meet Christ (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 Gonzalez and Fernando Perez are the new Hispanic Transitional Ministry Resource Co-Facilitators based in Dallas. Mike Lamb, Fund Development Coordinator, concluded his work after the 2025 Annual Assembly. Sarah Balzer Bryan is working 6 hours a week to promote the Financial Stewardship Commission's vision for long term sustainability and giving.
3. Received financial reports at each meeting and provided fiscal oversight and accountability to WDC. Provided feedback to the Stewardship Commission and participated in the WDC budget process including ongoing conversations about sustainability for the future.
4. Received written and verbal reports from WDC conference ministers summarizing their work.
5. Invited representatives from all WDC Commissions to join the February 2026 meeting to discuss their goals for the year and encourage more dialogue and collaboration between the commission members and the executive board.
6. The Listening Process was concluded, and WDC staff are planning events to respond to what the listening teams heard at their visits to congregations.
7. Appointed people to serve on WDC commissions, and on the Gifts Discernment Committee for positions that did not get filled during the 2025 Annual Assembly.
8. Heard updates from WDC institutional partner organizations. These are provided on a 2-year rotating basis for each organization.

9. WDC completed the process to adopt the Mennonite Church USA Abuse Prevention and Accountability Resource.
10. Dwight Regier, Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Sandra Montes Martinez, and Derek King attended the Kansas Leadership Center *Lead for Change* program. WDC executive board supported implementation of a plan to work on the adaptive leadership challenge of supporting congregational youth ministry equitably across WDC.
11. Appointed WDC representatives for the Mennonite Church USA Constituent Leaders Council and Hope for the Future conference. Appointed WDC youth and adult delegates to Mennonite Church USA 2025 convention.

Report submitted by Wendy Funk Schrag, secretary