

## November, 2006

### A Word from Dorothy:

#### What do seminaries and congregations do well?

Author Lawrence Golemon (recently co-authored the book EDUCATING CLERGY: TEACHING PRACTICES AND PASTORAL IMAGINATION plus serves as a research associate at Alban Institute) writes about seminaries and congregations.

What do seminaries do well? This question was posed in a large study and it was found that effective seminaries cultivate "pastoral imagination"--the integrative ability to perceive, interpret and engage the world with theological insight and practical wisdom. Seminaries do this through "signature pedagogies": interpretation (engaging sacred texts); formation (spiritual practices); contextualization (local and cultural settings); and performance (pastoral skills). However, says Golemon, "even the best seminaries only develop competent beginners in ministry, who must be honed, shaped, and polished by the pastoral experience in their first congregation or ministry site." (Week of 10/30/06 Alban Weekly)

And there my attention really picked up. The congregation has a responsibility? The congregation shapes pastors? Too often we have reversed this. We have said that pastors shape congregations--and they do! But in a "teaching congregation" model, we see that the local community of faith becomes an intentional teaching community by nurturing new pastors. How can this be done? Here are some beginning ideas: 1. Invite your new pastor to stretch those interpretative practices through a wide range of teaching, public prayer, preaching and pastoral care opportunities. 2. Support ongoing formation work through new spiritual practices that build up the local faith community. 3. Connect the new pastor to the community with outreach initiatives, neighborhood walks, and missional study and action. 4. Form an advisory or mentoring team to help a new pastor polish her/his own style, identity and sense of competence.

I'm guessing that any pastor--new or seasoned--will grow, mature and thrive in such an environment. May we find such congregations everywhere.

*-Dorothy Nickel Friesen*

*Western District Conference empowers its Anabaptist/Mennonite congregations to:*

- *Witness and invite others to faith in Jesus Christ,*
- *Dwell in just and loving relationships,*
- *Connect to God's mission in the world.*

### WDC mugs full of blessings

Have you noticed a theme of WDC and mugs lately?

At Western District Conference last summer, Vision 2012 congregational promoters received a WDC mug, a symbolic gift for their ministry. Byron Ediger, the promoter at my church, recently invited us all to pray for and give to Vision 2012.

There are two mugs on page four of the **WDC News** every month. October's mug shows that \$311,407 has already been committed toward Vision 2012's three-year goal. For that we give thanks to God in our prayers.

The WDC mug on my desk reminds me to pray daily for Vision 2012 and WDC.

In spring, children in our congregations will get some exciting activities for Vision 2012. How about challenging families or children's Sunday school classes together to create their own WDC mugs, filling them with coins and bills as they pray for and give to Vision 2012.

Catch the Vision 2012 spirit and may our "cups (or mugs) overflow" with joy (idea from Psalms 23).

*-Rosella Wiens Regier, Vision 2012 Prayer Partner*

*Please include announcements from this Memo in your bulletins and newsletters.*

### WDC prayer reminders

**Nov. 5** - Pray for the church planters and leaders that graduated with a diploma yesterday at the Anabaptist Biblical Institute in Dallas, TX. Also pray for Mike Hiebert as he is installed today as pastor of Goessel (KS) Mennonite Church and Karen Andres as she is ordained today at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS.

**Nov. 12** - Pray for Burrton (KS) Mennonite Church as it celebrates its centennial today.

**Nov. 19** - Pray for church plant support committees and their dreams and desires to develop new congregations. Is God calling your congregation to form a new church plant?

**Nov. 29** - Pray for your congregation, especially, thanking God for its ministry in the community and the world. Also pray for Vision 2012 - the prayer and funding campaign to strengthen camping, church planting, leadership ministries, and our resource library.

### **Pastoral openings**

*(Congregational Information Forms completed & available):*

**Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS** (one-half time associate pastor)

**Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS** (three-fourths time) interim associate pastor (March 15-August 15)

**Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS** (full-time) associate pastor beginning August 15

**Fort Worth, TX** (one-fourth time church planter)

### **Transitions**

**Karen Andres** will be ordained on November 5, 2:00 p.m. at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. We also extend our sympathies to Karen's family as they mourn the death of her father-in-law, Ronald Andres, on October 28.

**Bruce Bradshaw** will be ordained on January 14, 2007 at the Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, KS.

**Lou Gomez** will also serve part-time as pastor at the Turpin Mennonite Church, OK, through December, while Pastor Jeff Wintermote recovers from illness.

**Michael Hiebert** began November 1 as Pastor at Goessel Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS, one-half time.

**Jeff Wintermote**, pastor of Turpin (OK) Mennonite Church, has been hospitalized since September 27 for West Nile, Guillain-Barré Syndrome, and pneumonia. He was transferred on October 27 to: Western Plains Medical Center - Rehab, 3001 Ave. A, Dodge City, KS 67801; 620-225-8400. Tammy's (his wife) cell phone number is: 620-482-2167. Praise God for signs of healing, and continue to pray for Jeff and his family as he continues his recovery.

### **Counter-recruitment conference**

**"Countering military recruitment with gospel nonviolence"** will held **November 3-5** at San Antonio Mennonite Church, Texas. This conference will bring together youth and adults to learn how to counter the lure of military recruiters who promise money for college or job training. Registration:

<http://mcc.org/us/co/counter/conference/>

### **Staff news**

**Marlene Bogard**, minister of Christian nurture and resource library director, will be on the third and final phase of her sabbatical during the month of December, taking time for service, study and reading.

**Dorothy Nickel Friesen**, conference minister, will be speaking on women in leadership at Bluffton University November 14-16 as part of their Pathways Program, an initiative to invite students to think of Christian ministry.

**Marco Güete**, associate conference minister, will be on study leave November 9-26 in Spain, studying evangelism training.

### **WDC website and directory**

Thanks to a generous donor, WDC will soon have a **new and improved** website. Construction has been delayed due to internet access problems, however you can still access our old website at: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org), knowing that all information may not be current.

The **Fall 2006 WDC Directory** is available. This directory lists information for all WDC churches and pastors, as well as members of commissions, committees and task forces. Copies have been sent to churches and committees, and are free upon request. Call: 316-283-6300 or email: [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org).

### **Peace Sunday**

**November 5 - Peace Sunday**. Theme: Loving God and Neighbor: A Spirituality of Justice, Mark 12:28-34. The Peace and Justice Support Network (PJSN) has resources available including biblical background, sermon ideas, children's ideas, action ideas, resources, and a sample service. Materials can be found on the PJSN website: [www.mennoniteusa.org/peace](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/peace). Although they are prepared for Peace Sunday within the Mennonite Church USA, the worship materials may be used on any designated Sunday.

### **Resourcing on evangelism**

Hoffnungsaue Mennonite Church, rural Inman, KS, invites you to attend two sessions on evangelism on **November 8 and 15**. Both sessions will be led by Lee Ann Pennick of South Hutchinson Mennonite Church and begin at 7 p.m. A meal at 6:15 is open to all. Contact Ron Stucky 620-585-2305 for information.

### **Hymn festival**

Nancy Faus will lead a Hymn Festival on **November 18**, 6:00 p.m. at the First Church of the Brethren in Wichita, KS. The theme "Singing, Praying, and Proclaiming Peace in the World," will include hymns sung by Brethren across three centuries. For information, contact the church office: 316-263-0274 or [wfcob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wfcob@sbcglobal.net). All are welcome.

### **Bible lectures at Bethel College**

**Willard Swartley**, professor emeritus of New Testament at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN, will give three Bible Lectures at Bethel College, North Newton, KS:

- Nov. 5 - 7:30 p.m. "The New Testament as Covenant of Peace: Ecclesial and Public Theology?"
- Nov. 6 - 11:00 a.m. "Slavery, Sabbath, War and Women Revisited"
- Nov. 6 - 7:30 p.m. "The Bible and Israel: Two Views and More"

All lectures will be in the Krehbiel Auditorium at Bethel College, North Newton, KS, and are free and open to the public. For more information, see the Bethel website: [www.bethelks.edu](http://www.bethelks.edu).

### **Javanese Mennonite Church**

Four church representatives from the Javanese Mennonite Church will tour the WDC offices on **November 16**, 9-10 a.m. They will share a short video about the GITJ (Javanese Mennonite Church) story and interact with WDC staff. Mennonite Central Committee is helping GITJ organize this Networking Tour to help them recover from internal conflict and isolation and to strengthen and increase avenues of exchange and mutual learning with North American churches. Anyone is welcome. More information is available at MCC Central States (Tina Schrag): 316-283-2720, or the WDC office (Lee Lever): 316-283-6300.

### **Old fashioned Christmas**

**November 24-26** is the "Old Fashioned Christmas" at Camp Mennoscah. This intergenerational retreat is for individuals and families to enjoy each other and to remember the birth of our Lord - the reason for the season. Registration begins Friday at 7 p.m. and ends with a short service and brunch on Sunday. Lodging and meals - Retreat Center: \$55/adult, \$30/child; Staff house: \$40/adult, \$22/child; Cabin: \$35/adult, \$20 child. Pre-register by November 11: 620-297-3290 or [campmno@mennowdc.org](mailto:campmno@mennowdc.org).

### **Dyck appointed as *OurFaith* regional editor**

**Edna Krueger Dyck** of Newton, KS, was recently appointed as one of the Associate Regional Editors of *OurFaith* digest. Dyck is a retired pastor, and former writer/editor at Faith and Life Press in Newton. *OurFaith* is published three times yearly and distributed through most Mennonite Church USA congregations.

### **Check It Out**

New **youth ministry resources** are featured in the November Check It Out newsletter from the Conference Resource Library. You will find quality resources on youth and sexuality, youth culture,

mentoring and some books on games and skits. Please print and route a copy to all your youth sponsors, leaders and mentors. Call or email to reserve or request a resource: 316-283-6300 or [crlib@mennowdc.org](mailto:crlib@mennowdc.org)

### **New Advent materials available**

This Advent, learn about people who lived when Jesus was born and who live in Bethlehem today. Worship a risen Christ, who cares about how we live and worship and who invites us to do justice, especially during our cozy season of Advent.

Download free powerpoints, coloring pages, and adult and child advocacy handouts at:

<http://peace.mennolink.org/resources/advent06/index.html>

### **Campbell's product labels for Hopi Mission School**

As of December, Campbell's will be accepting only the UPC codes from the labels; they will not accept the front labels from products as has been required heretofore. However, they will accept those yet for a limited time to accommodate collectors who have been saving only the fronts. Hopi Mission School needs to receive any such front labels by November 15 in order to have them credited to their account.

For more information, contact Hopi Mission School, 928-734-2453, [hms@hopimissionschool.org](mailto:hms@hopimissionschool.org), website: [www.hopimissionschool.org](http://www.hopimissionschool.org)

### **Service assignments**

**Estella and Phillip Headings**, who attend Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS, served with Mennonite Disaster Service from Oct. 17 - Nov. 4 in New Iberia, LA, repairing homes from the hurricanes of 2006.

**Kristen Abrahams**, First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS, began a one-year term of Mennonite Voluntary Service on September 4 in La Jara, CO, as an immigrant legal assistant with Immigration Resource Center of the San Luis Valley.

**Terra Wiens**, First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS, began a Service Adventure assignment August 28 in South Bend, IN.

(**Correction** to the October Memo: *Karey French*, Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS, began a one-year term of service September 5 in Bradford, England as a youth worker with Great Horton Methodist Church. She is a 2006 graduate of Bethel College.)

### **Mennonite Hour music**

"Singing in the Spirit", a new archival collection of camp-meeting songs, spirituals and folks tunes will be available from Mennonite Media in November. This 2-CD set is a re-issue of two Mennonite Hour record albums: "I'm Gonna Sing" (1966) and "I Feel the Spirit" (1968). Available on CD only for \$18.95 from Mennonite Media: 1-800-999-3534;

[loish@mennomedia.org](mailto:loish@mennomedia.org); [www.store.mennomedia.org](http://www.store.mennomedia.org)

### **MMA announces new president**

**Larry D. Miller** will become president and CEO of MMA January 1, 2007. He is currently president and CEO of Mennonite Financial Federal Credit Union in Lancaster, PA and has 35 years of experience in retail banking and financial services industry. He attended Hesston College and is a graduate of Iowa State University. He is a member of Landisville (PA) Mennonite Church, Mennonite Central Committee (finance committee member), and The Mennonite magazine (board member and treasurer).

### **Summer collegium**

This fully-funded (Lilly) Summer Collegium is a nine-day intensive residential program, ecumenical in scope, for clergy in mid-career serving small parishes (average worship attendance 100 or fewer). Each summer the Collegium will serve 25 clergy (along with their spouses or partners), addressing the specific needs of clergy and clergy households committed to small-church ministry. Single clergy and non-ordained pastors are welcome to apply. Deadline is December 15. More info at: [www.vts.edu/education/collegium/](http://www.vts.edu/education/collegium/)

### **Want to know how to make it work?**

**Michael J. Dunn**, technology trainer in McPherson, KS with 20 years of experience offers: 1-on-1 training; 2 & 4 hour sessions. Contact Michael at 620-755-4332, or [school.technology@gmail.com](mailto:school.technology@gmail.com). (*Michael is the husband of Kathy Neufeld Dunn, pastor at First Mennonite Church, McPherson, KS.*)

### **Office closed**

The WDC office will be closed **November 23-24** in observance of Thanksgiving.

### **Western District Conference Coming Events**

Nov. 3-5 - Counter Recruitment Conference, San Antonio, TX  
Nov. 4 - Workshop: Exercising spiritual gifts in your congregation, Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS  
Nov. 5 - Youth Sponsor Appreciation Banquet, (Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS)  
Nov. 7 - Pastors' Day Apart, Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS  
Nov. 24-26 - "Old Fashioned Christmas", Camp Mennoscah  
Dec. 1-3 - Discipleship Now, Lorraine Center, Wichita, KS  
Jan. 13, 2007 - Agri-Urban banquet, Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS  
Jan. 20-21, 2007 - Know Jesus, Hesston College, Hesston, KS  
Feb. 4, 2007 - Choral Festival, Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS

Feb. 8-10, 2007 - Damascus Road anti-racism training, Bethel College, North Newton, KS  
Feb. 16-18, 2007 - Senior High Snow Camp, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp  
Feb. 17, 2007 - MMA Stewardship University, Hesston College, Hesston, KS  
Feb. 24, 2007 - Pastors' Day Apart  
Mar. 16-18, 2007 - Senior High Snow Camp, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp  
July 27-29, 2007 - Western District Conference and South Central Conference joint annual conference (Location in Oklahoma to be announced)  
Oct. 19-21, 2007 - Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series 2007, Hesston College, Hesston, KS

### **Conference Ministers' Schedules**

Nov. 1 - Leadership workshop, Lee's Summit, MO (DNF)  
Nov. 4 - Spiritual Gifts Workshop, Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS (DNF, MB); IBA graduation, Dallas, TX (MG)  
Nov. 5 - Installation ceremony - Rey de Gloria church, Garland, TX (MG); Mike Hiebert installation, Goessel (KS) Mennonite Church, Karen Andres ordination, Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS (DNF); Beatrice (NE) Mennonite Church (LL)  
Nov. 7 - Pastors' Day Apart, Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS (DNF, MB)  
Nov. 9-26 - Study Leave/Vacation, Spain (MG)  
Nov. 10-11 - Leadership Commission, North Newton, KS (DNF)  
Nov. 10-13 - Ecumenical Resource Center Director's Gathering, Dallas, TX (MB)  
Nov. 12 - Burrton (KS) Mennonite Church centennial (DNF)  
Nov. 13-14 - Kansas Ecumenical Ministries (LL)  
Nov. 13-17 - Bluffton University, OH (DNF)  
Nov. 14-17 - Vacation (MB)  
Nov. 16 - Javanese Mennonite Church reps visit WDC (LL)  
Nov. 19 - First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS (DNF)  
Nov. 21 - DEO Board (DNF)  
Nov. 22-25 - Thanksgiving break (DNF)  
Nov. 27 - WDC Executive Committee; Joint Executive with South Central Conference (DNF); Pastor Cluster, Manhattan, KS (LL)  
Nov. 29 - MPN Resource Selection Committee (MB)  
Nov. 29-Dec. 3 - Conference Ministers' meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (DNF, MG)  
(*Marlene Bogard-MB; Dorothy Nickel Friesen-DNF; Dave Gerbrandt-DG; Marco Güete-MG; Doug Krehbiel-DK; Lee Lever-LL; Hugo Saucedo-HS*)

*The MEMO is published monthly for WDC pastors and committee members. Submit articles and correspondence to: Dorothy Nickel Friesen, [dorothyf@mennowdc.org](mailto:dorothyf@mennowdc.org).*

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