

VISION 2012

What is this new thing?

The Vision 2012 prayer and funding campaign is already yielding fruit. The congregational promoters (one per congregation) were commissioned last July at Western District Conference annual sessions. They went home and began the process of informing church leaders and members about the new vision for a stronger camping program, greater support for ministers and church planting, and increased resources for our congregation primarily through the Resource Library.

We are pleased to announce the first "completed" project--Phase I of the Resource Library renovation. In cooperation with the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary- Great Plains Extension, Vision 2012 funds have created a "Student/Library Lounge" at 2500 Place. A brief dedication ceremony was held on February 15 with thanksgiving, prayers, and a hearty rendition of the Doxology.

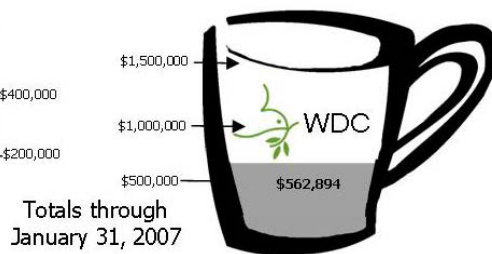
Thank you for your commitment--above budget--for Vision 2012. We are already over 1/3 of the way to our goal of \$1.5 million. Is your congregation on board? Have you caught the vision?

-Dorothy Nickel Friesen

2006 Annual Budget
Congregational Goal: **\$485,022**



Vision 2012
3 year Goal: **\$1,500,000**



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WDC News

March 2007

New Vision! Connecting to God's mission...

...in Texas

Luz del Evangelio began as a Western District Conference and South Central Conference church plant in 1994 and currently has about 100 members and attendance of 130. They own a small building and enough land to build a new church to gather their growing congregation. Luz del Evangelio has been awarded a JoinHands (formerly Tenth Man) grant of \$35,000 and the congregation has a fund to complete the anticipated building project. Even though the Home Missions Committee of WDC subsidized the beginning of this congregation per policy, the church requested that it stop receiving funds two years earlier than planned and is now self-supporting.

This congregation meets Sunday morning for Sunday School and Bible study for children, youth, and adults. It then meets again Sunday evening for worship. During the week, small groups meet in homes for Bible study and prayers. Their ministry is active in reaching out to new immigrants, ministering to personal needs during re-settlement into the Dallas area.

Pastor Juan Limones, a bi-vocational pastor who owns a contracting business specializing in painting, serves the congregation on a part-time (about 1/3 time) basis. Pray for this vibrant congregation, its pastor, and for their vision to be God's people sharing the Good News.



...in Oklahoma

Bethel Mennonite Church, Hydro, celebrated its 100th anniversary in June, 2006. As part of their looking to their history, they also looked to the present



and future and realized that God was calling them to expand their physical plant in order to minister more effectively. Currently, Bethel Mennonite Church is completing a new building adjacent



to their current church. The Fellowship Hall is a multi-purpose structure (50' X 75') with a big kitchen, accessible bathrooms, a quilt room, and storage on the west end; the other half of

the building is a large space for fellowship, dining, and recreation--including a basketball goal! They have built a loft which will serve as a meeting space for youth, especially. Volunteers have done a lion's share of the work and donations of over \$100,000 have been raised by the congregation including a non-member's generous donation.

Low German families re-locating from Mexico are joining in the building project and congregational life; a once a month youth gathering is already happening; an after-school program is in the dreaming stages. Pastor Raymond Unruh (since 2001) says, "Sometimes we think we're too small (100 members), but God has brought us along. This building project has united us and drawn us together--for mission."



Pastor Raymond Unruh and DaMaris Unruh

...in Kansas

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2007 with special concerts, lectures, book, cookbook, and calendar. Its story is directly tied to the efforts of the wider church to increase the Christian witness of Mennonites. The strategy of Western District Conference changed from the Reisprediger (traveling preachers) and itinerant ministry to resident pastors in the 1930's. This also included an increased interest in urban Mennonites. Beginning in 1932 with 17 members, Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church today has an attendance of 150, with an urban Anabaptist presence in Wichita--the largest city in Kansas.



Co-pastors Tom and Lois Harder (since 2000) guide the congregation in worship, discipleship, and service ministries. The vibrancy of the congregation is reflected in its internal caring ministries through house churches (small groups); remodeling part of the basement for a "Gathering Place"; creative worship, and prophetic witness through community ministries for the poor. "The good news is that we are growing--

in depth of our faith, in our ability to trust the Holy Spirit, in our diversity." (from CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS, compiled by Ann Fetters, 2006, p. 9)

WESTERN DISTRICT & SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Joint Annual Conference 2007

Choose delegates now! - 1 per 30 members

Tulsa, Oklahoma; The DoubleTree at Warren Place

July 27-29, 2007; begins with WDC Reference Council 1-4 p.m. on Friday, July 27. Delegates register 4-7 p.m. Opening worship 7 p.m.

Infant/toddler care; programming for K-5th grade and for Junior High (6-8th grades); Senior High encouraged to be conference participants

Lodging: \$69 per night (1-4 persons); Meal plan (all snacks and meals) \$80 per person, half for children (fee for ballrooms and seminar rooms is thus waived)

Theme based on I Samuel 3 - the calling & nurturing of leaders