



Memo

March 2007

A Word from Dorothy "Wayfinding"--something old yet new

Thanks to Chuck Regier, curator of exhibits at Kauffman Museum in North Newton, I have a new word in my vocabulary - "wayfinding". Chuck is educating me about signage, public welcome opportunities, and the way even a small city invites patrons, customers, and travelers to stop by. He informed me that "wayfinding" is the term for the science and/or art of finding your way.

Immediately I thought how much this is like being a pastor or a leader of an area conference. We are constantly balancing "science" (data, information, photos, reports, documents, constitutions, policies) and "art" (stories, relationships, emotion, theology, symbols, rituals). In all of our ministry, we are pointing the way, or, finding our way to being disciples of Jesus Christ.

I think of recent examples of "wayfinding":

- nearly 200 middle/junior high youth gathered to "Know Jesus"--an intensive, nearly 24-hour experience where the Anabaptist Game, a simulation game about living (and dying) in the 16th century for one's faith, is played and discussed;
- over 200 people attended Stewardship University courses that combine one's faith and being stewards of health, money, time, talent, and spirit;
- over 40 people spent in-depth workshop time learning about racism and examining how people of faith can name this sin that infects our church;
- Wednesday evening programming across WDC seems to be growing and more intergenerational options for nurturing faith are multiplying;
- above-budget giving to WDC is happening through Vision 2012.

Wayfinding is an active, movement word. What signs remind us of the right path? What are the markers that the faithful have provided for us? What invitational messages are we posting?

Practice the art of wayfinding during this Lenten season.

--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.*

Pray for others around the world

Paul writes in Romans 1:6. "How constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times." Paul is praying for the Christians in Rome and then writes to them to encourage and teach them. This spoke to my heart on how much time I am praying for Christians in other churches and in Mennonite churches in other countries. We hear stories of persecution and the struggles that they encounter. Some even face death for their faith in Jesus as their Savior. Am I willing to spend the time praying for their needs and bring them before Our Father in prayer? Lord, open our eyes to the needs of Christians all over the world.

--Verlin Koehn, Enid, OK, Vision 2012 prayer partner

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

You are encouraged to copy and distribute the entire Memo in your churches.

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WDC prayer reminders

March 4 - Pray for Joan Boyer, pastor of care and prayer at First Mennonite Church, Newton, as she is ordained to Christian ministry today.

March 11 - Pray for the Gifts Discernment Committee as it begins to prepare the Tulsa '07 ballot for leadership of WDC Executive Board and Commissions.

March 18 - Pray for the WDC pastors of congregations in western Kansas as they meet tomorrow (Ransom, Hanston, Montezuma, Liberal, Pawnee Rock, Turpin, OK).

March 25 - Pray for Norma Johnson, Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS as she retires from full-time pastoral ministry today. She also served

the (former) General Conference Mennonite Church as an Executive Secretary for 10 years and will, in retirement, volunteer her leadership this summer as Director of the WDC Vacation Bible School Traveling Troup. Thank God for her ministry!

Pastoral openings

(Congregational Information Forms completed & available):

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS

associate pastor, youth pastor

Beatrice Mennonite Church, Beatrice, NE (full-time) pastor beginning September

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

Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS (full-time) associate pastor with youth emphasis, beginning summer

Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS (full-time) associate pastor with youth emphasis, beginning summer

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

Kingman Mennonite Church, KS (half-time) youth pastor

Transitions

Marco Guete, associate conference minister for Texas and church planter for WDC and South Central Conference, was granted a sabbatical by the WDC Staff Relations Committee per personnel policy (actually a year late!). In his seventh year, Marco will travel to Spain and Colombia in addition to study and seminars in the USA on evangelization and ministry to Hispanics. His sabbatical will be in several parts--late April and May, September, December--allowing for local people to continue the ministries that Marco oversees.

Mike Hiebert was licensed as pastor at Goessel Mennonite Church on February 18.

Lubin Jantzen (90), retired mission worker and pastor, passed away February 25 in Hesston, KS. He and his wife were missionaries in India from 1946-83. He also served several WDC churches in Kansas: Emmaus (Whitewater), First (Pretty Prairie) and First (Newton).

Brett Klingenberg, youth pastor at Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS, has resigned effective in August.

Todd Lehman, youth pastor at First and Trinity Mennonite churches, Hillsboro, KS, has resigned effective July 8. He will be married on June 9 to Julie Stoltzfus at the Lindale Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, VA.

Sharon Nance has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Dean Kroeker (who died in November) as WDC representative on the Bethel College Board of Directors.

Nita Wilson, youth pastor at Alexanderwohl Church, has announced her intention to resign no later than December 31, 2007.

Year-end WDC financial update

The 2006 WDC fiscal year officially ended January 31, 2007. Unaudited figures show that WDC's annual budget ended with a deficit of about \$18,000. This will be covered from cash reserves. The congregational giving was down about 8%--a trend that was probably negatively affected by two missed January Sundays in central Kansas due to ice and snow. However, overall **total** income (congregational giving plus grants, contracted services, Agri-Urban, bequest funds, etc.) was modestly higher than 2005 (less than 2%). Overall **total** expenses were about 5% higher than 2005. Congregations are reminded that WDC ministries need their core support.

Vision 2012, the three-year prayer and funding above-budget campaign has commitments of slightly over \$575,000 (1/3 of goal). This represents tremendous support and we await hearing from all WDC congregations.

Western District & South Central Conference Joint Annual Conference 2007

- Tulsa, Oklahoma; The Doubletree Hotel 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
- Choose delegates now! - 1 per 30 members
- Brochures in spring!

Traveling Peace Trunk Available

The Traveling Peace Trunk is now available for scheduling beginning in April, 2007! Request this amazing collection of materials for a visit in your congregation for eight weeks and you will discover materials for adult, youth and children study, enrichment, family time, games, sermon prep, worship planning and small group discussion. Included are posters, books for all ages, CD's, DVD's and even a ready-to-go bulletin board. Contact Marlene Bogard at WDC for more information.

Vision 2012 - First project completed

The Library/Lounge project has been dedicated. As Phase I of the remodeling/expansion of the WDC Resource Library is completed, AMBS-Great Plains Extension students have a place to study, relax, read, use the computer, and converse with others. (This project was shared with the AMBS-Great Plains Extension.) Thanks to the leadership of Lois Barrett, Director, and Marlene Bogard, WDC Minister of Christian Nurture, a lounge is a reality.

Phase II will mean new carpeting, painting, and expansion of the library south into the next room. We expect that to happen in March. Phase III will be the new shelving, carpeting, and connecting doors between the new space and existing library--as Vision 2012 monies come in.

Check It Out

Just in Time for Lent: **Resources for Nurturing the Soul.** The March, 2007 issue of Check It Out from the WDC Conference Resource Library features books that might add a pleasant tweak to the soul-searching that often accompanies the Lenten season. Find books on spiritual practices, mentoring, spiritual gifts, renewal and prayer. You can find this issue of Check It Out on the Western District Conference newly re-designed web site: www.mennowdc.org. As usual, call or email to request any of these wonderful resources: 316-283-6300 / crlib@mennowdc.org

-Marlene Bogard, Minister of Christian Nurture and Resource Library Director

"First Call" event

If you are in your first pastorate ("first call"), you are invited to a time of resourcing, worship, and fellowship on Tuesday, **March 6**, 9:00 - 12:30 (including lunch). Sara Dick and Dorothy Nickel Friesen will provide worship and facilitation. E-mail your attendance to wdc@mennowdc.org by March 1.

75th anniversary!

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS is celebrating their 75th anniversary in 2007 with a concert and lecture series. An Arthur Marks concert was held on January 7, and a lecture by Dale Schrag was given on February 18. Upcoming events:

- April 20 - Steel Drum Concert
- June 24 - Violin Concert
- July 22 - Organ Concert/Hymn Sing
- August 12 - Jim Juhnke lecture "The Trek in the Coming of Christ".
- September 30 - Harder Family Concert

For information on these events, see: www.lorraineavenue.ks.us.mennonite.net/ or call 316-682-4555.

Locations for Traveling VBS Troupe

These lucky WDC congregations will get a week-long visit this summer from the 2007 Vacation Bible School Traveling Troupe:

- Hillsboro, KS: Trinity Mennonite, First Mennonite, and United Methodist
- Turpin, OK: Turpin Mennonite and Calvary Mennonite (Liberal, KS)
- Clinton OK: Koinonia Mennonite and the Cheyenne community
- Hydro, OK: Oklahoma Mennonite Retreat for Junior Campers
- Dallas, TX: House of Healing, Monte Horeb and Comunidad de Esperanza.

Locations were selected based on the expressed desire to reach out into their neighborhood and community, the ability to cooperate with other churches in their area, and the demonstration of a need for additional Christian education leadership. The Faith and Life Resources VBS Kit: ***Be Bold, God is With You***, will be used in all the settings. The Troupe will consist of young adults selected from Mennonite colleges and universities. This Troupe is funded by a grant from Schowalter Foundation and is coordinated by Marlene Bogard and Norma Johnson.

Camp Mennoscah

Explore the Night Sky Retreat - Have you ever wondered about the phases of the moon? Do you know about the Kepler Space mission? Come to Camp Mennoscah **March 16-18** for our star party! We will have presentations Saturday afternoon from Mike Ford of Holton, KS, Joel Walker of the Kansas Cosmosphere, and Fred Gassert from the Kansas Astronomical Observers; telescopes ranging in size from eight inches to 16 inches and... we even have lousy movies to make fun of in case of cloudy skies! Cost for lodging and meals, at the Retreat Center, is \$80 per person for the weekend.

April 23-25 will be the **Retiree's Relaxation Retreat** at Camp Mennoscah. Come join for a time of Bible study, prayer, singing, presentations, playing, eating, entertainment, planned activities and free time. Pre-register by April 9. Cost: \$65-\$85 depending on lodging.

Brochures/registration forms available at: www.mennowdc.org or contact Camp Mennoscah: campmno@mennowdc.org, 620-297-3290.

Oklahoma Convention

The Oklahoma Mennonite Churches will come together for fellowship and Biblical teaching on Saturday, **March 10** at First Mennonite Church, Clinton.

Pastor/Spouse Retreat

Plan to attend this year's WDC/SCC

Pastor/Spouse Retreat **April 20-22** at Roman Nose State Park/Resort, Watonga, OK. The theme is "The Stories of Life" featuring how we connect to God's story in our personal, congregational, and institutional lives.

Brochures will be available shortly; registrations due by April 1 in order to secure lodging rate and rooms. Watch for it--and plan to attend. It's a great way to connect with pastoral colleagues and be refreshed!

San Jose delegate registration

Each congregation's secretary or pastor is responsible to enter delegate names and addresses on the Mennonite Directory Congregational Update web page.

This is the same process used for updating congregational information for the Mennonite Church USA 2007 Directory. Go to www.mennodata.org/mennonitedirectory/login.asp. Click on "Edit Delegate List" box in item #20 on your congregational profile. Enter the name, email and mailing address of your delegates. If you need assistance with your congregational number or password, contact the WDC office (316-283-6300; wdc@mennowdc.org). Please enter this data as soon as you have your list of delegates. If you don't have web access, the WDC office can enter it into the database for you.

Contact Shelley Buller at Mennonite Church USA if you have questions regarding delegate registration: toll-free at 1-866-866-2872; ShelleyB@MennoniteUSA.org.

Wanted

Please send your **church directories and yearbooks** to the WDC office. These are helpful resources in our files. Thank you!

Attention: Church librarians

Join the **Herald Press Ministers Book Club** and keep your church informed of the new products coming from Herald Press and Faith & Life Resource. Membership is open to ministers, seminary students, missionaries, and now to church librarians. To become a member, call 1-800-245-7894, x278. For more information to go: www.heraldpress.com/mbc/index.htm

Western District Conference coming events

March 6 - First Call Pastors event, WDC office
Mar. 15 - Mennonite Women's Sunset Supper, Whitestone Menn. Church, Hesston, KS
Mar. 15 - Pastors' Day Apart, Tabor Menn. Church, Newton, KS
Mar. 16-18 - Senior High Snow Camp, Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp, CO
Mar. 27-31 - Basketball Tournament, Bethel College, North Newton, KS
Mar. 30-31 - Volleyball Tournament, Hesston College, KS

April 20-22 - Pastor Spouse Retreat, Roman Nose Resort, Watonga, OK

April 20-22 - Men & Boys Retreat, Camp Mennoscah

April 23-25 - Retiree's Relaxation Retreat, Camp Mennoscah

May 3 - Retired pastors' lunch, Bethel College, North Newton, KS

May 27-28 - Just fOr You (JOY) Disabilities Retreat, Camp Mennoscah

July 27 - (1-4 p.m.) - Reference Council, Tulsa, OK

July 27-29 - Western District Conference & South Central Conf. joint annual conference, Tulsa, OK

Aug. 4-5 - Grand Camp, Camp Mennoscah

Aug. 18 - Day on the Farm, rural Hillsboro, KS

Sept. 8-9 - Women's Retreat, Camp Mennoscah

Sept. 13 - Pastors' Day Apart, Faith Menn. Church, Newton, KS

Sept. 17-21 - Work & Play Retreat, Camp Mennoscah

Oct. 12-14 Mennofolk on the Prairie Retreat, Camp Mennoscah

Oct. 19-21 - Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series, Hesston College, KS

Conference Ministers' schedules

March 1 - Damascus Road Antiracism meeting (LL)

March 2-3 - AMBS-GPE class (DNF)

March 2-4 - Resource Advocate Training, Baltimore, MD (MB)

March 4 - Joan Boyer ordination, First Mennonite Church, Newton, KS (DNF)

March 5 - Staff Relations Committee (DNF); Stewardship Commission (DNF); OK Pastor/Spouse, Bethel Mennonite Church, Hydro, OK (DG)

March 6 - "First Pastorate" gathering; Joint WDC/SCC Program Committee for Tulsa (DNF)

March 7, 14 - Relationship Enrichment seminars at Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, KS (MB)

March 8-10 - COMB meeting, Goshen, IN (DNF)

March 10 - Oklahoma Convention, Clinton, OK (DG)

March 11 - Trinity Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, KS (DNF)

March 11-13 - Oklahoma spring meetings (DG)

March 13 - Wichita pastor-peer meeting (DNF, LL); Gifts Discernment Committee (DNF)

March 15 - Pastors' Day Apart, Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS (DNF, LL, MB)

March 16 - Women pastors' meeting (DNF)

March 16-18 Central Plains Consultation on Children's Ministry (MB)

March 17 - Leadership Commission (DNF); Area Pastors' meeting, Newton, KS (LL)

March 18 - Mennonite Publishing Network Resource Selection Meeting (MB)

March 19 - Western KS pastor-peer meeting (DNF, LL)

March 20 - KEM Executive, Emporia, KS (LL)

March 20-21 - MC USA credentialing task force, Kansas City (DNF)

March 22-24 - Constituency Leaders Council, Kansas City (DNF)

March 25 - Norma Johnson's retirement, Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS (DNF)

March 26 - WDC Executive Committee (DNF); Joint WDC/SCC Exec/Ad Committee (DNF)

March 27 - Staff meeting

March 30-31 - AMBS-GPE class (DNF)

(*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.

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