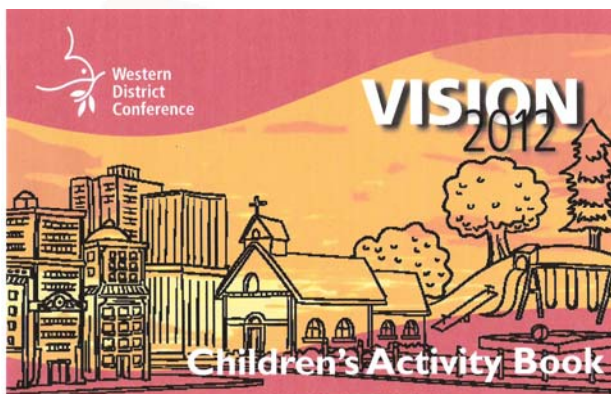


# VISION 2012



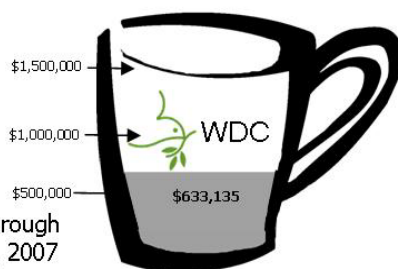
This cover page comes from the new Children's Activity Book designed especially for children through fifth grade in every WDC congregation. Jesse Graber (formerly from Faith Mennonite, Newton, KS and now a graphic artist in Chicago) did the artwork; Rosella Wiens Regier and Joyce Pankratz wrote the copy for booklet; Cindy Snider served as editor; Ken Gingrich of MC USA was the designer. The Vision 2012 Steering Committee invites you to have fun learning about (and giving to) WDC.

*-Dorothy Nickel Friesen*

**2007 Annual Budget**  
**Congregational Goal: \$472,300**



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



Totals through  
 April 15, 2007

Western District Conference  
 Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117  
 Phone: 316-283-6300; FAX: 316-283-0620  
 Email: [wdc@mennowdc.org](mailto:wdc@mennowdc.org); Website: [www.mennowdc.org](http://www.mennowdc.org)



# WDC News

May 2007

## The Calling of Leaders in Western District Conference



Photos by Phyllis Regier

**Marlene Bogard**, Minister of Christian Nurture (r), is in her 16th year in service to the congregations and pastors of WDC. She was ordained by Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Conference Minister (l), on Sunday, April 15 at Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS. Marlene's husband, Mike, joined in the covenant and commitment.

## Credentialing

One of the ways that the 21 area conferences of Mennonite Church USA empower ministerial leaders is by granting them professional credentials. Each credentialed person is accountable to the conference for his or her ministry credential. Credentialed people in Western District Conference are serving as pastors, chaplains, pastoral counselors, missionaries, college and seminary professors, and church planters. Some also serve in Mennonite Church USA agencies. There are three types of credentials:

- **License toward ordination.** This credential is given for two years (and can be renewed). During this period, the licensed person can test a call to ministry and the church can provide support so that he or she can succeed in the ministry. Currently 13 people are licensed toward ordination in WDC.
- **Ordination for ministry.** Ordination is a long-term continuing ministry credential granted by the church. It usually follows the period of time designated by the ministerial license. Conferences help provide guidance for congregations and ordination candidates as they discern together the person's readiness for ordination. During the ordination ceremony, a conference representative is involved to symbolize the covenant relationship between the minister, the congregation and the wider church. WDC holds the ordination credentials of 87 people who are actively serving and the ordination credentials of 77 retired pastors.
- **License for specific ministry.** This credential is time-specific, location-specific and/or ministry-role-specific. It continues for as long as the person is engaged in the ministry task or role. Currently, 18 people are licensed for specific ministry in WDC.

(Source: *A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership*.  
Statistics compiled by Nancy Funk.)

Gail Graber was installed as Associate Pastor of Visitation (1/4 time) for Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS on April 1. She also serves (1/2 time) as Chaplain at Bethesda Home, Goessel, KS.

(Photo by Richard Friesen)



Prayer of dedication as Marshall Anderson, Associate Pastor, is credentialed ("licensed toward ordination") at Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS on February 11. Marshall will graduate from the Hesston Pastoral Ministries Program in May. (Photo by Larry Schroeder)



Western District Conference  
South Central Conference  
JULY 2007 Tulsa, OK  
Mennonite Church USA

**Lodging**  
Doubletree Hotel Warren Place  
918-495-1000

\$69 per night (up to 4 persons)

Make own lodging  
arrangements.

## WDC/SCC Annual Conference July 27-29, 2007 - Tulsa, OK

Cost: \$125  
(Meals, fees, packets;  
1/2 price for children)

Select delegates now!  
1 per 30 members

Special programming for  
children and junior high!

### Schedule

Friday 7-9 p.m.  
Opening worship

Saturday  
Delegate session  
Workshops  
Musical

Sunday 9-11 a.m.  
Closing worship, communion

Brochures available late May.