

VISION 2012

How do you wrap your arms around an area conference?

Over the past few years, my prayer has been for God's Spirit to guide the Western District Conference in dynamic ways. But my prayers were always tempered by the seeming impossibility to lead such a diverse area conference--congregations in four states!

This summer at the annual conference summer in Tulsa, I received a "prayer shawl"--a beautifully embroidered and quilted stole to be worn in a prayerful way. On the front are the names of each congregation in WDC. Now I know how to "wrap my arms around the conference!" I simply cover myself in the shawl and draw the congregations to my very being. Powerful!

Another way I "wrapped my arms around the conference" this summer was the concert by the Possum Boys, a bluegrass singing group of young adults from WDC. The benefit concert for Vision 2012 raised about \$9,200 that evening--wrapping me in sounds of music, laughter, and conversation. As I looked over the packed sanctuary of over 700 people, I saw an intergenerational crowd of WDC folks enjoying a common effort.

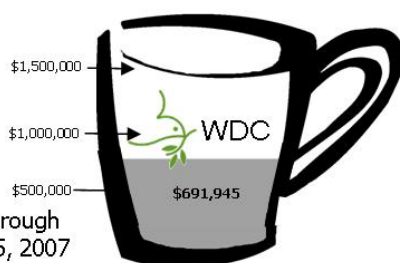
Praise God for these signs of spiritual life in WDC.

--Dorothy Nickel Friesen

2007 Annual Budget Congregational Goal: \$472,300



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



Totals through
August 15, 2007

Western District Conference
Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117
Phone: 316-283-6300; FAX: 316-283-0620
Email: wdc@mennowdc.org; Website: www.mennowdc.org



WDC News

September 2007

ANNUAL CONFERENCE July 27-29, 2007 - Tulsa, OK

The tradition of gathering representatives from congregations goes back well over 100 years. And so the 116th session of Western District Conference brought tradition with it: worship, preaching, delegate business meetings, singing, discernment, prayer, fellowship and, of course, food!

What was unique about 2007?

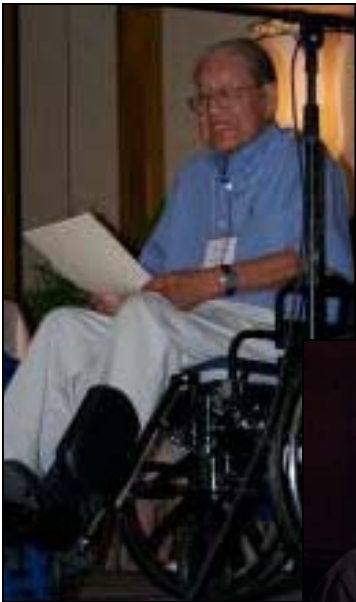
- We continued a tradition (much more recent) of meeting together with sisters and brothers in South Central Conference.
- We introduced a new hymnal supplement, SING THE STORY.
- The Junior High participants took a field trip into Tulsa and learned about important city history and civil rights events. They composed prayers to share in Sunday morning worship.
- We experienced bi-lingual (Spanish and English) worship leadership and preaching by Barry Bartel and Esther Vazquez.
- We learned about Oklahoma Mennonite history through Lawrence Hart and Raylene Hinz-Penner.

- WDC registrations: 278 adults, 30 children (infant through junior high). South Central registrations: 119 adults, 22 children.
- An offering of \$3,084 was received and dedicated to God for the rebuilding of Greensburg Mennonite Church.

Next year's annual conference sessions will be held on the Hesston (KS) College campus, June 27-28, 2008.



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



Dedicating the offering.



Delegates at work in table groups.

Sunday speakers Lawrence Hart (above), Raylene Hinz-Penner (right).



Children and youth also participated in the conference.



Junior high youth led in prayer.



↓Food and fellowship.↑

A prayer shawl was presented to Dorothy Nickel Friesen in celebration of her acceptance of another five-year term as Conference Minister.



Judy Schrag leads one of 18 workshops.



Singing and worship!

