

A Word from Dorothy! Leadership Reminders

I highly recommend **DOING GOOD BETTER - HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION** by Edgar Stoesz and Chester Raber (Good Books 1997). During a time of year when many congregations are electing/affirming new leaders for church councils, it is important to be guided by the best practices for the faith community. I am indebted to these authors for practical, timely, and pithy suggestions for leaders to serve their organizations better. Each member of our WDC Executive Board and Commission is asked to read this book, pass it on to their replacement when their term is over and use it as a way to think about leadership.

In this book, Exhibit 10 (pp. 137-138) lists twelve "Organizational Proverbs"--many of them wise and helpful--written by Edgar Stoesz. Here are several that you might find interesting and helpful in your setting:

- #1. I would hate to be an opportunity in the presence of some boards.
- #2. Majority rules, but is it wise? The Bible pictures the majority as on the broad, well-traveled road that leads to destruction. Robert Frost took the road less traveled--and it made all the difference.
- #3. The only thing worse than majority rule is minority rule. The sheep sleep while the wolves scheme.
- #8. The future belongs to those who plan for it. Planning, be it formal or informal, be it long-ranged or short-ranged, is an act of faith.
- #9. No raw meat. Actions must be "pre-cooked." If an Executive or a committee brings an issue which has not been properly processed for action, send it back to the kitchen.
- #11. The new growth produces the bloom. It is as true of boards as of plants. Freshman add a valuable dimension. They ask questions seniors no longer ask, and aren't always satisfied with the answers given.
- #12. Average boards orient themselves around the rear view mirror--precedent is the big thing. Good boards examine everything under the microscope--they want to avoid mistakes. Great boards look through a telescope to the planets beyond--at what could be.

--Dorothy Nickel Friesen, conference minister

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.*

Our Identity

In these modern days it is very important to guard our personal information to prevent identity theft, but we give little or no importance to guard our identity as People of God. Daniel in the Old Testament decided to preserve himself and not be contaminated with the food of the royal court. He knew the power of being faithful to God; he trusted without conditions and the reward is known until today. To achieve this confidence we need to know who we are and what we believe. It is not an easy task but we receive the strength from Jesus through the Holy Spirit. It is our responsibility not to let anyone steal our convictions and calling from God. As People of God, it is important to live lives that can inspire others and be certain that we serve a living God. (Daniel 1:6-21) ---Sandra Martinez-Montes, *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

Feb. 1 - Pray for Deer Creek Mennonite Church (OK) as it discerns its future in a visioning process.

Feb. 8 - Pray for Gilberto Flores as he begins his ministry with WDC as Associate Conference Minister for Texas this month. Pray for the churches in Texas, the pastors, and for the mission to be the people of God.

Feb. 15 - Pray for Vision 2012, the prayer and funding campaign of WDC, that it will grow and support the mission of our area conference in camping, church planting, resourcing congregations and pastors.

Feb. 22 - Pray for the Stewardship Commission of WDC as it manages the financial, investment, management and legal matters of our conference. Pray for Phyllis Regier, WDC Business Manager.

Pastoral openings

(Congregational Information Forms completed & available):

Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS - lead pastor (full-time, summer 2009)

Eden Mennonite Church, Inola, OK - pastor (full-time, immediate)

Goessel (KS) Mennonite Church - youth pastor (1/2 time, immediate)

Manhattan (KS) Mennonite Church - study-leave supply pastor (full-time for one year - August 2009 - August 2010)

Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas, TX - pastor (half-time, immediate)

Salina (KS) Mennonite Church - pastor (1/2 - 3/4 time, open immediately)

Turpin (OK) Mennonite Church - pastor (full-time, summer 2009)

Transitions

Janet Dellinger, wife of **Bill**, pastor at Mt. Zion Mennonite Church in Hallsville, MO, has been seriously ill with a blood clot since November, but is making recovery. Pray for her renewed health.

Eldon Epp became pastor (one-half time) at First Mennonite Church, Ransom, KS on January 1.

Gilberto Flores begins as new WDC Associate Conference Minister on February 1. He is based in Dallas, TX. Welcome!

Marco Guete, WDC Associate Conference Minister (until January 31), welcomed a new granddaughter, named Tatiana, on January 21. Her parents are Phil and Zandra Sawatzky, Newton, KS.

Doug Harris ended as pastor at Gospel Fellowship Church, Montezuma, KS on December 31, 2008. **Errol Koehn** became the part-time interim pastor there on January 1. **Virginia Koehn** continues serving as (volunteer) Associate Pastor.

Heidi Regier Kreider was affirmed by Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS, for another three-year term.

Doug Luginbill, pastor at Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS, has resigned effective no later than August 31.

Corey and **Nancy Miller**, pastor of Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton, KS, mourn the death of Nancy's brother, Dave Unruh, on January 18.

James Voth begins in March as Pastor of Congregational Care at Bethesda Mennonite Church, Henderson, NE. He was formerly the pastor at Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater, KS for 23 years.

David Wiens begins February 1 as part-time interim pastor at Eden Mennonite Church, Inola, OK.

Nita Wilson, Interim Conference Youth Minister-Texas based, became engaged to Steve Nikkel on January 2. Congratulations!

The Parish Paper

Visit www.mennowdc.org/Publications.html to view the February issue of **The Parish Paper**, entitled *Should our congregation offer more choices?"*

Check It Out

Top Children's Books: In February's issue of **Check It Out** from the Conference Resource Library, you will find some of our best and newest children's books we suggest for using in a congregational setting. Discover ideas for children's story in worship, for supporting a Sunday School lesson or for sharing between parent and child. Visit our website for listings from previous issues:

www.mennowdc.org/ArchiveLibrary.com.

Conference Resource Library

1. Everyone with internet has 24-hour access to the **on-line catalog** of the Conference Resource Library. Here's how: go to www.mennowdc.org, click on Library, then Webrary. You may now search by author, subject or title. When you get results, you may click on any words in blue - that will link you to additional books by that author or subject. After you have chosen some resources, contact us (crib@mennowdc.org, or 316-283-6300) to make your request. We hope you find what you are looking for - if not, perhaps we can suggest some alternatives.

2. **Free subscription** to you and any one in your congregation! Beginning in February, the Conference Resource Library will be providing monthly email updates on new resources to anyone interested in new books, DVD's, or ideas. Simply send your email address to: crib@mennowdc.org with "subscribe me" in the subject line. (Pastors / secretaries - please place this in your church bulletin and also in your church newsletter.)

--*Marlene Bogard and Pat Schmidt, Western District Conference Resource Library*

Camp Mennoscah - new retreats!

Camp Mennoscah will hold its first **Scrapbooking Retreat March 6-7**. Workshops will be offered and you will have hours upon hours to work on your scrapbooks. Join us for some cropping fun!

Camp Mennoscah is also having its first **Sustainable Foods and Farming Retreat March 21-22!** The theme is Growing and Eating Faithfully: Sustainable Communities. This retreat is being held as

part of an effort by the Mennonite Camping Association and Mennonite Creation Care Network. We hope to see you there for fun, fellowship, and growing in God's creation!

Contact us for more information about either retreat at 620-297-3290 or campmno@mennowdc.org.

Organ recitals

All are invited to an organ recital by Christopher Shaw on **February 8** at 2:30 p.m. at Hesston Mennonite Church, KS, featuring works by Couperin, Bach, Brahms, and Phillips.

Also on **February 8** at 4:00 p.m., there will be an organ dedication recital at Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, KS, followed by a reception. For information, contact: office@rainbowmennonite.org.

Stewardship University Practical solutions for life

Stewardship University, sponsored by MMA Stewardship Solutions, will be offered on **February 21** on the Bethel College campus in North Newton, KS. Courses invite you to discover the solutions you need to live a God-honoring life of holistic stewardship. Learn ways your use of the time, talents, money, health and relationships God has given you can enhance and deepen your faith, drawing you nearer to God!

For information or to register, go to: www.StewardshipUniversity.org.

Pastors' Day Apart

We welcome J. Nelson Kraybill, president of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, as presenter on the topic of "Anabaptist and Emergent: Radical is relevant for this generation". He will explore congregational leadership in an age of increasing complexity and creativity. How should we lead? Who should lead? How do we respond to innovations? Where is loyalty (spiritually, denominationally)? This Pastors' Day Apart will be on **March 2, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, rural Goessel, KS; brochure available soon. (Pastors are welcome to bring deacons, council moderators, or new congregational leaders.)

Shane Claiborne to speak

Shane Claiborne, author of *Irresistible Revolution* and *Jesus for President* will speak at Bethel College Memorial Hall on **March 5 at 7 p.m.**, where the *Lost in Light* band will also perform. Co-sponsored by Faith Mennonite Church and Bethel College, this is free and open to the public, but geared toward youth/young adults. He will also speak at the Staley Lecture at Bethel College on **March 6, 11 a.m.** at Krehbiel Auditorium.

Prevention of Clergy Misconduct

Training for the prevention of clergy misconduct will be held (in Spanish and English) at the Menno Center in Dallas, TX on **March 14**. Marlene Bogard and Gilberto Flores will provide this training, which is required for all credentialed pastors in the Western District Conference. See these links for the registration brochure:

<http://www.mennowdc.org/PreventingClergyMisconductTexas2009.pdf>;

<http://www.mennowdc.org/PreventingClergyMisconductTexasSpanish2009.pdf>

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Explore the Hymnal Supplements *Sing the Story* and *Sing the Journey* with Ken Nafziger on **March 21, 2-5 p.m.** at Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge KS. This Saturday afternoon resourcing event is for choirs and choir directors, worship leaders and planners, pastors, song leaders, and musicians of all ages. Registration cost is \$20 / person or \$100 / church (bring as many as you want!).

Please join for worship at Eden Mennonite Church on Sunday, **March 22 at 9:30 a.m.** Ken will lead the singing! Then all are welcome again in the afternoon for a **hymn sing at 2 p.m.** with Ken. An offering will be taken for expenses. This event is jointly sponsored by the Western District Conference Music and Worship Task Force and Eden Mennonite Church. See brochure and registration information at: <http://www.mennowdc.org/HowCanIKeepFromSinging.pdf>

MCC Spring Seminar 2009

A seminar entitled "The Global Food Crisis: Hunger for Justice" will be held at the Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita, KS on **March 28-29**. Planned by the MCC U.S. Washington Office, the seminar will feature plenary sessions and workshops on a variety of topics, including the history and causes of the crisis; the impact of bio-fuels; sustainable eating; and how to advocate effectively; and an overview of MCC food projects. U.S. Senator Sam Brownback has been invited to speak; the seminar will also include an optional visit to the senator's office in Wichita on Monday, March 30. For further information go to: <http://mcc.org/us/washington/programs/seminar/>.

New sermon series for 2009

A new six-week Sermon Series, based on the book "*Bouquets: Intentional Relationships in Making Disciples*" (Herald Press), is now available to use as a worship and study resource in our congregations. Included are time-tested object lessons, mini-drama ideas, brief sermon outlines and other creative

components to help with worship planning. This resource can be requested free of charge by contacting Bruce Hamsher via email: hamsherfive@yahoo.com.

Great Plains seminary class - summer 2009

“Teaching the Bible in the Congregation” will be the Great Plains seminary class for **June 2009**.

Doug Miller, Ph.D., Hillsboro, KS, will teach the 3-credit-hour class. Auditors welcome. A great class for pastors, Sunday school teachers, deacons/elders, and other church leaders. More details available in early April. For more information, contact Lois Barrett, Director, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary—Great Plains Extension, 2517 Main, PO Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117; 316-283-7098; lbarrett@amb.edu.

News from Mennonite Central Committee US - Washington office

- For information about MCC’s ongoing *Waging Peace in Sudan* campaign, contact Mary Stata, mstata@mstata@mcc.org.
- Available online: a new *Guide to Native American Issues*, as well as Spanish translations of our *Guide to Christian Advocacy* and our *Guide to Immigration Reform* (<http://mcc.org/us/washington/issues/>). Also available online is a *Guide to Predatory Lending*, at www.mcc.org/us/Washington/resources/guide/predatorylending_guide.pdf
- Redesigned print newsletter, the *Washington Memo*. Subscriptions are available for \$10/year, with a free one-year trial for new subscribers - see <http://washingtonmemo.org/washington-memo-newsletter/>.

Corrections to WDC Fall 2008 Directory

- p. 2 & 29 - Esther Vazquez - new email - esther.vazquez@vmail.com
- p. 2 - Sheri Lepard - new email - sheri.lepard@usd262.net
- p. 6 & 7 - Remove Linda Ewert as Youth Ministry Committee rep
- p. 7 - Peter Miller - remove email address - invalid
- p. 8 - Carol Moore - new email - clmoore@fhsu.edu
- p. 9 - Walter & Carol Friesen - remove as Low German task force members; Vern & Helen Jantz - new email - jantzh@gmail.com; David T. Harder - 3015 Pine Hill Place, Hutchinson KS 67052
- p. 22 - Ray Reimer (First Mennonite Church, Ransom) - remove. Add Eldon Epp, Pastor, 542 S Chautauqua, Wichita KS 67211; 316-390-0204; e.epp8008@cox.net; Doug Harris (Gospel Fellowship Church) - remove. Add Errol Koehn (Interim Pastor), 109 N Tovar St, Montezuma KS 67867; erdwko@yahoo.com. Virginia Koehn is volunteer assistant pastor.
- p. 23 - James Voth (Grace Hill Mennonite Church) - remove. Add: Marvin Zehr, Interim Pastor. Change Katherine Goerzen’s info: 2401 N Main, North Newton

KS 67117; 316-283-2412; youthpastor@gracehillmc.org

- p. 27 - Eden Mennonite Church - Add David Wiens, Interim Pastor
- p. 30 - Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania - add mailing address: PO Box 324, Newton KS 67114; Jaime Cazares new phone: 316-644-5800

Western District Conference coming events

February 4 - Staff Birthday - Pat Schmidt
March 2 - Pastors’ Day Apart, Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, KS
March 2 - Oklahoma Pastor/Spouse meeting/potluck, Joy Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City, OK
March 8-10 - Herold Mennonite Church (Cordell, OK) and First Mennonite Church (Clinton, OK) joint spring meeting, Jonathan Larson, guest speaker
March 14 - Prevention of Clergy Misconduct training (English & Spanish), Menno Center, Dallas, TX
March 20-21 - WDC volleyball tournament, Hesston College, KS
March 17, 19, 20-21 - WDC basketball tournament, Bethel College, North Newton, KS
March 21 - *How Can I Keep From Singing* workshop, Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS
March 22, 2 p.m. - Hymn Sing, Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS (open to all!)
June 12-14 - South Central Conference Annual Family Festival, Hesston College and Hesston Mennonite Church
June 30-July 5 - MC USA Convention 2009, Columbus, OH
Aug. 7-8 - WDC Annual Conference, Bethel College and Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton, KS
Sept. 18-20 - “And You Welcomed Me: a Consultation of the People of God on Immigration”, Dallas, TX (sponsored by MMN, hosted by WDC)

Conference Ministers’ schedules

Feb. 1 - Deer Creek (OK) Menn. Church (DNF)
Feb. 2 - Gift Discernment Committee (DNF)
Feb. 3 - Program Committee (DNF)
Feb. 6-7 - Install Gilberto Flores, Dallas, TX (DNF, NW)
Feb. 8 - Peace Menn. Church, Dallas, TX (DNF)
Feb. 10 - Staff Relations Committee; Stewardship Commission (DNF)
Feb. 16 - Manhattan Menn Church search committee (DNF)
Feb. 19 - I-70 pastor-peer group, Topeka, KS; Hope Menn. Church, Wichita, KS (DNF)
Feb. 21 - Stewardship University (DNF); Area pastors meeting & combined worship service, Dallas, TX (NW)
Feb. 22 - Hope Menn. Church, Wichita, KS (DNF)
Feb. 25 - WDC Staff meeting
Feb. 27 - Health care plan ambassador training (DNF)
(Marlene Bogard—MB; Dorothy Nickel Friesen—DNF; Dave Gerbrandt--DG; Marco Güete—MG; Doug Krehbiel-DK; NW—Nita Wilson)

The MEMO is published monthly for WDC pastors and committee members. Submit articles and correspondence to: Dorothy Nickel Friesen, dorothyvf@mennowdc.org
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