



# **WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES**

Of the One Hundred and Eighteenth  
Annual Session of the  
Western District Conference  
of  
Mennonite Church USA

August 7-8, 2009  
Bethel College and  
Bethel College Mennonite Church  
North Newton, KS

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**Western District Conference  
118th Delegate Session – Minutes  
August 8, 2009**

1. Welcome (Brenda Glanzer Lilliston)

a. Adjustments to the agenda.

i. Add secretary's report of the minutes of 2008 after the credential committee report.

ii. Add presentation and adoption of the budget.

b. Brenda explained the changes made to the 2009 Annual Conference and delegate session. She led in prayer.

c. Credential Committee report: There are 64 churches and 4 church plants in WDC with 375 eligible votes. Following are statistics as of 9 a.m. August 8, 2009: the number of churches/church plants represented at conference – 53. The number of delegates attending the conference – 186. The number of votes represented at conference – 331. The number of churches/church plants not represented at conference – 15. The number of votes not represented at conference – 44.

d. Highlights of the 2008 WDC Annual Conference were read and approved.

**Motion by Executive Committee. Second/Eldon Epp. Carried.**

2. Conference Minister Report (Dorothy Nickel Friesen)

a. Report included Board and Commission reports.

b. 2010 budget was presented.

**Motion by Executive Board to adopt the proposed 2010 budget. Second/Adam Robb. Carried.**

3. Ballot (Al Penner, Gifts Discernment Committee). Nominations from the floor. None.

**Motion by Gifts Discernment Committee to accept the ballot as presented. Second/Marlene Faul. Carried.**

4. Resolution from the End the Death Penalty Task Force was presented by Jim Juhnke. The last resolution was adopted in 1991--18 years ago. The issue needs to be addressed, continually. The reason for the current resolution, while it is an affirmation of the long-standing conviction, is that it is necessary to have a current conference statement.

**Motion to from the End the Death Penalty by End the Death Penalty Task Force. Second/ Ken Neufeld. Carried.**

5. MC USA report/sharing - Phil Bergey (MC USA Executive Leadership and Raphael Barahona, Mennonite Education Agency; Kevin Goertzen, Mennonite Mission Network; Pete Flaming, Mennonite Mutual Aid; Terry Graber, Mennonite Publishing House; Marvin Zehr, Corinthian Plan)

a. He expressed gratitude for prayerful and financial support. He, on behalf of the representatives, invited prayers and questions.

b. The agency representatives were introduced and their reports were noted in the delegate handbook.

c. Corinthian Plan. Thirty-one WDC congregations and conference staff have indicated an interest in participating in the plan (about 50%). Awaiting word from 20 congregations. Thirty-seven congregations are in the current plan (COMB) and are waived. Church-wide: 404 congregations and conferences have expressed interested in participating. Awaiting word from 400 congregations. 171 congregations are enrolled in the current plan and are waived. The open enrollment period ends October 1, 2009.

d. Mennonite Publishing House. The mission of the agency is to help and equip the church to share the gospel of hope. Through books, periodical and Christian education materials we educate, inform, inspire and encourage the church to live out the radical message of Jesus Christ in daily life. In the WDC we are fortunate to have Marlene Bogard as Resource Advocate to assist congregations in developing Christian education as spiritual formation. "We thank God that we can serve you, and the wider church, in this way."

6. 2010 annual conference at Lakeview Camp and Conference Center in Waxahachie, Texas, July 9-11.

7. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Berni Kaufman, WDC Secretary

**Western District Conference  
2010 Budget**

	<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Congregation & Individual Contributions ...	467,624	473,689
Mennonite Agri-Urban.....	10,000	10,000
Fundraisers.....	10,000	10,000
Staffing Refunds.....	54,064	36,073
Vision 2012 Church Plant Staff .....	45,723	*39,061
Vision 2012 Funds (resources/scholarships/subsidies) ..	5,000	16,500
Rent Income.....	6,000	6,000
Office & Travel Refunds.....	10,000	10,000
Restricted Funds for church plant subsidies.	17,000	*31,520
Bequest Fund Income .....	20,000	28,000
<u>Interest Income .....</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>650,411</b>	<b>665,843</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Executive Board.....	46,923	54,585
Leadership Commission .....	290,762	*287,367
Resource Commission .....	149,999	157,830
Stewardship Commission .....	73,972	77,890
<u>Retreat Commission .....</u>	<u>88,755</u>	<u>88,171</u>
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>650,411</b>	<b>665,843</b>

\*The proposed 2010 budget includes Vision 2012 funds and restricted account funds used for church planting staff and subsidies. Because these funds are also being used to support church planting in 2009, the 2009 budget has been revised to reflect this. These Vision 2012 funds and restricted funds are administered by the Leadership Commission which approved their use for both years.

**Expense Detail**

**Executive Board:** The Executive Board is the overall visioning, direction-setting, prioritizing and policy-making board of the Western District Conference. The Executive Board acts on behalf of the delegates between Delegate Assemblies.

Administrative costs for the Executive Board include:

- 40% of the Conference Minister
- 10% of the Administrative Assistant
- 10% of the Business Manager
- 20% of staff travel
- 10% of office expenses

Program expenses cover board meeting expenses (travel, conference calls, etc), costs for the Reference Council, our Damascus Road Team and an annual amount to subsidize the eleven WDC delegates to MC USA Assembly.

<u>Administrative Expenses</u>	
Staffing .....	32,923
Staff Travel .....	3,000
Office Expenses .....	3,500
<u>Program Expenses</u>	
Board Expenses .....	3,000
MCUSA Delegates .....	3,000
Reference Council .....	1,000
Damascus Road Team.....	500
<b>Executive Total .....</b>	<b>46,923</b>

**Leadership Commission:** The Leadership Commission is focused on ministerial leadership and church planting. The Leadership Commission helps congregations find and sustain pastoral leadership and serves the unique needs of pastors, youth ministers and church planters through encouragement, support, accountability and credentialing. They provide subsidies to new church plants and assistance for church planters to receive education and resourcing.

The Administrative costs for the Leadership Commission include:

- 30% of the Conference Minister
- 100% of the Associate Conference Ministers
- 50% of the Youth Conference Minister
- 40% of the Administrative Assistant
- 15% of the Business Manager
- 20% of staff travel
- 40% of office expenses

Program costs cover commission meeting expenses (travel, conference calls, etc), costs involved with credentialing pastors, scholarships for AMBS, a subsidy for AMBS—Great Plains, and subsidies for church plants.

<u>Administrative Expenses</u>	
Staffing .....	204,562
Staff Travel .....	17,000
Office Expenses .....	14,000
<u>Program Expenses</u>	
Commission Expenses .....	1,200
Ministerial Credentialing .....	1,500
Seminary Scholarships .....	5,000
Workshops/Resources .....	500
AMBS-Great Plains .....	3,000
Church Planter Retreats .....	4,000
Church Planter – New work .....	12,000
<u>Church Plant Subsidies .....</u>	<u>28,000</u>
<b>Leadership Total .....</b>	<b>290,762</b>

**Resource Commission:** The Resource Commission seeks to provide a variety of resources and training for Western District congregations in the areas of faith formation, youth ministry, peace and evangelism, music and worship and history. The commission also provides money for the on-going development of the Resource Library.

Administrative costs for the Resource Commission include:

- 10% of the Conference Minister
- 100% Minister of Christian Nurture
- 50% of the Youth Conference Ministers
- 20% of the Administrative Assistant
- 15% of the Business Manager
- 40% of staff travel
- 25% of office expense

Program costs cover commission meeting expenses (travel, conference calls, etc), funds to operate and provide new resources for the Resource Library, a subsidy for the Mennonite Library & Archives, Youth programming and resources in the areas of worship, music, evangelism, outreach, peace and justice, ethnic relationships, special needs and other issues affecting congregations and communities.

Administrative Expenses

Staffing .....	112,399
Staff Travel .....	10,000
Office Expenses .....	8,750

Program Expenses

Commission Expenses .....	2,000
Mennonite Library & Archives .....	2,500
Historical Committee .....	1,000
Resource Library .....	7,700
Music & Worship Task Force .....	350
Health & Wellness Task Force .....	grants only
Peace Making & Outreach .....	300
Low German Task Force .....	grants only
TX Youth Committee .....	2,500
KS Youth Committee .....	2,500

**Resource Total..... 149,999**

**Stewardship Commission:** The Stewardship Commission gives oversight to the Western District Conference legal, financial, personnel and property matters and promotes and encourages participation in the ministries of the conference through communication, prayer, and financial support.

Administrative costs for the Stewardship Commission include:

- 10% of the Conference Minister
- 20% of the Administrative Assistant
- 50% of the Business Manager
- 5% of staff travel
- 25% of office expense

Program costs cover commission meeting expenses (travel, conference calls, etc), insurance premiums, audit costs, and funds for print communications which includes *The News*, a monthly publication for all members of WDC and the *Ministry Memo*, a monthly publication for leaders in the conference

Administrative Expenses	
Staffing .....	42,722
Staff Travel .....	2,000
Office Expenses .....	8,750
Program Expenses	
Commission Expenses .....	250
Trustee Task Force .....	250
Communications .....	6,000
Insurance .....	7,500
<u>Audit .....</u>	<u>6,500</u>
<b>Stewardship Total .....</b>	<b>73,972</b>

**Retreat Commission:** The Retreat Commission serves Western District Conference congregations by providing camp, retreat, and recreational experiences at Camp Mennoscah and other settings where Christian relationships and faith in Jesus Christ can be shared and nurtured in a variety of ways.

Administrative costs for the Stewardship Commission include:

- 10% of the Conference Minister
- 100% Camp Staff
- 10% of the Administrative Assistant
- 10% of the Business Manager

Program costs cover commission meeting expenses (travel, conference calls, etc), funds to supplement retreat costs, Mennonite Camping Association dues and money to support the Oklahoma camping program.

Administrative Expenses	
Staffing .....	85,575
Program Expenses	
Commission Expenses .....	430
Retreats .....	1,250
Ski Retreat Task Force .....	self funded
<u>Mennonite Camping .....</u>	<u>1,500</u>
<b>Retreat Total .....</b>	<b>88,755</b>

**Camp Mennoedah Budget**

*The Camp Budget is not a part of the WDC general budget  
and is set by the Retreat Commission.*

*It is printed here for your information but is not subject to delegate approval.*

Our camp provides a 9-week summer camping program for children grades 4-12, retreats for those with disabilities, camps for senior citizens as well as other specialty camps. The camp offers a peaceful setting for a personal or group retreat and is available to church groups, schools, business groups and families.

	<b>2010 Budget</b>	2009 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Camp Fees .....	<b>75,000</b>	92,000
Camp Rentals .....	<b>55,850</b>	49,100
Contributions.....	<b>18,000</b>	18,000
Camp Builders .....	<b>15,000</b>	20,000
Fund Raisers.....	<b>6,925</b>	6,750
MVS Income .....	<b>7,500</b>	0
Farmland Income .....	<b>1,400</b>	1,400
<u>Other Income/Fundraisers .....</u>	<u><b>10,700</b></u>	<u>12,150</u>
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>190,375</b>	199,400
<b>Expenses</b>		
Staff.....	<b>64,100</b>	48,400
Vehicles & Fuel .....	<b>8,000</b>	11,000
Programming.....	<b>38,075</b>	37,000
Maintenance .....	<b>26,000</b>	30,800
Utilities .....	<b>38,300</b>	34,100
Insurance & Taxes.....	<b>13,500</b>	17,700
Loan Repayments.....	<b>2,400</b>	9,400
<u>Capital Improvements.....</u>	<u><b>0</b></u>	<u>11,000</u>
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>190,375</b>	199,400

## 2010 ELECTION RESULTS

**Executive Board:** Verlin Koehn, Russ Wedel

**Gifts Discernment Committee:** Alvin Penner, Ed Wiens

**Leadership Commission:** Robert Kaufman, Garland Robertson

**Resource Commission:** Tom Claassen, Sharon Nance

**Retreat Commission:** Kara Klingenberg, Galen Waltner

**Stewardship Commission:** Robert Esau, Greg Pankratz

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### CERTIFIED DELEGATES AT 2009 CONFERENCE\*

#### KANSAS

1. **Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel:** Linda Ewert, Delbert Peters, Steve Schmidt, Brian Stucky, Nancy Stucky (516 members, 18 votes)
2. **Bergthal Mennonite Church, Pawnee Rock:** Laurie Hesed, Shana Goering (66 members, 3 votes)
3. **Bethel College Mennonite Church, North Newton:** Brenda Bartel, Floyd Bartel, Leah Bartel, Helen Voth Bertrand, Cliff Dick, Marlene Faul, Dorothy Nickel Friesen, Richard Friesen, Ruth Harder, Norma Johnson, Ben Kreider, Heidi Regier Kreider, Vern Preheim, Adam Robb, Patty Shelly, Sheri Sheperd, Aldine Sprunger, Harold Thieszen, (590 members, 20 votes)
4. **Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman:** Alden Dick, Joan Dick (382 members, 13 votes)
5. **Buhler Mennonite Church, Buhler:** Matt Simon (376 members, 13 votes)
6. **Burrton Mennonite Church, Burrton:** Ann Dunn, James Dunn, Lu Goering, Vernelle Voth (94 members, 4 votes)
7. **Calvary Mennonite Church, Liberal:** Lou Gomez (33 members, 2 votes)
8. **Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge:** Darleen Bartell, Mike Bogard, Marlo Gehring, Beverly Goering, Fred Goering, Howard Kaufman, Neva Kaufman, Denise Krehbiel, Marlene Krehbiel, Steve Krehbiel, Pam Schrag, Dave Stevens, Carol Stucky, Marjorie Stucky, Marvin Stucky, Bob Tolle, Sondra Tolle (733 members, 25 votes)
9. **Faith Mennonite Church, Newton:** Milton Claassen, Mark Jantzen, Esther Koontz, Nathan Koontz, Brenda Martinez, Jesus Martinez, Robert Neufeld, Sara Regier, Loren Reusser, Peggy Reusser, Gordon Smith, Mindy Smith, Jim Stucky (361 members, 13 votes)
10. **First Mennonite Church, Halstead:** Marilyn Balzer, Kent Dick, Cleo Koop, Lois Loflin, (266 members, 9 votes)
11. **First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro:** Carolee Neufeld, Ken Neufeld, Randy Smith (291 members, 10 votes)
12. **First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson:** Jennalee Boggs, Lorene Graber, Cindy Kroeker, Danny Kroeker, Ethan Reimer, Miles Reimer, June Thomsen, Russ Wedel (242 members, 9 votes)
13. **First Mennonite Church, McPherson:** Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Michael Dunn (192 members, 7 votes)
14. **First Mennonite Church, Newton:** Erwin Rempel, Don Schmidt, Marlene Schmidt, Jim Schrag, Jerome Waltner, Keri Waltner (559 members, 19 votes)
15. **First Mennonite Church, Pretty Prairie:** No delegates present. (369 members, 13 votes)
16. **First Mennonite Church, Ransom:** Eldon Epp (30 members, 1 vote)

17. **First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge:** Randy Stucky, Phil Waite (198 members, 7 votes)
18. **Goessel Mennonite Church, Goessel:** Mike Hiebert, Wilbert Schmidt (177 members, 6 votes)
19. **Gospel Fellowship, Montezuma:** Virginia Koehn (30 members, 1 vote)
20. **Grace Hill Mennonite Church, Whitewater:** Katherine Goerzen, Valerie Klaassen, Amanda Regehr, Diana Schunn, Rob Schunn (234 members, 8 votes)
21. **Hanston Mennonite Church, Hanston:** No delegates present. (50 members, 2 votes)
22. **Hoffnungsaus Mennonite Church, Inman:** Willmar Harder, Hannah Neufeld (245 members, 9 votes)
23. **Hope Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Brenda Glanzer Lilliston (208 members, 7 votes)
24. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Menonita Casa Betania, Newton:** Mireya Rocha (1 vote)
25. **Inman Mennonite Church, Inman:** Eric Buller, Ruth Buller (133 members, 5 votes)
26. **Kingman Mennonite Church, Kingman:** No delegates present. (78 members, 3 votes)
27. **Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, Wichita:** Amanda Bartel, Ellen Ebersole, Willard Ebersole, Ann Fetters, Jim Juhnke, Janet Kaufman, Miriam Nofsinger, Karl Swartz, Myra Swartz (388 members, 13 votes)
28. **Manhattan Mennonite Church, Manhattan:** Cathy Bitikofer, Rod Franz, Janet McGillivary (90 members, 3 votes)
29. **Mennonite Church of the Servant, Wichita:** Jeanette Stucky (30 members, 1 vote)
30. **New Creation Fellowship, Newton:** Wes Bergen, Renee Kanagy (70 members, 3 votes)
31. **Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence:** Joanna Harader (50 members, 2 votes)
32. **Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City:** Rachel Hostetler, Robert Kaufman, George Melby (282 members, 10 votes)
33. **Salina Mennonite Church, Salina:** Tom Claassen, Christina Litwiller (66 members, 3 votes)
34. **Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton:** Paul Fransen, Kristen Saner, Marlene Smucker, Jeannie Zehr, Marvin Zehr (180 members, 6 votes)
35. **Southern Hills Mennonite Church, Topeka:** Kevin Goering, Raylene Hinz Penner, Rosanne Siemens, Andrew Voth (105 members, 4 votes)
36. **Tabor Mennonite Church, Newton:** Karen Andres, Kimberly Funk, Lee Goertzen, Phyllis Goertzen, Rosie Jantz, Bonnie Janzen, Denise Nickel, Carrie Unruh, Myron Voth (337 members, 12 votes)
37. **Trinity Mennonite Church, Hillsboro:** Lloyd Funk, Sue Funk, Roger Hofer, Jeff Wintermote (218 members, 8 votes)
38. **West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge:** Geneva Wedel, John Yoder-Schrock, Marcia Yoder-Schrock (205 members, 7 votes)
39. **Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing:** Bruce Bradshaw, Elena Entz, Carol Klingenberg, Vern Klingenberg (153 members, 6 votes)

## MISSOURI

1. (Church Plant) **Mt. Zion Mennonite Church, Hallsville:** Janet Dellinger (12 members, 1 vote)

## NEBRASKA

1. **Beatrice Mennonite Church, Beatrice:** Muriel Kaufman Graber, Miriam Kelle, Debbie Thimm (103 members, 4 votes)
2. **First Mennonite Church, Beatrice:** No delegates present. (251 members, 9 votes)

## OKLAHOMA

1. **Bethel Mennonite Church, Hammon:** No delegates present. (25 members, 1 vote)
2. **Bethel Mennonite Church, Hydro:** Michael Entz, Dean Schantz, DeMaris Unruh, Raymond Unruh (100 members, 4 votes)

3. **Deer Creek Mennonite Church, Deer Creek:** Gary Janzen, Chuck Moyer (51 members, 2 votes)
4. **Eden Mennonite Church, Inola:** Bonnie Kroeker, Greg Pankratz (210 members, 7 votes)
5. **First Mennonite Church, Clinton:** Dave Gerbrandt, Marilyn Gerbrandt (60 member, 2 votes)
6. **Grace Mennonite Church, Enid:** Verlin Koehn, Luella Unruh, Walt Unruh (75 members, 3 votes)
7. **Greenfield Mennonite Church, Carnegie:** No delegates present. (23 members, 1 vote)
8. **Herold Mennonite Church, Cordell:** Barry Kliewer, Eugene Thieszen (105 members, 4 votes)
9. **Joy Mennonite Church, Oklahoma City:** Stephan Warner (20 members, 1 vote)
10. **Koinonia Mennonite Church, Clinton:** No delegates present (23 members, 1 vote)
11. **Mennonite Indian Church, Seiling:** No delegates present. (12 members, 1 vote)
12. **Turpin Mennonite Church, Turpin:** Pete Emery, Dennis Loepp, Dori Loepp 101 members, 4 votes)

## **TEXAS**

1. **Austin Mennonite Church, Austin:** Ruth Anne Abraham, Marilyn Lehman, Michael Sirmons Robertson (63 members, 3 votes)
2. **Comunidad de Esperanza, Dallas:** Nester Guajardo (28 members, 1 votes)
3. **Hope Fellowship, Waco:** No delegates present. (18 members, 1 vote)
4. **House of Healing, Grand Prairie:** No delegates present. (23 members, 1 vote)
5. **Houston Mennonite Church, Houston:** Frances Chavez, Marty Troyer (37 members, 2 votes)
6. **Iglesia Cristiana Menonita Monte Horeb, Dallas:** Susie Caceros (12 members, 1 vote)
7. (Church Plant) **Iglesia Menonita Casa de Dios, Garland:** No delegates present. (15 membership, 1 vote)
8. **Iglesia Menonita Luz del Evangelio, Dallas:** José Luis Cortes, Marcy Cortes (110 members, 4 votes)
9. **Iglesia Menonita Mi Redentor, Ferris:** Jorge Quintanilla (20 members, 1 vote)
10. (Church Plant) **Nueva Jerusalem, Houston:** No delegates present. (15 members, 1 vote)
11. **Peace Mennonite Church, Dallas:** Sam Nance, Sharon Nance. (88 members, 3 votes)
12. **San Antonio Mennonite Church, San Antonio:** Jacob Castro, Rachel Epp Miller (38 members, 2 vote)
13. **Iglesia Menonita Casa del Alfarero, Pasadena:** No delegates present. (45 members, 2 votes)
14. **Iglesia Menonita Comunidad de Vida, San Antonio:** Blanca Vargas (15 members, 1 vote)

**There are 64 churches and 4 church plants in Western District Conference with 375 eligible votes.**

**191 Delegates attended conference**

**55 Churches were represented at conference**

**13 Churches were not represented at conference**

**338 - Votes at conference**

**37 - Votes not represented at conference**

*\*This list of names, numbers and statistics are the final tally at the end of annual conference. The numbers reported by the Credentials Committee at the delegate session on Saturday morning were as of Saturday, August 8, 9:00 a.m.*