

Community and Conference Announcements

**WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEEDS**

Zion holds congregational information session on polity

Pastor Ray Reimer of Zion Mennonite Church, Elbing, led a congregational information session on Conference/Denominational Polity on March 8. Attached is a survey for Zion members that uses elements of the Western District Conference Survey from 2014 and the recent Mennonite Church USA Delegate Survey in a compact form. The completing of the survey was educational for the members and the compiled results created a picture of the congregation's diversity. Also attached is a thirteen-page instructional introduction to church polity with a timeline of recent events and actions regarding polity and human sexuality in Western District Conference and Mennonite Church USA. This is a valuable and concise summary for pastors and church leaders. Pastor Ray gives permission for its use and adaptation in informing your church's members and your church's delegates to upcoming Assemblies. Enjoy Ray's informality and injections of wry humor.

-Clarence Rempel, Conference Minister

For attachments go to www.mennowdc.org, then go to Publications, WDC Seeds, March 25, 2015, scroll down to find attachments

Prayer Requests:

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for Howard Garver, the new Associate Conference Minister for Texas and Director of Church Planting, as he gets acquainted, develops relationships, and enters into the Conference Minister work of Western District Conference.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Janet Stucky of MMN serves as a nutritional consultant at Bethesda Hospital in Benin. Pray for funding to implement a program to improve the diets of pregnant women, children under 5 years old, and people living with HIV/AIDS.
- ★ Mennonite Education Agency: Pray for high school seniors as they decide what they will do upon graduation. Pray for those considering Mennonite colleges / universities that they may have the tools needed to choose schools that will fit well and prepare them for lives of faith and service.

Men and Boys Retreat at Camp Mennoscah is April 10-12. **Pastor Phil Schmidt** will be our speaker for the weekend. You can come on Friday already, although Saturday supper will be the first meal provided. Lodging for the weekend is available on a first-come, first-served basis and includes cabins, staff houses, or bring a tent, RV, or sleep under the stars. If you have any questions, contact Kevin Neufeld at 316-284-0450 or kevinneufeld2@gmail.com.

Mennonite Church Announcements:

The Convention Prayer Team and AMBS-Kansas Center will host a **Prayer Retreat prior to the MC USA Convention** in July. This retreat is intended for pastors, congregational leaders, delegates, members and anyone who is interested in coming together to join in prayer in preparation for Convention. This retreat will be held on Sunday, May 3, at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston, KS. The retreat begins at 4:30 pm and will conclude with a faspa supper at 6:00, so participants are invited to bring faspa finger foods (bread, meat, cheese, pickles, fruit, etc.) to share. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please see <https://www.ambs.edu/news-events/Prayer-Gathering.cfm>. To RSVP as a congregation or as an individual, please contact Katherine Goerzen at kccordinator@ambs.edu by April 27.

Adult Bible School: Sermon on the Mount: June is the month for Bible School, and so any adult looking for an opportunity for spiritual growth, renewed discipleship, and a chance to dive deeper into the Bible is invited to participate in an Adult Bible School on the Sermon on the Mount. This continuing education opportunity is hosted by AMBS-Kansas Center and will be taught by Jerry Truex. It will meet June 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 7:00-9:30 pm at the Hesston Mennonite Church in Hesston, KS. The cost per person is \$50. Registration will be available soon (Please plan to register by May 11). For more information, please contact Katherine Goerzen at kccordinator@ambs.edu.

Mennonite World Conference is coming to North America (21-26 July 2015, Harrisburg, PA, USA), and Mennonites of all ages are welcome! Children will meet in their own space to celebrate Assembly each day and share across languages and backgrounds. Youth will meet every morning in the Global Church Village and have special workshops, service opportunities, sports and tours each afternoon. More info at mwc-cmm.org/pa2015.

Bethel College:

Today (Sun., March 29) – **Bethel College Concert Choir Home Concert**, 7 p.m., *Memorial Hall*

Do you have the winning ball from an important game? Did your athletic team foster international friendships? Did your sport help you overcome adversity in a significant way? **Kauffman Museum** is looking for Bethel College and other local school and community sports artifacts that tell great stories. If you have one you'd consider loaning for an exhibition next school year, please contact Rachel Epp Buller at rebuller@bethelks.edu or 316-284-5222 by Monday, April 20.

Hesston College:

Join the **Hesston College Men's Basketball** team and Coach Dustin Galyon in celebrating a 2015 Region VI Championship and National Tournament berth at the third annual Men's Basketball Banquet at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 31, at the Water's Edge restaurant in Hesston. Cost is \$30 per person and includes dinner, program, and team support for the 2015-16 season. Reservations are required by Monday March 30, by calling 620-727-5087 or 620-327-8109.

Peace Connections Fundraiser:

What: Peace by Piece Decades Fashion Show (Appetizers and Mocktail Bar provided - Tickets \$25.00)

Who: Peace Connections (Supporter of Circles of Hope and Summer Enrichment Activities)

Where: Dyck Arboretum, Hesston, Kansas

When: Saturday, April 18th 7:00 -- 9:00 pm

Please contact Peace Connections at 316-284-0000 or email info@peaceconnections.org to purchase tickets, receive a promotional flyer or if you have any questions.

Map out your financial future: Join Everence for this special presentation Tuesday, April 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Shawn Persing, CFP®, AWMA®, Director of Financial Planning at Everence, will talk about how financial planning can help you achieve your goals and avoid costly financial mistakes. He also will discuss how integrating your faith with your financial decisions can help you change your world. The presentation will take place at Faith Mennonite Church, 2100 N. Anderson, in Newton. Join us for a dessert buffet and Everence prizes! Child care will be available. For more information or to RSVP (by March 31), contact Darlene Buller at (877) 467-7294 or darlene.buller@everence.com.

Getting ready to retire? Everence Financial will present an informational seminar, *Retiring soon? Make sense of your Medicare and Social Security choices* at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday, April 13. Everence Financial Advisor Robert Wall will speak on Medicare and Social Security, provide instructions on how to enroll, explain your options if you continue to work and answer related questions. The seminars will take place at Everence Financial, 371 N. Old Highway 81, Hesston. To reserve your spot, contact Darlene Buller at (877) 467-7294, (620) 327-4043 or darlene.buller@everence.com.

Prairie View invites visual artists to submit up to three pieces of original art for its fine art fundraiser/exhibition, "A Beautiful View." Deadline (through digital submission) is May 8. Accepted works are due May 22. For info or to enter, see www.prairieview.org/abeautifulview (click on "Invitation to Exhibit Original Art."). The event, with silent and live auctions, is 6-8 p.m., Thursday, June 4 at Carriage Factory Art Gallery, Newton, Kan. Proceeds will go to Prairie View to treat mental illness and addiction disorders. Questions? Contact Misty Elder, eldermd@pvi.org, 316-284-6385.

The Dyck Arboretum of the Plains will conclude its 2015 Winter Lecture Series with Michael Pearce speaking about his book, "From the Prairie to the Plate" on Monday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. in Hesston. The lecture will take place in the Prairie Pavilion, with a soup supper preceding it at 6 p.m. in the Visitor's Center. The cost of the lecture is \$2 per person, or supper and the lecture is \$7. Interested persons should call 620-327-8127 by 5 p.m. on Friday before the Monday lecture for supper reservations.