

Tabor Mennonite Church
Community and Conference Announcements

April 5, 2015

**WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEEDS**

How do you size your congregation?

When I began congregational ministry 35 years ago, membership was still the most basic unit of determining the size of the congregation. Twenty years ago when I became pastor of First Mennonite Church in Newton, we began using worship attendance as the real size of the congregation. The conference was (is) still using the often fictional number of membership as the basic reporting unit. A rule of thumb from Lyle Schaller was that churches need one pastor per 100 in worship to maintain vitality of program and pastoral care.

Pastor Steve Schmidt recently wondered about a new measurement of size at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church. Worship attendance average is 202 so far in 2015. But how many are our regular attenders? Using the criteria for regular attender of two times per month, the new measurement is 281 regular attenders. Which number is more helpful for planning pastoral care? Programming? Staffing? What is the size of your congregation?

- Clarence Rempel, WDC Conference Minister

Prayer Requests:

- ★ Western District Conference: Pray for the gathering of Reference Council on Saturday, April 11, as members of Western District Conference consider the Rainbow Mennonite Church resolution on how our pastors and churches minister to LGBTQ persons.
- ★ Mennonite Mission Network: Today, as we celebrate Jesus' victory over evil and death, pray with Mennonite Mission Network personnel that God will inspire in each of us the joyful impulse of the first missionaries, the women who shared good news of God's life and love across the street and around the world.
- ★ Mennonite Education Agency: Pray for all those traveling this Easter weekend, may it be a time of remembering Christ's love for all as shown through his death and resurrection.

Mowing crew volunteers needed! Mennonite Heritage & Agricultural Museum needs a couple more people (men or women) on its mowing crew. Mowing the museum lawn with the museum's Hustler takes several hours. Crew members work on a rotating weekly schedule. For more information or to sign on, call the museum at 367-8200; office hours are 12-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Or call outside these hours and leave a message.

Western District Council:

This is the last week to register for the **WDC Reference Council**, scheduled for April 11, from 9 am - 2 pm at Hope Mennonite Church in Wichita. Please register by this Friday, April 3 online at: mennowdc.org/annual-assembly or call 316-283-6300.

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.

Needing a Break? The **Retirees Relaxation Retreat**, April 27-29, at Camp Mennoscah offers you a few days of "spring break" and great company. There will be session on Ukraine of yesterday and today, coffee breaks until your head spins, and free time to enjoy however you please. Contact Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290 for a registration form or more information.

Campers need you! Camp Mennoscah is looking for **kitchen helpers and nurses** for our summer youth camps. You get the dazzling fun of being with folks of all ages, the satisfaction and joy of making a camper's summer amazing, and a free camp tee shirt. Kitchen helpers can receive a camper discount up to full camp fees. Nurses receive either a stipend or a camper discount. Contact olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org or call 620-297-3290 to grab your spot! Go to our Facebook page to see which weeks have openings.

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:

Sun., April 19 – Dr. Robert E. Weems Jr. speaks at Kauffman Museum, 3 p.m. This is the third program connected to the special exhibit “Sorting Out Race.” Weems is Willard W. Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History at Wichita State University and will speak on “Defining the ‘Other’: A History of Racial Stereotypes.”

Hesston College:

Indonesia Interfaith Tour Benefit Concert--Internationally acclaimed baritone Anthony Brown will present a concert at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 11, at Hesston Mennonite Church. Along with Brown, concert performers from the college include faculty member Ken Rodgers, student Galed Krisjayanta, the Hesston College Chorale, excerpts from the recent musical production of *Little Women*, and the Sunflower Trio. A free will offering will be taken to support the May 23 to June 8 Indonesia Tour.

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.