



THAT THEY MAY
**Be
one**

2012
CONNECTION
Biennial Convention of the U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

**29th National Convention
of the U.S. Mennonite
Brethren Conference
(USMB CHURCHES)**

**July 27-28, 2012
Embassy Suites
Omaha, Nebraska**

Steve Schroeder, Chair
Marv Schellenberg, Vice-Chair
Sue Kliwer, Secretary
David Hardt, Treasurer
Ed Boschman, Executive Director

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Be One

2012 Convention

WELCOME!

Welcome to *Connection* 2012, where you will meet old friends, make new ones, and be spiritually nourished, inspired and challenged.

Our USMB Mission statement goes like this:

We partner as ONE family, serving ONE Lord, on ONE mission, for the transformation of individuals, families and communities.

A foundational reason we are committed to being a unified conference on a mission grows out of our passion to live as Jesus prayed we would, “...I pray for those who will believe in me...that all of them may be one...so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” John 17:20-21

Because “oneness” matters that much, we have chosen “That They May BE ONE” as our theme for *Connection* 2012. For us to maximize our Kingdom impact, we need to serve together in effective collaborative partnerships. That’s why we are gathering for this Omaha “team meeting.”

We want to invite you to believe with us that God has given the USMB Leadership Board and Staff a fresh vision for the next season of ministry. What sort of vision?

Imagine, through the eyes of faith, if Jesus would inspire all 35,000 of us to a real love for pre-Christian people in our personal spheres of influence. Imagine the Lord of the church calling out 60 church planters, and enabling us to start 60 new churches in the next ten years, and inspire a harvest of 10,000 new believers in our districts as a result of those gospel driven missional communities. We believe our God is able. We are committed to joining God in his mission, and we are asking you to join us.

We look forward to celebrating the Lord of the church with you here in Omaha and we are planning to report to you how Jesus is changing lives. We trust this gathering will be both practically helpful and spiritually inspirational. We’re glad you are here!

Warmly,



Ed Boschman

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LEADERSHIP BOARD

Steve Schroeder, Chair, Hillsboro, Kan.
Marv Schellenberg, Vice Chair, Wichita, Kan.
David Hardt, Treasurer, Bakersfield, Calif.
Sue Kliewer, Auberry, Calif.
Clyde Ferguson Jr. Lenoir, NC
Aaron Hernandez, La Grulla, Tex.
Vyacheslav Gladyshev, Fresno, Calif.
Matt Kolbert, Clovis, Calif.
Jodi Thomas, Rapid City, SD

If you weren't able to make it to Vancouver, BC for our 150th celebration in 2010, it will have been four years since we've been together. Thanks for joining us in Omaha! We're looking forward to meeting together and hearing about what God is doing among our family of churches.

Since we last met, our Fresno seminary has now become an official part of Fresno Pacific University and Tabor College has received a grant to assist them in developing a graduate level ministry training program. Since we last met, we also hired a part-time social media coordinator. During the months that he was able to give us, Justin Salters helped us establish a presence on Facebook and lifted our awareness of the need for better e-communication. I trust that by now you've noticed the re-design of the *Christian Leader*. Be sure to thank our Editor, Connie Faber and Assistant Editor and current social media coordinator, Myra Holmes, for their good work on this.

Since we last met, our staff has grown in two other areas as well. In an effort to strengthen our ministry with our Slavic churches, we've brought Aleks Borisov onto our staff on a part-time basis. In this last year, we also realized our need to have some assistance with donor development and Pastor Derk Madden was able to give us 7 months of part-time assistance in that area.

So much of the behind the scenes work is done by Donna Sullivan (Wichita) and Lori Taylor (Bakersfield) and our Board is grateful for their faithful, professional service. We also appreciate Larry Nikkel and Lyndon Vix for their hard work at assisting us in updating our bylaws this past year.

At this Convention you'll hear more about our move away from the old "norms" church giving model to a proportional giving model that seems to be much more in line with Biblical teachings on stewardship.

Finally, I trust that you've caught wind of our Mission USA vision for planting more churches! Don Morris is our staff person who continues to give excellent leadership in that area and Ed Boschman, our team leader and Executive Director is faithfully championing our mission among supporters and churches. We deeply value both of these men and the gifts they bring to serving Jesus and His church.

We look forward to seeing you at *Conexion 2012* in Omaha! -Steve Schroeder, LB Chair

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

OUR MISSION

In the spring of 2008, leaders of all things USMB who were gathered at the annual Leadership Summit, leaned in on what was then our newly crafted mission statement: “We partner as one family, serving one Lord, on one mission, the transformation of individuals, families, and communities.” That descriptive statement continues to provide direction for us. Whereas in earlier years of the current ministry chapter, we focused on the need for us to prioritize our “oneness”, we have more recently shifted our emphasis to the “mission”. That is not meant to say that we have fully come together as one family, nor that we are downgrading our commitment to having our one Lord in the middle as our non negotiable priority commitment, but it is to say that we want to place the mission into focus and highlight it for our next ministry chapter. The mission really is God’s. Our part is to join him in it. Our understanding of the church is that we are here on this planet for exactly that purpose. Surely, in the ultimate sense, we are here for God’s glory, but we accomplish that while we are on our missional assignment, both individually and as churches.

In my wilder daydreaming moments, I sometimes try to imagine what it might be like if all 34,500 of us USMB Christians would view ourselves as missionaries to our neighbors, and I mean neighbor by God’s definition. It is because of the call and commission of Jesus that we as a USMB family must not swerve from our opportunities. We live in a post Christian USA. Most of our neighbors do not know the Jesus story, let alone have a relationship with him. So what must we do?

Our plan is to help people become disciples of Jesus...by living and telling the good news, and inviting folks into a faith follow relationship with him. We are committed to investing in existing churches for increased health and impact; and planting new churches that will effectively make disciples; and growing leaders that will serve the church with high impact in these initiatives.

OUR IDENTITY

As to who we are and what we believe, USMBs are guided by our Confession of Faith. Because that is a lengthy booklet, it is important for us to be able to answer those kinds of questions more briefly. When I am asked “Who are the MB’s?”, I say something like “We are a conference of churches committed to living, loving and serving in our troubled world as we share the life giving message of Jesus”. The next question is usually “What do you believe?” That turns into an opportunity to summarize our core theological convictions: “We are Bible believers; We are Christ centered and Spirit led; We encourage a believe-obey relationship with Jesus in both word and action; We partner in believer’s church communities; and We live and serve as agents of reconciliation in all relationships. “

OUR TEAM

It is a joy to serve under the direction of our USMB Leadership Board. My partners in the national staff are exemplary in faithfulness. I commend them to you for your prayers and support.

OUR OPPORTUNITY

We can make a difference, right here and right now in our homeland. We have good reason to recommit ourselves to our hometowns and cities. We have sensed that God is asking us to add 60 new churches to our USMB family over the next decade. We will need our national family to see and commit to that vision with us. We are praying that Jesus will provide the leaders, and the resources needed to make that vision a reality. We want to make a significant Kingdom impact here in the USA. We pray that the vision will become a reality and a reason to hear “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT

USMB Administration-Wichita Office administers and facilitates a variety of programs, events and services on behalf of USMB, pastors and its member churches.

PROGRAMS/RESOURCES/EVENTS

Life Insurance

The Church Workers Group Life Insurance Plan continues to be a good benefit for church staff members, district and national staff by providing modest term life insurance coverage.

Retirement Plan

The Church Workers/Pastors Retirement Plan (MRT) is administered by Great-West Retirement Services. Churches are encouraged to enroll their church staff and contribute a minimum of 6% of salary with the staff member voluntarily participating at a minimum of 3%. Having retirement income designated as housing allowance is one possible significant benefit for pastors remaining in the denominational retirement plan.

Annual IRS Reporting

Annual reports are submitted to the Internal Revenue Service to maintain the Group Exemption status for the USMB Conference and member churches as 501(c)3 tax exempt organizations. USMB Churches obtain and maintain their tax exempt status from being a part of the USMB.

Printed Resources

Numerous promotional and informational resources are available from our office at no charge:

- I Want a Church – USMB brochure
- Planting Churches...Transforming Lives – Mission USA brochure
- We are on a Mission – USMB brochure
- Ways to Give – USMB/MBF brochure
- Ten different pamphlets dealing with various faith and life issues including:
Who Are the Mennonite Brethren, What We Believe, Human Sexuality, Sex Before Marriage, Dealing with Money, Christians and Gambling, Christians Protest War, Baptism and Church Membership, Making Good Viewing Choices, When Marriages Fail, Why Not Just Live Together?
- Church and Clergy Tax/Legal Information

Leadership Summit

An annual gathering of the leaders of all MB ministries in the U.S. for connecting, strategizing and fellowship. This includes all five Districts (Central, Pacific, Southern, LAMB and North Carolina), Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, MB Mission, MB Foundation, Fresno Pacific University, Tabor College, in addition to the USMB Leadership Board and staff.

National Pastors Orientation

NPO is an event held every two years to provide fellowship, connection, resources and information for pastors and their spouses who are either new to the denomination or new to ministry.

National Pastors Conference

A special conference every two years for all USMB pastors and their families held prior to the national convention. This event is intended to provide inspiration, encouragement, instruction and fellowship.

Biennial National Convention- Connection

Biennial delegate convention, known as *Connection*, brings together the national MB family in a time of celebration, inspiration and fellowship. Board and ministry reporting and denominational business are also processed.

National Youth Conference

Quadrennial gathering for high school youth for inspiration, discipleship training and experience.

SERVICES

Receipting/Supporting

Church and individual donations are receipted for USMB ministries including church plants, Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary, MCC and MDS. These funds are then distributed to the various ministries, agencies or church plants.

BUDGET

The Leadership Board is recommending approval of a USMB budget for year 2012-13 of \$1,018,524. This is approximately a 20% increase over last year's budget of \$848,000 and includes two new staff members and increased development and promotion.

PERSONNEL

Donna Sullivan serves the Conference as Administrative Secretary, Bookkeeper and Event Planner from the Midwest national office located in Wichita, Kan. Lori Taylor, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, is located in the West Coast office in Bakersfield, Calif.

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2012-2013 Budget Proposal

The 2011-12 budget of 848,000 was met both by income and expenses this past year. With new staff, new initiatives and a new vision of planting six new churches this year, the USMB staff, with the Leadership Board's approval, are submitting an aggressive budget of \$1,018,524 for the next fiscal year, 2012-13, a 20% increase. The primary increases are in staffing/ meetings, promotion/marketing, communication and social media programs, Mission USA support for church plants, and the BFL Study Conference being planned for January 2013.

PROJECTED EXPENSES

	BUDGETS		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Lead Team	74,300.00	85,050.00	120,644.00
Communication - CL	82,126.00	85,683.00	96,212.00
Social Media	0.00	0.00	6,872.00
MB and Interdenominational Ministries (ICOMB, NYC, Ministry Quest, Hist Comm, NAE, MCC, MWC)	81,500.00	80,500.00	71,500.00
Administration	33,150.00	32,950.00	53,113.00
Staff	340,000.00	399,917.00	420,377.00
Board of Faith and Life	17,400.00	22,400.00	41,400.00
Slavic Ministry	0.00	14,000.00	14,000.00
Mission USA	105,460.00	127,500.00	194,406.00
TOTAL Expenses	\$733,936.00	\$848,000.00	\$1,018,524.00

Lead Team: Promotion and marketing increases

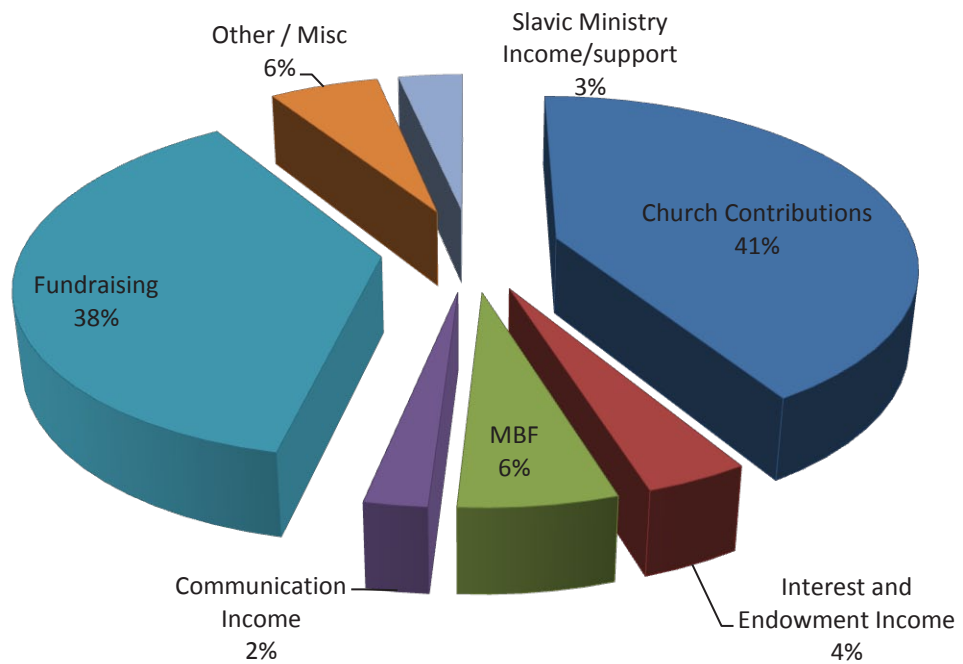
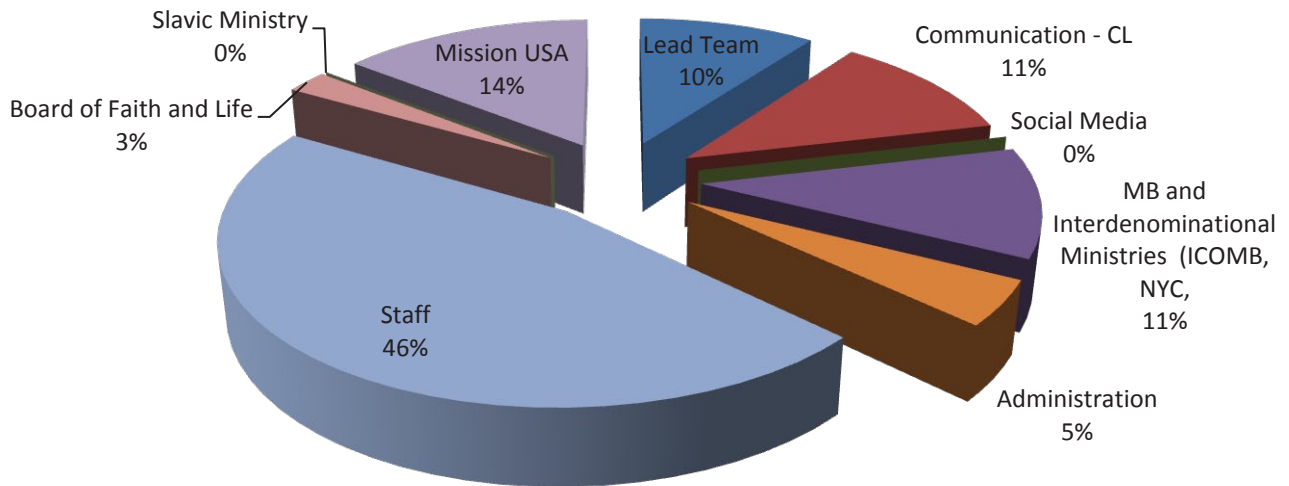
Staff: added one and one-half more staff, so there are now 8 staff members in five states. Travel lines increased for Exec. Director, Dir. of Development, Mission USA Director and for staff meetings.

Board of Faith and Life: increased lines for Study Conference 2013.

Mission USA: more church plants = more subsidy

Projected Income fy 2012-13:

Church Contributions	420,000.00
Interest and Endowment Income	39,240.00
MBF	60,000.00
Communication Income	24,000.00
Fundraising	381,684.00
Other / Misc	59,000.00
Slavic Ministry Income/support	34,600.00
TOTAL Income	\$1,018,524.00



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Financial Report

ASSETS	2012	2011	Ln
Cash in Bank	7,287	11,573	1
Cash Investments	412,288	411,258	2
Ministry Reserves - 234,740.60			3
Ministry Funds:			4
National Youth Committee: 41,165.32			5
Endowments:			6
Communication Endowment - 75,803.14			7
USC General Endowment - 60,578.79			8
Accounts Receivable	20,876	46,686	9
Prepaid Expenses	7,783	4,628	10
Property Assets	104,577	101,730	11
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-64,048	-54,597	12
Total Assets	488,763	521,278	13

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	37,683	25,294	14
Notes Payable	0	0	15
Total Liabilities	37,683	25,294	16

Net Assets:

Unrestricted (Note 1)	372,429	407,583	17
Temporarily Restricted (Note 2)	17,283	27,033	18
Permanently Restricted-USC Gen. End (Note 3)	61,368	61,368	19
Total Net Assets	451,080	495,984	20
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	488,763	521,278	21

Note 1 - Unrestricted Net Assets:

Operating Fund	257,588	277,973	22
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Program:

National Youth Conference	40,674	12,631	23
Communications Sabbatical Fund	2,010	2,010	24
Minister Insurance Premium Fund	5,854	6,166	25
National Pastor's Orientation Fund	5,000	0	26

Endowments (Board Restricted):

Communications Endowment (LB Directed)	61,303	108,803	27
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	372,429	407,583	28

Note 2 - Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

LB/Staff Church Plant Fund	11,050	0	29
Peace Education Fund	1,500	1,500	30
US Biennial Convention Fund	4,733	1,209	31
Leadership Development Fund (formerly MQ)	0	24,324	32
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	17,283	27,033	33

Note 3 - Permanently Restricted Net Assets

US Conference General Endowment (MBF Restricted)	61,368	61,368	34
Total Permanently Restricted Net Assets	61,368	61,368	35

SUMMARY

USMB CHURCHES

Statement of Activity

For Months Ending May 31, 2012 and 2011

	May			May	Current Budget	
RECEIPTS	2012	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2011	2011-12	Ln
Church Contributions	38,540	384,937	420,560	36,185	420,560	101
Executive Director Fundraising	4,700	116,793	100,000	3,603	100,000	102
Mission USA Fundraising	3,300	119,561	100,000	25,129	100,000	103
Slavic Ministry Income	0	19,083	22,000	0	22,000	104
LB/Staff CP Fund	0	0				105
MB Foundation Distributions	0	55,274	60,000	0	60,000	106
Other (Endow/MBF, Estate gifts)	0	28,428	22,000	0	22,000	107
Other Income:						108
Interest Income	335	3,717	4,500	370	4,500	109
Dividend/Gain/Loss	0	3,349		0		110
Transfers from other funds	10,450	55,000	80,500	0	80,500	111
Adm and Communication Income	3,869	65,237	38,440	7,124	38,440	112
Total Receipts	61,194	851,380	848,000	72,411	848,000	113

DISBURSEMENTS

Lead Team	32,287	294,566	256,112	16,463	256,112	114
Administration	8,703	93,232	83,928	2,871	83,928	115
Faith and Life	5,000	21,462	22,400	355	22,400	116
Mission USA	28,059	223,835	224,027	21,737	224,027	117
Slavic Ministry	6,044	25,440	34,000	0	34,000	118
Communications	18,655	136,862	152,033	16,397	152,033	119
Other MB & Affiliate Ministries	10,716	76,368	75,500	6,515	75,500	120
Total Disbursements	109,463	871,765	848,000	64,338	848,000	121
Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	-48,269	-20,384		8,073	0	122

SEMINARY SUBSIDY

Church Contributions	20,261	161,528		17,292		123
Endowment Earnings	0	9,504		0		124
Total Receipts	20,261	171,031		17,292		125

OTHER FUNDS RECEIPTED/DISBURSED

MBMS International	104,072	1,249,354		98,384		126
MCC / MDS	3,392	71,026		11,776		127
Total Other Funds Receipted/Disbursed	107,464	1,320,380		110,160		128



Christian Leader

A gathering place
for the people, passions and mission
of U.S. Mennonite Brethren

About Us

Here at *Christian Leader*, we think of our communications efforts as a family dinner table where we gather to converse and connect. We want to encourage readers in their efforts to reach their communities with the love of God and to grow in their own faith. We look at today's world through eyes of faith, with the goal of engaging that world with purpose and the love of Christ.

CL Magazine & CL Online

Christian Leader is the flagship of USMB communication efforts. Our bimonthly magazine offers feature articles and essays that explore matters of faith and life, news from USMB and Mennonite Brethren and inter-Mennonite partner agencies and stories of transformation.

The magazine was redesigned in 2010 and received the 2010 Evangelical Press Association Award of Excellence for most approved magazine and the 2010 Evangelical Press Association Higher Goals in Christian Journalism first place award for publication redesign.

CL Online, www.usmb.org/christian-leader, is our online publication, and we are diligently working to follow best-practice guidelines for online publishing. We anticipate ongoing changes to CL Online as we refine our content, enhancing it to become more than an online version of our print publication.

C-Link

The most recent addition to the CL “table” is C-Link, a free, biweekly electronic news digest offering breaking news, CL updates and stories from our schools, USMB and partner agencies. Look for the sign-up button at www.usmb.org, on the CL Online home page or on our CL Facebook page.

CL Facebook

“Like” us on Facebook, a newsfeed that alerts you to stories published by CL magazine and CL Online, plus stories posted online by our USMB and inter-Mennonite partner agencies.

CL Staff

Contact Editor Connie Faber (editor@usmb.org) if you are interested in writing for the CL or if you have subscription and/or advertising questions.

Contact Assistant Editor Myra Holmes (newseditor@usmb.org) with news story ideas, local church news and with transformational testimonies.

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Social Media Report

U.S. Mennonite Brethren want nothing more than to see God transform lives through us. We are on a mission, the communities in which we live are our mission fields, and our USMB people and congregations are our fellow missionaries. Our USMB social media efforts aim to help us better communicate and connect with one another in order to call us to that mission.

Where we've been

Because Mennonite Brethren believe discipleship and mission happen best in community, we have always valued communication that brings us together, first through print and more recently through the Web. In 2010, USMB added to our communication “toolbox” by hiring Justin Salters as our first-ever social media coordinator. Salters, a university student with significant social media savvy, established a USMB Facebook page, a Twitter account and a Facebook group just for USMB leaders.

In 2011, Myra Holmes (also assistant editor for *Christian Leader*) assumed the part-time social media coordinator's role, working to build on that foundation. We are currently experiencing slow-but-steady growth on these social media platforms.

- USMB Facebook page has 274 “likes.”
- USMB Leadership group has 94 members.
- USMB on Twitter has 232 followers.

In addition, *Christian Leader* and Mission USA have Facebook pages, and Don Morris, Mission USA director, tweets.

Where we're going

More important than the numbers of followers, we are slowly seeing increased engagement on these platforms as USMBs begin to converse and share ideas. That's the true benefit of social media; when we come together in these online communities, we can challenge and encourage each other in our common mission, even across miles. So we hope these kinds of interactions will continue to grow.

Social media goals for the near future include:

- Working to increase both numbers and engagement on current social media platforms.
- Continuing to invest in understanding the ever-changing world of social media.
- Resourcing USMBs through a Board of Faith and Life pamphlet on social media and through a workshop at *Conexion* 2012.
- Exploring and establishing a blog for our USMB family to further connect and converse.

Connect with us!

The best way to learn more about our social media efforts is by joining the conversation. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/usmbchurches and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/usmbchurches. From there, you'll also find the *Christian Leader* and Mission USA Facebook pages. We look forward to helping you connect with the USMB family!

Myra Holmes
Social Media Coordinator

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Mission USA Report

Mission USA, the church planting and renewal arm of the U.S. Conference of MB Churches, exists to do everything possible within its capacity for the transformation of individuals, families and communities. Or, in other words, “to see more... come to know Him!” Mission USA desires to be involved in aggressively planting more and more MB churches across America, which in turn reproduce and continue to plant more churches. New church plants are highly effective in reaching lost people with the Good News of Jesus.

Our vision: To help plant 6 new MB churches by the end of 2012, and 60 within the next 10 years.

If we are going to be highly aggressive in starting many more reproducing churches, then we must have qualified church planters for the work involved. Along with the districts, we are consistently searching for qualified individuals who have the necessary gifts needed for successful planting—it’s a process. In addition, potential church planters are always assessed for church planting by an assessment center.

Also Mission USA, in collaboration with our districts, is developing a new leadership enhancement initiative called LEAD (Leadership Education and Development). This national initiative, in partnership with our districts, includes LEAD ONE—intensive, one-day, regional, leadership training events. The feedback following these regional events has been quite positive and many more events will follow.

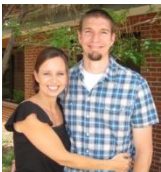
Other components of the LEAD program are LEAD Labs (1-2 hour on-site training segments for leadership teams), CHAT Church Health Surveys/Consultations, and the future LEAD Coaching (a coaching network of trained MB coaches for pastors). Jeff Nikkel, pastor of Trailhead Church in Centennial, Colo. will serve as our head coach, providing valuable leadership for this vital aspect of providing our pastors/leaders with life-on-life coaching. We hope that LEAD Coaching will be available to all MB pastors/leaders within a year and some pastors may be able to take advantage of LEAD Coaching within the next few months. Our goal is that the LEAD initiative will make a tangible difference, building and maturing over time, consistently providing more tools for the leadership tool chest of our pastors and church leaders. Watch for future developments!

Collectively, we MBs have determined that Mission USA must be an integral component of our overall strategy for facilitating church vitality, growth, reproduction, unity and commitment. We are working hard to aggressively reach those goals. As you read this report about Mission USA sponsored activities and projects, hopefully you will gain a glimpse of all that we are actively involved in across the U.S. Again, partnership with our districts makes it possible to achieve much more than any one entity could separately.

Church Plants and Projects:



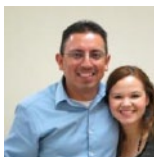
Phoenix, Ariz. – Axiom Church was created just this past May, 2012. Expected public launch is anticipated for January 2013. Gavin & Kendall Linderman is the church plant couple. Gavin served as an intern at Copper Hills Church under Pastor Brad Klassen. Copper Hills Church is leading this project as the mother church, with the PDC and Mission USA heavily involved, providing leadership support and subsidy. Axiom Church celebrated its first baptism in June.



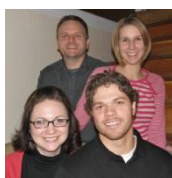
Littleton, Colo. - Trailhead Church, itself birthed in 2006, is the mother church of The Micah Project, a recent church plant located west of Trailhead. Vaughn & Taryn Jost is the church plant couple. Vaughn served on staff at Trailhead for a time prior to this venture. The Josts and two core team couples are focusing on their neighborhood which is a mixture of races/cultures. Extensive outreach to children in the area has provided many contacts with adults. Through various venues, the Josts calculate that they are serving at least 70 people who would likely call TMP their church home. (This project is in partnership with the SDC)



Clovis, Calif. – Eagle's Harbor Community Church is now a few years old and has hit a new positive stride. Following a move to a more central area of Clovis, the church has grown and several salvations/baptisms have occurred over the past few months. Gary & Cindy Mejia is the church plant couple. Mission USA is assisting with staffing. The church is now focusing on providing an expanded ministry to youth, including staffing and a youth center.



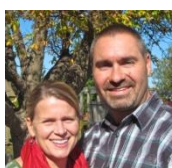
La Grulla, Tex. – Grulla MB Church is a vigorous and progressive church in the LAMB district, reaching many people in the southern tip of Texas. Pastor Aaron Hernandez (wife, Alejandra) and the leaders of Grulla MB are in the process of planting a multi-site campus in McAllen, the largest city in the area. This is an exciting vision/strategy for this church as they move forward with passion. Plans are for wide-scale use of technology in the new campus.



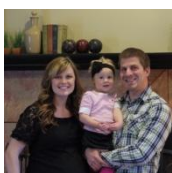
Kansas City, MO – Watershed is in its third year of existence and growth has been gradual. According to this relationally-driven church plant model, Sunday gatherings are not as crucial as face-to-face encounters. Planters, Paul Bartel (wife, Amanda) and Jason Phelps (wife, Nancy), are both now working part-time secular jobs, providing multiple avenues for contacts in the community. The church is active in providing book drives, a summer Justice Feast and real help for those trapped in negative lifestyles. (In partnership with the SDC)



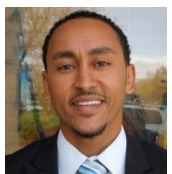
Portland, Ore. - Trinity Church continues to grow rapidly, now offering two worship services and plans for another service to be added soon. People have come from all walks of life, with a significant ethnic and age diversity. Planter Art Azurdia (wife, Lori) continues to preach with intense theological depth, providing spiritual food that people in this area have been hungry for. Trinity is already financially self-supporting. (In partnership with the PDC)



Omaha, Neb. – Stony Brook Church started in October 2010 and has steadily grown from that point. Chad & Elaine Stoner is the church plant couple and they were joined by Stephen & Mary K Humber a little over a year ago. The church has grown largely through life-transformation. Baptisms are common and discipleship is a high value. The church is blessed with dozens of children. All this adds up to a space problem. Three services will be offered this fall, but that appears to be a temporary solution. (In partnership with the CDC)



St. George, Utah – SMCC @ The Springs experienced a recent transition to a new location to a local high school. The move was necessary as the church has grown significantly in the past two years. Targeting those trapped in the LDS religion as well as the un-churched in the area has been the focus of ministry. Mission USA continues to assist with staffing subsidy, in particular for Associate Pastor, Phil Wiebe (wife, Melissa).



Aurora, Colo. - Realizing that their youth are the future of the church, Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Denver, a growing, vibrant church, has determined to create an atmosphere conducive to current youth needs through a distinctive English-speaking ministry with a contemporary atmosphere and worship music. The church recently hired David Yirdaw, who served most recently as a youth/college pastor in Dallas, Tex. David grew up attending EECD with his family. (In partnership with the SDC)



Denver, Colo. - The Stone, a new church plant in the north central part of Denver, is all about reaching both the affluent in the Stapleton area, and the disadvantaged in the inner city. Mark & Stephanie Groutas and Jon & Whitney Branch are the church plant couples. Groutas (pictured) and Branch are both gifted musicians. Mission USA and the SDC are both providing a limited amount of subsidy to this loosely affiliated church, with plans for further connection and potential future MB church plants in the Denver area.



Boone, NC – Pastor Chris Eidse (wife, Rebecca) have a passion for reaching lost people in this beautiful enclave of God’s creation. Near Appalachian State University, the church has a rich, long history and a bright potential future. Mission USA is assisting with funds for outreach and staffing. Strategies for expanding the church’s influence and outreach are being implemented. The church’s atmosphere is upbeat and energetic and lives have been transformed over the past year.

Note: Many other projects/church plants are in development, including in Mission, Tex., Spokane, Wash., and Portland, Ore. Please pray that we understand clearly the vision and plans of the Lord of the Harvest, not our own, as we move forward “to see more ... come to know Him!”

Submitted by:
Don Morris
Director, Mission USA

Be one

Slavic Ministries Report

Nine months have passed since the Slavic Ministry was established in USMB and it's been a very busy time. It has been full of research, ideas and practical steps to find a better way to serve the MB Slavic community. Travel continues to be a large part of the work, visiting churches, connecting with people and pastors, developing personal contacts and building relationships. Progress has been experienced with building relationships, which are now established with most of the Slavic MB churches. I hope that personal visits of two thirds of the 34 Slavic MB Churches, and phone and letter contacts have already created feelings of being part of a big family among those church members. There was a lack of progress with Slavic church initiatives and participation in USMB projects, but it is just the beginning. Of course it will take longer to grow walnut trees than to grow tomatoes.

Projects:

1. **Church Communications**
Establish better contacts with most Slavic MB Churches by personal visits and by phone and letter communications. Make existing Slavic MB Churches active partners.
2. **Church Planting**
Continue to work with new group "Valley Harvest" started in Spokane to help them to become a new Slavic MB Church.
Another group is developing plans to start a new church in Spokane and are in process of formation.
3. **USMB Candidate Members**
Three nonaffiliated existing Slavic churches are in preparation to join USMB family.
4. **LEAD Materials for Slavic Churches**
Developing two teaching classes for Slavic MB Churches in areas of evangelism and small groups.

The vision for the MB Slavic Ministry is to develop three areas of communication with the Slavic community in the U.S. and to bring unity in the MB family. In addition, helping existing Slavic MB Churches become active, nonaffiliated Slavic Churches to join and new Slavic Churches planted are a part of the vision. To accomplish the vision, the plan is to:

Develop relationships with existing Slavic MB Churches —

- Develop LEAD materials being offered to Slavic churches for better communication and help for existing Slavic MB churches. These materials are in the area of local evangelism and small groups.
- Involve Slavic churches in local evangelism as a key point of survival for the Slavic Christian community.

Invite nonaffiliated Slavic Churches to join USMB —

- Establish good relationships and develop communication with three Slavic nonaffiliated churches.
- Develop the Candidate Status for this kind of church to help them learn about USMB and be involved for a period of time before they make a decision to join. This will help to build relations and lessen the fear of responsibility.

Plant new Slavic MB Churches —

- Continue to work with a potential church plant team in Spokane. We need much prayer support.
- The group separated from "Light of the Gospel" Slavic MB Church in Spokane started regular church services, has been named "Valley Harvest" and has become stable. It is actually the church by size and by structure. They need strong prayer and other kind of support especially in the beginning.

Aleks Borisov, Slavic Ministry Director

Be one

Board of Faith and Life Report

The Board of Faith and Life (BFL) has been meeting regularly since our last report two years ago. The membership of the board has not changed. We have been actively engaged in numerous issues of importance to the U.S. Conference of MB Churches (Conference). Following is a summary:

MOU with the Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary

At the time of the merger of the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (MBBS) with Fresno Pacific University (FPU), representatives of the seminary sought an ongoing formal relationship with the Board of Faith and Life. The resulting MOU was adopted by the Leadership board of the Conference, the BFL, the board of MBBS, FPU, the Pacific District Conference (PDC) and the Board of Faith and Life of the PDC.

To ensure understanding and effective implementation of the MOU various meetings have been held with the seminary faculty and with FPU leadership. Another meeting of the BFL and the seminary faculty and leadership is scheduled for September 2012. The position of the seminary as a program of FPU presents some unique challenges on how we work together. We support the seminary's continuing commitment to serve the Conference through the training of pastors and church workers for our Conference.

Distance Learning Courses

The seminary has involved the BFL and U.S. Conference leadership in developing online courses, some of which will be available to pastors and others beginning this fall.

MOU with Canada

The relationship with our Canadian brothers and sisters remains strong. That relationship formerly was anchored in the long standing MOU between the two boards of Faith and Life. A new MOU between the two boards has never been agreed to although numerous conversations have been held exploring the benefits or necessity of such a memorandum.

The first decision was to forge a clean break between the Boards of Faith and Life, allowing each of the boards to operate independently of each other, no longer mandating an identical Confession of Faith, but retaining a spirit of consultation and cooperation with each other, without a formal Memorandum of Understanding. After further discussions with the leaders of both national conferences it was agreed to operate under a new MOU which speaks not only to how the boards of Faith and Life want to be in a continuing informal relationship with each other, but also how the Leadership Boards wish to work together. That MOU has been distributed to all of our churches and is being brought for your consideration and action at this convention.

Bylaw Changes

The present bylaws do not speak to how changes to the Confession of Faith may be made. That process was defined in the previously mentioned MOU between the Boards of Faith and Life in Canada and the U.S. In formulating the new MOU it was felt that the change process should most appropriately be documented in the bylaws of each of the national conferences. Those changes are included in the bylaws being brought to you for your consideration.

Study Conference

At the last meeting of the U.S. Conference of MB Churches we received feedback that Article 13 of the Confession of Faith (Love and Nonresistance) was in need of review. The BFL has agreed to conduct a study conference for the purpose of reviewing that Article as well as the preceding one (Society and State).

The conference is scheduled for January 24-26, 2013 in Phoenix, Arizona. The focus will be on studying how the Scriptures can guide us on these critical issues. The BFL will take into consideration the input from the study conference in determining whether or not to recommend changes to the Confession of Faith. Should such recommendations be made, they would be sent to the churches in advance of the 2014 U.S. Conference convention for their consideration and action at the convention.

The study conference is arguably the most important meeting of our Conference in recent times. Consequently it is crucial that all churches send their pastors and other leaders to participate in a discernment process under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We covet your prayers for a meaningful, energetic, unifying and Spirit-led time of worship and dialog. Registration materials are now available.

Pamphlet Revisions

We have continued revising the Faith and Life pamphlets. At the present time the following pamphlets have been distributed to our churches: Who Are the MB?, What We Believe, Sex Before Marriage, Human Sexuality, Dealing With Money, Baptism and Church Membership. We hope to conclude the series within the next two years.

National Pastor's Orientation

We are on schedule with biennial orientation meetings for all pastors who are new to the Mennonite Brethren Churches of the U.S. Conference. These meetings are helpful in providing an opportunity for getting to know one another and for being introduced to the history and programs of the Conference. The next meeting will be in the spring of 2013.

Interrelationship of National and District Entities

Representatives of the BFL and the Leadership Team have conducted numerous meetings with the District BFLs and district councils for the purposes of communication, coordination, integration and vision sharing. We believe it is critical to the effective functioning of our Conference to assure that we are all pulling in the same direction as we seek to be one family, serving one Lord, on one mission.

Larry Nikkel, Chair

Board of Faith and Life Members:

Ex-officio: Ed Boschman (U.S. Conference), Roger Engbrecht (Central District Conference), Terry Hunt (North Carolina Conference), Tim Sullivan (Southern District Conference), Gary Wall (Pacific District Conference)

Members at Large: Rod Anderson (Sioux Falls, SD), Michael Eldridge (San Jose, CA), Tim Geddert (Fresno, CA), Larry Nikkel (Wichita, KS)

MB Historical Commission Report 2012

The Mennonite Brethren Historical Commission serves the Mennonite Brethren (MB) churches of USA and Canada by gathering and communicating the stories of this denomination's history, in order to gain wisdom for the ways Mennonite Brethren continue to participate in God's mission. This is a work of spiritual discernment: looking carefully at both the ordinary and spectacular events of the past in order to recognize God's presence and leading, so that Mennonite Brethren can better recognize God's presence and leading today.

In the past two years the Historical Commission has published four books that help with this discernment. *Renewing Identity and Mission* is a compilation of most of the presentations from the very successful study conference in 2010 marking the 150th MB anniversary. *Heirs and Joint Heirs* by Paul Wiebe features the work of MB missions and churches in India. *In Another Day of the Lord* by Paul and David Wiebe presents that history with pictures. *Celebrating 150 Years: The Mennonite Brethren Church Around the World*, released at the MB anniversary, has now been published in Spanish and will soon be published in German. These books are available for sale at the Kindred Productions display table and at www.kindredproductions.com. Kindred is currently offering deeply discounted prices on many of the Commission's other books.

The Commission continues to publish *Profiles* three or four times a years. These pamphlets feature stories from around the world about Mennonite Brethren who are no longer living. Stories are chosen that speak to topics of current interest. Karma, persecution, evangelism and urban street ministry have all been addressed. *Profiles* are sent free of charge to all MB churches that request them—whether as pamphlets or PDFs. Eighty-five percent of US and Canadian MB Churches receive *Profiles*. More than 30,000 copies of each issue are printed and mailed. The Commission welcomes suggestions of people with stories to be told, and of prospective writers.

The website www.mbhistory.org provides a timeline of MB history, all 52 *Profiles*, a list of recommended readings, and a guide to help churches submit their records to MB archives. By the time you receive this report, the website should also include searchable editions of several important books written about MB history, as well as all the resolutions of the MB General Conference from 1878-2002. More information about Mennonite Brethren and other Mennonites is available at www.gameo.org, one of the most consulted religious encyclopedias online. (The Commission is a partner in this inter-Mennonite endeavour.)

Last year, the Commission provided financial assistance to the Historical Library and Archives of the India MB Conference in Shamshabad. Seventy-eight years of the Indian MB periodical *Suvarthamani* are now accessible on a computer (Winnipeg's Centre for MB Studies digitized the periodicals), and the number of archival personnel can now be increased.

This work is all done in conjunction with three Centres for MB Studies (Fresno, Hillsboro, Winnipeg) and the Mennonite Historical Society of BC (Abbotsford). The directors and archivists at these centres love to assist with people's questions and research projects. Last year, for instance, they located photos, answered questions about Mennonite self-defense in Russia and about the civil rights movement, displayed MB dispensational charts, tracked down stories about people's relatives, investigated MB theological trends, and more.

Looking forward, the Commission recently considered projects such as a book of forgotten MB stories from Russia, research projects about MB women, creative ways of introducing the archives to younger researchers, and methods of archiving churches' ever-changing websites.

It has been my pleasure to serve you as the Commission's executive secretary since January 2011. Although I am resigning this summer in order to join the faculty of MBBS Canada in Winnipeg, I commend the Commission to you. These people are dedicated to helping us remember what we have received and heard, so that we will know how to follow Jesus our Lord (Rev. 3:3).

Serving you in His name,
 Andrew Dyck, executive secretary

MB Historical Commission Board members: Abe Dueck (Winnipeg), Dora Dueck (Winnipeg), Don Isaak (Hillsboro), Peter Klassen (Fresno), Valerie Rempel (Fresno), Ben Stobbe (Victoria).
 Representatives of archival centres: Kevin Enns-Rempel (Fresno), Peggy Goertzen (Hillsboro), Jon Isaak (Winnipeg), Richard Thiessen (Abbotsford).

Be one

National Youth Committee San Antonio 2011 Report

Every four years senior high students from Mennonite Brethren churches across the nation meet for meaningful worship, exciting Bible study and challenging ministry at the largest gathering of MB youth in North America. The most recent national youth conference, San Antonio 2011 (SA11), took place in San Antonio, TX, April 16-19, 2012, and was convened at the Grand Hyatt on the world famous River Walk. The theme for SA11 was “Flood,” taken from Amos 5:24, “Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”

SA11 featured two exciting, relevant and challenging speakers. Paula Simpson-Parry has been a youth worker trainer with Youth for Christ in Britain and is most recently a part of the leadership team at the Bridge Church in Denton, TX. Shane Claiborne has worked with various ministries including Willow Creek Community Church outside of Chicago, co-founded The Simple Way, a community dedicated to living out the words of Jesus in inner-city Philadelphia, and is author of *The Irresistible Revolution*. Both speakers were eager to speak for a denomination that values both its Anabaptist and evangelical heritage. Each speaker presented messages at two meetings.

Music was provided by “Stories in Braille,” a group of multicultural musicians whose purpose is to lift up Christ and share in the stories of people’s lives. They led both standard praise songs and original compositions. Their sound is young and contemporary, and was a hit with conferees.

SA11 had a wide and varied program schedule to match its theme of “Flood.” The conference began with a general session on Saturday night. On Sunday morning, attendees experienced two seminars of their choice. The first focused on “head knowledge” and the second on “heart knowledge.” On Sunday evening the conferees again joined together for a second general session. On Monday morning students engaged in “hand knowledge.” These were opportunities to serve in and learn about San Antonio. That evening everyone convened again in a general session for more worship and Bible teaching. The final general session was held on Tuesday morning and included a wonderful time of corporate worship and communion.

The \$285 registration fee included four nights of lodging at the Grand Hyatt and all programming. Other attractions the conferees engaged in included the River Walk, a fun-filled parkway down on the San Antonio River, boat tours, the historic Alamo, Sea World, sports venues and more. Participants ate at a wide selection of restaurants, most within a two or three minute walk of the hotel.

An evaluation survey taken at the conference confirms that SA11 was well received by both students and leaders. Ninety percent of leaders and 92 percent of students reported that San Antonio was a good location for the conference. When asked if the Grand Hyatt was an excellent hotel to stay in, 91 percent of leaders and 94 percent of students agreed. Though there was a bit of controversy surrounding the invitation of Shane Claiborne to speak at SA11, 93 percent of leaders and 89 percent of students thought he was a challenging and helpful speaker. Regarding the ministry opportunities

On Monday morning, 95 percent of leaders and 87 percent of students agreed that serving San Antonio was a great feature of the conference.

Overall, there were 827 conferees, plus 42 support personnel and 49 seminar leaders, for a grand total of 918 participants. The registrants by district break down as follows: 139 from CDC, 42 from LAMB, 7 from North Carolina, 186 from PDC, and 454 from SDC.

Attendance has slowly but consistently declined over the last two decades of national youth conferences. There are many reasons for this. During the fall of 2010 the planning team surveyed all USMB churches in preparation for the San Antonio conference. One of the questions youth leaders were asked was, "If you are not coming to San Antonio 2011, what is the reason?" Out of 60 churches that responded, the top answer was that "the cost is prohibitive in this economy." Other answers, to a lesser degree, included "we don't usually participate in the national MB youth conference," "the speakers are too controversial," and "the national MB youth conference is not a priority for us."

It's hard to tell what the future of any national denominational event will be. Denominational loyalty seems to be declining in the United States and the economy makes it increasingly difficult for extensive travel. The final MB national youth conference in Canada was held in December of 2004. Their attendance had been declining for decades, and the event was eventually retired. Is that the future of the USMB youth conference? It's hard to know, but conference leaders should keep asking questions about the relevancy of the gathering while, at the same time, staying committed to it.

The SA11 planning team believes that the goals of the conference were whole-heartedly accomplished. The idea that God's love, justice and righteousness can flood each of our hearts and then flow into the world around us was prominent in every meeting, seminar and ministry opportunity. Students were challenged to think about living a Christ-like lifestyle, they learned about MB/Anabaptist distinctives and they became the hands and feet of Jesus by engaging in ministry to the city of San Antonio. Lives were changed as conferees were called to follow Jesus.

The planning team would like to thank the USMB conference for the wonderful support of and commitment to SA11. Especially helpful were conference leaders, including Ed Boschman, Larry Nickel, Steve Schroeder and each of the District Ministers. The USMB youth have proven themselves to be passionate ambassadors for the kingdom and the team is grateful for the opportunity to challenge this generation with the gospel of Christ.

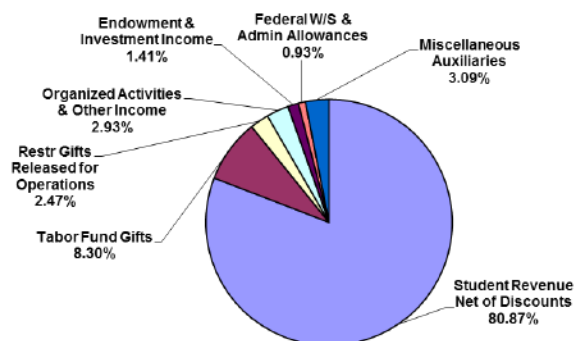
Respectfully submitted,
The SA11 Planning Team

Rick Bartlett, Jessica Berg, Joanna Chapa, Chris Eidse, Kyle Goings, Jeral Gross, Forrest Jenan, Wendell Loewen, Tim Neufeld, Jarod Richardson, Keith Warkentin

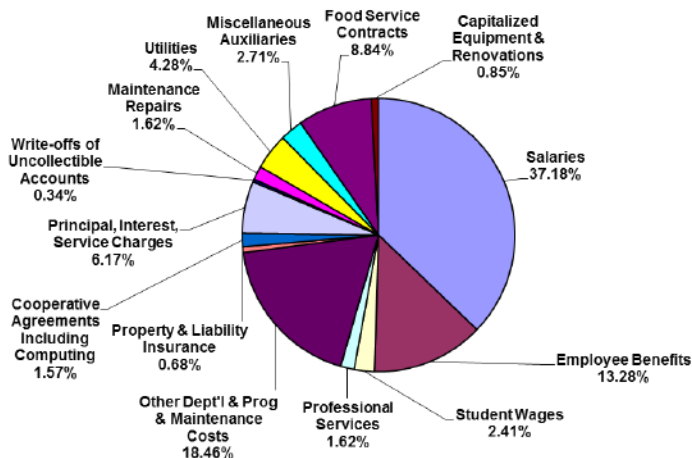
Highlights from Campus

- 2012 Commencement conferred 3 MBA, 30 BSN, 91 BA, and 5 BS degrees
- A Fall 2011 enrollment of 734 students – largest in Tabor history
- 100% of all Tabor students receive financial aid. Scholarships and grants are available for academics, athletics, performing arts, financial need and much more. Tabor participates in all state and federal financial aid programs
- Tabor has students from 27 states and 6 countries
- Student body make up
 - 53% from Kansas
 - 66% from rural America
 - 32% first generation
 - 48% PELL eligible
 - 24% ethnic minorities
- Students from MB churches totaled 134 -- 22% of the undergraduate enrollment.
- Tabor Fund goal met in 2011. Thanks to the generous supporters of Tabor College, more than 1 million dollars given. Church giving for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 was \$228,000, or 22.8% of the Tabor Fund giving. The Church total for FY1010 was \$229,500.
- Tabor College gratefully received \$250,000 from the US Conference to launch a graduate theological education program to serve our constituency with ministry training and theological education.

Operational Revenue



Operational Expenditures



Living the Tabor College Vision

To be the college of choice for students who seek a life-transforming, academically excellent, globally relevant and decidedly Christian education

Decidedly Christian

- Ministry Quest, under the management of Tabor College and executive director Wendell Loewen has launched the first class of students in June of 2012. There are 25 students enrolled in the two-year program. The program is geared to help high school students develop a passion for church ministry.
- Campus Ministries Council (CMC) provides ministry and service opportunities for students, including WUMP (Wichita Urban Ministry Plunge); IMPACT (a student missions organization); and Share, Prayer & Dare (SPD) fills the Historic Church on campus every Wednesday night during the school year. Other dynamic student-led bible studies are happening. Men-only, women-only, and participation groups – are also meeting regularly outside the regular twice-weekly chapel services.
- *The Tabor Experience* is the strategic framework that has been developed and approved by the Board of Directors. Central to the plan is the concept of Christ-centered identity formation. Other pillars include personal and professional mentoring, leadership development and an emphasis of cross-cultural experiences.

Life Transforming

- Various student government opportunities teach valuable leadership skills. Michael Klaassen is serving as the student body president for the 2012-13 school year.
- The Presidential Leadership Scholarship program was launched in the 2011-12 school year. This fall the second class of scholars will be welcomed to campus and will also be mentored by President Glanzer and they will participate in a 4-year, immersive leadership laboratory.
- Dozens of Tabor athletes have been named NAIA All-American Scholar Athletes and NAIA All-Americans in recent years. 2011-12 school year found 22 student athletes added to that roster.

Globally Relevant

- Interterm courses in Europe, Southeast Asia, Belize, India and the Gulf Coast served to broaden students' worldview.
- David Faber is providing leadership for international efforts. The board of directors approved the name Carson Center for Global Education.
- Karol Hunt continues to be active with the Samaritan's Purse organization and was featured in a promotional video developed by the organization to highlight the work of missions. Several TC students were also heard from in the video.

Be one

Fresno Pacific University

D. Merrill Ewert, President

The past two years have been filled with some very significant developments that will profoundly shape Fresno Pacific University for years to come. These include:

- Dr. Pete Menjares named FPU's 11th President --- After 10 years as the President of Fresno Pacific University, I will be retiring at the end of July. The trustees have selected Dr. Pete Menjares, Associate Provost at Biola University, to succeed me. In addition to his experience as a faculty member and administrator at Biola, Dr. Menjares has served as the pastor of a local congregation. He earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education at the University of Southern California.
- *Successful integration of the seminary into Fresno Pacific* --- It's been two years since MBBS was merged into FPU under the name, *Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary*. Enrollments are increasing steadily; the seminary has added additional faculty and several new programs including the *Center for Anabaptist Studies* and the *Center for Community Transformation*. The seminary is also developing a series of online courses and is bringing its first, off-campus degree program to FPU's regional center in Visalia.
- *Significant growth in enrollments* --- Fresno Pacific has experienced very significant enrollment growth in recent years; the university currently enrolls more than 3600 students making it the largest of the Mennonite higher education institutions. Nearly 600 students (including traditional undergraduates, seminary, grad, and degree completion students) were awarded their degrees in two ceremonies at the May commencement. Several hundred more will graduate in December. FPU has added a number of new academic programs and hired additional faculty to staff them.
- *Reaching out through regional centers* --- FPU recently opened its fourth regional center, this one in Merced, California. (The other centers are located in Bakersfield, Visalia, and North Fresno.) They're not only making Christian higher education more accessible to working adults (degree completion and grad students) who would not otherwise be able to attend FPU, but also raising the university's visibility and increasing its impact throughout the Central Valley.
- *Sunbirds becoming part of the NCAA* --- After a highly successful run that resulted in a number of individual and team national championships (including volleyball, swimming, and tennis) in the NAIA, the Fresno Pacific *Sunbirds* are joining the NCAA's Division II.

Founded on Christ, the words on Fresno Pacific's logo, not only describe the university's history but its deep commitment to Christ-centered higher education. For 10 years, we've had the privilege of being part of that process. Your prayers and support have been an enormous encouragement to Priscilla and me. Thanks so much!

Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary

Lynn Jost, Dean and Vice President

Merger with Fresno Pacific University – The benefits of merging the Seminary into the administrative structure of Fresno Pacific University include the following:

1. The FPU *brand* is well-known regionally. Active marketing, Andy Johnson's strong leadership in admissions, and God's blessing have resulted in about one-third growth in the fulltime student numbers. In Spring 2012 the Seminary had 88 FTE and 137 headcount.
2. The University's Center for Online Learning is assisting online curriculum writing.
3. Infrastructure and administration have been streamlined as part of the University student services system.

Most of the resources of MBBS continue to be used at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. \$250,000 was sent to Tabor College to support their interest in a master's level program.

Consultative relationship with US MB BFL – The Seminary and the Board of Faith and Life are developing an accountability relationship that involves offering counsel on theological issues through regular face-to-face dialogue. The Seminary benefits from the positive exchange which we have enjoyed.

New Tuition Scholarship – Director of Seminary Admissions Andy Johnson, Director of Seminary Advancement Mark Isaac, and I are announcing at this convention two three-year \$15,000 tuition scholarships for resident pastoral ministry students. One is designated for students from Central, LAMB, North Carolina, or Southern Districts. The other is offered to a student at-large.

On-Line Curriculum – Teams are writing curriculum for online graduate theological degree courses for distribution to MB institutions world-wide. Funds from MBBS Inc. will allow students to take the courses with full tuition scholarships. Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary will be offering the courses starting in Fall 2012, including the following courses designed to orient students to the MB Church:

- MB Story
- MB Confessions
- OT Theology from the MB perspective
- NT Theology from MB perspective
- MB Mission
- Church & Culture from MB perspective

The Seminary will also continue to offer these online courses:

- Biblical Interpretation
- Church and God's Mission in the World
- Discipleship & Ethics online.

New Centers for Research and Training – Dr. Valerie Rempel has been appointed inaugural Director of the Center for Anabaptist Studies which is funded primarily by a \$400,000 gift. Dr. Randy White has been appointed founding Executive Director of the Center for Community Transformation. Both centers relate primarily to the Seminary in carrying out our mission.

New Degree – MA in Urban Mission – Fresno--with the highest concentration of poverty in the US--is a lab for community transformation, cross-cultural relationships, and church cooperation. Dr. Cory Seibel, with Dr. Mark Baker, has developed a newly accredited mission degree that will work closely with the Center for Community Transformation to prepare missionaries for communities, rural and urban, in need of God's saving acts.

Thank you for your strong support of Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary.



Our Mission is to encourage and assist individuals, congregations and ministries in the Mennonite Brethren community with Biblical financial stewardship solutions.

MB Foundation remains committed to the mandate we were given in 1991, to provide stewardship services to our U.S. MB family. Today, these services fall into six unique categories:

- Planned Giving Services
- Fund Management
- Champion Biblical Stewardship
- Investment Certificates
- Loan Program
- Capital Campaign Services

As we've served the growing needs of our constituency, assets under management have grown as well. With 21 years of consistent growth, as of December 31, 2011 we now steward \$126,076,653. These funds are not "our storehouse." They are the result of your investment in ministry, either through our loan program or as you accomplish your God-given charitable objectives. Our responsibility is to be careful stewards of the resources entrusted to our care. Additionally, 2011 was a record year for distributions with over \$4.4M distributed to ministry as designated by the donor. See our annual report for some of the more unique gifts received last year!

The first half of this year has been a time of celebrating as four of our churches have moved into new facilities. We have been privileged to celebrate with each of these churches and to represent over 1,000 investors in our certificate program who collectively, make these loans possible.

- Community Bible Church, Olathe KS, Dedication January 8, new sanctuary
- Birch Bay Bible Community Church, Blaine WA, Dedication March 4, constructed new building
- Ethiopian Christian Fellowship, Sacramento CA, Dedication April 1, purchased new building
- South Mountain Community Church, Draper UT, Dedication April 1, constructed new building

We are excited to see how God will use the new resources we have available based on the book by Chip Ingram, *The Genius of Generosity*. Please stop by our display to receive a free copy of this book and find out about additional resources available. One Pastor who ordered 200 copies of the book said, "I'll have a core group of leaders begin reading/processing 'Genius' in May in prep for a generosity movement! Thank you for your leadership, support and encouragement." My prayer for our MB family is that we experience a broad and deep generosity movement!

Please stop by our display or check out our website at MBFoundation.com/financialprofile for our complete 2011 Annual Report.

Jon C. Wiebe, President & CEO

KINDRED PRODUCTIONS: Your Mennonite Brethren Publisher



One Family One Lord One Mission

What does it mean to be One? "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12). Not only do we have many parts, but we have a common purpose: to share the good news of Jesus with all people!
(see John 17:20-21)

In the past and present, the goal of Kindred Productions has been to partner with churches, individuals, pastors, and districts, to provide the kinds of materials and support they need in order to further the Kingdom of God. How can we help you today? What would make your job as a local church easier as you go about ministering to your own neighbors?

We will be at our table for the extent of *Connection* 2012. Please take a moment to stop by and say hello! We would love to talk with you about how we can best provide support to you as we work together as One!



Here to serve you...



Elenore Doerksen, Manager



Amy Sterk, US Rep.



Renita Kornelsen, Customer Service Rep.

1-800-545-7322

www.kindredproductions.com

Making Disciples Among the Least Reached

One of our Khmu pastors in Northern Thailand met a shaman who was respected and feared in his village. The shaman came to our pastor and asked him to pray to Jesus for his sick son in the hospital. The shaman had already experienced his first 10 children dying before they reached the age of one. The spirits had claimed all their lives. He wanted his eleventh child to live. The pastor replied to him that he must first renounce all his covenants and agreements with the spirits and then he would pray for the child's healing. The shaman agreed, and Jesus did a miracle, healing this shaman's child in the hospital many kilometers away! The shaman was so amazed that he became a Christ follower and has been instrumental in leading 800 people in surrounding villages to Christ and planting many churches.

Listening to my brothers and sisters in Northern Thailand reminds me that church is not just a weekly religious service. Rather, its purpose is to be the hands and feet of Christ to neighbors in need – God's love in action.

One of the most familiar New Testament texts calling the Church to action is found in Matthew 28:18-20, "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

At the heart of this Great Commission is the call to make disciples. Disciples are different than converts. Converts believe and confess; disciples obey and follow. It's a lot easier to make a convert than a disciple. It's also a lot easier to lose a convert. Am I a convert or a disciple? Jesus spoke to a religious culture that valued converts, but He called them to make disciples.

Jesus' words expand the context of our disciple making efforts into the unseen realm. Jesus is again declaring that His Kingdom has come (a common theme in Matthew's gospel) and He has been given all authority. This is now the central reference point for all personal and group identity and purpose. How we respond to this Kingdom and authority determines whether we become a disciple and carrier of Christ's gospel.

In a western culture where we often respond to Christ on our terms rather than His, these are challenging words.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:1-3 that we were all under the authority of the world, the flesh and the devil before we experienced salvation. It is because God the Father raised Jesus Christ from the dead, "and seated him above all rule and authority, power and dominion... and God placed all things under his feet..." (Eph. 2:20, 21) that we too have been raised "with Christ and seated with him in heavenly realms..." (Eph. 2:6). Jesus liberated us from the authority of sin and death and gave us the authority to live for Him as His Kingdom citizens on earth. Without spiritual authority we can't become disciples or make disciples!

“
Are we living on mission
with Jesus wherever we are?
”

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go..."

We make disciples as we are going. Are we living on mission with Jesus wherever we are, or are we leaving that for the 'professional' missionaries in foreign countries?

In the past generation, the Church has understood that "all nations" refers to people groups, not just geographical countries. There could be hundreds of "people groups" within one country. Some of these people groups have reproducing churches within them, others don't.

Prioritizing least-reached people groups has radically transformed how and where MB Mission places teams and invests resources. Please see the reverse side for specific ways God is building His Church globally.



Randy Friesen
General Director



Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

Report to U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, Connection 2012

MCC relies on our partnership with Mennonite Brethren churches in the U.S. Together, by God's grace, we share God's love and compassion in the name of Christ. Examples of this are countless. You give your time at relief sales, pray consistently for MCC, provide funds and serve in MCC assignments close to or far from home. Thank you!

Our work together

- As of April 1, 2012, 13 members or attenders of Mennonite Brethren churches in the U.S. serve with MCC. In the past two years, a total of 21 have served.
- From April 1, 2010, to March 31, 2012, MCC received \$185,383.48 USD in financial contributions identified from MB churches and the denominational office. For all of this, we are grateful.
- By mutual listening and learning, California MB churches of the Pacific District Conference and MB churches in Colombia are strengthening relationships, reinforced on a 10-day MCC learning tour to Colombia in August 2011. Several churches are video messaging, praying for each other and planning future exchanges. Meanwhile, MCC works closely with MB churches in Colombia, including in their efforts with children and families affected by the armed conflict there.
- Seven MB youth participated in the 2011 GAP Institute, co-hosted by West Coast MCC and Fresno Pacific University). GAP (Global Anabaptist Peacebuilders) Institute brings together young leaders from across the U.S. to engage in active learning in relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. Eli Dunn, a Fresno, Calif., high school senior and member of College Community Church Mennonite Brethren, Clovis, Calif., felt empowered to respond to what he'd seen as part of GAP's Transformation on the U.S./Mexico Border delegation. "As a Christian, how can I see this and not take a stand?" he asked. "It amazes me. Doors have been opened up to us as relationships have been formed. We have experiences to share and connections to maintain."
- MCC supports the work of MB and Mennonite hospitals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Funds have been used for medicine and medical supplies, and increasingly enable the hospitals' medical directors to improve skills in administration and supervision, and to more efficiently teach and supervise their management staffs.
- MCC led three seminars and had an exhibit at the April 2011 MB youth conference in San Antonio, Texas. It was good to interact with MB youth!

New Wine/New Wineskins

MCC's revisioning and restructuring process is complete. The mission statement below is one result, and is guiding our work in a fresh way. The new structure is bringing us closer to our sponsoring denominations, and has provided new ways to work together as a global church community and an invigorated partnership between MCCs in Canada and the U.S. Thank you to denominational and church leaders and others in the Mennonite Brethren family for your role in this discernment process.

Grace and peace to you,

Jill Schellenberg, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Board of Directors

*Mennonite Central Committee, a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches,
shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ
by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.*

Mennonite Central Committee U.S., 21 South 12th Street, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501
717.859.1151 • 888.563.4676 Toll-free • mailbox@mcc.org • mcc.org



Mennonite Disaster Service

Extreme weather made 2011 a historic year in Canada and the United States. There was a billion-dollar Mid-Atlantic blizzard, deadly droughts and triple digit heat, the most extreme tornado season of all time, devastating wildfires and massive rivers overflowed. The Eastern US was hit by Hurricane Irene, and then, adding insult to injury, Tropical Storm Lee redoubled the flooding. Canada saw major flooding in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec, with more acreage under water than ever recorded and strong tornados hit Ontario.*

Hundreds of thousands of homes and business were affected, their losses compounded by a weak economy. There have been more than 700 US disaster and weather related deaths, most from the tornado outbreaks in the spring.

This year 5925 MDS volunteers responded to the needs with love and concern. These volunteers gave 26,357 volunteer days to the disaster stricken communities, a value of \$4,503,884.16 (based on a modest volunteer rate of \$21.36/hour**.) Additional volunteers served in many Unit and Regional responses.

Unprecedented numbers are devoid of emotions until you look in the face of disaster survivors, city officials, first responders, emotional/spiritual caregivers, and other disaster response partners. As one of our volunteers in Alabama wrote, "The emotions of the people show plainly on their faces. I have seen grief, pain, frustration, joy, relief, and gratefulness etched in the face of each and every person I have met and know that such emotions were probably mirrored in my own countenance."

The presence of MDS has already made a huge impact this past year. God is on the move and it is our duty to align our witness and work with God's. The coming year will be busy. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Report on 2011 by Kevin King, Executive Director

*Weather information from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

**2010 volunteer rate value from www.independentsector.org

2011 AT A GLANCE

22 Binational Projects

6173 Volunteers

200 Long-term

5706 Short-term

163 Summer Youth

104 RV

703 Clients Served

Clean ups	485
Minor repairs	146
Major Repairs	38
Houses rebuilt	34

Faithfully yours

Everence 2012 report

U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
July 27-28, 2012

*"... I will proclaim
your faithfulness to
all generations."*

-Psalm 89:1

Every generation needs to be reminded to serve God faithfully as it receives God's faithfulness in turn. We may not always feel "all is well," but ultimately we can always serve and trust. At Everence, this call to faithfulness extends to our relationships with you. In this report, we discuss some ways we help you and your congregations manage finances in tune with how you are being faithful to God's call.

Members respond to new name

In 2011, Everence surveyed its members on a wide range of issues, including our name change. When MMA and Mennonite Financial Federal Credit Union moved to the Everence name, 60 percent of members surveyed supported the change, 32 percent were neutral, and 8 percent disagreed with the change. In the same survey, almost 90 percent of the members gave Everence one of the top two customer satisfaction ratings; 94 percent considered Everence trustworthy.

Conflict behind cell phones

What do cell phones have in common with the Democratic Republic of Congo? Conflict minerals. Miners – including children – are violently forced to extract minerals essential in manufacturing common devices like cell phones. You can voice concerns at Everence.com.



New stewardship manual and educational resources

The new *Congregational Stewardship Resource Manual* is available for treasurers and others who make congregational financial decisions. *Stewards of Grace*, a primer on holistic stewardship, is now available in Spanish. Watch for *But It's Only a Story* early 2012 to help small groups talk about money. Download these free resources from the "Congregational education" section of Everence.com.



Looking for advisors

Everence is recruiting financial advisors to serve in offices around the United States. Learn more by visiting Everence.com or calling (800) 348-7468 ext. 3281.

Global agencies receive credit card mission rebates

Everence Federal Credit Union donated \$12,700 to the global agencies of Brethren Disaster Services and Mennonite Mission Network last year. The credit union's Rebate for Missions™ program tithes to church and mission work from income realized by members' use of its credit cards. Funds were also donated to local charities close to credit union branch offices. Learn more about the credit cards at Everence.com.

New features enhance church retirement plan

Mennonite Retirement Trust, the retirement savings plan for Mennonite Church USA and related organizations, has enhanced its services. MRT, administered by Everence, is offering broadened investment options and new online and educational services to pastors and other church staff.

Food and financial aid through congregations

In 2011, the Sharing Fund assisted churches to feed hungry children and adults.

This is only one of many needs that the Everence Sharing Fund helped congregations meet for over 2,000 families through its \$900,913 in matching grants.

**Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity**

Everence church relations representatives are engaged in advanced training by the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, a division of The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. During 2012, they will provide pastors with an overview of the *Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity* seminar. Using a diagnostic approach, the seminar presents practices and tools that help pastors and ministry leaders to encourage faithful generosity within their congregations. Contact your church relations representative to learn if this seminar is available in your area.

Everence can help

Our representatives can help you manage your finances to reflect your faith. They can assist you and your church members with services

mentioned in this report and other services including loans, insurance, and savings options. You can contact your church relations representative to support stewardship ministries within your congregation.

Everence helps individuals, organizations and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence offers banking, insurance and financial services with community benefits and stewardship education. Everence is a ministry of Mennonite Church USA and other churches.

Everence offers banking products that are federally insured. Everence also offers securities and other products that are not federally insured and are subject to the loss of principal. All products are not available in all states.



Mennonite World Conference report to the U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, July 2012

Vision

Mennonite World Conference is called to be a communion (koinonia) of Anabaptist-related churches linked to one another in a worldwide community of faith for fellowship, worship, service and witness.

Mission

Mennonite World Conference exists to:

1. Be a global community of faith in the Anabaptist tradition

Leadership shift to Global South

In January 2012 both the leadership and the office of Mennonite World Conference moved from Strasbourg, France to Bogotá, Colombia. The new MWC General Secretary, César García, from Bogotá, completed a four-month leadership transition with outgoing General Secretary Larry Miller at the end of December.

General Council met in May

The MWC General Council, which consists of some 120 members from more than 50 countries, met in Basel, Switzerland in May 2012. Other groups that met at the same time included: MWC's four Commissions (Faith and Life, Deacons, Peace, Mission), the Young Anabaptists, the task force on service, and a group planning for an education summit in 2015.

Organizational capacity enhanced

In a new organizational structure, General Secretary César García has appointed an Operations Team with "Chief Officers" in the following areas: Administration (Anna Sorgius), Operations, including Finances (Len Rempel), International Events (Liesa Unger) and Communications (Ron Rempel). The new structure also envisions several coordinators—one to relate to the four MWC commissions and one to relate to regional offices on each continental region.

2. Facilitate relationships between Anabaptist churches worldwide

Youth programs build relations

Two youth programs run in partnership by Mennonite World Conference and Mennonite Central Committee help to build valuable international relations. The Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network (YAMEN!) places young adults from MWC member churches in the Global South in other countries of the Global South. Since 2004, there have been 49 YAMEN! participants from 18 countries. This year also marks the seventh placement of an intern from an MWC member church at the United Nations MCC office.

Visits by international teams

In the past year, teams of persons from different countries in the MWC membership have embodied the global communion in its commitment to "walk with each other" in celebration and pathos. For example, teams have visited the Netherlands (to celebrate the church's 200th anniversary), Japan (in aftermath of earthquake and tsunami), the United States (to build awareness and relationships), India and Indonesia (for leadership training).

3. Relate to other Christian world communions and organizations

Focus to be on building community while maintaining ecumenical talks

According to General Secretary, César García, the emphasis in the next few years will be on "building our global community (koinonia)." At the same time, he added, "we are going to maintain ecumenical dialogue." The most recent ecumenical dialogue is with the Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA), which has interest in recovering its Anabaptist affinities. Also, recent tree plantings by Mennonites in both Germany and the Netherlands served to further deepen Mennonite-Lutheran relations in the wake of the historic 2010 Lutheran apology for the persecution of Anabaptists.

People gifts

César García (far right), a Mennonite Brethren leader from Bogotá, Colombia, is General Secretary of Mennonite World Conference. Ed Boschman (right), is Executive Director of the U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. Dalton Reimer, Fresno and Pakisa Tshmika of Fresno,



California, helped prepare for an Education Consultation hosted by MWC.

Monetary gifts

Contributions to MWC: \$1,250 in 2010; \$1,000 in 2011; \$1,000 in 2012.



Steve Schroeder (left), moderator of the U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, talks with a visiting Mennonite World Conference delegation: (from left) Bert Lobe, MWC North American representative from St. Jacobs, Ontario; Cynthia Peacock, chair of the MWC Deacons Commission, from India; Cisca Ibanda, member of the MWC Executive Committee, from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Be one

Mennonite Health Services

Report to US Mennonite Brethren Churches July 2012

Did you know? There are five Mennonite Brethren health and human services organizations that are part of MHS Alliance.

- Kings View, Fresno, California
- Fairview Fellowship Homes, Fairview, Oklahoma
- Lincoln Glen Manor, San Jose, California
- Palm Village, Reedley, California
- Parkside Homes, Hillsboro, Kansas

You can get involved with a ministry in your community, through employment, serving on the board, benefiting from services, volunteering or contributing financially. To learn more, ask an agency representative or visit our member directory at www.mhsonline.org.

2012 News and Initiatives

- The addition of Dennis Russell as a vice president providing operational and strategic consultation
- A study of how church affiliation sustains an organization's mission
- Training materials for congregational boards
- Development of a new health insurance plan for employees of member organizations
- Planning for Mennonite Health Assembly, February 14 – 16, 2013 in Orlando, Florida
- Beginning exploration of an international network of Anabaptist health services organization, through Mennonite World Conference

MHS Alliance is a national network of 73 Mennonite Brethren, Brethren in Christ and Mennonite Church USA health and human service organizations that provide services for retirement, developmental disabilities, mental health and health care.

We are a community where staff and board leaders can share ideas and serve as a resource to each other as they meet the needs of thousands of individuals and families each year. Through membership, these ministries can access programs and services to support staff and board leadership and operational effectiveness.

- Consulting services (also available to other not-for-profit organizations)
- Executive search and transition
- Employee health benefits and liability insurance
- Executive Circle
- Values-based Leadership Program
- Mennonite Health Assembly

Submitted by Rick Stiffney, President/CEO



Ukrainian

"Five years ago two local boys spent time at Shelter-Plus. After living a secular lifestyle, they came back to Shelter with the words, 'We want to be Christians'. Two days ago they were baptized."



THE BIBLE TODAY (TBT) produced a CD of music and the Gospel of Mark in the Roma language as an outreach tool for the local Roma church. They hosted local events and produced videos together with the community as a means to introduce Christian values. They spread the Gospel through 7 programs airing over various waves, FM and wire radio.

Description of Programs	Target audience	Wire – Odessa						
		Wire – Dnepropetrovsk	Wire – Kirovograd	Wave – Joltye Voddee	Wave – Krivoy Rog	FM Radio		
Intro to Christianity & how Bible answers life's problems	Adults	X	X	X		X	X	
Addresses family values & solving problems using Biblical principles	Couples	X	X	X			X	X
Strengthen family values/solve problems through Biblical principles	Young adults	X	X	X	X		X	X
Discuss problems & making Bible-based decisions	Teenagers	X	X	X	X		X	X
Teaching Biblical principles to children	Parents				X			
Sharing interesting facts from the Bible	Teenagers							X
Teaching basic Bible stories & truths	General public				X			

SHELTER-PLUS spread the Gospel through:

- a variety of programs for teens, young couples and weekly programs for 400-500 children
- workshops on camp ministry in Prague, Czech Republic
- a seminar for employees of another charity organization
- local community events
- summer camps
- sharing experiences at an international conference on social issues in Dnepropetrovsk

Russian

A young girl from Russia wrote, "Thank you for telling me about God."



OUR TEAM IN RUSSIA introduced many children to God's love through Ella's Backyard (EB) Festivals, public events and programs via the Internet.

- A total of 700 people attended 4 Festivals in Siberia. Children were invited by the local churches to attend a 3-month EB club, after which they were invited to attend Sunday School.
- 1000s of DVDs with EB stories were given away throughout the year.
- Sunday Schools, kindergartens, orphanages and EB Clubs used EB materials.
- The TV puppet programs, 56 of Ella's Backyard (Series 1) and 24 of Mushroom Tales (Series 2) are available on the Internet.
- EB programs were translated into Tatar and Ukrainian languages and are available with sign language.
- Mushroom Tales airs on 3 Christian TV stations.
- 40-50 children attend clubs each week in 4 Russian cities.

Low German

"Even if our leaders don't know what we are doing, God knows and He'll forgive us," said a man from a colony in Mexico, using a Gospel Player in secret.



JACOB AND HELEN FUNK work hard to reach Low German-speaking people and communities with radio ministry and teaching tools they have developed. They:

- spent 2 weeks in Northern Alberta, preaching, teaching & counseling
- preached & led workshops at various venues
- reproduced & distributed Low German devotionals and cookbooks
- produced & distributed 1,000 Gospel Players to Bolivia, Mexico & Canada
- produced 4 radio programs weekly

Spanish

"There's no school where they teach you how to be a good spouse or a good parent. Your messages of salvation help us in these areas of life."

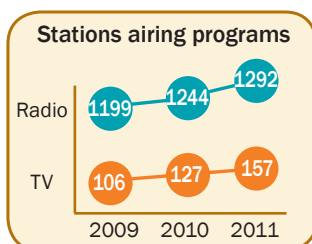


ENCUENTRO (RADIO) & 180 GRADOS (TV)

PROGRAMS offer Spanish-speaking people in 30 countries hope, giving them a new outlook from a Christian perspective. Here are some of the ways these programs are distributed:

- 15% of the radio stations receive our programs monthly on CD via mail.
- 85% of the radio stations download our programs from the Internet, including 157 new radio stations added this year.
- 100% of 158 TV stations download our TV program from the Internet.
- A pastor in Cuba duplicates our CDs and distributes them to over 60 house churches.
- Program CDs are used in Bible study groups, prisons, neighbourhood visitations and city buses!

Ernesto Pinto also spread the message of hope this year through 14 events and 4 pastoral retreats in 11 different countries.



Stay
connected
at fln.ca



OUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM PRODUCES:

- FLN eNews videos that are sent out by email and posted on fln.ca
- 12 radio spots each month for CHVN radio, Winnipeg
- videos for each ministry which are used as informational tools
- filming for an Afghan TV show in the Dari language in partnership with another ministry

BUGirl

"All my life I've picked myself apart. Now I know God created me just how He wants me."
(girl from a BUGirl event)



BEAUTIFUL UNIQUE GIRL interns traveled approximately 50,000 km by van across Canada, carrying the message to young women that God values them and gives purpose to their lives. BUGirl targets girls in grades 5 to 8 because media and friendship circles add pressure to making life choices at a younger age. The interns share their own experiences and that of godly women of the Bible. They spend time listening, praying for and with the girls, as well as enjoying interactive activities.

Arabic

Pray for women willing to give their testimonies on the new Arabic TV program *Just for Women*.



OUR PARTNERS IN NORTH AFRICA have prepared the first 26 episodes of our new TV program, *Just for Women*, geared toward Arabic-speaking women ages 18-35. Filming is scheduled for April 23-26, 2012. Work on a 2nd series of 26 programs will begin following a careful evaluation of viewers' responses to the first series, thus ensuring we meet the real needs of Arabic-speaking women.



MESSAGE FROM CLAUDE PRATTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Reading through this snapshot review of what God allowed FLN to do in 2011 fills me with amazement. All of this has been made possible by His grace and because of the faithfulness of God's people in praying for and supporting our 6 ministries. Your willingness to stand behind our team of committed women and men has resulted in lives being transformed around the world.

May I suggest that this report confirms the fact that the original vision shared by Henry Brucks, Bert Loewen and Henry Poetker 65 years ago was God-given. Their vision to reach the English-speaking people of Winnipeg through radio has exceeded all expectations and now expresses itself in FLN's desire to see individuals hear about Jesus' transforming power in Arabic, German/Low German, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian as well as English and some other lesser known languages.

This year FLN celebrates its 65th birthday! We look forward with great anticipation to what God will do in the years to come!



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Website: www.adnetonline.org

Annual Report of Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet) **February 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012**

Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet) provides encouragement and resources to congregations, families, and persons with disabilities as they identify and embrace their God-given gifts and abilities in ministry to each other and to the larger church.

Resources. ADNet sends three issues annually of *Connections* newsletter and *ADNotes* for congregations to every Mennonite Brethren congregation and several thousand subscribers. ADNet's extensive website, www.adnetonline.org, puts resources for inclusion at the fingertips of congregations that are seeking to be intentionally hospitable to persons with disabilities. The site offers many free resources created for congregations that include people with developmental, mental health, sensory, or communication disabilities.

ADNet Board. At the conclusion of this fiscal year, the ADNet Board accepted the resignation of Wilfred Martens (retired professor from Fresno Pacific University), thanking him for many years of service on the Board.

Staff. Christine Guth served as Program Director throughout the year on a volunteer basis.

Associates are part-time volunteers who assist ADNet in particular areas of expertise. Lora Carter Nafziger was appointed Field Associate in February, with a special interest in congregational inclusion of persons who need a disproportionate share of congregational resources. Jason Greig, a student at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, was appointed Student Associate in September, with a particular interest in bringing perspectives of persons with intellectual disabilities into academic theological conversation. Kathy Dickson and Sue Cassel continued serving as Field Associates with an interest in inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

Advocates. ADNet encourages congregations to appoint a congregational disabilities advocate to help promote awareness of the gifts and needs of persons with disabilities. These representatives also serve as a liaison with ADNet. Fourteen congregations are participating.

Partnerships. Membership in **MHS Alliance** provides ADNet with a channel of relationship to the Mennonite Brethren Church and other Anabaptist denominations. ADNet continues as a member network of Pathways to Promise, a cooperative interfaith mental health ministry. Through Christine Guth, ADNet participated in the National Council of Churches of Christ Committee on Disabilities.

Publications. Revised editions of the classic books *Supportive Care in the Congregation* and *After We're Gone* were released in July, published by MennoMedia.

Finances. ADNet took in \$19,100 in the fiscal year, mostly from private contributions. The year's expenditures totaled \$18,400. For details, visit www.adnetonline.org.

People. ADNet Board: Jim Smith (Pres.), Kevin Sauder (V.P.), Milt Stoltzfus (Treas.), Sharon Beyer (Sec. part-year), Wilfred Martens, Vyron Schmidt. Staff: Christine Guth, Program Director. Student Associate: Jason Greig. Field Associates: Kathy Dickson, Sue Cassel, Lora Carter Nafziger. Office Volunteers: Merv Zook and Mim Snyder, part-year. Bookkeeper: Rollin Handrich. Technical consultant: Robert Guth.

Be one

2012 Recommendations

The following recommendations will be presented at the convention:

1. The USMB Leadership Board recommends the approval of the conference budget for fiscal year 2012-13 in the amount of \$1,018,524.
2. The USMB Leadership Board recommends the approval of the proportional funding model for financial support of USMB ministries by constituency churches.
3. The USMB Leadership Board recommends the approval of the revised Bylaws.
4. The USMB Leadership Board recommends the election of the presented nominations.
5. The USMB Leadership Board joins the Board of Faith and Life in recommending the approval of the new Memo of Understanding between the Leadership Boards and Boards of Faith and Life of the Canadian and US Conferences of Mennonite Brethren.

Be one

Nominations

US Conference Leadership Board

Current Positions:

Steve Schroeder	(Chair)	Hillsboro KS	2012
Marv Schellenerg	(Vice Chair)	Wichita KS	2014
David Hardt	(Treasurer)	Bakersfield CA	2012
Sue Kliewer	(Secretary)	Auberry CA	2014
Clyde Ferguson Jr		Hudson NC	2014
Aaron Hernandez		LaGrulla TX	2014
Vyacheslav Gladyshev		Fresno CA	2014
Matt Kolbert		Clovis CA	2012
Jodi Thomas		Rapid City SD	2014

+ *Need to elect three members. Nominations:*

<u>Steve Schroeder</u>	<u>Hillsboro KS</u>	2016	incumbent
<u>David Hardt</u>	<u>Bakersfield CA</u>	2016	incumbent
<u>Matt Kolbert</u>	<u>Clovis CA</u>	2016	incumbent

+ *Also need to elect Executive. Nominations:*

Chair:	Steve Schroeder
Vice-Chair:	Marv Schellenberg
Secretary:	Sue Kliewer
Treasurer:	David Hardt

Board of Faith and Life

Current positions:

Larry Nikkel	Hillsboro KS	Term Expires: 2012
Rod Anderson	Sioux Falls SD	Term Expires: 2012
Michael Eldridge	San Jose CA	Term Expires: 2014
Tim Geddert	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2012
Ed Boschman	Bakersfield CA	ex officio
Roger Engbrecht	Sioux Falls SD	ex officio
Terry Hunt	Lenoir NC	ex officio
Tim Sullivan	Wichita KS	ex officio
Gary Wall	Fresno CA	ex officio

+ *Need to elect three members. Three nominees:*

<u>Larry Nikkel</u>	<u>Wichita KS</u>	2016	incumbent
<u>Rod Anderson</u>	<u>Sioux Falls SD</u>	2016	incumbent
<u>Tim Geddert</u>	<u>Fresno CA</u>	2016	incumbent

National Youth Committee

Current positions:

Rick Bartlett	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2012
Tim Neufeld	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2012
Wendell Loewen	Hillsboro KS	Term Expires: 2012

+ *Need new nominees for NYC Team:*

<u>Chris Eidse</u>	<u>Boone NC</u>	2016
<u>Joanna Chapa</u>	<u>Rio Grande City TX</u>	2016
<u>Kyle Goings</u>	<u>Rapid City SD</u>	2016
<u>Jeral Gross</u>	<u>Mitchell SD</u>	2016
<u>Jarod Richardson</u>	<u>Owasso OK</u>	2016
<u>Keith Warkentin</u>	<u>Blaine WA</u>	2016

MB Mission

Current Positions:

Ruth Schale	Bakersfield CA	Term Expires: 2012
Lowell Stutzman	Gold Hill OR	Term Expires: 2014
Bill Loewen	Wichita KS	Term Expires: 2014
Brent Warkentin	Wichita KS	Term Expires: 2012

+ *Need to elect two members. Two nominees:*

<u>Ruth Schale</u>	<u>Bakersfield CA</u>	2016	incumbent
<u>Stephen Humber</u>	<u>Omaha NE</u>	2016	

Mennonite Brethren Foundation

Current Positions:

Lynn Schneider	Huron SD	Term Expires: 2014
Ken Neufeld	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2012
Yuriy Boyechko	Beaverton OR	Term Expires: 2012 (not continuing)
Dan Ray	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2014
Randy Hamm	Enid OK	Term Expires: 2012
Terry Hunt	Lenoir NC	Term Expires: 2014 (completing Chris Walsh's term)
Greg Quiring	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2012
Tharen Spahr	Wichita KS	Term Expires: 2014
David Hardt	Bakersfield CA	USC Treasurer

NOTE: The USC Treasurer is an automatic member of the MBF Board of Directors.

+ *Need to affirm three members:*

<u>Ken Neufeld</u>	<u>Fresno CA</u>	2016	incumbent
<u>Randy Hamm</u>	<u>Enid OK</u>	2016	incumbent
<u>Greg Quiring</u>	<u>Fresno CA</u>	2016	incumbent
<u>*</u>	<u></u>	2016	*open

Historical Commission

Current positions:

Abe Dueck, chair	Winnipeg MB	Term Expires: 2014	
Peter Klassen	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2014	* terminating
Valerie Rempel	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2012	(completing Abraham Friesen's term)
Don Isaac	Hillsboro KS	Term Expires: 2012	

+ *Need to elect two members. Two nominees:*

<u>Valerie Rempel</u>	<u>Fresno CA</u>	2016	incumbent
<u>Don Isaac</u>	<u>Hillsboro KS</u>	2016	incumbent
*		2014	

*appointment will be made for replacement to complete Peter Klassen's term

OTHER APPOINTMENTS: Affirmed by USMB Leadership Board (4 yr terms unless noted)

Mennonite Health Services:

Sheri Plett Weidenhoefer	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2015 (3 yr)
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Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary Board: Ed Boschman

MB Mission Board: Ed Boschman

International Committee of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB): Ed Boschman (Treasurer)

Mennonite World Conference:

Ed Boschman		
Lynn Jost	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2013
Dennis Becker	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2015
Youth Representative:	Lisa Washio, Fresno CA	

Mennonite Central Committee:

International:

Allen Hiebert	Hillsboro KS	Term Expires: 2014
Laura Schmidt Roberts	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2014

MCC-USA:

Jill Schellenberg	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2016
Dina Gonzalez-Pina	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2016
Bill Braun	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2016

Mennonite Disaster Service:

Jose Elizondo	Sanger CA	Term Expires: 2014
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Everence Board of Directors: (Appointed by Everence)

Larry Nikkel	Hillsboro KS	Term Expires: 2015
Paul Quiring	Fresno CA	Term Expires: 2014

National Association of Evangelicals:

Ed Boschman		
Winnie Bartel (by virtue of appointment)	Shafter CA	

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Bios of New Nominees

National Youth Committee

Chris Eidse

Chris, originally from Canada, lives in Lenoir NC with his wife Rebecca and 2 daughters. Chris has been the lead Pastor of the Boone MB Church for the last 2 years and prior to that he was the NC district youth pastor for 6 years. He has served on the National Youth Committee in 2007 and 2011. In his spare time he loves to hike and explore the Appalachian Mountains with his family and get together with his skateboarding buddies.

Joana Chapa

Joana is a graduate of Tabor College and is a Physical Education teacher-aide at an elementary school in south Texas. She also serves as a youth sponsor at Grulla MB Church, Grulla, TX. She has also served on the planning teams of Anaheim '07 and San Antonio '11 national youth conferences.

Kyle Goings

Kyle has been the full time youth pastor at Bible Fellowship Church in Rapid City, SD since 2005. He graduated from Judson University and received a Youth Ministry and Adolescent Studies degree and where he also met his now wife Katie. They are expecting their first child, a baby girl, in September. He took a group to the Anaheim 2007 conference, and was on the planning team for San Antonio 2011.

Jeral Gross

Jeral and his wife Andrea live in Mitchell, SD, and he is a member of Salem Mennonite Brethren of rural Freeman, SD. He is a Vice President, Sr. Business Banker, for First National Bank South Dakota. Jeral has been involved in youth work serving in various capacities for the past fifteen years. Gross has been Chairman of the Central District Youth Committee for the past ten years and has been on the National Youth Conference Committee since 2000.

Jarod Richardson

Jarod is the Pastor of Worship Ministries at Discovery Bible Fellowship in Collinsville/Owasso, OK. He graduated from Tabor College with a BA in Business Admin also completing a Church Music minor. He and his wife Jamie also served on the National Youth Committee team in San Antonio.

Keith Warkentin

Keith is the Youth Pastor at Birch Bay Bible Community Church in Birch Bay, WA, where he has served for the past 4 1/2 years. Keith graduated from Tabor College in 2007 and also served on the National Youth Conference Committee team in San Antonio.

MB Mission

Stephen Humber

Stephen graduated from Denver Seminary in 2000 and has been a pastor with the MBs ever since; first with Parkview MB in Hillsboro, Kan., and currently at Stony Brook Church in Omaha. A favorite quote related to mission is from Alan Hirsch: "The church doesn't have a mission, the mission has a church."

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Proposed BYLAWS OF
**THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE
OF THE
MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES**

(Draft 7 - March 28, 2012)

ARTICLE I. GENERAL

SECTION 1. Name. The name of this corporation shall be The United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches (hereinafter referred to as “the U.S. Conference” or “the Conference”).

SECTION 2. Confession of Faith. The “Confession of Faith of the United States and Canadian Conferences of the Mennonite Brethren Churches,” as amended from time to time (“the Confession of Faith”), shall be the confession of faith of the Conference. Any doctrinal statement issued by or on behalf of the Conference shall be in harmony with the Confession of Faith.

SECTION 3. Policies and Procedures. The Conference may, from time to time, establish policies and procedures setting forth, in more detail, guidelines concerning the Conference’s structures and operations. Conference boards, committees or commissions may also be authorized by the Conference to establish such policies and procedures. Any such policies and procedures shall be subject to and in harmony with the Confession of Faith, these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation of the Conference.

SECTION 4. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Conference shall begin on June 1 in each year. A regular convention of the Conference (Article V, Section 1) shall constitute the annual meeting of the Conference to the extent one is required by law. In years in which no regular convention is held, the first meeting of the Leadership Board in the fiscal year shall constitute the annual meeting of the Conference. In the latter instance, the Leadership Board shall serve as the representatives of the members of the Corporation for the purpose of conducting the annual meeting.

SECTION 5. Constituent District Conferences. District conferences are geographically-structured regional sub-units which are comprised of churches which are also members of the U.S. Conference. At the present time, these districts include the Central District, Latin American District (LAMB), North Carolina District, Pacific District and Southern District. District conferences are subordinate to the U.S. Conference as set forth in Article IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws, but are self-governing and operate under their own governing documents and structure. New district conferences may be created by the U.S. Conference as deemed necessary from time to time and, if deemed necessary, the U.S. Conference may work in conjunction with an existing district conference to realign its geographic borders.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

SECTION 1. General. In order to work more effectively and successfully, the Mennonite Brethren churches of the United States (“member churches”) have joined together to become a corporate body in the form of the U.S. Conference. The Conference shall build and maintain a strong Mennonite Brethren identity in the Anabaptist/Evangelical tradition, by affirming, clarifying and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ as given to us in the Scriptures. The Conference shall intentionally pursue obedience to the Kingdom assignment of Jesus to make disciples of all Nations, by inviting people into a faith-follow relationship with Him, and baptizing and teaching obedience in all things, the Lord of the church.

SECTION 2. Ministries. In order to carry out its purpose, the Conference shall initiate and coordinate ministries within its purview, encourage and facilitate an assertive program of evangelism and church planting, encourage faithful discipleship in all matters of faith and life as defined by the Confession of Faith, and encourage and develop leadership at all levels of the conference: the local churches, the district conferences, and the United States Conference. The initiation of new ministries in cross-cultural evangelism and church planting shall be in consultation and cooperation with the district conferences.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Members. The membership of the Conference shall consist of such churches that are founded on Christ and the Word of God, subscribe to the Confession of Faith of the U.S. Conference, and have been admitted as members by the Conference.

SECTION 2. District Conference Members. All churches who are members of the constituent district conferences shall automatically be members of the U.S. Conference. When a district conference accepts a new member church, it shall promptly advise the U.S. Conference of its action.

SECTION 3. Non-District Conference Members. A church that desires to become a member of the Conference but is not within the geographic borders of any district conference may make application for membership directly to the Conference. The Conference shall establish procedures for the consideration of such an application and the acceptance of such churches.

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership. A member church whose membership in a district conference is terminated, either by its withdrawal or by action of the district, shall also cease to be a member of the U.S. Conference. The district conference will promptly notify the Conference of any such termination. The U.S. Conference may also establish procedures whereby the Conference may initiate action to terminate a church’s

membership in the Conference. A church whose membership in the U.S. Conference is withdrawn or terminated cannot remain a member of a district conference and its membership in any district conference shall be automatically terminated as well.

SECTION 5. Fraternal Relations. The Conference may establish fraternal relations with non-member church congregations having similar statements of faith and practices in order to provide opportunity for worship, fellowship and ministry of mutual interest. The Conference may establish policies and procedures regarding the formulation and implementation of fraternal relations agreements for this purpose.

ARTICLE IV. CONFERENCE RELATIONSHIPS

SECTION 1. Relation to the Members Churches.

- A. Except as otherwise limited in these Bylaws or in the bylaws of the district conferences, each member church is a self-governing body with regard to its own local affairs. It fills all offices within the church and performs the services to which it has been called of God through Jesus Christ. Member churches agree and commit, in all matters, to subscribe to the Confession of Faith.
- B. Member churches are accountable to each other as interdependent partners. Churches may invite counsel and assistance from the Conference. The Conference, through the Leadership Board and/or appropriate boards, committees or commissions, may intervene when problems arise within a member church. In all such instances the Conference shall strive to work in cooperation with the appropriate district conference.
- C. Member churches shall accept as binding the decisions of the U.S. Conference and commit themselves to support the actions and projects of the Conference, both spiritually and materially, and to carry them out in the best possible manner. They agree that the Conference shall have the right to make the final decision in all matters that relate to the Confession of Faith, these Bylaws, the united activities, and the common welfare of the churches.
- D. Should a member church withdraw from the Conference, or be dissolved, its capital assets shall become the property of the district conference of which the church is a member. If the church is not a member of any district conference, its assets shall become the property of the U.S. Conference.

SECTION 2. Relation to District Conferences.

- A. The U.S. Conference shall strive to work with the district conferences in carrying out the mission of the Mennonite Brethren in the United States.
- B. As the member churches of the U.S. Conference are also members of the several district conferences, they agree that the governing documents of the district conferences shall be consistent with those of the U.S. Conference, and that in case of a conflict of principle, theology, or jurisdiction between the district conferences and the U. S. Conference, the latter shall take precedence.
- C. The district conferences commit to cooperate and participate positively in the administration and execution of the organization and ministries of the U. S. Conference, and pledge to support all the activities of the Conference.
- D. Should a district conference be dissolved, after payment of all debts and liabilities, its remaining assets shall be distributed to the U.S. Conference.

SECTION 3. Relation to Mennonite Brethren Agencies, Institutions and Ministries.

- A. Representative Relationships. The Conference provides representatives to the governing boards of certain organizations. Examples include Mennonite Brethren Foundation and MB Mission. These organizations are accountable to the Conference through these representatives and the Conference elects or appoints these representatives in accordance with the bylaws of the respective organization and these Bylaws (particularly Article VII, Section 6). Additionally, the Conference has a communication link with these organizations through the Leadership Board. The Leadership Board may delegate responsibility for communication with such organizations to the Executive Director or an appropriate board, committee or commission.
- B. Other Relationships. The Conference maintains a communication link with other Mennonite Brethren organizations. Examples include Fresno Pacific University and its Seminary, Tabor College, the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and the International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB). The Leadership Board maintains these communication links directly or by delegation to the Executive Director or an appropriate board, committee or commission.

SECTION 4. Relation to Inter-Mennonite and Inter-Faith Agencies. The Leadership Board, directly or by delegation to the Executive Director or an appropriate board, committee or commission, shall represent the Conference with regard to Inter-Mennonite and Inter-Faith agency relationships. The Conference has no authority over such agencies but may desire to have a communication link with them. Examples include Everence, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Disaster Service, Mennonite Health Services, and the National Association of Evangelicals.

ARTICLE V. CONVENTIONS

SECTION 1. Regular Convention. The Conference shall meet biennially in a regular convention for purposes such as worship, fellowship, instruction and to transact the business of the Conference. The location of regular conventions and the program to be followed shall be determined by the Leadership Board.

SECTION 2. Special Conventions. When deemed necessary, special conventions may be called by the Leadership Board. Before convening a special convention, the Leadership Board shall furnish all member churches with a detailed report giving cause for calling such a convention. Except in the event of an emergency, notice as to the place and date of the special convention shall be provided to member churches not less than ninety (90) days prior to the proposed convention date.

SECTION 3. Representation. Churches are expected to participate in conventions by sending delegates. Each member church of the Conference shall be entitled to representation by one delegate for every fifty (50) individual members or fraction thereof plus a pastor. If a church does not have a pastor at the time of the convention, a designated leader of the church may attend in that role. The pastor, or another designee of the church, shall be prepared to provide the Secretary of the Conference with a list of the delegates attending as representatives of their church. Members of Conference boards and committees shall be considered delegates by virtue of their office. No person may serve as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of a member church. If a delegate's qualifications are questioned, the matter shall be referred to the Leadership Board for resolution.

SECTION 4. Quorum. A quorum for any session of a convention shall consist of one-half of the number delegates who have been registered as attending.

SECTION 5. Convention Procedure. All discussions should be characterized by a Christ-like spirit. To proceed in an orderly fashion, generally accepted rules of order shall be followed. Decisions shall be determined by a majority of all votes cast unless otherwise required by these Bylaws. Voting shall be by the individual delegates present and may not be cast by proxy. A delegate may not speak on any point more than three times without special permission granted by the Chair. A delegate is to address the Chair and not interrupt

another speaker nor become personal or offensive. The Chair shall have authority to rule a delegate out of order.

SECTION 6. Interim Action. During the interim period between regular conventions, the Leadership Board shall serve as the convention in the interim and shall be empowered to take such action as is necessary to conduct the affairs of the Conference. In the event the Leadership Board determines that a matter is of such significance that it should be acted on by the entire Conference, the Leadership Board shall submit the matter to each of the member churches for their consideration and shall establish a deadline by which the churches shall respond. The matter shall be determined by a majority vote of the member churches responding by the prescribed time unless a greater majority is required by these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. Executive Officers. The officers of the Conference shall be elected at a convention in accordance with Article V. of these Bylaws. The officers shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

- A. The Chair. The Chair shall preside at all convention sessions and at all meetings of the Leadership Board and shall perform the usual functions of a presiding officer according to accepted parliamentary procedure and organizational structure.
- B. The Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall serve in the capacity of the Chair in the Chair's absence, or during the Chair's inability to serve for any reason, or as requested by the Chair.
- C. The Secretary. The Secretary shall ensure a permanent record of all proceedings of conventions and meetings of the Leadership Board. The Secretary shall prepare minutes of conventions for publication and shall collect the minutes of all boards, committees and commissions of the Conference and place them in a permanent file. The Leadership Board may, from time to time, appoint assistant secretaries to record minutes or otherwise assist the Secretary. The Secretary shall perform all such other duties as are incident to this office.
- D. The Treasurer. The Treasurer serves as the chief financial officer of the Conference and also serves as a voting member of the Mennonite Brethren Foundation Board of Directors pursuant to the bylaws of that organization. The Treasurer, individually or through a designee, shall cause regular reports on the current financial status of the Conference to be made to the

Leadership Board and the Conference, and shall perform all the other duties incident to this office.

- E. Term of Office. Officers are elected for two-year terms and may succeed themselves twice in their respective offices.

SECTION 2. Leadership Board

- A. Membership. The Leadership Board shall be comprised of
 - i. The Executive Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) elected by the Conference at its convention;
 - ii. Five Members-at-Large elected by the Conference at its convention; and
 - iii. Up to two Members-at-Large appointed by the Leadership Board.

The Leadership Board should reflect appropriate balance among the district conferences and must have at least four members who live geographically west of the Rocky Mountains and four members who live east of the Rocky Mountains.

- B. Term of Office and Limitations. Members-at-Large of the Leadership Board shall be elected for four-year terms which, to the extent possible, shall be staggered so as to allow for continuity. An individual may not serve more than eight consecutive years on the Leadership Board either as an Officer, Member-at-Large, or combination thereof. However, a partial term served as a result of a vacancy shall not be counted in calculating the eight-year limitation.
- C. Duties and Authority. The Leadership Board is directly accountable to the Conference and shall perform its duties independent of supervision by other boards, committees, commissioners or organizations. Consistent with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Confession of Faith, the Leadership Board shall have the responsibility and authority to do the following:
 - i. Manage the financial and legal affairs of the Conference including the conveyance and acceptance of property and other assets, overseeing the prudent management and investment of the Conference's material assets, and executing such legal documents as may be necessary on behalf of the Conference;

- ii. Carry out the purposes of the Conference as directed by the Conference in convention session;
 - iii. Serve as the convention in the interim.
 - iv. Design its own governance structure;
 - v. Select and employ, on such terms and for such length of time as it may determine, an Executive Director who shall carry out the administration of Conference affairs within limits of authority established by the Leadership Board and perform such other duties as are set forth in these Bylaws or determined by the Leadership Board;
 - vi. In its discretion, employ other ministerial and/or administrative staff and hire agents and professional personnel, on such terms and for such length of time as it may determine, to assist the Leadership Board in carrying out the work of the Conference, and to establish the limits of authority of such individuals;
 - vii. Appoint commissions to perform designated tasks;
 - viii. Foster communication and coordinate the ministries of the various boards, committees and commissions of the Conference;
 - ix. Maintain Conference relationships as set forth in Article IV of these Bylaws;
 - x. Give vision and direction to the Conference and lead in strategic planning.
- D. Meetings. Meetings of the Leadership Board may be called as necessary by the Chair. All meetings shall be open to the Conference membership, *except that* the Leadership Board, at the discretion of the Chair, may meet in closed session without prior notice. At the discretion of the Chair, the Leadership Board may meet and may take votes by electronic means.

SECTION 3. Board of Faith and Life.

- A. Membership. The Board of Faith and Life shall be comprised of
- i. Four members elected by the Conference at its convention, two of whom live west of the Rocky Mountains and two of whom live east of the Rocky Mountains;

- ii. The District Ministers from each of the district conferences, who shall all serve as ex officio members with full voice and vote; and
- iii. The Conference's Executive Director who shall serve as an ex officio member with full voice but no vote.

The Board of Faith and Life shall select a chair from among its membership and otherwise organize itself to allow for the efficient undertaking of its duties.

- B. Term of Office. The ex officio members of the Board of Faith and Life shall not be subject to term limits, while the elected members shall be elected for four-year terms and may succeed themselves once.
- C. Duties and Authority. The Board of Faith and Life is directly accountable to the Conference and shall perform its duties independent of supervision by other boards, committees, commissioners or organizations. Consistent with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Confession of Faith, the Board of Faith and Life shall have the responsibility and authority to do the following:
 - i. Provide spiritual oversight and serve as the guardian of the Confession of Faith;
 - ii. Process, in consultation with the Leadership Board, any proposed amendments, changes or modifications to the Confession of Faith and establish procedures for the presentation of such proposals to the Conference for approval at a regular or special convention, *provided however*, that such procedures must require an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting at the convention in order for an amendment, change or modification to the Confession of Faith to be effective.
 - iii. Watch over the spiritual life of the Conference and its member churches and serve as a reference to give guidance and direction in matters of faith, doctrine and ethics;
 - iv. Function as an advisory board to district conferences in matters of ethics, doctrine, and polity;
 - v. Initiate appropriate disciplinary action when conditions contrary to the teaching of the Bible and the principles of the Conference exist in our churches and conferences;
 - vi. Convene study conferences for purposes of consultation and discernment on issues of faith, discipleship or polity; and

- vii. Commission the dissemination of information in print and other media to facilitate wider participation in study and consensus building.
- D. Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Faith and Life may be called as necessary by the Chair. At the discretion of the Chair, the Board of Faith and Life may meet and may take votes by electronic means.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. Nominating Committee.

- A. Membership. The Nominating Committee shall be a standing Conference committee and shall consist of the Executive Director and one representative from each district conference. The district conferences shall be represented on the Committee by their District Minister or his appointee. If a district conference has no district minister, the leadership body of the district conference may appoint a representative to serve on the Committee. The Committee shall select a chair from among its membership and otherwise organize itself to allow for the efficient undertaking of its duties.
- B. Duties. The Nominating Committee will be convened as necessary by the Executive Director of the U.S. Conference and shall submit nominations to the Leadership Board for approval. The Nominating Committee shall present a ballot of nominees for all elected positions within the Conference. The Committee may seek suggestions from member churches and other Conference boards, committees and commissions.
- C. Additional Nominations. Delegates to a convention may submit the names of additional candidates to the Nominating Committee which shall then determine the candidate's eligibility as set forth in Section 2 of this Article. Nominations from the floor which have not been submitted to the Nominating Committee in advance shall not be allowed.

SECTION 2. Eligibility. Nominees for any position within the Conference must be members in good standing of a member church for at least one year. Prior to nominating an individual, the Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent of the nominee and shall also consult with and receive affirmation from the nominee's pastor or, in the absence of a pastor, their church leader.

SECTION 3. Commencement of Term. Terms of all elected Conference positions shall conclude, and the new terms commence, immediately after adjournment of the regular biennial convention.

SECTION 4. Removal. For just cause, the Leadership Board may remove any person occupying an elected or appointed Conference position and discharge or request the resignation of persons employed by the Conference or by any board, commission or committee of the Conference.

SECTION 5. Vacancies. If a person occupying an appointed or elected Conference position moves out of the Conference or a vacancy is created by reason of resignation, death, removal or otherwise, the vacancy shall be reviewed by the Leadership Board which may make the necessary appointment to fill the position in consultation with the applicable board, committee or commission. Such appointment shall be for the completion of the term and a partial term shall not count as a term for purposes of term limitations.

SECTION 6. Positions Outside the Conference. In the event the Conference is requested or required to elect or appoint representatives to organizations or agencies related to but outside the Conference structure, the Conference may establish procedures for the election or appointment of such representatives, notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Article. In the event any such organization or agency is allowed to submit nominees to the Conference for consideration, any such nominees shall be submitted to the Leadership Board for review. If the position is one over which the Leadership Board has the power of appointment, the Leadership Board may appoint the nominee or request that the organization or agency submit a substitute nominee. If the position is one that is to be elected by the Conference at convention, the Leadership Board may accept the nominee and advance the nomination to the convention, or reject the nominee and request that the organization or agency submit a substitute nominee.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENT OF THE ARTICLES AND BYLAWS

SECTION 1. Procedure. The Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of the Conference may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting at a regular or special convention. The Leadership Board shall give notice of a proposed amendment to member churches at least ninety (90) days prior to the convention at which the matter will be presented for action. This notice provision may be waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates at a convention.

SECTION 2. Content. No amendments to the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation of the Conference may in any way be in conflict with any part of the Confession of Faith.

ARTICLE IX. SUSPENSION OR WAIVER OF BYLAWS PROVISIONS

Any provision of these Bylaws may be suspended or waived by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting at a regular or special convention, except that the provision regarding amendment of the Confession of Faith set forth in Article VI, Section C.3.ii. may not be so suspended.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1. Procedure. The Conference may be dissolved only upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting at a special convention called for that purpose pursuant to Article V, Section 2. of these Bylaws.

SECTION 2. Distribution of Assets. Upon dissolution, after payment of the Conference's obligations, the remaining assets of the Conference shall be distributed in accordance with applicable law and in a manner recommended by the Leadership Board and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting at the special convention discussed in Section 1 of this Article.

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Amendment to Proposed Bylaws

The Leadership Board recommends that the Proposed Bylaws be amended by inserting the following at the end of Article VII, Section 6:

This procedure shall not apply to those organizations whose corporate membership consists, in whole or in part, of the members of the Conference and whose bylaws provide for direct election of the organization's board members by the Conference from nominees submitted by the organization.

With this amendment, Article VII, Section 6 would read as follows:

Positions Outside the Conference. In the event the Conference is requested or required to elect or appoint representatives to organizations or agencies related to but outside the Conference structure, the Conference may establish procedures for the election or appointment of such representatives, notwithstanding the foregoing provision of this Article. In the event any such organization or agency is allowed to submit nominees to the Conference for consideration, any such nominees shall be submitted to the Leadership Board for review. If the position is one over which the Leadership Board has the power of appointment, the Leadership Board may appoint the nominee or request that the organization or agency submit a substitute nominee. If the position is one that is to be elected by the Conference at convention, the Leadership Board may accept the nominee and advance the nomination to the convention, or reject the nominee and request that the organization or agency submit a substitute nominee. This procedure shall not apply to those organizations whose corporate membership consists, in whole or in part, of the members of the Conference and whose bylaws provide for direct election of the organization's board members by the Conference from nominees submitted by the organization.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the Canadian and U.S. Conferences
of Mennonite Brethren Churches
January 2012

I. Preamble

The dissolution of the General Conference in 1999 necessitated new documents related to entities which would continue in a formal relationship with the two Conferences. While discussions between the Boards of Faith and Life have been held, no new memorandum of understanding has been agreed upon. Under the previous MOU, it was agreed that the two Conferences would operate under an identical Confession of Faith. As time progressed, it became evident to the two boards and with the national leaders, that a way should be made to free the national Boards of Faith and Life to work to contextualize their efforts for each of their constituencies, including work on the Confession of Faith, while preserving the good and cooperative relationships between them and between the two national conferences. This document attempts to articulate how the Leadership Boards and the Boards of Faith and Life covenant to join in a continuing meaningful partnership.

II. Transitional Process

Because this proposed agreement supplants prior agreements having been made by our national conferences, it is agreed that each of the national conferences will be asked to approve this document as a replacement for the prior MOU between the United States and Canadian Conferences regarding the Boards of Faith and Life and as a new document between the Leadership Boards.

III. Scope of the Agreement

The scope of this agreement relates to the work of our respective executives, Leadership Boards and Boards of Faith and Life. While it recognizes the legal authority and responsibility for each national conference to act independently of the other, it affirms our intentions to work in a continuing relationship for the strengthening of our respective conferences to the glory of God.

IV. Goals and Objectives

The goal of this agreement is to perpetuate and encourage a communicative, cooperative and consultative relationship between the Boards of Faith and Life and the Executive Teams of our national conferences. The belief is that the agenda and wisdom of each conference can benefit the other, while also recognizing the diversity and unique needs of the Canadian and American MB Conference constituencies. This partnership shall include ongoing attention to ways in which our conferences, acting individually or together, may partner with the International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB).

A. Executive Staff and Leadership Boards

The goals and objectives of the Executive staff and Leadership Boards include:

1. Cooperating on such programs which function with a mission common to both national conferences i.e. MB Missions, in such a way as to strengthen the work of such programs.
2. Sharing resources and best practices in a spirit of Christian cooperation so that each national conference can benefit from the life of the other.
3. Working with each other in a way which promotes the value of Kingdom citizenship in different national and cultural contexts, thereby helping our churches and individuals in matters of growing in the faith and experiencing life in Christ.
4. Working with each other, and with other national Mennonite Brethren Conferences within ICOMB to be constructive and active participants in our global international community.
5. Bringing together the leaders of each conference i.e. CAN/AM, for the purposes of mutual encouragement, information sharing, planning and coordination.

B. Boards of Faith and Life

The goals and objectives of the Boards of Faith and Life include:

1. Planning and executing such study conferences as they deem advisable. BFL members of the partner conference will be invited to attend and participate as requested by the host conference.
2. Adhering to the structure, authority and responsibility of the Boards of Faith and Life as determined by each conference and as documented as seems appropriate i.e. bylaws.
3. Developing a process for amending their particular Confession of Faith shall be determined by that individual conference. An invitation for review and comment on changes to the COF may be offered to partner national conferences and ICOMB.
4. Accepting the responsibility as a national conference (in which the language primarily exists) to translate the COF into other languages in cooperation with ICOMB.
5. Credentialing and orientating pastors as national conferences which may be done cooperatively when deemed advisable.

V Future Reviews

This document may be reviewed and revised by common consent of the Executives and the Leadership Boards of both national conferences in consultation with the Boards of Faith & Life.

Be one

WORKSHOPS

Friday, July 27

TITLE

LOCATION

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Faith at Home | Elkhorn |
| 2. Sacred Living | Big Blue A |
| 3. Is God Calling Me Overseas? | Platte |
| 4. It's Genius to be Generous | Missouri |
| 5. Ministry Quest and the Church | Big Blue C |
| 6. How to Connect Your Congregation with Face book | Boardroom |
| 7. Bikers, Golfers, and Other Sinners | Council Bluffs B |
| 8. Listen, Learn, Love and Lead | Big Blue B |
| 9. How to Reach Your Hispanic Neighbor | Council Bluffs A |

3:00-4:00pm MCC Gathering – anyone interested in MCC

Big Blue C

Saturday, July 28

TITLE

LOCATION

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Understanding Teens in a Face book World | Platte |
| 2. Your Church CAN Plant a Church | Elkhorn |
| 3. How to Reach Your Community | Missouri |
| 4. Discovered Brothers | Boardroom |
| 5. Healthy Leadership Teams | Council Bluffs B |
| 6. In the Presence of Mine Enemies | Council Bluffs A |
| 7. Immigration and the Church | Suite 228 |

2:30-3:30pm Slavic Gathering – anyone interested in Slavic ministries - Boardroom

Alumni and friends of **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)** are welcome to a gathering planned during *Conexion* 2012. Come and enjoy stories of MCC's work, casual conversation and refreshments! Ron Byler, MCC U.S. executive director, will share an update on MCC. Former MCC workers, past or present volunteers with meat canning, relief sales, thrift stores, those who contribute financially, those who pray for the work of MCC - all are welcome! The alumni and friends gathering will be held from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m., July 27 in the Big Blue C room.

Prioritizing “least reached” people groups has radically changed how and where MB Mission places teams and invests resources.*

195
Khmu churches
officially joined
the MB family in
2012 (ICOMB)

48%
increase in
house church
attendance

10
North Americans
completing
church planting
internships in 2012

816
short-term
missions
participants sent

51%
increase in new
believers attending
church in least
reached areas

24
long-term
candidates at
orientation in
last two years

2,000
new Arabic
disciples in North
Africa and the
Middle East

123%
increase in
baptized church
members

26
new workers
sent in the last
two years from
North America

5,000
Arabic
discipleship
manuals created

143%
increase in
baptisms of new
believers

104
evangelistic
TV programs
produced by
Oasis Ministries

20,640
mission days
by short-term
participants

Holistic church planting that transforms communities among the least reached.

re:TURN



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“When the global church shares its faith experiences of Jesus in an interdependent way, the characteristics of each local congregation give us a more complete image of God” (Revelation 7:9-10).

—César García, Mennonite World Conference General Secretary and leader in Mennonite Brethren Church in Colombia

Steve Schroeder (left), moderator of the U.S. Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, talks with a visiting Mennonite World Conference delegation: (from left) Bert Lobe, MWC North American representative from St. Jacobs, Ontario; Cynthia Peacock, chair of the MWC Deacons Commission, from India; Cisca Ibanda, member of the MWC Executive Committee, from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

César García and his wife, Sandra Baez (far right). Their daughters, Maria Alejandra and Paula Andrea.

www.mwc-cmm.org



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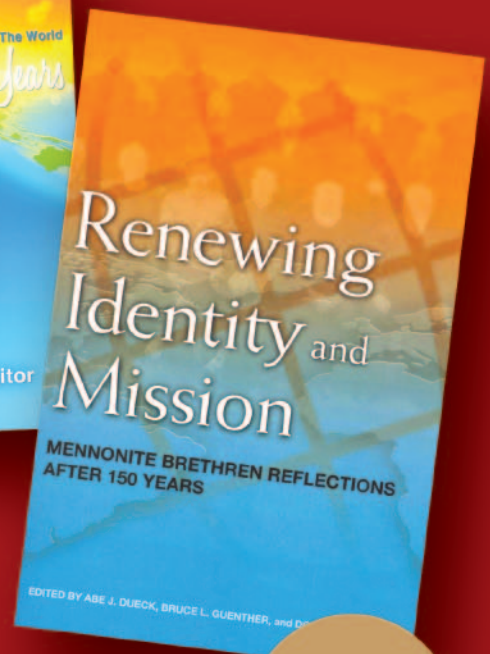
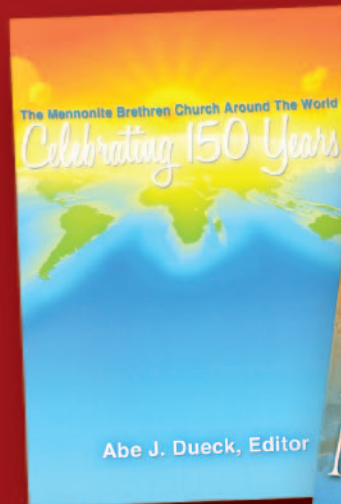
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Una Comunidad de
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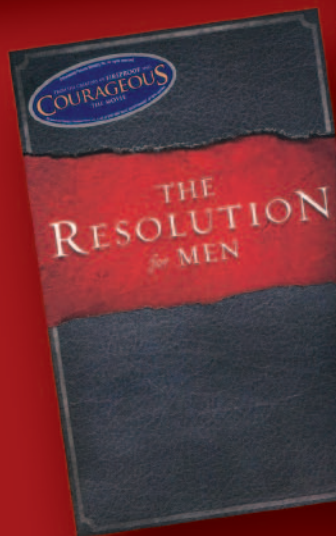
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*based on data from U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics

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Many of us would say that we wish we had the **power** to make a difference. Yet together, as a Mennonite Brethren family, we are making a difference. Lives are being changed in Sioux Falls, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Fresno and yes, even in Hillsboro, Corn, Reedley and elsewhere. Together, we are making a difference.

You also have the **power** to make a tremendous difference through a significant act of generosity, expressed through your **will** or **trust**. At death, many of us have the opportunity to make our largest single gift ever to support Kingdom work. Leaving a gift to USMB would make a significant difference in the lives of future Mennonite Brethren.

You have the **power** to make a difference... **WILL POWER**. Would you consider leaving a legacy for the next generation of MBs? Now that's **WILL POWER!**

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3 ways to **be** more than a spectator

Mennonite Central Committee



■ **Meet new friends, share your skills and make life better together.** Join MCC in service in the name of Christ. Ask about young adult programs.

salt.mcc.org



■ **Invite the world into your home.** Welcome a young adult in your home or business through MCC's International Volunteer Exchange Program.

ivep.mcc.org



■ **Change the future of a child, a family, a community.** Become an education sponsor with MCC's Global Family program.

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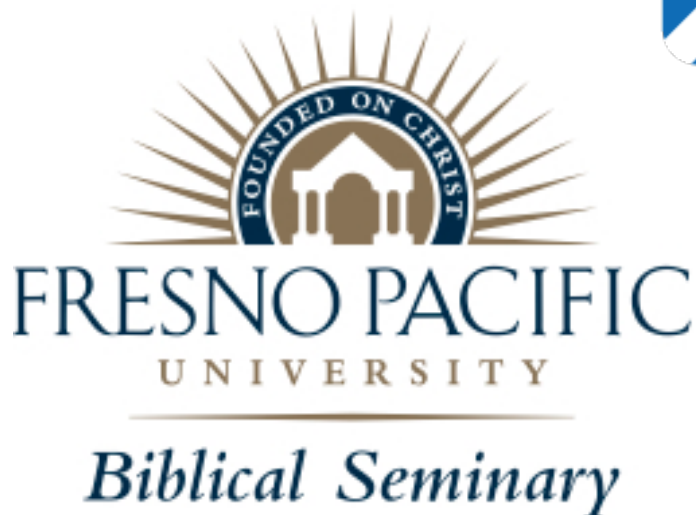
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Be on Notes

Schedule

Conexion 2012 – Biennial National Convention July 27-28

<u>July 27</u> Friday	7:30-8:30am	Breakfast - Atrium
	8:30am	Music/Worship, Ed Boschman
	10:00am	Break
	10:30am	USMB Ministries Highlights
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch - Atrium
	1:15-2:15pm	Workshops
	2:30-5:30pm	Service Projects
		Free Time
		*3:00-4:00pm MCC Alumni and Friends Gathering Big Blue C Room
	6:00pm	Dinner – Missouri/Platte Ballroom
	7:00pm	Music/Worship, Kenn Kington
	9:15pm	<i>Courageous</i> movie - Elkhorn Ballroom

<u>July 28</u> Saturday	7:30-8:30am	Breakfast – Atrium
	8:30am	Devotional
	8:45-10:00am	USMB Ministries Highlights
	10:00am	Break
	10:30am	USMB Ministries Highlights
		Offering
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch – Atrium
	1:15-2:15pm	Workshops
	2:30-4:30pm	Discover Omaha Tour
		Free Time
		*2:30-3:30pm Slavic Ministries Gathering Location to be announced
	6:00pm	Dinner – Missouri/Platte Ballroom
	7:00pm	Music/Worship, Alex Kendrick

<u>July 29</u> Sunday	Worship in Omaha MB Churches
	Visit one of the five Omaha area MB Churches:
	Faith Bible Church, Omaha
	Iglesia Agua Viva, Omaha
	Iglesia Manatial de Agua Viva, Omaha
	Shadow Lake Community Church, Papillion
	Stony Brook Church, Millard