

## Prince of Peace Mennonite Church

### Hurricane Relief Needed

More than \$9,000 of damage caused by Harvey



Located in Corpus Christi, TX, Prince of Peace Mennonite Church had significant damage to their building roof and interior during Hurricane Harvey.

- MDS arranged donated roofing materials and volunteer laborers have already replaced the damaged roof.
- An estimated additional \$9,000-\$15,000 of interior damage needs to be repaired including:
  - Water-soaked, fallen and sagging ceiling tiles in restroom, office, hallway, nursery, worship area, and fellowship hall.
  - Plaster coming off nursery wall and storage area
  - Water-soaked carpet and damaged curtains in worship space
- Due to cost, the congregation had no insurance on the building.
- UCIM and the other SCC congregations in the area have already pledged \$3,500 toward these repair needs. Rod Schmucker, a contractor from another south Texas congregation, will serve as the construction supervisor for the project.

Send donations to South Central Conference PO Box 564 Hesston, KS 67062 designated Prince of Peace.

Read more:

Mennonite World Review Article: <https://tinyurl.com/mennoworldharvey>

Letter from Prince of Peace: <https://tinyurl.com/princeofpeaceharveyletter>



## Shaping the future of SCC: Where are we going?

The SCC Executive Committee desires that their work be guided by a more articulate vision developed by a broad representation of members of the conference. Therefore the committee would like to invite all SCC pastors and a lay leader from each member congregation to attend a visioning retreat on **October 28th** at the **Kansas Electric Building** in Newton, KS. The purpose of this retreat will be to work together in discussing and developing a vision for where SCC is going.

**Saturday, October 28, 2017 8:30 am–3:00 pm (lunch provided)**  
at Kansas Electric, 1420 NW 36th St Newton, KS

RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/sccvisioningretreat>

(to attend via video conference; contact [scc@sccmenno.org](mailto:scc@sccmenno.org))

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## Three Churches Join SCC

At the annual assembly in July, three congregations were accepted into membership in South Central Conference.

### Light of Life Mennonite Church, Farmington, New Mexico

This congregation is located in the northwest corner of New Mexico on the Navajo reservation. Its membership of about 50 persons is a mixture of Navajo and Caucasian persons. The pastor is Phil Rosenberger. One of their members, Tina Begay, is a member of the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board. They are changing their affiliation from the Mountain States Mennonite Conference.



Pastor Rosenberger wrote in one of his reports: "I continue to see Light of Life Mennonite Church as one of God's cities on the Mountain. In Isaiah 25 the Lord says, 'On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples.' That is my expectation! But God calls on us to be part of the project. He has a task for each of us to perform and will make His feast a reality. I challenge each of [us] to serious perform [our] part on that work of God."

### Kingman Mennonite Church, Kingman, Kansas

Kingman Mennonite Church dates back to 1906, originating from a group of Swiss-Volhynian settlers. Over a period of time it was the result of a merger of two churches, affiliating with Western District Conference. One building was destroyed by fire, with the present building constructed on the edge of town. The change of location also ushered in a new demographic of congregants.



In a letter from congregational leadership, they write: "In the spirit of our Anabaptist forefathers, the congregation seeks to honor our Lord through teaching the Holy Scripture through word and through life, seeking to evangelize those who are hurting and longing for Christ's love. Many of the last names in our fellowship are not the traditional names associated with the Mennonite tradition; we are a loving and caring body of believers who are seeking after the Kingdom of God."

Membership is about 80; the current pastor is David Roth.

### Iglesia Nuevo Amanecer [New Dawning Church], Brownsville, Texas

This new congregation was formed when 21 persons chose to leave Iglesia Menonita del Cordero and form a new fellowship. They are currently meeting in the home of the pastor, Nena Bennett, with meetings and prayer times on Sunday morning, Monday morning and Wednesday evening. Attendance has grown to about 50. Over time they have created some more formal structure and statements that have qualified them for membership in the conference.

Pastor Bennett writes: "Despite conditions that aren't perfect, we are thriving!...On New Year's Day we had five people publicly accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This motivates us to believe the year began on a positive note. More important than the members, we feel the Holy Spirit guiding us every step of the way."

## HEALTHY BOUNDARIES TRAINING Required for all persons Credentialed by SCC

South Central Conference desires that all pastors and credentialed persons serve well, honor God, and stay out of trouble. To that end SCC is requiring Healthy Boundaries training for all credentialed persons. The first training will be on **November 9, 2017, at Hesston College** with Kevin Wilder, Hesston, KS and Tonia Martin, Weatherford, OK as trainers. A south Texas training will be provided in January 2018.

>To Register for the November 9th training go to <https://goo.gl/forms/OkudyQEgZnyyeR1B3>

>To read the policy initiated by the Regional Conference Ministers and approved by the Executive Committee on September 18, 2017 go to <http://tinyurl.com/SCChealthyboundariespolicy>

>To read the *Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure (2016)* from Mennonite Church USA that would be followed by the Ministerial Commission in the case of reported misconduct go to <http://tinyurl.com/MCUSASexualMisconductPolicy>

## Pastor/Congregation News

>Howard Wagler, lead pastor of Journey Mennonite Church, returned from a 4-month sabbatical on September 18.

>Prince of Peace Mennonite Church in Corpus Christi, Texas (Felipe Almodovar, pastor) sustained major damage from Hurricane Harvey, losing the roof and suffering interior damage from the inflow of rain. See lead article.

>Greensburg Mennonite Church (Jeff Blackburn, Pastor) held its popular annual pork supper on September 16, serving 326 persons and raising \$5,800 for distribution to two families in the community with special needs.

>Kevin Wilder, faculty member at Hesston College, has joined the pastoral team of Journey@McPherson on a quarter-time assignment for a one-year period. He will maintain his teaching load at the college.

>John C. Murray, former pastor at Hesston Mennonite Church, has recently joined the faculty of Hesston College as Director of International Admissions on a half-time basis. He has recently completed the requirements for a Masters of Arts degree in Interfaith Action from Claremont Lincoln University in Claremont, CA.

>Josh Patterson was licensed on September 10 for ministry at Crystal Springs Mennonite Church in rural Harper, Kansas.

>Ron Moyo, Outreach Pastor at Whitestone Mennonite Church in Hesston, is spending the fall semester as a full-time student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. This fulfills his residency requirement for the M.Div. degree, for which he will need only a few more hours.

>Eden Life Church plant in Kansas City, pastored by Omot and Hannah Aganya, closed on the purchase of a building in late September.

>Ulises Arenas, pastor of Good News Mennonite Church in San Juan, Texas, is Assistant Moderator of the national Hispanic Mennonite Church (IMH). Lupe Aguilar, pastor of Rey de Gloria Church in Brownsville, Texas, serves on the IMH board.



## DO YOU KNOW?

By Joyce Zuercher; Conference Resource Advocate

There's music in the air! Menno Media is calling Mennonite congregations to join in a "Great Day of Singing" on Sunday, October 22.

We Mennonites love singing, and hymns and spiritual songs are integral in our worship, communal and personal. The current *Hymnal, a Worship Book*, is aging; it is 25 years old, copies are wearing out, and we are continually discovering new music to enhance our worship experience.

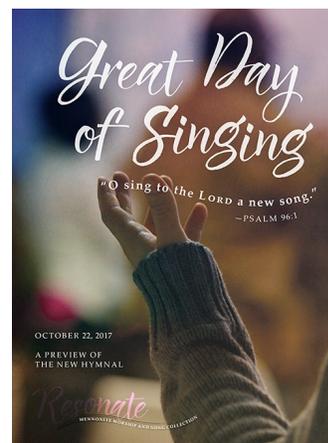
In response to growing expressions of need for a new hymnal, Menno Media, after canvassing leaders, congregations, and musicians of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada, has organized *Resonate: Join the Everlasting Song* to produce the first Mennonite hymnal of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, currently scheduled to be released in 2020. The 13 members of the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee have been gathered from across the church, and they are calling for the Great Day of Singing to get us all involved in the important and timely hymnal project.

To assist and encourage participation, the committee has sent pastors and congregations a sampler, which includes six hymn "candidates" that can be copied or downloaded for sampling on that day. The sampler also includes suggested worship resources and more information about the hymnal project, and more information is available at [MennoMedia.org/Resonate](http://MennoMedia.org/Resonate).

And here's a news flash. As I was writing this, I received a message in my inbox from Herald Press/MennoMedia, with more information about the Great Day of Singing. The email includes a promo video of Great Day of Singing, plus a place to download video samples of the songs as learning tools. There is also a "forward to a friend" tab, so let me know if you are interested!

In addition to the October 22 churchwide "Great Day of Singing," our area will have the opportunity to join other congregations on Sunday, December 3 at Bethel College Mennonite Church in North Newton, Kansas, beginning at 6:30 pm. Directed by Bradley Kauffman, general editor of the new hymnal project, the new 16-page sampler will be the primary source of music for congregational singing, along with other songs and worship resources.

So let's all raise our voices together, in worship and praise!



# Executive Committee Activity

The Executive Committee has met three times since the last issue of the newsletter, marking a leadership transition from past moderator Gary Wolfer to incoming moderator Tim Sweigart. Efforts are underway to identify a moderator-elect to serve during the biennium starting at the conclusion of the annual assembly. Significant action and discussion items include the following:

- > Heard reports from participation by several members in the MC USA biennial assembly in Orlando, Florida, including the Future Church Summit
- > Received progress reports from the Summer Bible School project on the road in Kansas and Texas
- > Monitored the progress of the church plants in Kansas City and Corpus Christi, Texas
- > Discussed the feasibility of purchasing an older church building for the Eden Life Church in Kansas City
- > Processed information from three congregations which are interested in affiliating with South Central Conference (see separate article)
- > Identified potential participants in the Kansas Leadership Center's training sessions underwritten by a grant from KLC, and agreed to collaborate with Western District Conference to apply for another grant for 2018
- > Continued to identify persons willing and able to serve on the Ministerial Commission
- > Addressed final program and logistical details for the annual meeting hosted by Hesston Mennonite Church on July 21-22
- > Continued to assess possible addition of one or more Regional Conference Ministers to ensure coverage for all of our congregations
- > Gave approval to the plan to schedule a daylong retreat on October 28 for the Executive Committee to engage in some longer-range visioning and strategic planning, to include pastors and congregational leaders
- > Processed applications for ministerial training grants
- > Clarified procedures for the transfer of funds to the churches in south Texas
- > Renewed the Memo of Understanding with Church Planter Omot Aganya
- > Named James Wenger and Lupe Aguilar to attend the annual gathering of area conference ministers from Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada in early December
- > Received, and subsequently approved, a proposed policy on Healthy Boundaries training for all credentialed persons, for which two persons have received training as trainers
- > Clarified the process of transferring ministerial credentials from persons coming into South Central Conference from other area conferences
- > Reviewed the fiscal year end financial reports, noting that the ending deficit was substantial but less than budgeted. The strategy of using accumulated surpluses from previous years to support church planting initiatives is necessarily of limited duration
- > Received reports from SCC Mennonite Women, with awareness that they are experiencing continuing difficulty in finding leadership to carry on
- > Approved a plan to solicit congregational and individual support for the urgent need of Prince of Peace Mennonite Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, to repair major damage to their building from Hurricane Harvey
- > Discussed a strategy with existing Regional Conference Ministers to ensure that there is RCM coverage for every congregation

The Executive Committee will meet next on October 16.

## 2017 Calendar

### October

- 16 SCC Executive Comm. Meeting  
Whitestone Board Room  
Hesston, KS
- 28 SCC Visioning Retreat  
at Kansas Electric  
Newton, KS

### November

- 3-4 SCC Southern Region (UCIM) Annual Meeting
- 9 Healthy Boundaries Training  
Hesston College  
Hesston, KS
- 14 Northern Region Pastor Peer  
Greensburg Menn.  
Greensburg, KS

### December

- 3 A Great Day of Singing  
Bethel College  
Mennonite Church  
North Newton, KS

### July 2018

- 20-21 SCC Annual Meeting  
Journey@Yoder  
Yoder, KS

**The mission of South Central Conference is to produce healthy missional congregations by resourcing, connecting and empowering them to be Christ in the world.**