

Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter

November 2019

PRAISE TO OUR GOD

Every year there are a number of things we can praise God for and others that we need to pray for.

We can praise God for the joy of welcoming Pedro & Marcella Tolosa as pastor of the Calgary Church, Iglesia La Gracia de Dios.

We praise God for the joy of the first baptism in our newest church, Iglesia El Shaddai in Medicine Hat.

We praise God for the opportunity to contract Todd De Haan as our Director for Church Development.

We praise God for the faithfulness of the churches and individuals in giving to the support of the Northwest Mennonite Conference.

We pray for those in Edmonton that grieve the closing of Iglesia Evangelica Manantial de Vida.

In June 2019 Pastor Pedro & Marcella Tolosa began their ministry at Iglesia La Gracia de Dios in Calgary. Pastor Pedro served a congregation in Brandon Manitoba for 11 years. He came to faith in Christ in 1990 and began training for ministry in 1994. Shortly after becoming a follower of Jesus Christ he began serving in various ministries, gaining wide experience in Christian ministry. Pedro for nearly 30 years has dedicated his life to the cause of Christ. He brings with him a richness of experience and understanding of the many facets and demands of ministry.

His wife, Marcella, is strong in her commitment to Christ and fully supports Pedro in ministry. Together they are a huge blessing to the church in Calgary. With praise to God we welcome Pedro & Marcella and their family into the NWMC.



Coming Up
March 27-29, 2020 NWMC Convention and Youth Rally at Camp Caroline. “

Theme

“Push Through”

Details of these events will be posted on our website as they become available www.nwmc.ca

May 29-31, 2020 Ladies Retreat Camp Silversides

Financial Update

Thank You for your faithfulness in praying and giving. The Northwest Mennonite Conference has been blessed Through You

NWMC 2019 Budget is \$212,500

\$127,000 about 60% comes from Churches
\$ 16,000 about 7.5% comes from individual donations
\$ 47,000 about 22% comes from events & registration.
\$ 3,500 about 1.75% comes from interest earnings
\$ 19,000 about 9.5% shortfall projected

Income to End of November

\$ 121,292.00 from congregations
\$ 9,516.00 from donations
\$ 51,365.00 from events & registrations
\$ 1,652.00 interest income

Budget Income \$ 183,825
Needed to make Budget \$ 28,675

Church Development Director Fund– Goal \$200,000

Donations \$ 48,490.00
Pledges \$ 5,312.00
Toonie Sunday \$ 934.00

Fund Income \$ 54,736.00

You are invited to consider making a donation directly to the NWMC as God enables you to give above your congregational giving.

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Church Development Director

Over the past year the NWMC Board has talked about vision and in the process have strongly felt God leading us to take the next step in this vision of having healthy churches and healthy pastors. For a few years we have had opportunity to observe the gifts and ministry that Todd De Haan is equipped to do. This seemed to fit well together with our vision



and we began to work on the possibility of contracting Todd to serve as Director for Church Development. In November the Board met together with Todd and agreed to contract him part-time for January to August. After that we hope to move into full-time. Starting in January he will begin to work with a couple of churches mid-week. In March he will conduct a workshop at Convention as well as meet with the

pastors. The Board hopes that every congregation will take advantage of having Todd in their church to work alongside the pastor and the board. We welcome Todd & Colleen to the NWMC and invite you to pray that this ministry to our churches will be of great blessing.

On November 23, Pastor Werner from Lethbridge shared the Word of God at **Iglesia El Shaddai**. He then conducted the first baptism in our newest congregation. We praise God



for this joyful experience and we pray that God will enable the church to see many more people coming to faith in Christ, being disciples and following the Lord in obedience through baptism and in life.

On October 6, 2019, **Iglesia Evangelica Manantial de Vida** in Edmonton in held their last service. They celebrated all that God enabled them to accomplish in their history. The church was filled with former members and guests as they worshipped the Lord with



gladness. A young couple dedicated their baby to the Lord, and Pastor Jose Gurdian and Pastor Dave Peters shared the Word of God. The service ended with communion to signify that our fellowship is in Jesus Christ and that we anticipate the day when we will again be together near the throne of God. Food is always a part of our celebrations and they served a wonderful meal to all who came. We rejoice in what God has done in and through this church realizing that to everything there is a season. There is a time to begin and a time to end. Pray that each of them will find a spiritual home where they will be nurtured in faith and strengthened to serve.

We thank God for the leadership that Stan & Chris Burkholder have provided for **Bluesky Christian Fellowship**. During the summer months, Stan and Chris served them part time. Last winter Matt & Mary Jeanne Strydhorst served them part-time and have again agreed to do so for the coming winter months. It is a special fit as Stan is available in summer and Matt available in winter to serve the church in the months when their work is less demanding. Praise God for this arrangement and continue to pray for their pastoral needs to be met.

Pastor Dave & Joanne were presented with a quilt and a gift certificate in recognition of 40 years in pastoral ministry.

We are so very grateful for the privilege of serving the NWMC these last 7 years. These 40 years in ministry have been amazing!

Thanks To All of YOU! Dave & Joanne

