

# Points of Connection



Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter  
June 2020

## Pastoral Development



Lethbridge **Iglesia Evangelica** “JesusCristo La Roca Eterna” has dedicated Mario Hernandez for pastoral development under the guidance of Pastor Walter Melara. Praise God!



“On May 1, 2020, **Duchess Mennonite Church** formally began Phase 2 of the Pastor Development Program with Terry Jackson. Terry will work in a half time capacity at DMC to discern and develop his giftings in the area of pastoral ministry. Terry completed the one year Phase 1 of the program in April 2020. Alvin will step down into a half time position as of June 1 to focus on mentoring Terry and give Terry more space for ministry experience. Nathan will continue on in his fulltime role with some minor adjustments to his job description. In early 2021 the program will be re-evaluated to determine the next steps. It is our prayer that the program will assist Terry and his wife Roxanne for future pastoral ministry wherever the Lord chooses to call them.”



**And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.2 Timothy 2:2 NIV**

## **Pulpit Supply at Bluesky Christian Fellowship:**



Matt & MaryJeanne Strydhorst completed their winter season of pulpit supply ministry on May 1, 2020. Thank You!

Kyle & Breanne Young from Grande Prairie will be serving with ministry of preaching every other week for June July and August. Welcome!

**Pastoral Dedication:** On June 27, 2020 Iglesia El Shaddai in Medicine Hat will dedicate Werner & Erika as the pastor of the church. Werner has been working with the congregation for the past few years under the leadership of Pastor Walter Melara. Just prior to the Covid-19 restrictions being put in place, steps were in process for Werner to take leadership of the congregation. We praise God for the ministry he has done through social media and are excited that things have opened up for them to agin do in person ministry. We praise God for Pastor Werner & Erika as they serve in this capacity. Over the next year.



**Saskatchewan Connections** NWMC has had a long history of ministry in Saskatchewan. During these years Saskatchewan pastors were licensed to conduct weddings through other denominations. Our desire is for congregations to be able to do so under the NWMC umbrella. This has resulted in an effort to create a Saskatchewan Fraternity of churches that can be registered under the NWMC with Saskatchewan Vital Statistics. This is now in process as we collect 100 signatures of adult church members from participating congregations. Hope Mennonite Fellowship, North Battleford and Pleasant Hill Church, Saskatoon are the first participating congregations. There are other congregations that may be involved as we continue the process.

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 NIV**

## PASTORAL CHANGES

**Retirement:** Pastor Gerhard & Kathy Luitjens have retired from pastoral leadership with Hope Mennonite Fellowship, North Battleford effective May 31, 2020. Pray for them as the church seeks for their future pastoral leadership



**Resignation:** Family Ministries Pastor,



Keith & Stephanie Dillabough have resigned from West Zion Mennonite effective May 31, 2020. They are now serving as Family Life Canada Alberta Regional Representatives. Their mission is to come along side Churches and Communities to bring help and hope to every marriage and family. They will do this through Marriage workshops, Marriage mentoring, Home builders and more. For more info you can contact them directly at [keith@familylifecanada.com](mailto:keith@familylifecanada.com) or ph 587-576-1536.



**Medical Leave:** Mike & Dianne Ansley are taking a medical leave while Mike recovers from surgery for esophagal cancer and an extended period of time with chemo treatments.

## PRAISE GOD OUR CHURCHES ARE OPENING

During the past several months all churches were closed due to Covid-19. This forced our pastors and church leaders to quickly find new ways to connect and create times for worship and prayer. The work that has been done and the number of people beyond our congregations reached has been amazing. God has used the restrictions to break down other barriers. Our churches have done great work and ministry during these months, we need to commend all those who worked extra hard to make things happen. Now as the restrictions are being lifted, it is important that we set positive examples and do all we can to avoid causing a virus breakout. We also need to continue the social media ministries that were created. There are those who due to vulnerable health conditions will not be safe, or feel safe, to attend gatherings. There will be those who connected to our churches through social media to seek spiritual help that are not yet ready to participate. While the past months have caused us to worship from our homes out of necessity, we need to be mindful of Hebrews 10:25 *“let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...”* Encouragement in our faith is most effective when we meet together for worship and the fellowship with other believers.

## **Thank You**

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

## **Financial Update**

### **NWMC 2020 Budget is \$182,660.00**

(Convention removed from Budget)

\$ 128,000 (70% from congregations)

\$ 9,150.00 (5% from individual donations)

\$ 27,400.00 (15% from events & registration)

\$ 3,500.00 (2% from interest)

\$ 14,610.00 (8% shortfall projected)

### **Income to End of May**

\$ 76,110.00 Budgeted from Jan to May

\$ 59,892.00 Received from Jan to May

\$ 16,218.00 Shortfall to budget

### **Eye on Health project -**

Goal \$200,000

\$ 62,870 (Donations in 2019)

\$6,232 (Donations in 2020)

\$69,102 (Total Donations)

The **Eye on Health** process has now been in process for several months. During this time Todd De Haan has worked part time with Edson Mennonite Church and with Hines Creek Christian Fellowship. As of June 1<sup>st</sup> Todd began the process with West Zion Mennonite. As a Family of churches we value the health of both congregation and pastoral leadership. We have anticipation of God doing great things in the NWMC as we encourage all of our congregations to take advantage of Todd's experience and expertise in doing this in-depth process. Our health is important and cannot be taken for granted. In a church this involves a lot of effort and willingness to look at ourselves and check our church health. We appreciate every donation made to help make this available to all our churches.

#### **Conference Office**

Administrator—Carol Gelleny  
Box 1316  
Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0  
Phone: (403) 337-3283  
Email: info@nwmc.ca

#### **Conference Minister**

Rev. David & Joanne Peters  
715 Woodside Dr. NW  
Airdrie, Alberta T4B 2H1  
Ph. 587-225-1072  
Email: davipete@telus.net