



NWMC PURPOSE AND OBJECTS

Purpose

The purpose of the Northwest Mennonite Conference is to bring glory to God by building his kingdom on earth.

Objects

The objects of the Society are:

1. To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in empowered mission at home and abroad.

We as a Christian denomination, do this by planting churches as we have recently done in Hines Creek Alberta and among Hispanic temporary workers in Brooks Alberta.

We do this by engaging our congregations to support a mission efforts in El Salvador for which we have an agency agreement. We recently provided a deep-water well in a village in El Salvador which only had polluted ground water sources.

2. To minister to the spiritual and physical needs of people.

As a Christian denomination one way we did this recently was by supporting our local congregation near Slave Lake Alberta in the aftermath of the huge forest fire this summer which virtually wiped out the town. The congregation immediately provided food, shelter and clothing for those displaced by the fire.

3. To establish and nurture local congregations of believers.

This is the core of what we do as a Mennonite Christian Denomination

4. To provide a stimulus for congregations to develop a focused vision for being God's people in the community.

The Conference provides, through the Conference Minister, a vision seminar for our churches which is designed to develop leadership within the congregations.

5. To assist congregations in the development of their programs.

The Northwest Mennonite Conference maintains an office and an office administrator to respond to concerns from churches and as a resource for needs that there may be in the congregations. For example the office administrator assists congregations if there is a need for help with bookkeeping functions.

We do this at our Annual Convention, i.e. the AGM, at which we offer workshops which are seen as beneficial to our congregations, such as recent seminars on the development of local church "care groups" and on insurance issues for non profits, and a seminar for church treasurers.

6. To foster a common expression of faith and life on a regional basis.

We as a Conference promote and advocate our statement of faith among our churches. It is the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

We achieve this objective as we encourage and promote pastoral exchanges among our churches.

We achieve this objective by providing a periodic newsletter in both English and Spanish.

We achieve this objective by maintaining a website for our congregations, www.nwmc.ca

7. To determine the collective will and vision of the congregations for evangelism and service.

We do this by receiving input from pastors and church delegates at our regular board meetings and at the AGM to ensure that the Conference Office is fulfilling the will of our congregations. For example we provide an extended health care group plan for each of our pastors.

We do this by assisting new Hispanic immigrants establish their own congregations.

8. To organize the collective vision into programs.

Our Conference fulfills this objective by facilitating men's and women's retreats, establishing a youth commission, an annual pastor/spouse retreat etc. We assist new emerging congregations to become incorporated and assist them in applying for a charity tax number.

9. To develop and nurture effective leadership within the congregations.

As a Conference we employ a full time Conference Pastor. He provides leadership seminars useful to the congregations, visioning seminars etc. He visits congregations regularly for the support and encouragement of our pastors and congregations. He assists in the calling and placement of pastors in our congregations. He assists congregations which need pastors.

We offer a pension option for our pastors. We offer ministry resources (i.e. books etc) for use by our pastors.

10. To foster involvement with other Mennonite churches and other groups within the Body of Christ to carry out the worldwide mandate of the Church.

We fulfil this objective by active participation in Canadian charities such as Mennonite Disaster Service (which assists people recover from disasters such as hurricanes), Mennonite Central Committee Canada (which is involved in peace and justice issues in Canada as well as overseas relief and development in the neediest parts of the world), and Mennonite Foundation of Canada which is a financial stewardship resource to various Mennonite denominations.